

MAY 2017 SPRING UPDATE FROM THE VICTORIA GASTROENTEROLOGY GROUP

We would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date with developments within the Victoria Gastroenterology group.

GI GROUP PHYSICIANS:

We currently have 12 full-time gastroenterologists.

- Dr. James Piercey has fully retired.
- Drs. Don Daly and Steve Holland have both closed their clinical practice and are doing locums for the group.
- Dr. Al Buckley has closed his practice and is now the Division Chief.
- Dr. Kevin Rioux has joined the group- he has strong interest in IBD. He was the medical lead for the central GI referral system in Calgary for 34 gastroenterologists. Kevin has recently taken over from Justin Shah in continuing to work towards improving our referral system and build relationships with primary care physicians.

Like many subspecialties, many in our group have extra training and interests.

- Drs. Pai and Cruz-Pereira join Dr. Pearson with strong backgrounds in Hepatology.
- Dr. Loomes has done a post fellowship year in IBD
- Dr. Andrew Flynn has an interest in GI motility disorders.
- Drs. Singh, Barclay, Petrunia and Papp do ERCPs, plus Drs. Singh and Barclay also do endoscopic ultrasound.
- Dr. Zandieh performs capsule endoscopy.

All members participate in our growing clinical trials group and all members teach at some level, either at the medical school, in the hospital, or both.

CENTRAL REFERRALS: We thank Dr. Shah for his efforts to improve the referral process for patients needing GI care. There will always be room for improvement, however one only has to remember the days when multiple phone calls to GI offices were necessary to try and obtain consultations. We recognize the significant growing pains of the central referral system and remain committed to ongoing improvements with an eventual seamless (we hope) integration into your EMRs.

That said, as you may know, we have had significant and unexpected support staff turnover during the last six months, leading to delays in processing non-urgent referrals. While we have rectified the staffing issues we do envision a brief “catch-up” phase to get back on track. Timely and competent GI care for your patients is our goal.

One final note: “BC Digestive Weekend” is back in Sept. With your input we have developed a course which we think you will enjoy. Over 200 attendees joined us last year, and we look forward to seeing you there. Watch for the announcements.