



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Division of Continuing
Professional Development
Faculty of Medicine



2024/2025

Rural CPD Annual Report

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A message from Rural CPD's Medical Director and Senior Manager

“As we reflect on this past year, we want to extend our gratitude to everyone who makes our work at Rural CPD possible. The dedication, expertise and commitment to rural health care of our collaborators is instrumental in the ongoing success of our programming. We know your time is incredibly limited and we are especially grateful that you shared yours with us.”

— Dr. Dana Hubler and Laura Beamish

Acknowledgements

UBC Rural CPD is a partnership between UBC Faculty of Medicine's Division of Continuing Professional Development (UBC CPD) and the Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc). Funding for the program is provided by the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues (JSC), a joint committee of the Doctors of BC and BC Ministry of Health.

We are grateful for the ongoing support, input and guidance of the Rural CPD Medical Advisory Committee.



Table of contents

Introduction	04
2024/25 Snapshot	05
Serving rural communities (map)	06
Hands-on Ultrasound Education (HOUSE)	07
Indigenous Patient Led Continuing Professional Development Program	09
Personal Learning Plans	11
Real-Time Virtual Support (RTVS) Simulation	13
Coaching and Mentoring Program (CAMP)	15
Rural Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Rounds	18
Rural Rounds Education Hub	21
Virtual Health Grand Rounds (VHGR)	23
Looking ahead	25



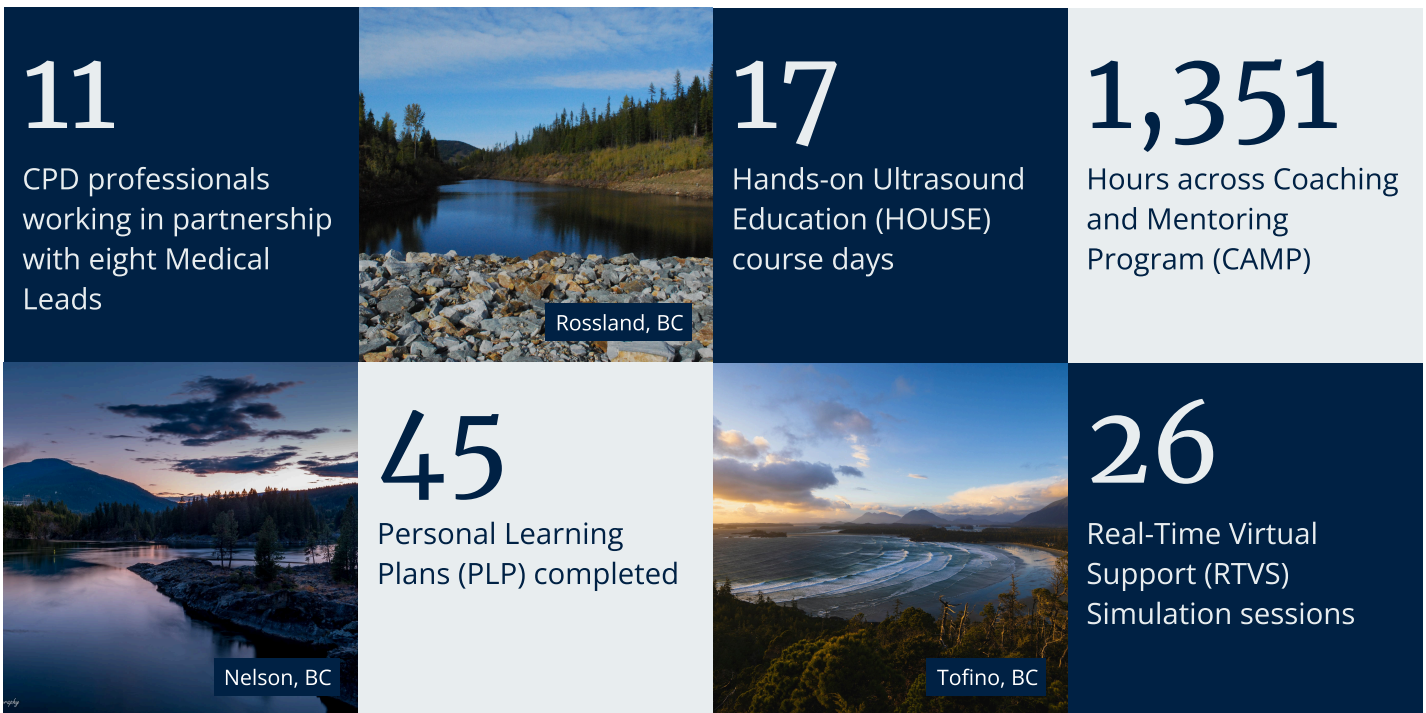
Revelstoke, BC

Introduction

At [UBC Rural CPD](#), we're dedicated to supporting the learning needs of physicians and health professionals working in rural, remote and Indigenous communities across British Columbia. We do this by delivering community-based, interprofessional and practical CPD that helps rural health professionals provide safe, effective care.

This report highlights key outcomes and impacts from our 2024-25 programming. Over the past year, we've had the privilege of connecting with subject matter experts, learners and partners—both virtually and in person—to learn, collaborate and grow together.

2024/25 Snapshot



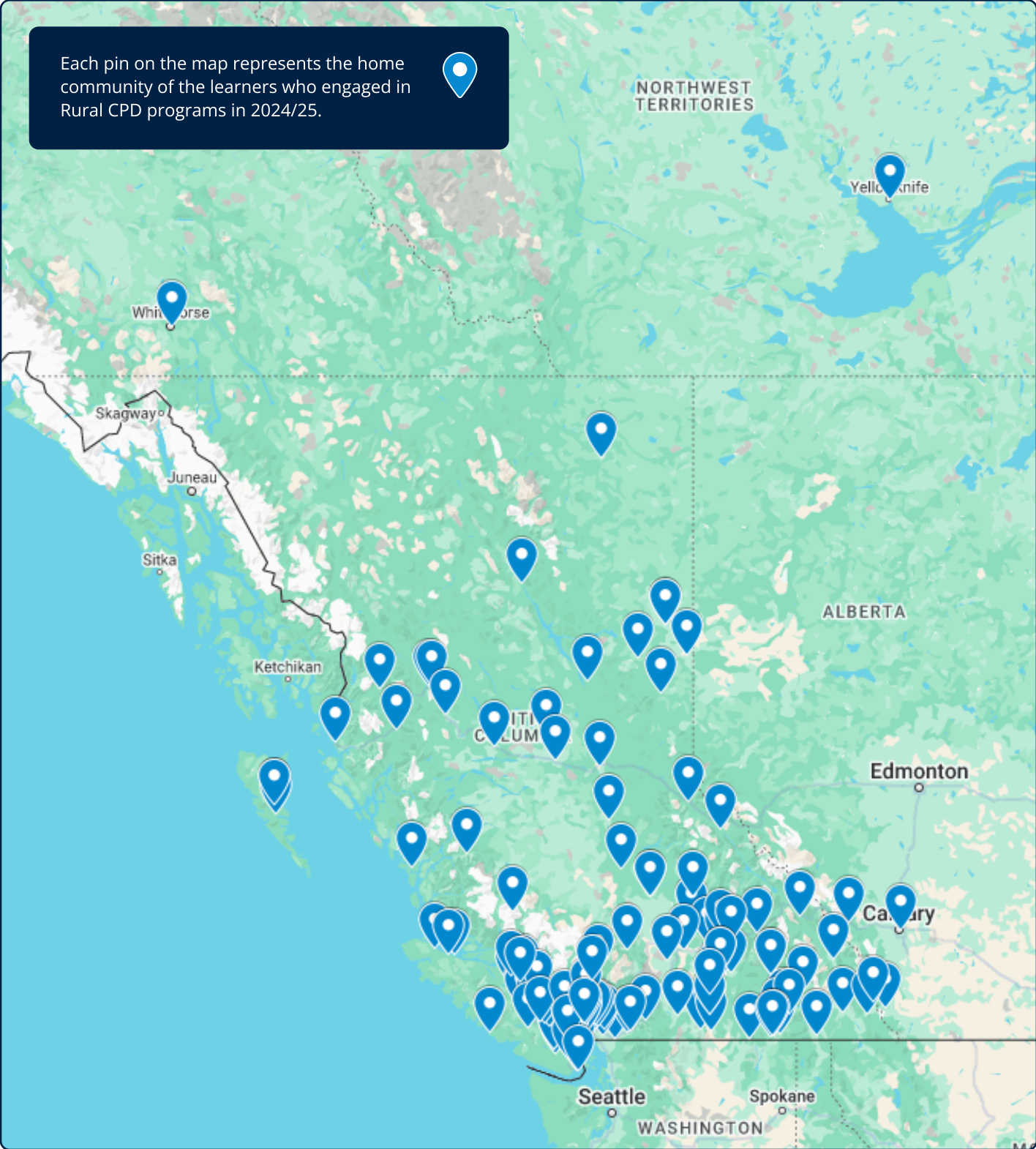
Rounds: Rural Rounds, Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS), Dermatology Equity through Remote Management, Education and Study (DERMES) and Virtual Health Grand Rounds (VHGR)



Nawh Whu'nus'en We See in Two Worlds workshop series



Serving rural communities

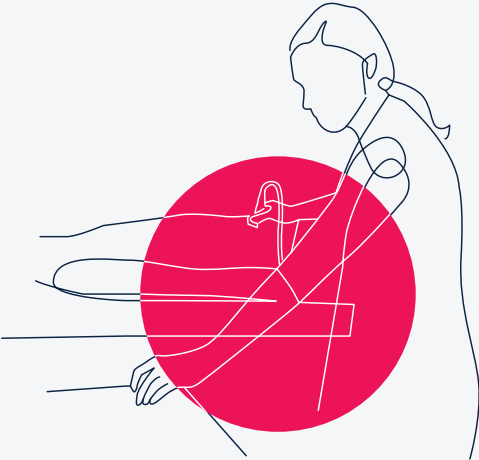


Hands-on Ultrasound Education (HOUSE)

UBC Rural CPD offers low-barrier training and resources that advance point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) skill adoption and support the development of a POCUS community of practice in rural British Columbia (BC). This includes the Hands-On Ultrasound Education (HOUSE) course, Rural POCUS Rounds webinar series, Sonnie: Your Ultrasound Partner (asynchronous, case-based learning) and the Handheld Ultrasound Loan program. The year 2024-25 also saw the first ever Rural POCUS Congress, presented in-person in Whistler, BC. The Medical Leads for this program are Dr. Kevin Fairbairn and Dr. Virginia Robinson. Learn more about [HOUSE](#).

Program learning objectives

- List the correct steps in POCUS use.
- Demonstrate the manual skills required to use POCUS.
- Safely incorporate POCUS into patient care.
- Create an appropriate long-term learning plan for maintaining POCUS practice.



HOUSE by the numbers

 **115**

Participant totals for 24/25

 **17**

Course days

DAYS BROKEN DOWN BY TYPE:

Emergency Medicine	6
Internal Medicine	1
Ambulatory	4
Obstetrics	6

Success stories and program impact



Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Congress

The first UBC Rural CPD and RCCbc Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Congress took place on May 23, 2024 at the Whistler Conference Centre, preceding the annual Rural Health Conference. Goals of the Rural POCUS Congress included increasing POCUS uptake and fostering relationships within a growing POCUS Community of Practice in rural British Columbia (BC).

The event consisted of hands-on scanning with instructors and didactic presentations featuring emerging, popular POCUS topics such as trauma, procedures and critical care. Attendees connected with rural peers at monthly Rural POCUS Rounds webinar sessions offered throughout the 2024-25 year.

“Encouraged to continue to scan everyone and to keep refining my skills.”

— 2024 Rural POCUS Congress attendee

“It will help me incorporate ultrasound more into my daily practice.”

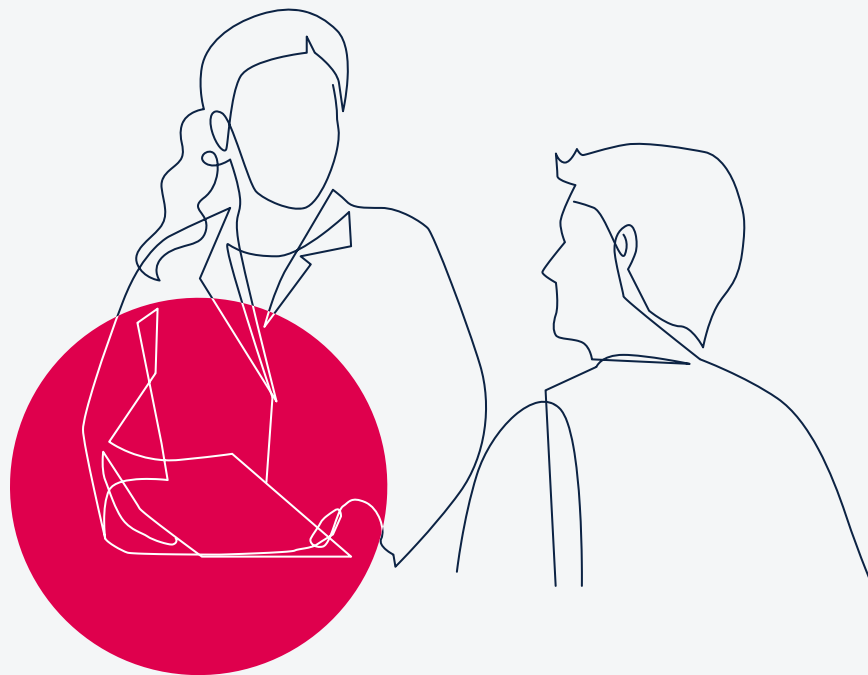
— 2024 Rural POCUS Congress attendee

Indigenous Patient Led Continuing Professional Development Program

The Indigenous Patient Led (IPL) CPD Program is an Indigenous Elder-led program that aims to improve Indigenous health outcomes by increasing access to culturally safe care in British Columbia (BC) rural settings. This program is led by Elder Cheryl Schweizer, Dr. Terri Aldred and Dr. Dana Hubler. Learn more about the [IPL CPD Program](#).

Program learning objectives

- Build safer relationships between Indigenous communities and rural health professionals.
- Explore cultural humility as a pathway toward cultural safety.
- Learn trauma-sensitive practices for offering health care rooted in cultural safety for Indigenous peoples.



Success stories and program impact



Prince George, BC

Reaching rural physicians across British Columbia

This year, the 500th learner completed the Nawh Whu'nus'en: We see in two worlds trauma-sensitive practice for collective healing in relationship Level 1 workshop. This exciting milestone inspires the Rural CPD team to continue working toward reaching as many rural health professionals in British Columbia (BC) as possible.

While taking the courses, learners continue to report a notable sense of safety, and the power of witnessing trauma-sensitive interactions in real time, as well as the sense that adopting trauma-sensitive approaches can improve their wellbeing, sustain them in practice and improve quality of health care.

“The best part for me was the ease by which the facilitators guided us in such a gentle manner, really taking time to emphasize each part of the learning in such an impactful way... It was so well done, and I took so much learning away.”

— 2024 IPL participant

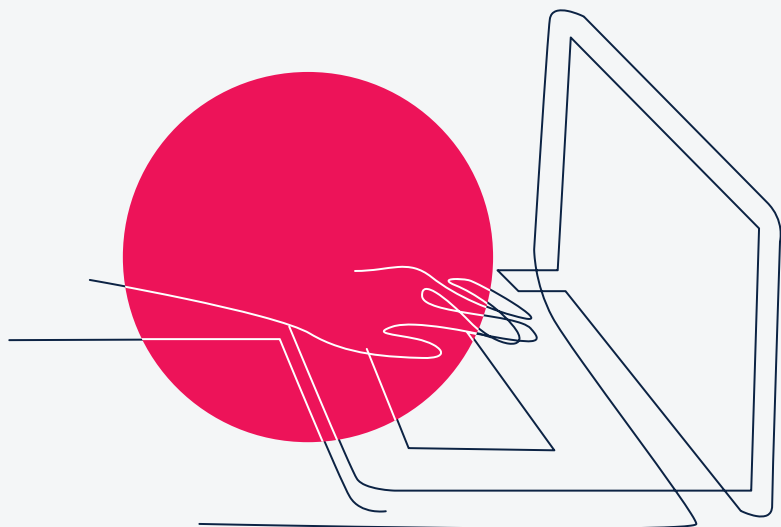
Personal Learning Plans

Personal Learning Plans (PLP) connect new-to-rural practice physicians with under five years of experience and International Medical Graduates (IMGs) with seasoned Physician Advisors. The program is confidential and non-reporting and supports participant's learning journey through physician mentorship, connection with available funding and curated educational resources. The Medical Lead for this program is Dr. Bruce Hobson. Learn more about [PLP](#).

Program learning objectives

By the end of the learning plan, participant will:

- Develop a Personalized Learning Plan.
- Navigate Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities.
- Enhance practice readiness in rural settings.



Success stories and program impact



Supporting a rural physician with links and connections

The Personal Learning Plans (PLP) program connected with a rural International Medical Graduate (IMG) physician who identified hands-on support with point-of-care ultrasound and further training in orthopedics as top priorities. To help address these needs, the learner was engaged in shoulder-to-shoulder learning with an acute sports medicine group. The physician was introduced to the Doctors of BC Practice Support Program to receive tailored guidance with their emergency medical records and referred the learner to the Coaching and Mentoring Program (CAMP), who paired the physician with a local paramedic who teaches Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS). PLP offered further support by informing the physician about Hands-on Ultrasound Education (HOUSE) and Rural POCUS Rounds.

“I had the best time interacting with the program coordinators from UBC and my physician support person. Loved how kind and supportive they were.”

— 2024 PLP participant

“I am aware of the deficiencies I may have as a Family Physician due to being new to Canada. I have found this program quite amazing in achieving my learning goals.”

— 2025 PLP participant

Real-Time Virtual Support (RTVS) Simulation

Real-Time Virtual Support (RTVS) Simulation provides rural providers with opportunities to enhance their clinical and collaborative skills through high-quality clinical simulation education and promotes widespread adoption of Real-Time Virtual Support peer-to-peer consultation in British Columbia. The Medical Lead for this program is Dr. Scot Mountain. Learn more about [RTVS Simulation](#).

Program learning objectives

Provide rural health-care providers an opportunity to:

- Engage in high-quality simulation education to hone clinical and collaborative skills.
- Practice connecting to RTVS with standard technology.
- Receive support from an RTVS Virtual Provider first-hand.

RTVS Simulation by the numbers

 26

Simulations delivered for
24/25



Success stories and program impact



Fort St. John, BC

Building local capacity through simulation in Fort St. John

Between November 2024 and February 2025, the Real-Time Virtual Support (RTVS) Simulation program partnered with the community of Fort St. John to deliver a series of five education sessions. True to the program's collaborative approach, each session was co-created with Fort St. John to ensure the content reflected their team's learning needs and priorities. Together, we selected cases that spanned maternity, pediatrics and emergency care, and engaged local Case Facilitators to help guide each scenario.

By delivering a series of simulations over several months, this partnership strengthened Fort St. John's capacity to coordinate and deliver education. This development allowed Rural CPD to achieve a broader goal of fostering psychologically safe learning and a culture of support, and ensuring rural health-care teams can deliver high-quality care in their communities.

“With new docs learning in rural settings I will 100% suggest this to them.”

— RTVS Simulation participant

Coaching and Mentoring Program (CAMP)

UBC Rural CPD's Coaching and Mentoring Program (CAMP) fosters rural practitioner networks to improve your practice, increase your confidence and connect you to colleagues. The Medical Lead for this program is Dr. Bruce Hobson. Learn more about [CAMP](#).

Program learning objectives

- Build strong, safe and ongoing relationships to empower individuals and nurture growth, confidence and resilience in their professional journeys.
- Cultivate enriching, mutually beneficial local and regional networks grounded in trust, collaboration and collective care.
- Champion seamless integration of physicians into rural health care and encourage retention through personalized support tailored to their unique practice environments.

CAMP by the numbers

Program statistics



Summary of mentoring hours



Success stories and program impact



New-to-practice support

A rural palliative care locum, recently returned from maternity leave, sought support to ease her transition back into practice. To help, Coaching and Mentoring Program (CAMP) connected her with an experienced rural physician who offered guidance and space for discussion on palliative and long-term care medicine. Additionally, CAMP paired her with a physician mentor at a regional centre, providing valuable hands-on experience to help enhance her skills and confidence.

“Thank you. This week was very high yield and resulted in a lot of learning. It was very helpful to sit and chat with a mentor who not only works in the field I'm passionate about, but is also a female and a mother.”

— 2024 CAMP participant





Greater Vancouver, BC

High-volume mentoring

Coaching and Mentoring Program (CAMP) offers high-volume mentoring and provides administrative support and funding to rural health professionals so they can travel outside their communities for professional development. One rural health professional traveled to the lower mainland for five days of hands-on C-section experience. In just one week, they were exposed to almost as many cases as they would typically see in an entire year in their rural community. This experience boosted their confidence, expanded their professional network and offered valuable guidance from multiple mentors.

"Having feedback from someone with a lot of experience was crucial. It gave me the ability to improve and maintain a high level of care."

— 2024 CAMP participant

"It was great to know that what I am doing here is within the standard of care, in view of a very well-known and experienced surgeon."

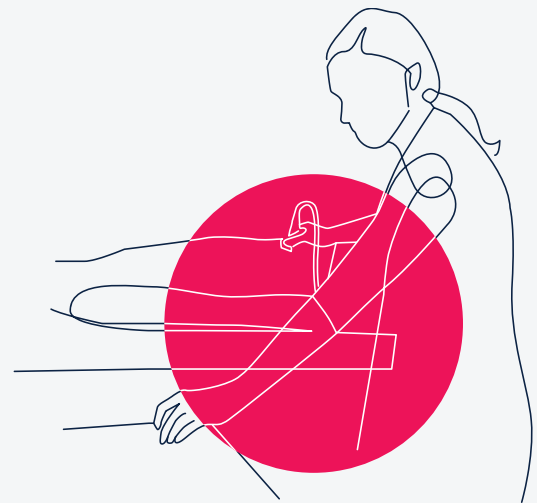
— 2024 CAMP participant

Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Rounds

Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Rounds is a monthly virtual rounds series based on rurally focused POCUS topics, learnings and situations. The series aims to increase the experience with and community surrounding point-of-care ultrasound for rural-based health professionals. The Medical Leads for this program is Dr. Kevin Fairbairn and Dr. Virginia Robinson. Learn more about [Rural POCUS Rounds](#).

Program learning objectives

- Improve rural POCUS skills and confidence.
- Build a POCUS community of practice including mentoring.
- Improve patient care through the use of POCUS.



Rural POCUS Rounds by the numbers

 10

Virtual synchronous
webinars

 922

Session registrants

 577

Live session attendees

Success stories and program impact



Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Rounds Cardiac Series

Beginning with *Intro to Cardiac*, Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Rounds kicked off this series of new sessions in December 2024, in response to valuable feedback that requested more cardiac-related content. Two guest speakers shared their expertise with the audience in addition to regular Rural POCUS Rounds presenters.

Cardiac Series session topics:

Intro to Cardiac	Dr. Tracy Morton
Arrest & CPR	Dr. Kevin Fairbairn
Valves	Dr. Claire Heslop
Right Heart Function & Pericardium	Dr. Virginia Robinson
Diastology	Dr. Irina Sainchuk
Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction	Dr. Tracy Morton

The Rural Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Rounds planning team is delighted to foster provincial and national relationships with POCUS programs, experts and enthusiasts alike, continually supporting and developing a community of practice for this rurally relevant and transformative technology.

“Fantastic webinar, very useful tips, great presenter and moderator! Thank you very much!”

— 2024 Rural POCUS Rounds participant

“I will definitely start using US for pulse location and checks.”

— 2024 Rural POCUS Rounds participant

Rural Rounds Education Hub

Rural Rounds offers free, clinically relevant case-based education that utilizes the expertise of rural health professionals to tailor sessions specifically for the rural context and support health professionals to deliver patient-centered care. The Medical Lead for this program is Dr. Gordon Horner. Learn more about [Rural Rounds](#).

Program learning objectives

Provide rural health professionals an opportunity to:

- Engage in high-quality synchronous education led by subject matter experts.
- Synthesize learning through thoughtful, case-based review.
- Connect with other rural health professionals.



Rural Rounds by the numbers

8

Virtual synchronous webinars

972

Session registrants

409

Live session attendees

Success stories and program impact



Supporting rural providers with complex professional boundaries

In May 2024, the Rural Rounds program partnered with Medical Lead Dr. Gordon Horner and experienced rural educator Dr. Tandi Wilkinson to deliver a unique session titled *Doctor and Friend: Navigating Care Boundaries in the Rural Setting*. This session was a thoughtful departure from the acute-care-focused topics usually featured in Rural Rounds sessions and tackled a nuanced issue many rural health professionals face — the overlapping boundaries of professional and personal relationships in small communities.

Rooted in Rural CPD's commitment to provide education that speaks directly to the realities of rural practice, this session created space for rural health professionals to reflect on the complexities of caring for patients who are also friends, neighbours or colleagues. Through case-based learning and group discussion, participants recognized the emotional toll this aspect of rural medicine can carry while exploring a framework for navigating these challenging situations.

An impactful takeaway from this session was recognizing informal peer support as a vital resource for rural health professionals. Connections built on empathy and shared experience can be essential for processing emotionally difficult events and sustaining wellness in practice.

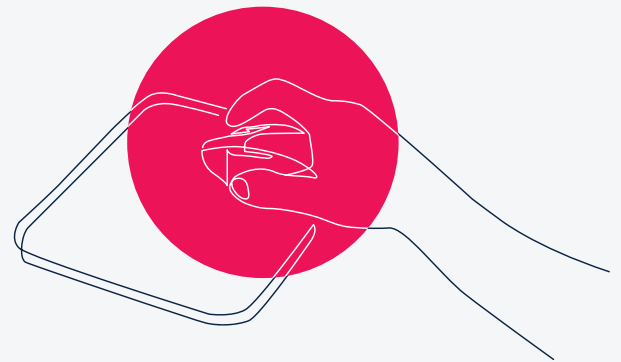
Inspired by this session, the Rural Rounds team reflected on new ways to strengthen connection and solidarity among our learners. As a result, we introduced pre-session social time in Rural Rounds sessions in the fall, inviting participants to log on 15 minutes early to connect with peers from other rural communities. This small but meaningful change supports our program's core goal of fostering a sense of connection and community among rural health professionals across the province.

Virtual Health Grand Rounds (VHGR)

Virtual Health Grand Rounds (VHGR) is a quarterly webinar program featuring case-based, interactive presentations that explore transformative, technology-enabled health care delivery. The Medical Leads for this program are Dr. John Pawlovich and Dr. Kendall Ho. Learn more about [VHGR](#).

Program learning objectives

- Bring together health-care and technology professionals to forge and enhance relationships, and optimize mutual learning.
- Generate discussion to identify barriers to technology-enabled patient-centered care.
- Normalize the daily use of safe and effective technology in health care throughout British Columbia.



VHGR by the numbers

 5

Virtual synchronous webinars

 534

Session registrants

 273

Live session attendees

Success stories and program impact



Reimagining virtual care through patient partnership

In December 2024, Virtual Health Grand Rounds (VHGR) hosted the session *Reimagining Virtual Care Through Patient Partnership* with speakers Dr. Adrian Yee and Stephen Gillis, moderated by program Medical Leads Dr. John Pawlovich and Dr. Kendall Ho.

The inspiration for this session came after the team first heard Dr. Yee speak on virtual care at the [2024 CHES Celebration of Scholarship](#). By addressing this topic through VHGR, Rural CPD reinforces our commitment to staying engaged with emerging conversations and bringing timely, relevant topics to learners.

This session was well-received by attendees and stood out as a strong example of what Virtual Health Grand Rounds aims to do: create space for important conversations that help normalize the safe, effective and patient-centered use of technology in health care across British Columbia. This session pushed the conversation forward by exploring how virtual care can be shaped through meaningful patient involvement.

"Excellent. This was amazing, it will give me information and motivation to, under my scope of influence, make Virtual Care much more meaningful for patients, and subsequently for providers."

— 2024 Virtual Health Grand Rounds participant

Looking ahead

UBC Rural CPD is dedicated to supporting lifelong learning for rural health professionals. Guided by a passionate team of rural physicians and CPD professionals, we develop and deliver innovative programs tailored to the unique needs of rural health professionals. Building strong relationships with our rural collaborators remains a cornerstone of our success and we strive to stay connected to the realities faced by those practicing in rural, remote and Indigenous communities in British Columbia. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this important work in partnership with the Rural Coordination Centre of BC with funding from the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues.

