

Vicki Foerster, MD MSc
2875 Porter Road, Oxford Station, Ontario, Canada. K0G 1T0
☎ (613) 258-0302; ☎ (613) 246-2875 (C); ✉ vicki.foerster@sympatico.ca; 🖨 drvickifoerster.ca

Career Summary

- Expertise in literature reviews, health care policy issues, medical writing, health technology assessment, and project facilitation involving diverse stakeholders.
- A senior-level manager with 40 years in the medical field including experience as a health care consultant, family practitioner, ministry of health medical consultant, and vice-president of research in a government-funded health care organization (CADTH).
- A practical, collaborative style with an ability to quickly grasp new situations and to manage multiple tasks with adherence to deadlines.
- A Fellow of the American Medical Writers Association (2017) based on contributions to the organization on behalf of Canadian medical writers.

Professional Experience

2003 to present: Independent medical consultant, Ottawa area, Ontario

I work independently and with various consulting firms and expert teams in health policy, primary and secondary research, and health technology assessment. My roles have involved authorship and medical review as a single author or team member, including team lead. Sample of clients:

- Accreditation Canada
- Alberta Health
- Atlantic Cardiovascular Society
- British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
- British Columbia Ministry of Health
- British Columbia Patient Safety & Quality Council
- Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health
- Canadian Blood Services
- Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Society for International Health
- College of Pharmacists of BC
- Department of National Defense
- Doctors of British Columbia
- Elsevier Canada
- Health Canada
- Health Council of Canada
- National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities
- Nunavut Department of Health and Social Services
- Ontario Medical Association
- Provincial Health Services Authority (BC)
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- Universities of Alberta and Western Ontario
- World Health Organization

**2000 to 2003: Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health, Ottawa, ON
Vice-President, Research**

- Organized and managed a research division of 20 scientific staff members, undertaking over 60 scientific projects with a team that tripled in size over a 3-year period.
- Established and promoted a continuing education program for staff that resulted in key networks with external professional groups.
- Developed a visiting scholar program for international scientists and students.
- Led a research team in collaborative development of internal policies and guidelines.
- Facilitated a relationship between research staff and industry leading to ongoing, productive interactions, and collaborative information exchange.
- Contributed to uptake of research knowledge by a health care decision-making audience through networking and participating in presentations, workshops, and committees.

**1996 to 2000: BC Ministry of Health, Victoria, British Columbia
Medical Consultant, Regional Programs**

- Reported to the Associate Deputy Minister.
- Participated as a medical collaborator and expert in a number of areas related to professional and hospital issues. Examples:
 - Appointed Provincial Surgical Waitlist Coordinator and spokesperson on surgical waitlist issues including implementation of a web-based registry for surgeons and waittimes.
 - Assisted with the introduction of regulated midwifery, including drafting of legislation, determining remuneration and facilitating integration of the profession.
 - Participated in decision-making and tracking of high-cost radiology equipment.
 - Acted as the ministry resource on hospital bylaws for medical staffs, working with medical and legal experts and committees.
 - Responded to medical issues from the Coroner's Office and the Children's Commission.
 - Managed the processes related to on-call payment of rural and locum physicians.

**1993 to 1995: University of Utah, Salt Lake City,
Ambulatory Care Fellow and Graduate Student**

- Awarded a US Veterans Affairs fellowship in ambulatory care including sponsorship of graduate studies in medical informatics and work with international experts.
- Participated on committees in ethics and quality improvement at the U of Utah Hospital.
- Provided clinical services to the Women Veteran's Medical Clinic.
- Provided consulting services for various quality assurance activities.

1981 to 1993: Family Physician

Urban and Rural Settings in BC and Ontario

- Delivered care in various settings including private offices, emergency rooms, operating rooms, acute and chronic hospitals and facilities, public health clinics, and patient homes.
- Assumed the presidency of the Victoria branch of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, leading to enhanced participation and enthusiasm.

Education and Training

BSc (honours), UBC, Vancouver, 1976

MD (cum laude), Dalhousie University, Halifax, 1980

Rotating Internship, North York General Hospital, Toronto, 1980/81

MSc (medical informatics), University of Utah, Salt Lake City, 1993/95

Physician Management Institute Leadership series, Canadian Medical Association

Medical Writers Diploma, American Medical Writers Association

DR. VICKI FOERSTER PROJECT EXPERIENCE PAST 5 YEARS (2014 TO 2018)

Consulting Group	Client	Initiation	Nature of Project	Role	Completion
Independent	World Health Organization	10/18	Distillation for publication of a report (roll-up of 20 separate reports) on primary care in middle- and lower-income countries	Lead author	03/19
ReVue Drug Evaluation Group	BC Ministry of Health (MoH) PharmaCare Drug Program	07/18	Review of pharmacogenetics (systematic review of the literature + interviews of industry leaders)	Team member (interviews)	02/19
Independent	BC MoH Knowledge Management (KM) Branch	07/18	Effectiveness of culture as an intervention for Indigenous wellness in the areas of mental health and substance use	Author	Ongoing
Independent	BC MoH KM Branch	07/18	Virtual provision of services for mental health and substance use care	Author	Ongoing
Independent	BC MoH KM Branch	07/18	Implementation of an innovation centre at the Ministry of Health	Author	07/18
Independent	Lower Limb Review Online Journal	04/18	Evidence for ankle fusion versus ankle replacement	Author	07/18
Independent	Atlantic Cardiovascular Society	02/18	Background to regional clinical guidelines on cardiac rehabilitation	Author	Ongoing
Independent	Health Canada First Nations & Inuit Health Branch	05/17	Updating of clinical practical guidelines for RNs working in remote communities	Author	06/18
Independent	Canadian Blood Services	02/15	Systematic reviews of scoring systems for liver transplantation & medical writer for expert panel deliberations – now writing this up for publication	Author	04/18
Independent	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	08/10	Literature reviews / of various topics related to emerging technologies + medical review of reports by other authors	Author & reviewer	Ongoing
Independent	Pulmonologist in Virginia / Blue Cross Virginia	01/18	Clinical guideline and US coverage review of the use of coronary CT angiography for patients with chest pain	Author	02/18
Independent	National Association of Pharmacy Regulators (NAPRA)	09/17	Background to a tool on pharmacist-patient communication about opioids (literature review and interviews with stakeholders)	Author	02/18
TheraBusiness (Ottawa)	Alcon Inc.	12/16	Literature reviews of state-of-the-art publications on a number of ophthalmology products	Author	Ongoing
Independent	BC Ministry of Health (Lab Division)	02/17	Review of provincial policy on access to and funding of pulmonary function testing, including a literature review and interviews with experts	Author	11/17
Independent	University of Alberta	07/16	Policy analysis for an HTA report on robotic surgery in Alberta	Author	10/17
Independent	Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health (CADTH)	02/17	Emerging technology bulletins on two diabetes topics: (1) the artificial pancreas, (2) HbA1C for diabetes diagnosis	Author	07/17
Team member	Doctors of BC + BC Ministry of Health	07/12	Evaluation of Specialist Services Committee (SSC) one-time funding allotment – 20+ innovative projects being funded for up to 3 years	Lead author	06/17

Consulting Group	Client	Initiation	Nature of Project	Role	Completion
Independent	CADTH	02/17	Evidence review of HPV vaccination in males (for Corrections Canada)	Author	06/17
Cdn Society for International Health (CSIH)	Ministry of Health of Costa Rica	09/16	Introduction of health technology assessment to Costa Rica	Team member / Author	04/17
Independent	CADTH	11/16	Emerging technology bulletin on outpatient total hip arthroplasty	Author	03/17
Independent	CADTH	11/16	Evidence review of medical marijuana for neurodegenerative diseases	Author	12/16
Independent	Elsevier Canada	04/16 and 09/16	Two reports for specialist audiences: (1) Canadian management practices for anti-VEGF agents for acute macular degeneration and (2) Canadian management practices for actinic keratoses	Co-author with 2 experts	12/16
Independent	Health Quality Councils	10/09	Facilitating meetings of Canadian health quality groups	Facilitator	11/16
Independent	Atlantic Cardiovascular Society	04/16	Summarizing guidelines for management of diabetes mellitus in patients with cardiovascular disease	Co-author with experts	10/16
Lead team member	Doctors of BC + BC MOH Specialist Services Committee (SSC)	01/16	Final evaluation of 2 SSC-funded projects on (a) electronic operating room booking and (b) wait time management, led by groups of BC surgeons	Lead author	09/16
Independent	Canadian Blood Services	01/16	Report on donated tissue bioburden reduction practices for an expert group and a consensus forum	Author	06/16
Independent	BC MOH, Health Technology Review Office (HTR)	01/16	Compilation of health technologies requested for assessment by the BC HTA office, including literature summaries and interviews with experts	Lead author	04/16
Independent	BC Ministry of Health, HTR	01/16	Development of two separate business cases and <i>ad hoc</i> HTA consulting	Author	04/16
Independent	BC Canuck Place Children's Hospice	11/15	Business case to increase physician funding from the BC MOH	Author	01/16
Independent	University of Alberta	11/15	Provincial scan to determine assessment and funding of "companion diagnostics"	Author	01/16
Independent	Public Health Agency of Canada	10/15	Review of training methods to educate public health providers	Author	03/16
Independent	BC MoH HTA	10/15	Evidence review of low dose CT screening for lung cancer in smokers to underlie development of a business case	Author	11/15
Independent	College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC)	09/15	Developing stakeholder consultation materials for proposed pharmacist prescribing	Author	11/15

Consulting Group	Client	Initiation	Nature of Project	Role	Completion
Independent	CPBC	09/15	Evidence review of the literature on dispensing errors to underlie development of College standards	Author	11/15
Independent	CADTH	05/15	Emerging technology report on fecal microbiota transplantation	Author	10/15
Team member	CADTH	05/15	Updating of CADTH resource for information specialists called Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies (PRESS)	Co-author	07/15
Team member	Canadian Pharmacists Association & Health Canada	02/15	Plain language patient materials for prescription drugs included in the Compendium of Pharmaceutical and Specialties	Author / writer	07/15
Independent	BC Public Health Laboratory	02/15	With the Director, development of a forward looking plan for the Provincial Laboratory & refinement of the 2014-15 Strategic Plan	Co-author	04/15
Independent	Atlantic Cardiovascular Society	03/14	Development of a document summarizing guidelines for oral anticoagulation based on expert consensus and evidence	Author	05/14
Independent	Public Health Agency of Canada	02/14	Summary report of accomplishments and challenges for an on-line learning program aimed at public health workers in Canada	Author	03/14
Independent	CADTH	01/14	Four technology reports: Oncotype DX for breast cancer, biomarkers for brain injury, MelaFind and atrial fibrillation monitoring post-stroke	Author	03/14
Independent	BC Center for Disease Control Laboratory Services (BCCDC)	01/14	Working with the CEO to develop a Ministry-oriented document on the services and standards at the Provincial Microbiology Laboratory	Report co-author	04/14
Independent	ASERNIP-S	12/13	Emerging technology reports on several new medical devices	Author	01/14
Independent	BC MOH Medical Services Division (MSD)	10/13	Evidence review of DNA testing for mitochondrial disorders, including interviews with BC experts	Author	02/14
Independent	BC MOH HAD	08/13	Provincial framework for 24 /7 radiologist coverage including 55 interviews with radiologists and other stakeholders	Project manager	03/14
Independent	BC MOH MSD	12/12	Physician consultation as needed for staff at MSD (generally questions about public coverage of procedures)	Lead	07/14