

Oct 28, 2025

VCH CPE news: Update for immediate release

Expanded Space

Recently Spiritual Care and Multifaith Services has added another classroom, dedicated for Clinical Psycho-Spiritual Education (CPE) purposes in the Doctors Residence building at, VGH. Both classrooms will now be used for teaching year-round. This makes it possible for 2 groups to be meeting at the same time. Each teaching room is equipped with additional desk space, computer access and necessary audio-visual teaching equipment. The addition of a new teaching room also means that there are now sufficient touchdown spaces for students that can be used at times when the group is not meeting.

Some reconfigurations of our floor's office space related to the addition of one additional office, has made it possible for students to experience individual supervision in their respective educator/supervisor's office. CPE students having Co-op placements and those in post CPE residencies, are now paid as casuals, and have access to additional shared office space freed up by the move.

We are also excited to share with all our affiliated partners, students and others that Ms. Beth Burton is now working as a regular CPE Supervisor-Educator at VCH. Currently she is teaching her 3rd provisional unit. In addition, Michael Pasche has recently received certified CPE Supervisor-Educator status. In the current CPE unit, he is teaching on an auxiliary basis. Michael will be teaching a full CPE Summer Intensive unit in 2026. Further fleshing out the educational strength of our program can be seen in Professional Practice lead Philip Murray applying for certified CPE supervisor-educator status this year. This complement of rising new educators is in addition to Doug Longstaffe (Regional Director) and Arun Chatterjee (Education Leader) who are long standing CPE supervisors. Currently we are running two full CPE groups at a time for both Summer Intensive and Fall-winter Extended CPE units. This allows for us to have a standard of up to 14 students at any given time.

This brings us to the last update. We have recently increased our complement of co-op positions for students (2nd CPE unit onwards). These are casual paid part-time positions. Students are compensated for providing spiritual care to patients outside of their regular CPE hours and may do so at various VCH facilities.

With five supervisors on the team, two teaching classrooms and a paid co-op placement program, VCH CPE program is well positioned to provide interns for Vancouver, the North Shore and the Sunshine Coast. We continue to welcome students from around the globe into our multifaith milieu.

Sincerely,

Doug Longstaffe, MDiv., STM
Regional Director
Spiritual Care and Multi-faith Services
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Adjunct Professor – Vancouver School of Theology
Phone: 604-875-4643

Arun Chatterjee MAPPL-SC, B. Eng.
Leader – Spiritual Health Education
Certified CPE Supervisor-Educator
Spiritual Care and Multi-faith Services
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Adjunct Professor – Vancouver School of Theology