

For Immediate Release | March 17, 2022

Dr. Harsh Hundal recognized for significant contributions to quality health care in B.C.

IH WIDE - Dr. Harsh Hundal, Interior Health executive medical director for quality and patient safety, was recognized with the Doug Cochrane Leadership in Quality Award from the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council. This award celebrates someone who made an inspirational, significant and sustained contribution to improving the quality of health care in British Columbia.

"Dr. Hundal's commitment to medical staff engagement and leadership within Interior Health has been a turning point for our organization," said Dr. Mike Ertel, Interior Health vice president for medicine and quality. "His vision and passion is inspirational and I am thrilled he has been recognized with this prestigious award."

Since 2017, Dr. Hundal has worked to transform physician culture and engagement at Interior Health. Through his dedication, leadership and engagement with partners, he has empowered leadership and developed a culture of trust and respect that enables physicians to thrive.

One of Dr. Hundal's most innovative initiatives has been developing and implementing the [NAVIG8 Emerging Medical Leaders Program](#), an in-house physician training program. Now, four years later, NAVIG8 is the only health-authority based medical leadership program in Canada recognized by the Canadian Society of Physician leaders as a pathway to certification.

Other transformative initiatives led by Dr. Hundal include the dyad leadership model. This is a foundational partnership between medical staff and administrators to support culture, learning, and improve care. He also spearheaded an action plan to support medical leaders in eradicating anti-Indigenous racism.

"I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the people and teams within Interior Health who were nominated, recognized, or awarded in the 2021 BC Patient Safety and Quality Council Quality Awards," said Dr. Devin Harris, Interior Health executive medical director for quality, patient safety, research and council chair for the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council. "This really does highlight the exemplary people and fantastic initiatives in Interior Health."

Quality Award Runner-up Acknowledgments

Interior Health received runner-up nods in two other BC Quality Award categories.

Dr. Glenn McRae, executive director, quality and patient safety is the runner-up for the Quality Culture Trailblazer Award. Glenn reinvigorated Interior Health's Person- and Family-Centred Care Steering Committee placing a public partner in the role of his co-chair. Through his unwavering commitment to improving culture by and with patients, he has led a foundational shift throughout Interior Health where patient and public partners' input is now actively sought out and prioritized.

First Nations Health Authority, Doctors of BC and Interior Health received runner-up for the Strengthening Health & Wellness Award. This collaboration developed a culturally appropriate tool that

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uses storytelling to help patients and providers talk about medication management. [Coyote's Food Medicines](#) is a short story that empowers Indigenous Peoples to discuss managing their medications, and supports health-care providers to understand their patients' needs and concerns.

Read More

- [Dr. Harsh Hundal: Winner, Doug Cochrane Leadership Award](#)
- [Dr. Glenn McRae: Runner-Up, Quality Culture Trailblazer Award](#)
- [First Nations Health Authority, Doctors of BC, Interior Health: Runner-Up, Strengthening Health & Wellness](#)

About the Doug Cochrane Leadership in Quality Award

This award is named in honour of Doug Cochrane's contribution as founding chair of the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council. Doug is a long-time leader in improving quality and safety, having chaired the BC Patient Safety Task Force from its inception in 2003 to the creation of the Council in 2008. He also served as the Provincial Patient Safety & Quality Officer from 2008 to 2019. He has also chaired the BC Patient Safety & Learning System and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, and he is currently the Board Chair of Interior Health.

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