

**March 11, 2010**

**A Message from ACFP President to Alberta Family Doctors**

As I begin my two-year term as President of the Alberta College of Family Physicians, I must first recognize the leadership of our Past Presidents. They contributed their energy, time and commitment in bringing our College to the significant status it's attained today as a credible voice for Family Medicine in Alberta. In particular, I want to thank Rick Ward for his leadership in powering us into this vital time of change in health care with active advocacy, fearless inspiration and intense commitment to Family Medicine.

This is my first message to you and I plan on keeping our members updated over the next two years. I'm looking forward to working with our Executive and Board committee as we move forward on a number of fronts. I encourage you to send me your comments, ideas or concerns at [acfpres@acfp.ca](mailto:acfpres@acfp.ca).

Over the next two years, we are committed to maintaining and enhancing the active College themes of the past few years -- active advocacy, leadership development and relevant College activities.

The direction of Family Medicine is gelling around the concept of the Canadian **Medical Home**. This will be a guiding theme for progress in our work for advancing Family Medicine in Alberta. The underlying philosophy and principles of the Medical Home are captured here:

→A medical office or clinic where each patient would have:

- Her or his own family doctor
- Other health professionals working together as a team with the patient's own family doctor
- Timely appointments for all visits with the family doctor and with other primary care team members
- Arrangement and coordination of all other medical services, including referrals to consulting specialists
- An electronic medical record

→A well-functioning Medical Home will require:

- Appropriate funding and resources, and
- Necessary system supports for ongoing evaluation and quality management

We need your help to make this work. We encourage our members to participate actively in maintaining the profile of a dynamic College. Your Executive and I will continue to work on enhancing your ability to deliver excellent care in a satisfying environment in the coming years.

Regards,

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