

Memorandum

To Research Leaders, PHC Expanded Leadership Forum, MAC

From Fiona Dalton, President & CEO, Providence Health Care

Date December 20, 2018

Re **Update on Three PHC Research Centres**

Clinicians and researchers at Providence Health Care (PHC) have for decades made major contributions, which have significantly improved the lives and health of thousands of patients and residents with HIV/AIDS, heart, lung, and kidney diseases as well as addictions, mental health conditions to name a few across PHC sites and around British Columbia and been global leaders in these fields.

To continue and extend this legacy at PHC, I'm pleased to announce an exciting update on three of the research enterprises at PHC: the **BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC CfE)**, the **BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU)** and the newly formed **Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE)**.

The BC CfE, led by Dr. Julio Montaner, has been a world leader in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and their efforts have saved millions of lives around the world. Recognizing the wider needs of the vulnerable patient population in the Province, over the past decade, the BC CfE has developed focused strategies and world-class expertise in several other areas, including substance use and gender and sexual health equity. These areas have grown and matured to a point where it was decided to develop them as their own distinct research centres.

As part of this overarching strategy, two years ago, the BCCSU, led by Dr. Evan Wood, was formed in partnership with the Ministry of Health, PHC, and other research partners. As a provincially networked and UBC Faculty of Medicine centre, BCCSU's mandate is to develop and implement evidence-based approaches to substance use and addiction and improve the lives of individuals with substance use disorders. Already over its short history, the BCCSU has made significant contributions toward addressing our substance-use challenges through the development of provincial and national evidence-based treatment policies, guidelines and standards, provision of critical education and training programs, and undertaking of key research initiatives.

Similarly, the CGSHE, led by Dr. Kate Shannon, was formed to address and advance gender and sexual health equity amongst marginalized and underserved populations in BC, Canada and globally, through research, policy and practice. The Centre's research spans infectious diseases, urban health, and sexual, reproductive, and maternal health in underserved communities. At national and international levels, CGSHE regularly contributes as expert consultant on gender and sexual health care guidelines related to gender health equity violence, and sexual and reproductive health.



With the continuing success and growth of each of the three centres, and with increasingly diverse mandates, expertise and strategic priorities, PHC has agreed to reorganize and support the BCCSU and CGSHE into their own distinct physical space, with corresponding governance structures and operational accountabilities.

We are working closely with the three centres to enable an effective transition, which we expect will be completed early in 2019. We will keep you updated on our progress.

The New Year promises to be full of key milestones for Providence, our research centres and our care and teaching programs. I want to thank everyone in advance for helping with these transitions, as we continue to deliver our mission.