

Dear Colleague;

I write to ask for your support in the upcoming Doctors of BC election in my application to become a specialist member of the Board of Directors.

Our association's mandate is "to promote a social, economic, and political climate in which members can provide British Columbians with the highest standard of health care, while achieving maximum professional satisfaction and fair economic reward". I believe that my breadth of experience, both in clinical practice and in leadership, has equipped me to serve you well in pursuit of these goals.

I have been a practicing BC physician for over 10 years in multiple practice settings. As a fellowship-trained colorectal general surgeon I certainly see the specialist perspective, but as the physician lead of a regional complex wound centre, I've worked with GP specialists and community-based home care services. Together, we've shifted the focus of the centre from end-stage tertiary care to partnered subacute wound care targeting high-risk patients, emphasizing primary and preventative care to ensure each patient is seen by the right person at the right time. I have practiced in private clinic settings, in hospitals, in health-authority-administrated offices, and at corporate headquarters. My clinical income is partly FFS and partly health-authority-contracted service so I've experienced the value of flexible and fair remuneration. I've been a locum, a new staff starting on provisional privileges, and an active member of my local medical staff association. I have advocated for more resources as a surgeon, but also for increased MOCAP levels as a surgical assist.

I have a broad experience as a leader. As the current Physician Advisor for the Fraser Health Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) Program, I am the medical side of a leadership dyad. In the past 2 years, we have cooperatively led a program expansion, including a doubling of program alumni, doubling of staff, and involvement of 28 physician faculty (from an initial 8) while maintaining a fixed budget. We have also overseen year-on-year increased participation in the PQI program (an SSC initiative) by both specialists and GPs. In 2015, I co-founded the RCH QI League, a local frontline-initiated and -driven QI initiative, and later became the hospital physician QI lead. As a physician lead of our hospital's Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP) I collaborated on projects to establish a safe and non-discriminatory learning culture. I've led several QI projects on a wide array of outcomes from cardiac surgical site infections to OR staff "joy in work" (a subject of both personal and professional priority). I have supported many other projects initiated by my colleagues through QI education or coaching.

As a member of the Fraser Health Collaborative Council, I have actively advocated for proof of meaningful collaboration as a prerequisite for funding. For me, collaboration involves more than just intermittent meetings between stakeholder groups for the purpose of information exchange. It involves the sharing of resources, the performance of improvement initiatives together, and the development of a symbiotic relationship in which strengths are leveraged and weaknesses overcome. As the Fraser Health PQI Physician Advisor, and more recently as a Provincial PQI Lead (Culture), I have advocated for more collaboration with entire inter-professional teams and administrative leadership, while still maintaining the centrality of physician leadership in the health system. Healthcare delivery can change on a dime (re: COVID-19) and physicians must be prepared to lead, to improve, and to innovate in order to provide the best patient-centred care possible.

I am a strong believer in consensus and maintain a thoughtful, respectful, and inquisitive nature to achieve this. I have no professional or personal disclosures other than my wish to apply a quality improvement lens to every aspect of the health system. I am an active participant in the workforce and in my community. I have board experience at a national level (Wounds Canada) but also local levels (Simon Fraser Aquatic Swim Club). As a husband and as a father of two teenagers, I've learned patience, kindness, and humility.

In summary, I have the training, experience, and leadership qualities to advocate for my colleagues across a wide range of backgrounds. Thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,

John Hwang MD MSc FRCSC

Dr. John Hwang Bio

Clinical

MD University of Toronto (2000)
General Surgery Residency – University of Calgary
Colorectal Fellowship – UCSFG
General Surgeon – Private Office
Physician Lead – Fraser Health Complex Wound Clinic
Cardiac Surgery Surgical Assist – Royal Columbian Hospital

QI/Leadership

Physician Advisor – Fraser Health PQI Program
NSQIP Surgeon Champion – Royal Columbian Hospital
Wounds Canada – National Board of Directors/National Strategy
Committee Member
SSC-PQI Provincial Physician Lead (Culture)

Personal

Married 20 years, 2 teenagers (14,16)
Resident of New Westminister (7-minute walk from the hospital)
Enjoys hiking, going out without the kids, and Netflix

