Shining the spotlight on BC physicians

There is extraordinary work happening in medicine around British Columbia. Some of it is happening in large academic centres, some in small rural communities. Some involves cutting-edge research or innovative clinical care. Some is simply a physician who has found a better way to solve a problem, support their patients, or bring a community together. But how often do we hear about it?

As physicians, we spend much of our professional lives focused on our own patients, practices, and institutions. We may work a few kilometres or several hundred kilometres from colleagues doing remarkable things, without ever knowing their stories.

Last year, we introduced a new article type called Physician Spotlight. It is part of a refreshed group of article types that also includes BC Stories, Clinical Images, and Beyond Medicine. The changes were informed by our reader survey and website data, but they were also driven by something more fundamental: We want the *BCMJ* to help physicians learn from one another.

Perhaps you are a rural physician who has inspired connections in your community, or a researcher whose question began with something you wanted to solve in your practice. Perhaps you have a story about your career decision, mentorship of younger students, or an unexpected path in life that changed how you practise medicine. These stories matter.

There is a saying that "We need to see it to be it." Understanding what drives our colleagues' work can expand our sense of what is possible. I believe that we can all benefit from hearing how any one of us has built a fulfilling career in medicine. The *BCMJ* is uniquely positioned to create this communication—to share your stories of success, failure, surprise, controversy, hardship, and teamwork.

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Take a moment to consider whether you know a BC physician whose work deserves a wider audience. Tell us about them, or write about yourself. Physician Spotlight is designed to highlight the person behind the process. Here are a few example questions you can use to lead an interview with a colleague, as a jumping-off point for an essay, or to answer about yourself:

- What is your greatest achievement or the proudest moment of your career?
- What is an initiative you want more people to know about?
- What brings you the most happiness?
- What is your motto?
- What do you wish you knew when you were a medical student?
- What medical advance do you most anticipate?
- What is something you've learned from a patient?
- How have you been inspired by one of your heroes?

Submission guidelines are provided at https://bcmj.org/submit-content. And please, send pictures! A photo of the physician doing the work they care about, with colleagues, or in the community.

In this issue, a spotlight on Dr Birinder Narang highlights his love of service, faith, and family.

If you've got a great story but it doesn't relate to the practice of medicine, there's the BC Stories section, where physicians share their adventures from their off-hours. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

—Caitlin Dunne, MD, FRCSC

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