

NEWS RELEASE

June 17, 2020

Chamber's Top 40 Program Honours Special Health Care Providers

Kelowna: The Kelowna Chamber is adding four honorary mentions to its Top Forty Under 40 Program presented by BDO. Top 40 judge Dr Eric Li, Associate Professor in the UBC Okanagan Faculty of Management, suggested the Chamber recognize the contributions made by health care workers in the past few months with this gesture.

With the assistance of Interior Health, four individuals were selected and interviewed, and are profiled as the BDO Top 40 Under 40 program begins its wrap up for this year. The honourees include Jackie Marsh who is Housekeeping Services Manager at Kelowna General Hospital; Jorge Angel-Mira who is Manager of Medical Device Reprocessing, Operating Room Equipment and Supplies at KGH; Dr. Anthony Kwan who has been an Emergency Physician at KGH for the past sixteen years; and RN Amy Dixon, who was part of the first graduating class from UBC Okanagan's Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and is the Patient Care Coordinator of the geriatric medical unit at KGH.

Dr Li commented *"Hundreds of healthcare workers responded quickly and willingly to the unprecedented pandemic challenges. They changed their daily routines, cancelled vacations, and missed out on family activities. While many of us are staying safe at our own homes, we are thankful for our frontline workers keeping our community safe. Everyone involved in the Top 40 program expresses gratitude to these workers, both under and over 40. Thank you for serving our community."*

Mike Gilmore, Partner, BDO Canada, says *"We were delighted to hear the suggestion from Eric Li as one of our Top 40 judges in the program for several years. It is indicative of the reach of this program into the community, and how much everyone involved with it truly cares about honouring the best of the best. All our health care workers and first responders have been there for our community since the beginning, and we are honoured to be part of recognizing these four individuals to give a face to the important people that help keep us all safe and healthy."*

Notes and photos are attached in a backgrounder.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dan Rogers, Executive Director - dan@kelownachamber.org



BACKGROUND – HONORARY TOP 40



Honorary Mention: Jackie Marsh

Housekeeping Services Manager Jackie Marsh started her career with Interior Health 23 years ago at Kelowna General Hospital. From that point she accepted every offer to expand her knowledge, leading to a deep learning and understanding for emergency and intensive care cleaning procedures and best practices.

In 2001 she accepted a supervisory role, which she continued for ten years until she began her role as educator for the department in 2011. She created the Housekeeping School to help develop a greater understanding of best practices and practical skills for all staff within her department. Jackie took on various roles within her department as a Coordinator in 2016, and Manager in 2018 and continued building her knowledge. Jackie now manages a team of 285 staff, including housekeepers, material porters, a coordinator, and multiple supervisors. A total of 120 positions sign into work each day within her department. Her role requires her to ensure effective communication with all departments and staff within



KGH, including external vendors. In addition to this the department completes cleanliness audits quarterly to ensure standards are kept at a high level. She participates in regional standardizations and projects, as well as various committees within KGH.



Honorary Mention: Jorge Angel-Mira

Jorge Angel-Mira was born in New Westminster. He completed his BA at UBC Vancouver in 2011 and his MA at UBC Okanagan in 2013. Upon graduating, Jorge started working as a Research Assistant at UBCO; he began his career at Interior Health. Now the Manager of Medical Device Reprocessing, Operating Room Equipment and Supplies at Kelowna General Hospital, Jorge enjoys knowing that the work he and his team do have a direct impact on people's lives.

Jorge's career has focused on making a difference in Canada and El Salvador. Jorge's parents emigrated from El Salvador in the late 1980s during the civil war. In his youth, his roots compelled him to take a volunteer opportunity at an orphanage in Central America. The experience later helped inform his thesis on the Central American Free Trade Agreement and the political, economic, and health impacts of mineral extraction in El Salvador. Jorge's findings informed government policy in El Salvador. He is also incredibly focused on sport, particularly soccer. He has played for Canada youth soccer teams, the USL Whitecaps men's team, and has participated in El Salvador team camps. He holds his Canadian National B coaching license, and spends countless hours coaching youth and has previously coached for Kelowna United and the Thompson Okanagan Football Club.





Honorary Mention: Dr. Anthony Kwan

For the past sixteen years, Dr. Anthony Kwan has been an Emergency Physician at Kelowna General Hospital. Following the University of Guelph, he attended medical school at the University of Toronto. After this, it was on to Queen's where he completed his residency in emergency medicine. It was a month of training that he completed at KGH during his time in residency where he fell in love with the Emergency Department at KGH and was offered a position at the hospital. The Whitby Ontario native then moved to the Okanagan and joined the hospital in 2004.

As an emergency physician, Dr. Kwan uses his training to assist patients in need of acute, and sometimes life-saving care. It is the pace, variety and immediacy of the job that drives his passion for emergency medicine. He notes that the KGH Emergency Department has been blessed with strong and effective leadership in the sixteen years since he first joined the team. The mentorship and support he has received from the career emergency department physicians and nurses has been invaluable in his development as an emergency physician. In particular, he wants to acknowledge Dr. Shawn Spellicy and Dr. Mike Ertel for



the roles they have played in making the department what it is today. He paints a bright picture for the future of the department, with a focus on education and quality improvement and is excited to see what direction our young leaders take the department in the future.



Honorary Mention: Amy (Amanda) Dixon

Amy Dixon has been a pillar of the Kelowna General Hospital family since 2006. Part of the first graduating class from UBC Okanagan's Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Amy moved quickly into a role with KGH following graduation. She is now a Registered Nurse and is the Patient Care Coordinator of the geriatric medical unit at KGH.

Amy has worked full-time at KGH mainly in a leadership capacity: as frontline renal-medical nurse, patient care coordinator of various units, hospital shift coordinator, and unit manager. She has shown a true passion for patient care and personal development. She loves to push herself professionally and try new roles when the opportunity arises. *"I feel like it's important in life to push ourselves out of our comfort zone*



and try new tasks and have different responsibilities. It has helped give me insight into all the hard work that occurs on so many levels here at KGH.”

When the COVID pandemic escalated in Kelowna, Amy was requested by the hospital’s administration to step out of her current role and assist with various COVID site operations. She helped to develop, implement, and supervise KGH’s COVID entrance screening stations, central supply of personal protective equipment, and re-deployment of hospital staff during this critical time.

(30)

