

**Congratulations to Rick Ward
on receiving the National Jean-Pierre Despins Award!**

November 6, 2009

Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to share some exciting news with family physicians in Alberta. At the FMF 2009 awards banquet and ceremony last week, Dr. Rick Ward, President of the Alberta College of Family Physicians, was the recipient of an outstanding family medicine leadership award:.

*This award, named in memory of the late **Dr. Jean-Pierre Despins**, CFPC President (1995-1996) and Chair of the CFPC Board of the Research and Education Foundation (1999-2000), is presented annually to honour a CFPC family physician member who has been identified as an outstanding advocate and public spokesperson for family medicine and/or family physicians and their patients. They are individuals who have presented family practice issues to the public and/or other audiences, and have demonstrated many of the qualities which defined and were greatly valued by Dr. Despins including statesmanship, leadership, diplomacy, courage of conviction, sense of humour, compassion and consideration of others.*

As many of you know, Dr. Rick Ward is an enthusiastic and passionate spokesperson for family medicine, and advocate for comprehensive family practice. Over the last year and a half, Dr. Ward has served as President of the Alberta College of Family Physicians. During his term he has worked extensively in promoting family medicine with governments, media, medical schools, Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Medical Association.

Dr. Ward has been involved with the CFPC at a national and provincial level in continuing professional development committees, the Family Medicine Forum Advisory Committee, and Annual Scientific Assembly Planning Committees. And many more voluntary commitments – all scheduled around his community-based multi disciplinary clinic which provides comprehensive care to 15,000 patients.

Thank you and Congratulations Rick!

Paul Humphries, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President Elect, Alberta College of Family Physicians