

Finding Community at LMH

June 15, 2023

In the summer of 2001, Dr. Leo Wong and his wife, Dr. Flora Wong, moved to Langley.

“We were searching for community,” says Leo, “and I wanted the opportunity to practice in a hospital and as a general practitioner.”

Leo and Flora grew up in Vancouver. Leo graduated from Simon Fraser University and completed his medical degree at Queens University, Kingston. Flora attended the University of Calgary. They met as students at a Medical Student Leadership conference in Halifax. On graduating, they applied for a residency at Prince George, where they worked for two years before moving back to the Lower Mainland to be close to family.

Newly graduated and excited to live in Langley, Leo did locums for family physicians in the community. He picked up emergency room shifts at the hospital.

“As a new graduate, ER was a great place to hone my medical skills and gain insight and inspiration. I learned when to admit a patient and when home care was the better alternative.”

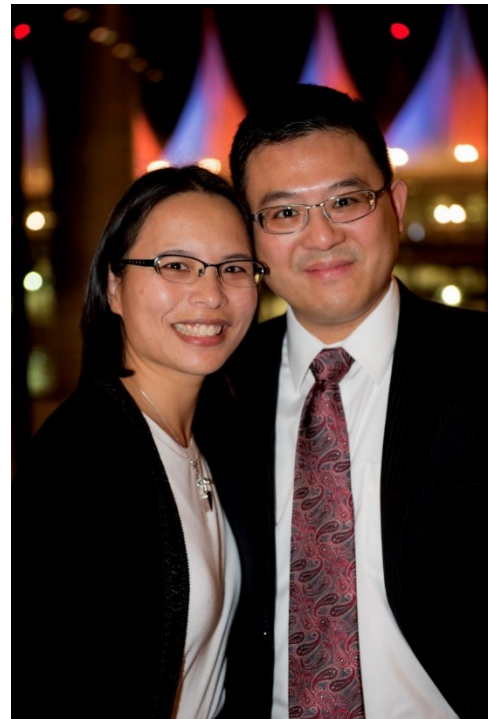
Dr. and Dr. Wong opened St. Luke Family Practice in Langley in 2003 and today, St. Luke Family Practice is a bustling practice.

Leo retains privileges at Langley Memorial and sees his patients from his practice rooms and the hospital. In addition, Leo covers for his colleagues one or two nights a month.

Hospital privileges come with many benefits.

“From a patient’s point-of-view, I am a familiar face when I show up at their hospital bedside. I know their medical history and have a relationship with them and their family. The continuity builds trust and facilitates communication pre-, peri-, and post-hospitalization.

“Being present in the hospital where I have a network of professional relationships makes it easier for me to advocate for them,” says Leo.



“From my personal development and professional perspective, hospital privileges allow me to build relationships with my colleagues, which is helpful if I need to discuss a particularly challenging case. Opportunities for professional conversations keep me at the frontline of cutting-edge technology and medical treatments. Being part of a committed team of physicians is exciting and engaging.

“I am very proud to be part of Langley Memorial. The staff and volunteers focus on doing their very best in all circumstances.”

Leo has four favourite memories at Langley Memorial.

“We are blessed with a wonderful family – Langley Memorial delivered all four children. When I pop into the maternity ward, I remember holding a newborn child in my arms for the first time. I relate to the new mothers and fathers in the unit and get emotional.”



Leo is currently active in the Langley Division of Family Practice, encouraging family physicians and nurse practitioners to come and work and live in Langley.

“Over the years, the Langley community has grown exponentially, and the community has outgrown its resources. Consequently, the hospital staff, physicians and nurses work under pressure, and many feel burnt out. By expanding our team of healthcare practitioners, we will be better able to care for our community.”

Medical technology is one of Leo’s passions. He currently serves as Langley’s Associate Chief Medical Informatics Officer (ACMIO) and is working with his colleagues to leverage and upgrade technology to

deliver better health care. His role involves assisting colleagues in adapting to the technical changes in their workspace and troubleshooting unexpected problems.

One of his proudest moments at Langley Memorial was gathering the Langley community to raise funds for the brand-new ER and MRI Suite.

“At the gala opening, I could feel the excitement in the room. These upgrades have placed world-class tools into the hands of our providers and staff. Now, it's a matter of attracting health care workers to our area,” he says.

“A hospital is a source of new life. It is where babies are born. But it is also a place of sadness. Some of my most challenging moments have been delivering sad news to long-term patients of mine. It is an honour to walk a family through all life's challenges and all life's joys. And that is also why I love what I do,” says Leo.

“Why should people care about Langley Memorial?” Leo asks. “The Langley community needs our hospital to be triumphant. Advocate for it. Contribute. Volunteer. And as a community, you will ensure that you have the best health care in your neighbourhood for generations to come.”