



Dr. Sophia Wong

Doctors of BC Board of Directors,
Specialist Position

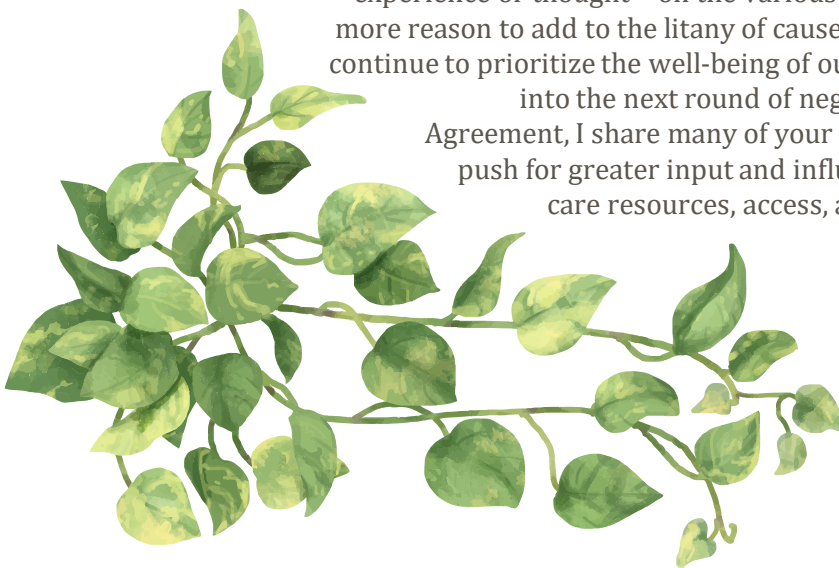
Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to seek your support and vote for the specialist position on the Doctors of BC (DoBC) board.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of sitting on the DoBC board. I am grateful for the opportunity to work closely with, and learn from, other board directors, the DoBC senior leadership team, and from various DoBC committee chairs and staff members. At the Representative Assembly meetings, I got to meet many of you, initially in-person and then virtually, and hear about your experiences, and the issues and matters which you have identified as key areas to prioritize our organization and board's attention and efforts.

Our profession has a number of longstanding and complex challenges; in the past eight months, this has been further complicated by the pandemic. I hear your concerns and frustrations from the limited access to personal protective equipment, and the financial impact of the pandemic on your practices. As different payment models are made available, each with its own pros and cons, I welcome your thoughts, and look forward to listening and learning from diverse perspectives. I am excited by the opportunities offered by virtual care, and recognize that these will only succeed when complemented by clear professional standards, adequate support resources, and are firmly rooted in longitudinal care. I am cautiously optimistic that further innovation will be embraced by our physicians. It is heartening to see the formation of the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Working Group, and the introduction of unconscious bias training to many of our members, and I will continue to advocate for more diverse voices – whether inherent diversity, or the diversity of experience or thought – on the various DoBC committees. The pandemic is one more reason to add to the litany of causes for physician burnout, and we need to continue to prioritize the well-being of ourselves and our colleagues. As we head into the next round of negotiations for the 2022 Physician Master Agreement, I share many of your sentiments that, as physicians, we must push for greater input and influence in decision-making around health care resources, access, and system designs.

I am a laboratory physician and will be joining the Fraser Health Authority in November after having worked at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) the past five years. I am passionate about quality and process improvement, and have been involved



in the Specialist Services Committee (SSC)'s Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) initiative as a physician coach. While at VCH, I was an active member of the facility engagement working group, and served as secretary of the medical staff association for the Vancouver community of care. I sit on the VCH diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) steering committee, and co-chair the DEI leadership skills and talent management working group, which endeavours to increase diversity in medical leadership. I am the BC sponsor for Equity in Medicine, a group of Canadian physicians committed to creating a safe space for discussion of DEI issues in medicine. During COVID-19, I co-led the implementation of Slack for over 3000+ VCH medical staff as a bidirectional communication tool between senior leaders and frontline staff. I believe in mentoring and investing in the next generation of physicians, and teach at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in addition to being the program director of the UBC medical biochemistry residency training program.

I remain committed to representing the interests of all physicians. It would be an honour to continue to serve you on the DoBC board.

Sincerely,

Sophia Wong

Sophia Wong, MD FRCPC MBA

