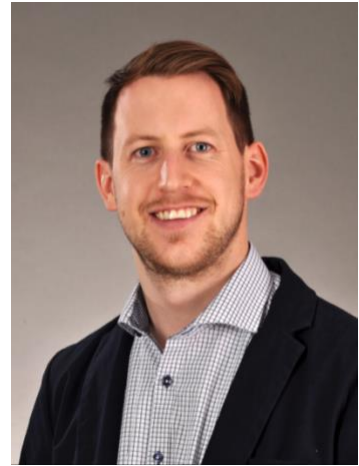


## Marc Saunders

Research Education and Community Outreach Coordinator,  
Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute  
MBT Class of 2017



A curious child and the son of a family physician, Marc grew up in close proximity to the health care field with a healthy interest in science and technology.

So it's no surprise his educational path led him to pursue a Bachelor of Science in cellular and molecular biology from the University of Victoria. Following completion of that degree, Marc joined a neurobiology lab where he helped develop a genetically encoded calcium indicator, followed by a position with a regional health authority as a renal dialysis technician.

With a taste for clinical applications, Marc turned his attention to the MBT program and a capstone project on a novel treatment for Huntington's disease using RNA interference. His education in biotechnology and business enhanced and broadened Marc's skillset. Pairing his clinical experiences with those of the MBT program, Marc accepted a position in clinical trials after graduation.

As the research education and outreach coordinator for the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, Marc's current day to day activities allow him to liaise with health research staff and partner organizations across BC, to facilitate workshops and lectures to enhance professional development of researchers and to promote research studies and raise awareness of research participation opportunities. He also excels in his ability to transform technical and industry-specific language into something more easily understood by stakeholders and the public.

A frequent participant of local clinical trials himself, Marc can attest to the vital role research plays in making people and communities healthier. He is proud to be able to play a part in the ongoing research discoveries that improve quality of life and transform the health care system for the better.