

Jan. 23, 2006

The deadline for submissions to VCH News is now Thursday by 5 pm.

The publish date for your submission will be determined by time sensitivity and space availability.

Making history



Patient Bob Blair smiles as he takes his first few breaths without the aid of his ventilator, thanks to a history-making new procedure.

Thanks to cutting edge surgery and research technology piloted by the VCH Research Institute, an Alberta man is now able to breathe without the assistance of a mechanical ventilator for the first time since an accident rendered him a quadriplegic. And that's not all—he's also able to smell for the first time in five years.

The technology involves the placement, via laparoscopic surgery, of tiny electrodes onto the diaphragm. A small battery controlled box, the size of a TV remote control, sends a signal to the

electrodes for the diaphragm to contract, pulling air into the lungs.

Bob Blair underwent surgery on January 8, 2007 at VGH. Just over a week later at GF Strong, his device was turned on and he enjoyed the aromas of a freshly brewed cup of coffee and white long-stemmed rose. He recently returned home to Alberta, no longer dependent on a bulky, 24-kilogram ventilator to keep him alive.

🔗 [Read more about this clinical trial at www.vch.ca/news/releases.](http://www.vch.ca/news/releases)

Free bikes for those in need

PEDAL (Pedal Energy Development Alternatives) runs a free bike program and welcomes referrals from VCH staff. Through the collection of donated and reclaimed bicycles, their staff and volunteers refurbish bikes bound for the landfill and provide them to people in need.

PEDAL has been running the program for over 10 years out of Our Community Bikes on Main Street. In 2006, PEDAL

received funding from Vancity and Transport Canada to increase its capacity to give away free bikes. PEDAL believes having access to affordable transportation empowers people with freedom of mobility and leads to improved economic opportunities.

To find out more or refer someone to the Free Bike program, call 604-879-2453 or visit www.pedalpower.org.

CLICK OR CALL
quitnow.ca
1-877-455-2233
Available 24/7 with translation services in 130 languages

Butting out

January 22-26 is National Non-Smoking Week

Did you know:

- B.C. has the highest provincial prevalence of non-smokers at 85% (CTUMS, 2005).
- According to VCH's recent tobacco survey, 89% of our staff reported being non-smokers (VCH, 2006).
- British Columbians who want to quit smoking can access QuitNow by clicking www.quitnow.ca or calling 1-877-455-2233, a free, 24/7 support service available in 130 languages.
- QuitNow is a user-friendly, confidential service that has counselors to help you quit – and it's effective!

Enter to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card by unscrambling the words below and e-mailing your answer to vchtobaccoreduction@vch.ca by 4 pm on January 26, 2007.

KMOSE – EFRE

Upcoming events

"Sex in Your City" Conference

Friday, Feb. 2, 2007

7:30 am – 4 pm

Plaza 500, 500 West 12th Ave., Vancouver

Presented by the Sexual Health Rehab Service at GF Strong, this second annual conference provides an opportunity for health care professionals to expand their expertise and comfort in promoting the sexual health of their clients.

For more information, contact Carole Schmitz at 604-822-7538.

Ethel Johns Nursing Research Forum

Creating Powerful Learning Environments within Nursing Education, Research and Practice

Pre-Forum Workshops: Friday, Feb. 2, 2007

Forum: Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007

St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver

☞ **For more information, go to VCH Connect → Clinical quick links → Professional Practice (under "What's New?").**

Or contact Barbara Boyle at 604-822-9786 or boyle@nursing.ubc.ca.

Chinese New Year Parade

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007

11:30 am - 2:30 pm (Parade gets underway around noon)

Parade route starts on Pender, goes through the Millennium Gate to Gore Street and returns down Keefer to Quebec Street.

All staff are invited to come out and represent VCH at the parade. Feel free to bring your family and friends, and remember to dress colourfully (some red, if you can)!

If you're planning to attend, please contact Thomas Przywara at 604-708-5273 or thomas.przywara@vch.ca by Monday, Feb. 12, 2007.

VCH Professional Practice Research Day

Friday, Mar. 30, 2007

Paetzold Health Education Centre, VGH

(plus nine broadcast sites throughout the region)

Registration free to VCH staff

This event will bring VCH staff together to celebrate research aimed at improving patient care. It will include guest speakers, oral and poster presentations, and a panel discussion featuring VCH clinicians.

Organizers are currently accepting abstracts on projects related to improving patient, staff or organizational outcomes. Abstract deadline is Monday, Feb. 5, 2007.

☞ **For more information, including the call for abstracts and registration form, go to VCH Connect: Programs & Services → Professional Practice (under Corporate/Regional) → Conferences & Workshops.**

Level 2 literature searching class

If you need to find information in the journal literature and have some prior experience of database searching or have completed the Level 1 course, consider taking the class "Searching the Journal Literature & Accessing Library Resources - Level 2."

This free class, open to all VCH staff and affiliated medical staff, provides an introduction to subject searching of Medline on the OVID interface. Topics include entering search terms, mapping to subject headings, exploding and focusing search terms, using subheadings, saving searches and retrieving articles.

Level 2 classes begin mid-February in various VCH locations.

To register, visit

<http://ccrs.vch.ca/Catalog.aspx?cid=894>.

Level 1 classes, which provide an introduction to VCH library services and keyword searching of databases on the EBSCO interface, are ongoing. To register, visit

<http://ccrs.vch.ca/Catalog.aspx?cid=807>.

Questions?

E-mail vchlibraryservices@vch.ca.

VCH News is published weekly by Communications & Public Affairs. If you want to submit a story, share an idea or provide feedback, please e-mail news@vch.ca or call **604-708-5283**. The deadline for each issue is Thursday at 5 pm.

VCH Connect:

<http://vchconnect> (internal)

VCH Website:

www.vch.ca (public)