

Island Medical Program Family Medicine Newsletter

Vol 3: April 2026

A Message From the IMP Family Medicine Team, Years 1 & 2

Dear Family Physicians of Victoria,

In this third edition of the Island Medical Program (IMP) Family Medicine Newsletter, we are delighted to once again celebrate and thank you for the incredible role you play in teaching IMP students and shaping the future of our medical community. Our learners feel your generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment to mentorship every day.

These qualities are beautifully reflected in Dr. Anna Mason, recipient of the 2025 IMP Community Family Physician Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching. In addition to providing exceptional care to her patients, Anna embodies the spirit of the IMP by fostering meaningful connections with learners and contributing to a culture of mentorship and excellence. Her teaching highlights the heart of family medicine: relationships, continuity, and a deep commitment to patients and community. Over the past 11 years, Anna has been a dedicated and inspiring teacher, opening her practice to students and supporting them as they grow into confident, compassionate clinicians. Her recognition this year – alongside the multiple nominations for the award from learners – speaks volumes about the lasting impression she leaves on those she teaches.

Through their experiences with you, our students are not only gaining essential clinical skills, but also learning to lead with empathy, compassion, trust, and connection. These are lessons that stay with them long after their time in training. In a time when primary care continues to face real challenges, your example has never been more important. You inspire students to see the value and meaning in family medicine, and your influence is reflected in the strong number of IMP graduates choosing this path.

Thank you for all that you do and for the countless ways you make a difference in the lives of our students and our communities.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Your IMP Family Medicine Team, Years 1 & 2



DR. VIKKY QI

Site Director,
Family Medicine



ELEANOR GOOD

Senior Manager,
Programs & Administration



KRISTEN STANBRIDGE

Curriculum Manager,
Years 1 & 2



DR. DAN EVANS

Clinical Education Lead,
Family Practice Recruitment
& Retention



AZUSA MITSUVEDA

Program Administrator,
Family Medicine & Volunteer
Patients, Years 1 & 2

Dr. Evans Joins the Team

A warm welcome to our new Clinical Education Lead for Family Practice Recruitment & Retention

The IMP Family Medicine Years 1 & 2 team would like to welcome Dr. Daniel Evans, who follows Dr. Sarah Chritchley in this leadership role that helps shape and strengthen faculty recruitment and student engagement within the program.



DR. DAN EVANS

Dr. Evans is a Clinical Assistant Professor and practicing family physician whose research focuses on integrating genetics into routine family practice. He mentors students in this area through the FLEX program. Dr. Evans also teaches early family medicine clinical experiences, in addition to the First Patient Program, supporting learners as they develop their clinical skills and professional identity.



Farewell, Dr. Sarah Chritchley

A thank you and goodbye from Dr. Vikky Qi

On behalf of the IMP Family Medicine Years 1 & 2 team, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Sarah Chritchley as she wraps up her term as the Clinical Education Lead for Family Practice Recruitment & Retention. Dr. Chritchley brought warmth, thoughtfulness, and a deep commitment to community to this role, and her impact was felt across the program.

In addition to her leadership, she has been a dedicated and inspiring educator – recognized through the IMP Community Family Physician Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching. Our team is especially grateful that she will continue her involvement with the program as a clinical teacher.

Thank you, Sarah, for your leadership, generosity, and ongoing dedication to medical education on the Island.

Teaching Excellence

A message from Dr. Anna Mason, Family Medicine Preceptor since 2015 & Winner of the 2025 IMP Community Family Physician Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Receiving the 2025 IMP Community Family Physician Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching is incredibly meaningful to me because teaching has been one of the most rewarding parts of my 25-year long career in family medicine. I benefited enormously from generous mentors during my own training at the University of Toronto, and I feel strongly that community family physicians play an important role in showing students what day-to-day family practice actually looks like. I hope to give students a window into the kind of longitudinal relationships that make family medicine such a fulfilling career.

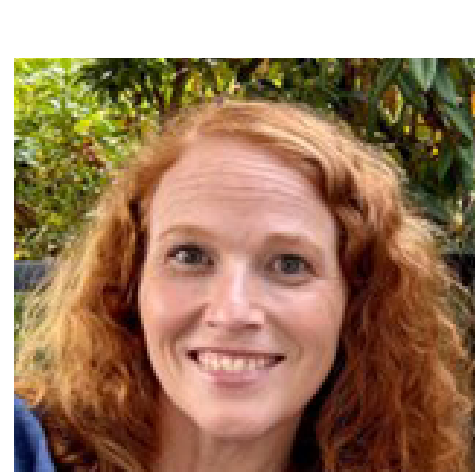
My favourite part of teaching is when students begin to see those connections come together. I try to help them appreciate how unique family medicine is – we often care for patients over many years and see them in the context of their lives, families, and communities. When students sit in on visits, they quickly notice that conversations aren't just about diagnoses. We might be talking about someone's new puppy, their kids heading to university, or how work is going. Those relationships are at the heart of good primary care, and it's wonderful to watch students realize how meaningful that continuity can be.

One thing that surprised me when I first started teaching was how much I would learn from the students themselves. They bring fresh perspectives, curiosity, and up-to-date knowledge from their coursework. Teaching keeps me on my toes and encourages me to stay engaged with new ideas in medicine. It has also made me more reflective about my own clinical reasoning – explaining why we make certain decisions often deepens my own understanding as well.

Some of the most rewarding moments are when you see students gain confidence with patients. I remember one student who was initially quite nervous about interviewing patients independently. Over a few weeks, I watched them grow into someone who could build rapport quickly and ask thoughtful, compassionate questions. By the end of the placement, patients were commenting on how comfortable they felt talking with that student. Seeing that transformation was incredibly satisfying.

For colleagues who are considering becoming preceptors, my advice is simple: just start. You don't need to have a perfectly structured teaching plan. Inviting students into your everyday clinical work is often the most valuable learning experience for them. Patients are usually very supportive of the teaching process and many enjoy knowing they are helping train the next generation of physicians.

Looking back, some of my favourite memories involve those small "aha" moments – when a student hears their first abnormal heart sound, pieces together a diagnosis, or realizes how much trust patients place in their family doctor. Being able to witness and support those moments has been one of the true privileges of my career.



DR. ANNA MASON

A letter from one of the IMP students who nominated Dr. Mason

Leah Macfarlane, IMP Class of 2027

Dr. Mason is an exceptional family physician and a wonderful teacher. During my second-year placement with her, Dr. Mason gave me the opportunity to see patients independently. She also encouraged me to come up with my own assessment and management plans before we discussed the cases together. This was incredibly valuable for my learning because it pushed me to work at the edge of my knowledge and think more critically about clinical decision-making. Rather than simply giving me the answers, Dr. Mason consistently took the time to walk through her reasoning and ask questions that helped me refine my thinking.

After each patient encounter, Dr. Mason reviewed the case with me and used these moments as thoughtful teaching opportunities. She had a great ability to identify areas where my understanding could be strengthened and would explain things in a way that was both practical and memorable. One example that stands out to me occurred with a patient who came in with shortness of breath. After we reviewed the case, Dr. Mason explained to both me and the patient what the different lab tests and investigations meant and how they helped narrow down the possible causes of the symptoms. Watching her translate complex medical information into clear, understandable language for the patient was an excellent learning experience and showed me how important patient education is in family medicine.

Dr. Mason was also incredibly approachable and created an environment where I always felt comfortable asking questions. She was supportive, encouraging, and genuinely invested in my learning. At the same time, she brought a sense of humour and fun to the clinic that made the experience even more enjoyable. Working with her showed me how a physician can balance strong clinical knowledge with compassion, approachability, and a positive atmosphere for both patients and learners. I learned a tremendous amount in my time with Dr. Mason and feel very grateful that I had the opportunity to work alongside her.

Celebrating Service

Join us in recognizing our preceptors on their milestone years with the IMP

We are lucky to have so many accomplished family physicians providing community-based clinical teaching through the Family Medicine program.

On behalf of our entire team, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for their exceptional dedication and commitment to teaching and mentoring medical students. We thank them for their invaluable contributions to medical education and to nurturing the future leaders of healthcare.

20 Years



DR. FELIPE EDORA

15 Years



DR. HANA MASATA

10 Years

DR. SIENNA BOURDON

DR. ANNA MASON

DR. LISA VERES

5 Years

DR. NATALIE BARLOW

DR. JENNIFER LUSH

DR. LAURA RITONJA

DR. SYLVIE TELLIER

DR. PHILIP BRIERLEY

DR. STEPHANIE MANCINI

DR. PEG ROBERTSON

DR. DEVON VAN BREDA

DR. EUGENE LEDUC

DR. TARA MCCALLAN

DR. MICAH SIMCOFF

DR. AMANDA WANG

Want to Get Involved?

Help us teach the future of family medicine healthcare

In this critical period for primary care in Victoria, IMP students need to provide mentorship and experiences with local family physicians like you. Along with imparting clinical knowledge, you'll have the opportunity to help inspire our future doctors to enter family medicine and transform health for everyone.

There are several opportunities available for family physicians to teach Year 1 & 2 medical students. These include family practice office visits, focused family practice visits, seminars, and the First Patient Program.

Useful links

Ready to become a family medicine preceptor, or perhaps you need a little more information first? The following links are here to help.

[IMP Family Practice teaching sign up survey](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8hQa8UG0lgHp64u)

[Teach at the IMP](https://imp.med.ubc.ca/teach-mentor-more/teach-at-the-imp/)

Contact us

Have a question? Please contact a member of the IMP Family Medicine Years 1 & 2 team via the emails below.

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