

March 23, 2010

A Message from ACFP President to Alberta Family Doctors

The Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta unanimously recognize family physicians with their CCFP as Specialists in Family Medicine!

Some Background

In early 2009, the CPSA Council members were reviewing the draft standards of practice. **Dr. Marlene Lidkea**, a family physician and Council member, questioned the clause that physicians are not permitted to say they have a special interest or are a specialist unless they have completed successfully a 4-year post graduate program.

Dr. Lidkea informed members of the following:

- In March 2007, the College of Family Physicians of Canada had approved the acknowledgement of Family Medicine as a specialty in Canada. Family Medicine is already recognized as a specialty in the United States, Australia, many European Union and South Asian countries.
- Family Medicine is a specialty because it is a defined body of knowledge and skills that medical students, family medicine residents and family physicians learn and apply in their education, training and practice.
- Family Medicine has matured over many years to a discipline that requires this unique set of knowledge and skills in the delivery of continuous, comprehensive and complex patient care – a uniqueness that is increasingly recognized and respected by the colleagues of family physicians in other medical specialties as well as other health care professionals.
- Acknowledging Family Medicine as a specialty is a benefit to the discipline as it:
 - Identifies as distinct those components of Family Medicine education, training and practice that meet the broad range of health needs for Canadians
 - Promotes Family Medicine to those in medical education, training and practice – as well as to all publics – an ultimate goal being to attract more graduates to careers in Family Medicine
 - Contributes to the retention of experienced family physicians in rewarding and highly regarded careers.

Congratulations Marlene for your leadership in guiding the CPSA Council to make the right decision!

Comments? Email me at acfpres@acfp.ca.

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President