



April 6, 2009

A Message from ACFP President to Alberta Family Doctors

Dear Colleague,

As I begin the second year of my term as ACFP President, I've reflected on the busy but very productive past year in raising the profile of Family Medicine and demonstrating relevancy of the ACFP to our members. Please take a few minutes to review what the ACFP achieved in the past 12 months by visiting our website at www.acfp.ca and clicking on the ACFP 2008 Year in Review.

Before drawing your attention to initiatives that will be coming in 2009, I would like to briefly recap our **54th ASA** held just a few weeks ago.

- Nearly 340 registrants participated in 50 high quality workshops and 5 keynote presentations on a wide variety of topics relevant to family practice
- Implemented a pilot Call for Speakers; although starting late, about 1/3 of conference speakers were result of the call
- Alberta Health and Wellness Minister Ron Liepert spoke for 30 minutes to a pack-filled room of about 300 members, taking questions for another 30 minutes, and then remaining after the keynote for 30 – 40 minutes to answer individual physician's questions
- Many opportunities for registrants to network with colleagues
- **Mark your calendars now** for the 55th ASA, Thursday Feb. 25 – Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 in Banff! Stay tuned for early registration details.
- Special thanks to the ASA Planning Committee under the leadership of Dr. Margaret Churcher and our talented and committed staff at the ACFP Office.

One day prior to the conference, the ACFP Board held its semi-annual meeting. During that meeting, and in follow up Executive discussions, we agreed on the following initiatives for the coming year:

- **CME forum** in Dec. 2008, where more than 20 family physicians and educators leaders met to form a vision for the ACFP in CME development and accreditation in the future, was springboard for these initiatives:
 - Regular newsletter with evidence based answers to clinical questions
 - Formal process of accrediting CME venues in the province
 - Development of local CME initiatives
 - Enhanced education on Mainpro, particularly new activities such as ethic reviews
 - ACFP representative on steering committee for new 'Personal Learning Projects' being driven by the two Universities, with a sizeable government grant
- ACFP continuing to co-chair and co-sponsor important committee with AMA, AHW and AHS with mandate to:
 - “create conditions that would make Alberta the province of choice to practise comprehensive Family Medicine”, and

introduce new funding mechanisms, available on September 1st to Family Physicians, to make these conditions happen

- Plan and host 5 primary care physician **town hall meetings** with tentative schedule to visit Peace River, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Edson/Hinton and Banff/Canmore. If there are family physicians in other centres that would like to provide feedback to Executive on what the ACFP could be doing to meet members' needs, please contact me at acfppres@acfp.ca
- Collaborate with **Canadian Hypertension Education Program (CHEP)** to automatically disseminate hypertension guidelines to family physicians
- Meetings with Ministers, MLAs and government officials to continue conversations on the important role of family physicians in the health of Albertans and the challenges family physicians face everyday
- Target completion of a tax deductible '**Alberta only**' **Research and Education fund** to enable Albertans to donate to (a) an educational fund that will provide grants to medical students and residents to promote interest in careers in Family Medicine, and (b) a research fund to offer grants to students, residents and family physicians to support family medicine research projects.
- Host one-day meeting with leaders among community family physicians, educators, medical students and family medicine residents to create dynamic messaging around family medicine that will be used consistently in all forums
- Collaborate with AHW, AHS, SGP, ASRM and TOP to develop and disseminate comprehensive education strategy on new complex fee code to be introduced on April 1, 2009
- Results of survey on seniors and family physicians to be shared with Alberta's family physician leaders in elderly care to inform planning and policy development underway by AHS/AHW
- Continue preparations for co-hosting **Family Medicine Forum in Calgary** this October - the largest educational forum for physicians, anticipating close to 2000 Family Doctors, Family Medicine Residents, and Medical Students.

- Explore expansion of **Shadowing Program** for incoming medical students during summer months
- Continue with other ongoing activities such as involvement on national committees, Mainpro accreditation, Alberta Family Practice Research Network support, organization of medical student information sessions and presence at fall orientations, coordination of nominations and awards, and more.

Do you have comments or questions? Please contact me anytime at acfppres@acfp.ca.

Cheers,

Rick
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