



Newsletter

The Health Care of the Elderly (HCOE) Committee promotes the highest quality of medical care provided by family physicians to older people in Canada. The following summarizes some of the activities of the committee.

The Terms of Reference and membership of the committee are found on the CFPC web site: www.cfpc.ca. Go to Programs and click on Care of the Elderly. The discussion Priorities for Health Care of the Elderly: the Role of the Family Physician, found at the website, gives recommendations for education and service. These recommendations direct the activities of the committee.

Listserv

The care of the elderly Listserv was initiated earlier this year. Six topics have generated some meaningful dialogue for this internet discussion group:

1. Medical management of home care patients requiring home care,
2. Finding family physicians that have a special interest in the care of seniors,
3. Management of orphan home care patients,
4. Tools to monitor care of the elderly,
5. Comparative information on care of the elderly resident programs and
6. Proposed core competencies for medical students and residents in care to the elderly.

Our list of participants is growing but the Listserv could be a more active vehicle for dialogue with our colleagues across the country.

Care of the Elderly Website

The Listserv can be complementary to the development of the web site. A trial site is undergoing revisions. The website will be a source of information, tools and links for family physicians providing care to the elderly. The projected launch for the new website is January 2009.

Family Medicine Forum November 27 - 28

Three workshops will be presented at FMF in collaboration with HCOE members:

- Keeping Older Patients Healthy and Safe
- Making Dementia Guidelines Work for You
- Optimizing Home Care Teaching to Family Medicine Residents.

FMF 2009 - Calgary, October 29 - 31

With the assistance of some of our Alberta colleagues, the HCOE Committee wishes to develop a health care of the elderly stream for FMF in Calgary 2009. Six to eight topics, which will appeal physicians, students and residents, will be developed.

Core Competencies

The HCOE Committee offers to assume a lead role in the review of core competencies related to training in care of the elderly, for medical students and residents. A draft of core competencies developed by the Canadian Geriatric Society was circulated to initiate this discussion.

Canadian Geriatrics Society

Some of our committee members participated in an invitational meeting of the future of geriatrics in Canada held prior to the Canadian Geriatric Society Annual Meeting in April 2007. The first of eight recommendations from the resulting paper: *Proceedings and Recommendations on the 2007 Banff Conference of the Future of Geriatrics*, was to create a national coalition "to develop a strategy to improve the image of caring for seniors and to improve the recruitment and retention of the health care disciplines that provide care to seniors". A few big steps later, we are pleased to participate with GERI - Geriatric Education and Recruitment Initiative.

Long Term Care Physicians

The majority of Long Term Care (LTC) medical directors are family physicians and are often leaders in care of the elderly in their communities. In our continuing efforts to collaborate with all of our relevant partners, we are looking for ways that we can increase our interaction with the LTC Medical Directors Association of Canada.

Special Interests or Focused Practices

The CFPC initiative for family physicians with special interests or focused practices is in progress. Care of the Elderly PGY3 programs prepare graduates to take roles in which they can assume this special interest in their communities. The HCOE committee is prepared to explore the academic credentialing that may be appropriate for those with a special interest in care of the elderly.

Fred Mather, Chair