

## Foundational Systems Definitions

A **system** is a group of organs or functional collections of tissue that work together to maintain homeostasis. A system does not work in isolation, and the well-being of the person depends upon the well-being of all the interacting systems.

The foundational systems definitions were developed by the Curriculum Management Unit, in consultation with:

- Curriculum Renewal Project Development Committee
- All regional Curriculum Transition Teams
- System Integration Lead and the System Leads

The definitions were endorsed by the Curriculum Renewal Project Steering Committee.

For further information, please contact Dr. Adam Peets, Interim Systems Integration Lead, via the project team at [mdcurric.renew@ubc.ca](mailto:mdcurric.renew@ubc.ca).

Foundational System	System Lead Name	System Lead Email	Definitions
Behavioural System	<a href="#">Clare Beasley</a>	<a href="mailto:clare.beasley@ubc.ca">clare.beasley@ubc.ca</a>	The mental processes such as cognition, emotion, temperament, motivation; and bio-behavioral interactions.
Blood and Lymphatics System	<a href="#">Michelle Wong</a> <a href="#">Leslie Zypchen</a>	<a href="mailto:michelle.wong@fraserhealth.ca">michelle.wong@fraserhealth.ca</a> <a href="mailto:lzypchen@bccancer.bc.ca">lzypchen@bccancer.bc.ca</a>	The system composed of organs and tissues that form blood and transport immune cells, red blood cells, and lymph.
Cardiovascular System	<a href="#">Jonathan Tang</a>	<a href="mailto:JDtang@providencehealth.bc.ca">JDtang@providencehealth.bc.ca</a>	The system composed of the heart and the blood vessels.
Digestive System	<a href="#">Janakie Singham</a> <a href="#">Zamil Karim</a>	<a href="mailto:singhamj@yahoo.ca">singhamj@yahoo.ca</a> <a href="mailto:zamilkarim@yahoo.com">zamilkarim@yahoo.com</a>	The system composed of the organs stretching from the mouth to the anus, serving to break down foods, assimilate nutrients, and eliminate waste. *Note: includes nutrition, liver, and exocrine pancreas*
Endocrine System	<a href="#">Mohammed Almehtel</a>	<a href="mailto:Mohammed.AIMehtel@vch.ca">Mohammed.AIMehtel@vch.ca</a>	The system of glands that release hormones directly into the circulatory system.
Growth and Development System	<a href="#">Dina Panagiotopoulos</a>	<a href="mailto:dpanagiotopoulos@cw.bc.ca">dpanagiotopoulos@cw.bc.ca</a>	The continuous sequential physical, physiological and psychological maturation of an individual.
Immune System	<a href="#">Mary Kestler</a>	<a href="mailto:Mary.Kestler@cw.bc.ca">Mary.Kestler@cw.bc.ca</a>	The system composed of the body's defense

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	<a href="#">Kyla Hildebrand</a>	<a href="mailto:Kyla.Hildebrand@cw.bc.ca">Kyla.Hildebrand@cw.bc.ca</a>	mechanism against foreign organisms or substances. *Note: includes infectious disease and medical microbiology (IDMM)*
<b>Integument System</b>	<a href="#">Sunil Kalia</a>	<a href="mailto:sunil.kalia@ubc.ca">sunil.kalia@ubc.ca</a>	The system composed of the skin and the skin appendages.
<b>Musculoskeletal System</b>	<a href="#">Paul Clarkson</a> <a href="#">Rhonda Shuckett</a> <a href="#">Jennifer Yao</a>	<a href="mailto:pclarkson@bccancer.bc.ca">pclarkson@bccancer.bc.ca</a> <a href="mailto:rhoshu@telus.net">rhoshu@telus.net</a> <a href="mailto:jennifer.yao@vch.ca">jennifer.yao@vch.ca</a>	The system composed of the muscles, bones, and cartilage of the body.
<b>Nervous System</b>	<a href="#">Laura Wilson</a>	<a href="mailto:laura.wilson@ubc.ca">laura.wilson@ubc.ca</a>	The system composed of the brain, spinal cord, cranial and spinal nerves, autonomic ganglia, and plexuses.
<b>Reproductive System</b>	<a href="#">Tracy Pressey</a> <a href="#">Brian Mayson</a>	<a href="mailto:tpressey@cw.bc.ca">tpressey@cw.bc.ca</a> <a href="mailto:BMayson@providencehealth.bc.ca">BMayson@providencehealth.bc.ca</a>	The system composed of the organs involved in reproduction. *Note: includes mammary glands*
<b>Respiratory System</b>	<a href="#">Richard Cohen</a>	<a href="mailto:richard.cohen@ubc.ca">richard.cohen@ubc.ca</a>	The system composed of the tubular and cavernous organs and structures for pulmonary ventilation and gas exchange.
<b>Urinary System</b>	<a href="#">Suneet Singh</a> <a href="#">Brian Mayson</a>	<a href="mailto:Suneet.Singh@vch.ca">Suneet.Singh@vch.ca</a> <a href="mailto:BMayson@providencehealth.bc.ca">BMayson@providencehealth.bc.ca</a>	The system composed of the organs involved in the formation, release, and excretion of urine.

