

TPIGS Newsletter



Strengthening the voice of Terrace physicians

Terrace Physician Initiative Group Society (TPIGS) is supporting physicians to make change in the health care system, improving their work environment and patient care. TPIGS is part of Facility Engagement (FE), resulting from a master agreement between Doctors of BC and the Provincial Government, the first initiative of its kind in Canada. Currently, 75 facilities are involved across British Columbia. FE works to build physician leadership in the health system.

This has been a decisive year for the Terrace Physician Initiative Group Society. We solidified our governance structures, implemented and completed projects, established physician engagement and developed collaboration with Northern Health.

When the MSA joined Facility Engagement Initiative, it was functioning primarily to organize yearly social events and charitable donations. Physicians, except those few involved in leadership roles, were largely not engaged with Northern Health to improve their work environment or patient care. Despite generally positive relationships between physicians and Northern Health Management, deeper collaboration did not exist and an “us versus them” mentality persisted. In addition, there



was lack of trust and collegiality in the physician community stemming from long-term personal and political divisiveness.

We are proud of the momentum we have built and the collegiality that has developed amongst our colleagues. We have seen the rise of autonomy; physicians are leading improvement projects that impact their work environment and patient care. Goodwill echoes through the physician

TPIGS AGM in November 2018 consolidated physician involvement and highlighted a priority of ‘genuine’ collaboration with NHA Operations and Medical Leadership.

lounge during impromptu meetings and around tables determinedly focused on better meeting the needs of our patients. Our relationship with the Northern Health Authority is changing and we have established the foundation for genuine collaboration.

We are at a pivotal moment in the Terrace physician community and we have the relationships and capacity to enact meaningful change.

2019-2020 Priorities

1. Physicians are engaged, demonstrating collegial relationships and individual wellness, with the skills and experience to lead.
2. TPIGS and NHA pursue collaboration on projects and planning.
3. Physicians lead projects to improve patient care and their work environment.
4. TPIGS governance exemplifies: accountability, defined roles and responsibilities, and evaluative processes.



In February we hosted a Physician and Family Wellness Weekend in Prince Rupert. Facilitated by Dr. Mark Sherman, this workshop introduced Terrace physicians to mindfulness in medicine- now a key TPIGS focus.

Current Projects

ER Simulation Program

Leads: Dr. Natasha De Sousa, Dr. Ariane Mundhenk

Entering its second year, ER Sim is one of TPIGS' strongest projects. Low fidelity cases are simulated bi-monthly in the ER with nurses and physicians to practice high-acuity cases, given the infrequent nature of these events in a rural center. Outcomes to date include: improved team functioning, increased preparedness of ER staff for high-acuity cases, and development of a learning culture.



Nicole Halbauer, First Nations Health Authority partner, teaching medical student, Cirisse Stephen an introduction to Sm'algayax, the Tsimshian language at a Lounge Lunch.

been limited opportunities for in-person, locally relevant cultural learning. This activity involves close collaboration with First Nations Health Authority and Northern Health's Indigenous Health, to implement multiple levels of cultural safety and humility training for Terrace physicians. Stay tuned for a CME accredited workshop series in fall 2019.

OR/PACU Simulation Program

Lead: Dr. Derek Sargent

Building on the success of the ER Simulation Program, this activity will develop an OR/PACU Simulation program, starting in spring 2019. Perioperative emergencies will be simulated with participation from nurses, anesthetists, surgeons and learners. Scenarios will provide both education and team building.

Cultural Safety and Humility

Lead: Dr. Greg Linton

This project aims to improve clinical interactions between physicians and Indigenous patients. To date there have

APACHE II in ICU

Lead: Dr. Mike Kenyon

This project aims to implement APACHE II assessment in the MMH ICU. APACHE II (Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II) is a severity-of-disease classification system developed in 1981 and is the standard outcome prediction and assessment tool worldwide for ICU patients. The APACHE II score is a mandatory (and the main) reporting item on the provincial ICU database. Currently no such scoring system is used in the MMH ICU.

"In order to transform our community we start with ourselves."

-Dr. Greg Linton

Palliative Care Needs Assessment

Lead: Dr. Sophie Harrison

This activity involves a needs assessment of palliative care services in Terrace. The components of the needs assessment are: interviews with physicians, health professionals and management, health directors, patients; statistical summary of palliative care trends and use; summary of current palliative care services and regional context, and; literature review. In addition to gathering relevant

data on the current situation, the activity is engaging stakeholders, creating a diverse group committed to improvement.

Lounge Lunches

Lead: TPIGS Board of Directors

We host casual lunches in the physician lounge, to promote relationships and conversation between Northern Health management and physicians. These lunches are an opportunity to share information about current TPIGS projects, identified gaps and opportunities for collaboration.

ER Addictions Development

Lead: Dr. Natasha DeSousa

This activity involves the facility-based development of OAT/Addictions resources to support the regional strategy currently being implemented. There are three dimensions to this framework: community NH supported OAT clinic, primary care clinic supports, and facility-based programs. Facility-based aspects of the plan include ER Suboxone initiation and improvement of inpatient treatment and care (guidelines, pre-printed orders, physician and nursing education).

Medical Staff Engagement Meetings

Lead: TPIGS Board of Directors

TPIGS hosts engagement events that target the entire medical staff twice a year to share progress in FEI and foster dialogue on priorities and projects moving forward. These events emphasize a relaxed environment, are family friendly and foster collegiality.



Malignant Hyperthermia Cart Review

Lead: Dr. Adrienne Dufour

This activity updates the Malignant Hyperthermia cart in the OR with the most current protocols and equipment available. Anesthesia standards of practice recommend ensuring a readily available cart is available with appropriate supplies, medications, and protocols in the event of a

Our Summer BBQ, co-hosted by NW Division of Family Practice, brought the physician community together, saw participation from neighboring communities and welcomed the President of Doctor's of BC, Dr. Eric Cadesky.

Malignant Hyperthermia crisis. It is critical that staff working in the OR are familiar with Malignant Hyperthermia protocols in order to ensure timely delivery of this life saving treatment. This activity will dedicate education sessions for OR staff including anesthetists, surgeons, and nurses on Malignant Hyperthermia diagnosis and treatment.

Physician Wellness

Lead: TPIGS Board of Directors

This activity involves a multi-faceted approach to address physician wellness. The physician lounge is a focal space for promoting physician wellness by providing healthy snacks and offering a quiet, private space for physicians to rest, meet and build collegiality. In addition, we provide opportunities for physician education, discussion and practice to build wellness. Physician and Family Yoga classes and the Physician Wellness Weekend have been very well-received. Mindfulness in medicine is the focus for 2019-2020.

“The weekend built community, health and brought the medical community together- outside the box for many. What a success!”

-Feedback from Mindfulness and Medicine Weekend

Working Group Meetings

Lead: TPIGS Board of Directors

Working Group Meetings gather physician leads and board members to decide upon TPIGS priorities and provide feedback on projects. Working Group meetings are essential to TPIGS governance and occur quarterly. Northern Health leadership are encouraged to attend Working Group meetings to ensure that genuine consultation and collaboration is occurring.

Completed Projects

- ER Department Billing Audit
- ER Journal Club
- ER Scheduling Optimization
- Breast Feed/Pumping Space
- PCEA for Labor and Surgical Patients
- Physician Lounge Renovation
- PICC Line Improvement
- Quality Improvement for Physicians
- Recruitment Video
- Streamlining Pre-Operative Care for Cataract Surgery



Our March Working Group meeting included our youngest member, baby Maya.

Upcoming Events

Spring Social: April 12, 6-9pm, Family Friendly, Co-hosted by NW Division of Family Practice, held at the home of Dr. Andrea Geller, 5121 Eagle Place.

Trauma-Informed Practice Working: April 30 and May 1. Organized through the Indigenous Health Improvement Committee. Held in the Education Room at MMH.

Grand Rounds: May 30, 7:30am, featuring presentations from residents Dr. Abe Torchinsky and Dr. Sophie Harrison.

Palliative Care Working Group Meeting: June 2019. Be a part of a group of physicians dedicated to improving palliative care services in Terrace. Date TBA.

TPIGS AGM: September 2019. Date TBA

Cultural Safety and Sensitivity Training: Fall 2019. Offered in conjunction with NHA Indigenous Health and First Nations Health Authority. Date TBA.

Mindfulness in Medicine Weekend: Winter 2020. Details and date TBA.



Shirley Nichol, Director of Patient Care presenting to physicians on NHA Drivers and Priorities

to welcome Meredith Skimson to the TPIGS team. Meredith has a strong background in community organizing and healthcare. Holly Hovland, became our Facility Engagement Liaison in March. We are eager for what these new relationships will bring.

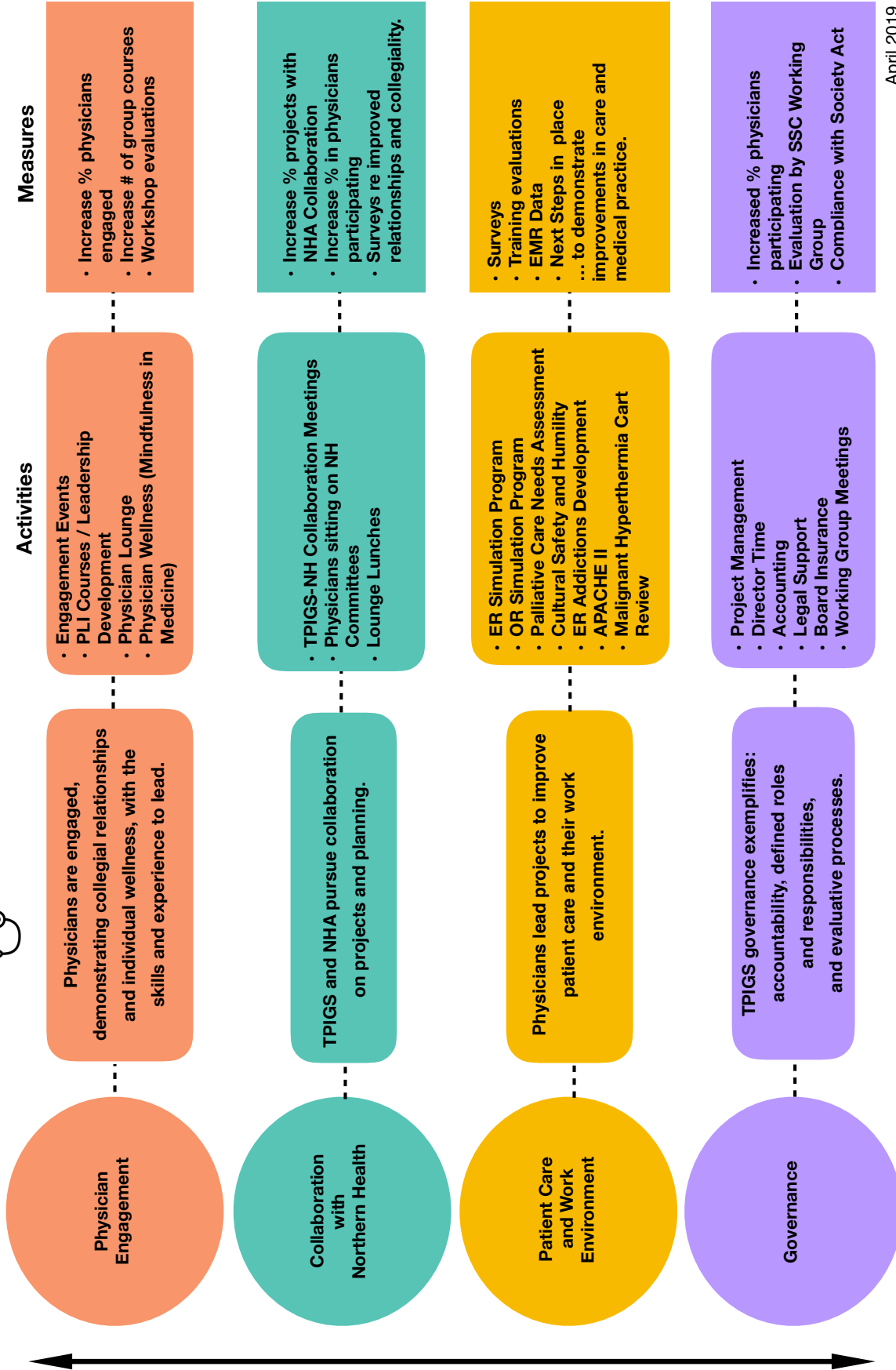
Welcome new Project Manager and Facility Engagement Liaison

After a year and a half with TPIGS, Sarah Panofsky is returning to school and moving away. We are happy

**For more information or to get involved contact:
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TPIGS Strategic Plan 2019-2020



April 2019