

Dear CDA Members,

As a dermatologist in British Columbia, I see daily that the future of Canadian dermatology will be determined not only by innovation, but by advocacy grounded in frontline care.

As a representative from BC, I aim to increase engagement of BC members in national dialogue while ensuring our province's perspectives are clearly represented. My work on the CDA Membership and Awards Committee has reinforced the importance of national collaboration and recognizing excellence across our specialty.

My practice spans community clinic, hospital consult service, and teaching. In our publicly funded system, I routinely treat patients with skin cancer and moderate-to-severe inflammatory disease after months-long waits. Access directly affects morbidity and quality of life. Through participating in CDA's Sun Awareness screenings and the Mole Mobile clinics, the long lineups we see reflect the national access gap. The CDA can play an important role in advocating for funding models and infrastructure that recognize the complexity of medical dermatology, strengthen hospital-based care, and preserve essential services such as phototherapy and patch testing across Canada.

I am equally committed to the future workforce as a UBC Clinical Assistant Professor. Mentorship — particularly for women and diverse trainees — is critical to sustaining dermatology. We must train physicians not only to diagnose and treat disease, but to lead health systems, evaluate emerging technologies responsibly, and communicate evidence clearly to the public.

Advanced therapeutics, precision medicine, and AI-supported tools will transform care. I hope to represent British Columbia by bringing frontline experience, academic perspective, and a commitment to stewardship — advocating for patients, supporting colleagues, and strengthening Canadian dermatology for the next generation.

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Diana Diao'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Diana Diao, MD FRCPC