

Dear Colleagues

I ask for your vote so that I may serve as your DoBC Board Director-Family Physician. These are challenging times as we face major local impacts of a global pandemic. We are seeing physicians burning out as a result of excessive workloads, lack of systemic support, insufficient technology, and inefficiencies and inadequate capacity in the system. We also have a unique opportunity as society recovers and moves forward to build better systems that will improve the experience for physicians and patients alike.

The pandemic has highlighted deficiencies in our system and, at times, inadequate responses. We need meaningful dialogue with our diverse members to fully understand their struggles and needs, to develop policies to support them, including robust physician wellness, fair remuneration, better business and technology supports, and physician autonomy of agency. We need to address the threats to proactive longitudinal primary care to ensure that it remains a supportive foundational pillar for the secondary and tertiary specialized systems, to deliver high standard patient care across the health system. We are a resource to and advocates for our communities and need to champion this role to meaningfully address the social determinants that impact health. Good organizational governance and development of enabling policies should allow us to respond appropriately in a timely fashion to all the challenges our profession faces. Physician representative organizations need to work together to ensure physician leadership voices are represented at every decision-making table to create shared policies that support all physicians, strengthen our healthcare system, and promote best patient experiences and outcomes.

I am confident that my background and diversity of lived experiences give me the skills, knowledge, and perspective to support the Board's work. I've lived in the UK and Canada in both rural and urban locations. Having immigrated with my family at a young age and coming from meagre beginnings, I learned early that the way forward is paved by sincere work ethic and mutual support. Life has led me through a diversity of experiences from labor jobs, to sales and marketing, to helping run a family construction business. These have instilled in me an innovative mindset capable of "outside of the box thinking" to recognize opportunities, a "can-do" attitude with a belief that there's always a constructive way forward, and an ability to engage multiple diverse stakeholders. I've built a unique skill set that has served me well in collaborative leadership, negotiations, and networking. My 25-year career has allowed me to work in multiple settings, including community family practice, obstetrics, caring for patients in hospital, in walk-in clinics and in urgent care settings. My varied professional leadership experiences have given me a deeper understanding of the systemic issues that affect the work and life experience of physicians, as well as patient care.

Through leadership positions with Burnaby Division of Family Practice, I've helped bring about meaningful improvements while counteracting some of the corporate and bureaucratic encroachments into our professional space. We were able to adapt the health authority proposed UPCC model to create the only physician led and operated UPCC in BC, providing after hours care to patients, avoiding competition with community practices. We worked with multiple partners to develop the first drive through covid testing and assessment centre in BC, providing language and culturally sensitive service to 110,000 patients in one year, while protecting our community practices that had inadequate PPE and keeping the ER from being overwhelmed. This was the only physician led and operated site in BC. We enabled our community practices to quickly transition to using virtual care mechanisms to continue to provide primary care while being hampered by inadequate PPE supplies. We were able to adapt the primary care network mandate by making community members and agencies equal partners with physicians and health authority, thereby enabling true engagement with all stakeholders to meet the needs/demands of vulnerable populations. Our PCN provides timely access to mental health counselling and social work supports directly through our primary care practices. We continue to find ways to address social determinants of health at a local level by engaging with community social service agencies and city partners.

It takes time and effort to engage, listen to and understand the problems faced by colleagues and community members but that is the only way forward to provide real solutions. My volunteer work with various vulnerable populations has given me firsthand experience and understanding of their needs. I have been able to facilitate the development of respectful relationships with multiple stakeholders including local politicians, city staff, school boards, community service agencies, community members representing vulnerable populations, health authority and ministry to partner in addressing complex issues impacting everyone's health and workplace. We have been able to show that true collaboration across agencies delivers successful outcomes. For this leadership I was awarded the BCCFP Coin of Service in 2021. I am humbled by the trust and respect I've garnered from those I've worked with. I've also seen and learnt how and where communication breakdown can have negative impacts that can be mitigated with open transparent dialogue. I bring an innovative, diplomatic, and collaborative approach to collective governance. I bring broad, extensive experience as a clinician, medical director, IT geek, negotiator, connector and leader to the strategic planning and policy development work undertaken by the Board, to effect solutions that benefit physicians, healthcare system, community, and patients.

Dr. Baldev Sanghera Resumé

Family Physician

Diverse multi-cultural full scope community-based family practice clinic in Burnaby providing proactive longitudinal care, including minor surgery, palliative care, geriatrics, & pediatrics. 1998-present
Recipient BC College of Family Physicians Coin in recognition of outstanding dedication and service to family medicine, 2021

Medical Director

PrimeCare Medical Centre, Burnaby, 2009-present
Edmonds UPCC, Burnaby, 2019-present (only physician led & operated UPCC in BC)
Burnaby COVID Testing & Assessment Centre, 2020-2021 (1st drive through site in FHA, physician led & operated, model for all future FHA testing sites)
New Canadian Clinic, Burnaby serving vulnerable new immigrants, 2007-2010

Clinical Instructor / Educator

Undergraduate Medicine, University of BC, 2000-present
National Board examiner, The Medical Council of Canada, 2000-2006
GP Champion, multiple modules including clinical practice & office management, GPSC Practice Support Program, 2007-present
MoH Physician Leadership Award for dedication to improving primary health care, 2009
MedConnect Conference, SFU: inspiring aspiring physicians, 2017-19

Fraser Health Authority

Member, Health Information & Communication Working Group, 2018
Member, Regional UPCC Coordination Centre, 2021-present
Member, Regional UPCC Operations Committee, 2021-present

Hospital Medical Staff

Burnaby Hospital, 1998-2003
Royal Columbian Hospital, 1998-2015
Multiple Long Term Care Homes, Fraser Health Region, 1998-present

Education

Pharmacy Student, University of BC, 1987-91
Pharmacy Centennial Scholar, UBC, 1991
Medical Degree, University of BC, 1995
Leadership & Management Development Program, Simon Fraser University, 2015

Residency

UBC Family Medicine, 1995-1997
Co-Chief Resident, 1996-1997

Fitness and Sports Enthusiast

Burnaby Division of Family Practice

Founding Board Member, 2010
Board Director, 2010-2016
Vice Chair, 2014-2016
Collaborative Services Committee, 2012-2016
Physician Co-Lead, GP4Me Initiative, 2015-2016
Physician Lead, Primary Care Network Initiative & Steering Committee, 2017-present. Developed multiple primary care support programs to enable community wide team-based care.
Patient Medical Home Committee member, 2016-present
PMH IMIT Working Group, 2016-present
Physician Lead, PCN Primary Care Clinic Design & Development Team, 2020-present.
Physician Lead, Edmonds PCN Neighbourhood Physician Network, 2017-present
Physician Lead, Edmonds PCN Leadership Table, 2018-present
Physician Lead, PCN COVID Vaccine Working Group, 2021-present
Physician Lead, PCN Homeless Patient Working Group, 2021-present
PCN DocTalks public seminar presenter, 2021-present
Burnaby Community Emergency Response Strategy Committee, 2021-present

South Asian COVID Task Force

Steering Committee member, 2020-present
Multi-cultural community education: weekly media interviews, social media awareness, "This is our shot" campaign, Zoom town hall meetings

Community Engagement & Advocacy

Public health community education media interviews, 1998-present
Chairperson, Vancouver Multicultural Society's Health Committee, 1998-1999
Organiser, World Vision India Earthquake Relief Fundraising Committee, 2001
Virsa, Sikh Alliance Against Youth Violence Society. Founding Board Director, 2002-2010. Supporting youth & strengthening families to address gang violence in South Asian community.
City of Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy Steering Committee member, 2010-11. Make Burnaby more livable.
City of Burnaby Healthy Community Partnership Steering Committee member, 2018-present. Promoting healthy living.
Guru Nanak Free Kitchen
Member, Advisory Committee, 2019-present
Downtown East Side Hot Meal Program, Volunteer, 2015-present
Annual fundraising: 100 km bike ride, charity golf tournament, toy drive, school supply drive, care packages for vulnerable population groups, 2015-present
Annual tree planting, 2019-present