

Proudly Announces the Physician, Midwife or Nurse Practitioner of the Month for January 2022



Dr. Meena McKenna

Hospitalist

The VJHPS is pleased to announce **Dr. Manjot (Meena) McKenna as January's 2022 Physician of the Month.** We salute Dr. McKenna for exemplifying the qualities of an excellent physician, and we are pleased to have her as a respected member of our medical staff since September 2021.

Background and Training

Pre-med: Cell biology and Genetics, University of BC
Medical school: Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
Internship: Tallaght Hospital, Dublin, Ireland
Family Medicine Residency, Ontario

Nominator's Comments (Dr. Johann Schreve):

It is my privilege to nominate and introduce my fellow hospitalist, Dr Meena McKenna as the physician of the month. Meena grew up in Surrey, BC and was inspired at a young age to become a physician by her Irish Family Physician, Dr. Darby. She was intrigued by the human body and physiology and after doing Cell Biology and Genetics at the University of British Columbia, decided to pack her bags in 2004 and move to Ireland with her best friend, Jasmine, to study medicine. During her time in Ireland, she met her husband, Thomas and after completing her internship at Tallaght Hospital in Dublin, Ireland returned to Canada in 2012 to complete her family medicine residency in Ontario. She became a full-time hospitalist in 2015 and decided to move to beautiful British Columbia to join the hospitalist team at Vernon Jubilee Hospital in September 2021.

Meena's empathy and interpersonal skills makes her one of Vernon's most beloved physicians and colleagues. Soon after joining our hospitalist team, we noticed that Meena took on a caring role and quickly became the glue that brought the team together. She also quickly became a favourite amongst nursing staff, allied health, colleagues and patients. While changing the lives of her patients, she is also a devoted mother to her 8- and 4-year-old children. Meena secretly wanted to become an actress and is still actively looking for ways to make this dream a reality. One of her favourite movies is Leap Year, a romantic comedy about a North American girl finding love in Ireland. She played basketball in school, but shifted her focus towards her Peloton bike during the Pandemic. She also recently started taking classes in downhill skiing, but for her family, friends and drinking good wine is what makes life so much more precious.

If Meena could time travel, she would go to Hawaii and spend hours on the beach soaking up the sun. She could not decide on what one meal for the rest of her life would be. After carefully deliberating in her mind and going through a variety of favourites, she decided that life is just not worth living without coffee. Meena enjoys reading dystopian fiction books and refers to *The moon of the crusted snow*, by Waubgeshig Rice, as one of her favourites.

Meena, thank you for always bringing a smile to work and making us and your patients feel special. We are very fortunate to have you as part of our medical team at VJH and would like to thank her for her valuable contribution. Congratulations again!
