

2003: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Services and Activities of the Alberta College of Family Physicians

PREAMBLE

- The Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP) is the only provincial organization that exclusively represents family physicians.
- The commitment, enthusiasm and willingness of members to participate in College activities determine the strength of the ACFP.
- A strong ACFP allows it to act as a clear, decisive and collective voice for family physicians in influencing policies and programs, affecting their ability to deliver quality health care.
- As an Alberta member of the CFPC, the National office forwards \$178 of your total membership fee to the ACFP to sustain all services and activities on your behalf.

Served as the Voice and Advocate for Family Physicians in Alberta

(1) Committee Representation

The ACFP had representation on provincial and national committees to ensure that the perspective of Alberta family physicians was taken into consideration. These included but were not limited to:

- Alberta Management Committee on Drug Utilization
 - Dr. Sheila Hughes
- Physician Breast Cancer Screening Advisory Committee
 - Dr. Heather Armson
- Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program Advisory Committee
 - Dr. Jana Holden
- Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program Primary Care Working Group
 - Dr. Janice Routledge
- Interdisciplinary Committee on Protection of Children of Divorce and Separation
 - Dr. Jeff Robinson
- Organ and Tissue Transplantation
 - Dr. Sandi Hucal
- RPAP Family Medicine Education Subcommittee
 - Dr. Tim Kolotyluk

- Executive Committee of Section of General Practice, AMA
 - Dr. Terri Staniland/Dr. Pat Heard
- National FMF Planning Committee
 - Dr. Rick Ward
- National CFPC Accreditors for MAINPRO®
 - Dr. Dorcas Kennedy
- National CFPC Membership Advisory Committee
 - Dr. Tuhin Bakshi
- National CFPC CME/CPD Committee
 - Dr. Rick Ward
- National CFPC Board Committee
 - Dr. Tuhin Bakshi; Dr. Terri Staniland/Dr. Pat Heard
- National Board Reform Working Group
 - Dr. Tuhin Bakshi
- The Editorial Advisory Board of *Family Health Magazine*, jointly chaired by Dr. Connie Ellis and Dr. Tim Kolotyluk, includes seven other members of the ACFP in addition to representatives from other health disciplines.
- Dr. Tuhin Bakshi represents the ACFP on the Canadian Association for Suicide prevention which is planning a national conference in Alberta to provide information and resources to the community at large to reduce the suicide rate and minimize the harmful consequences of suicidal behaviour.

(2) Primary Health Care Reform

In December 2003, the Trilateral Master Agreement was approved. Highlights included:

- Unique agreement with three partners: Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Medical Association and Regional Health Authorities
- Unprecedented 8-year term until March 31, 2011 with two financial openers in 2006 and 2008
- Four Strategic Physician Agreements: (1) Primary Care Initiative; (2) Physician Services; (3) Physician On-Call Programs; and (4) Physician Office System Program

How the Primary Care Initiative Agreement will unfold remains to be seen. The ACFP will liaise with relevant organizations and committees to learn more about how we can assist our members in understanding and implementing Local Primary Care Initiatives (LPCIs).

Dr. Cathy Scrimshaw is a member of a SEARCH group which is doing an extensive literature review on primary care reform projects in Alberta. Dr. Scrimshaw is expanding the review to focus on the physician aspects for each project. When completed, there are a number of activities that could be taken by the College including, for example, publishing the results of the analysis on the website, in newsletters and a working paper; and hosting a Primary Care Renewal

forum led by physicians to discuss the pros and cons of the current primary care delivery system models, both traditional and “reformed”.

Dr. Pat Heard and Dr. Mohamud Verjee attended the invitational conference on “*The Implementation of Primary Care Reform: Canadian and International Perspectives*” in Kingston, Ontario. They found the proceedings very informative which examined the facilitators of and barriers to implementation of primary care reform, primarily across Canada, but with some international viewpoints for perspective.

(3) Care of the Elderly

The ‘Final Report on Care of the Elderly’, approved in October 2002, can be viewed at www.acfp.ca

The second phase began in January 2003. Initially, the second Working Group struggled with the comprehensive nature of the recommendations. Accordingly, a focused approach was adopted.

Key achievements in 2003:

- Established a formal link with the provincial Geriatric In-Service Mentoring Steering Committee, which was struck to develop core competencies for all disciplines providing care for the elderly. To this point, the Committee did not have any representation by family physicians.
- Supported the U of A Department of Family Medicine (lead role – Dr. Jean Triscott) in its successful efforts to establish a Division on Care of the Elderly.
- Obtained approval for Dr. Paddy Quail to represent the Care of the Elderly Working Group on the Executive Committee of the Section of General Practice, in addition to his role representing long term care in the province.
- Dr. Donna Manca completed a preliminary descriptive analysis of models of service delivery for care of the elderly across Canada including the education and research components.
- Supported Dr. Quail in his role as Chair of the AMA Continuing Care Ad Hoc Committee, struck to address the absence of formal standards to guide the transition of institution-based to community-based care.
- Drs. Jean Triscott and Paddy Quail, with the assistance of Dr. Donna Manca, Clinical Director of AFPRN, initiated a research project on *Barriers to Care of the Elderly*. This project will describe the major barriers family physicians face in providing care to the elderly and identify key educational/resource areas that would assist with their provision of care to the elderly.

- The Care of the Elderly Working Group was approached by AHW to plan and host a provincial conference on *Comprehensive Care for the Elderly in Primary Health Care*. The conference would be instrumental in launching the strategic direction identified in Alberta's continuing care reform agenda, specifically, addressing the special needs of the older adult with multiple and complex health problems. In December, there was a question about financial support for this conference. Once this issue is addressed, planning will continue on the conference.
- There were preliminary discussions on the importance of developing a complexity of care fee code for family physicians caring for patients with complex needs. The Working Group recognized that this fee code was not age-dependent. It is anticipated that an approach to help achieve this goal will be developed by March 2004.
- Many thanks to the effort and commitment of the Care of the Elderly Working Group: Drs. Diana Turner (Chair), Paddy Quail, Jean Triscott, David Belcher, Bryn Whittaker, Fred Janke and Donna Manca.

(4) Promotion of Family Medicine

As one of the priorities identified by the ACFP Board in 2003, the concept of a major public relations campaign was put forward in late summer/early fall 2003. The purpose of this campaign would be to promote the choice of Family Medicine as a career to bright, senior high school students through a public relations campaign. ACFP members would be involved in developing the messages and in delivering the final product. It was anticipated that the P.R. campaign would be launched in mid-2004.

A preliminary discussion was held in December 2003 on various initiatives to mark the 50th anniversary of the College (June 17, 2004) and to capitalize on this opportunity to celebrate the contributions of all primary care physicians in Alberta throughout the year.

(5) Family Medicine Forum (FMF) 2003

FMF 2003, held in Calgary on October 23 – 25, 2003, was a resounding success. Dr. Rick Ward did an outstanding job in coordinating the scientific component of the program. Dr. Donna Manca worked with the CFPC Section of Researchers and local family medicine researchers to produce an excellent research agenda. Dr. Bruce Wright had the lead role developing the teaching component of FMF 2003, in collaboration with the CFPC Section of Teachers. The ACFP is proud of its volunteers and the commitment shown to advancing family medicine. The theme brought forward by our ACFP representatives - "*Climbing to New Heights – A Celebration of Family Medicine!*" - was truly reflected during the FMF.

Medical Students and Family Medicine Residents

- The ACFP continued its commitment to orienting medical students and family medicine residents to the profession of family medicine.
- The ACFP organized and sponsored two separate orientation sessions with medical students at both the U of A and the U of C, and one session with family medicine residents at the U of A in 2003. The purpose of these sessions was to discuss the role of family physicians and the value of College membership.
- The ACFP Chapter Board continued to be represented by a medical student from the U of A and the U of C, and a family medicine resident from the U of A and the U of C.
- The ACFP provided some funds to help sponsor the annual year-end formal dinner of the University of Alberta Medical Students.
- Jeanette Boyd and Tessa McWatt were selected by the U of C and the U of A, respectively, as the recipients of the annual award funded by the ACFP to recognize outstanding medical students entering the family medicine residency program.

Continuing Medical Education

(1) Continued to work toward the enhanced development and delivery of quality, affordable and accessible MAINPRO® C courses

- With the proliferation and increasing availability of ambulatory blood pressure monitors, family physicians across Canada had expressed the need for education to support the interpretation of these monitors which would in turn lead to more accurate BP measurements and diagnosis. To meet that need, the University of Calgary, the ACFP and Pfizer Canada Inc. struck a partnership to develop, disseminate and evaluate a Mainpro C/M1 program on White Coat Hypertension. Each organization contributed its unique expertise and resources. The partnership that evolved among Pfizer Canada Inc, the ACFP and the University of Calgary CME Department reflected an outstanding model for developing such programs. It was truly a 'win-win-win' situation.
- In 2003, the University of Calgary developed the following MAINPRO® C programs:
 - Insomnia (in place)
 - Irritable Bowel Syndrome
 - Joint Adventures
 - White Coat Hypertension
 - Croup

- In 2003, the University of Alberta developed the following MAINPRO® C programs:
 - ❑ Breast Cancer Screening Workshop
 - ❑ Care of the Terminally Ill
 - ❑ Beyond Depression: When Antidepressants Fail
 - ❑ Clinical Scenarios in Tobacco Reduction in Pregnancy
- Please visit the Faculty of Medicine website at www.ualberta.ca/~cme/ for information on MAINPRO® C courses at the University of Alberta.

(2) Continued to review and accredit an increasing number of MAINPRO® M1 courses in the province

- 142 MAINPRO M1 applications were processed by the ACFP office in 2003 compared with 165 MAINPRO® M1 applications in 2002 and 140 applications in 2001. Dr. Dorcas Kennedy, Chair of the ACFP CME Committee, continued as the Accreditor of these applications to ensure that high standards were met and regional interests and perspectives were considered.
- ACFP staff answered inquiries and distributed information on the process and criteria requirements for MAINPRO® M1 program accreditation.
- The ACFP monitored all applications to ensure that courses offered to ACFP members, advertised as meeting CFPC MAINPRO® M1 criteria, did in fact receive accreditation from the ACFP, CFPC or either the University of Alberta or University of Calgary.

(3) Planned, coordinated and evaluated the 48th Annual Scientific Assembly to provide opportunities for members to learn and to network with colleagues and friends

- Responded to ACFP members' requests to include more MAINPRO® C courses at the Annual Scientific Assembly. The program included 8 MAINPRO C courses, more than 20 small group sessions and over 10 speakers who presented different topics during the plenary segments at the ASA.
- The ASA Planning Committee, consisting of volunteer ACFP members and two representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, acting in an advisory capacity:
 - ❑ Planned the Annual Scientific Assembly with an emphasis on course content that was relevant to Alberta family physicians.

- Sought sponsorship from related industry in order to keep registration costs for ACFP members at an affordable level.
 - Worked with sponsors of the Annual Scientific Assembly to ensure a professional and ethical relationship/forum was maintained.
- The 48th Annual Scientific Assembly was very successful as rated by the evaluations completed by registrants. Conference exhibitors were particularly satisfied with the organization and quality of the Conference.

Awards

(1) Alberta's Family Physician of the Year

- The ACFP has traditionally chosen and celebrated the achievements of an Alberta Family Physician of the Year and in 2003; the Alberta Family Physician of the Year is also honoured by the National CFPC as one of Canada's Family Physicians of the Year.
- The ACFP Nominating and Awards Committee reviews all nominations brought forward by the membership and were pleased to recommend the nomination of Dr. Harvey P. Woytiuk as the 2003 Alberta Family Physician of the Year. The ACFP Board approved this nomination.
- Dr. Woytiuk's contribution to his profession was celebrated on a National level at FMF 2003 in Calgary, and will be further recognized by the ACFP membership at the 49th Annual Scientific Assembly.
- Dr. Woytiuk is an outstanding example of dedication to patient care and public education. He lives and practises in the rural community of St. Paul. His practice includes hospital care, community family practice anesthesia, exercise stress testing and geriatric care. He was instrumental in establishing the maternity program epidural service in St. Paul. Dr. Woytiuk has a particular interest in cardiology and care for aboriginal and rural populations. He maintains a clinic on a local-area reserve in order to better serve that community. As a devoted mentor, Dr. Woytiuk helps run a program that encourages medical students to consider rural family medicine for their careers. In addition to administering the program, he volunteers his time so that medical students can do six-week rotations with him and gain an appreciation for the role of the rural family doctor.

(2) Fellowships

- Throughout the year, the ACFP encourages its membership to submit nominations to the ACFP office. Each spring, the Nominating & Awards Committee reviews and recommends nominations for Fellowship in the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and forwards selected nominations

to the ACFP Board. These names are then passed on to the National Honors and Awards Committee. 2003 marked the last year of awarding Fellowships in this manner.

- Recipients of Fellowship awards in 2003 were:

Dr. Tuhin Bakshi, Wetaskiwin
Dr. Marilyn Basinger, Calgary
Dr. Rene Brownoff, Edmonton
Dr. Michael Caffaro, Hinton
Dr. George Gish, Claresholm
Dr. Sheila Hughes, Edmonton
Dr. Evelyn Jain, Calgary
Dr. Graham Law, Calgary
Dr. Jeff Robinson, Edmonton
Dr. Betty Ross, Calgary
Dr. Cathy Scrimshaw, Pincher creek
Dr. Mark Sosnowski, Calgary
Dr. Harry Zirk, Edmonton

(3) CFPC Honorary Membership

- The ACFP nominated Robert W. (Bob) Clarke for Honorary Membership in the College of Family Physicians of Canada. This award is “conferred on physicians or members of the public who have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of family medicine or to the medical profession in general”. The CFPC approved the nomination and Bob Clarke was formally recognized at FMF 2003.
- As Publisher and Executive Editor of Family Health magazine, Bob has done an outstanding job in developing, maintaining and enhancing Family Health magazine, a source of credible, reliable and practical health information written for the public from the perspective of family physicians. The magazine is published four times a year and receives wide circulation to doctors’ and dentists’ offices, hospitals, health units and clinics in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Bob Clarke’s leadership is evident through his efforts to ensure that the Editorial Advisory Board is motivated, current and well represented by family physicians. Bob continually seeks new contributing authors for the magazine, and in collaboration with the Board, ensures that articles submitted for publication meet stringent criteria.
- As well as guiding the Editorial Advisory Board of Family Health magazine, Bob is a strong advocate for family medicine in the province. While not a physician, he has a good understanding of the issues facing the profession and presents a positive and supportive voice among family physicians, other disciplines and the public.

- Again, Bob Clarke provided an honorarium to the ACFP in recognition of the significant contribution made by so many family doctors to the magazine.

Primary Care Research

- The ACFP continued to promote and increase primary care research capacity through the Alberta Family Practice Research Network (AFPRN)
- The Steering Committee had four hard working, enthusiastic family physicians that volunteered a significant amount of their time. We thank Dr. Diana Turner (Chair), Dr. Marlene Lidkea, Dr. Carol Rowntree and Dr. David Yip.
 - Some of the questions/projects they assessed included:
 1. The Effectiveness of Physical Activity Advice Provided by General Practitioners
 2. Rural Research Priorities
 3. Urban Research Priorities
 4. Driving Cessation Support Group
 5. Heart Health Kits
 6. Women's Health and Hormone Study
 7. The Rewards and Challenges of Family Practice
 8. Barriers to the Care of the Frail and Elderly
 - They also evaluated 24 abstracts for a successful 48th AFPRN poster presentation
- AFPRN agreed to recruit for two projects: The Effectiveness of Physical Activity Advice Provided by General Practitioners and The Women's Health and Hormone Study.
- The Clinical Director, Dr. Donna Manca, assisted Pamela Brett-MacLean with her important project on Rural Research Priorities. This project has been completed. To view the findings of this project visit <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca/ruraldevsurvey/>
 - A workshop on this web-based Delphi project was presented by Pamela Brett-MacLean and Dr. Donna Manca at FMF 2003 in Calgary.
 - Two posters were presented, one at the 31st Annual Meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) meeting and another at the 6th Wonca Conference on Rural Health, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
- AFPRN provides peer review ensuring physicians that they and their practices are not being used for unethical and/or meaningless research projects or surveys.
- Two 'Dinner and a Question Workshops' were held on November 29, and December 13, 2003. This successful coming together of researchers and physicians assisted with the development of the question and AFPRN project called "The Rewards and Challenges of Family Practice". The aim of this project is to develop a consensus on

the significant rewards and challenges encountered by family physicians. Physicians Drs. Thomas Bray, Anne Draginda, Al Ausford, Narpinder Hans, David Yip, Tuhin Bakshi, Jean Triscott, Rick Spooner, Michael Allan and researchers Stanley Varnhagen and Pamela Brett-McLean worked hard on developing this question and the group continues to communicate through email.

- AFPRN continued to be a successful and sensitive resource to the busy family physician. Physicians can contribute as little or as much as they are able.

ACFP Governing Body and Administrative Support

- The Board and staff continued to support activities and manage issues on an ongoing basis.
- The ACFP Board is composed of members who volunteer their time throughout the year to work on behalf of the wider membership. Board members include:

Dr. Tuhin Bakshi – President (Wetaskiwin)
Dr. Pat Heard – President-Elect (Calgary)
Dr. Paul Humphries – Honorary Treasurer (Edmonton)
Dr. Mohamud Verjee – Secretary; & Chair, Communications Committee (Balzac)
Dr. Cathy Scrimshaw – Member At Large (Pincher Creek)
Dr. Rick Ward – Chair, ASA Committee (Calgary)
Dr. Diana Turner, Chair, AFPRN Steering Committee (Calgary)
Dr. Dorcas Kennedy – Chair, CME Committee (Lethbridge)
Dr. Fraser Armstrong, Medical Editor, ACFP Newsletter (Edmonton)
Dr. Peter Norton – Chair, U of C Department of Family Medicine (Calgary)
Dr. Rick Spooner – Chair, U of A Department of Family Medicine (Edmonton)
Dr. Remo DiPalma – President, Section GP, AMA (Calgary)
Dr. Michael Caffaro – President, ASRM, AMA (Hinton)
Dr. Jared Bly – Family Medicine Resident, U of A
Dr. Stan Fu – Family Medicine Resident, U of C
Ms. Davida Sowa – Medical Student, U of A
Ms. Jennifer Hollowell – Medical Student, U of C

- There are six Standing Committees, again made up of volunteer practising family physicians: Executive, Nominating & Awards, CME, Communications, ASA Planning and the AFPRN Steering Committee.
- The staffing complement at the ACFP office is comprised of part time individuals who each bring exemplary and complementary skills to their jobs.
- On December 1, 2003, the Chapter office relocated to new premises in west Edmonton.
- If you have any questions or would like more information about the ACFP, please contact the Chapter office at **1-800-361-0607 or 780-488-2395**.