



January 2010

## A Message from ACFP President to Alberta Family Doctors

Dear Colleague,

### The ACFP “Top 9 in 2009”

What were the Top 9 ACFP activities and initiatives as judged by the Executive?

#### 1. Family Medicine Forum

This was a hugely successful conference where the ACFP co-hosted with CFPC the largest Family Medicine CME event – welcoming over 2450 registrants in Calgary. Special thanks to Janet Reynolds, Chair of the Scientific Planning Committee, for her great work in putting together a superb learning agenda!

#### 2. George Gish – Family Physician of the Year!

This award is meant to showcase our local FP ‘heroes’ - a practitioner who demonstrates commitment to community, practice and the discipline of Family Medicine. This year’s nominee exudes those characteristics in spades! Congratulations George.

#### 3. The 54th ASA at the Rimrock Hotel in Banff

The tradition continues – excellent scientific program, terrific venue, and warm collegiality. This time add a record number of registrants! Thanks again to the leadership of Margaret Churcher, Chair of the ASA Planning Committee. Register now for the 2010 ASA by clicking on <https://connect.acfp.ca/reg.php>

#### 4. “Tools for Practice”

Thanks to Mike Allan in collaboration with the TOP Team who has provided a regular, practical, evidence based CME presentation. This initiative (born out of the CME Leadership Forum led by the ACFP in December 2008 and sponsored by the ACFP) has gained national recognition for its high quality, unbiased and practical tips to improve practice.

#### 5. Getting the Government’s Ear?

When Health Minister Ron Liepert travels to Banff to address Family Doctors at the Banff ASA, takes time out from damage control in the middle of the flu pandemic to give a keynote talk at FMF and devotes the majority of his speech to the AMA Rep Forum on the importance and evolution of Primary Care and Family Practice – you know Family Medicine is on the radar screen! Increasing awareness of family medicine issues amongst politicians was an important goal for the ACFP Executive – one that we are on our way to realizing.

## 6. Complex Chronic Care Plan Education and Awareness

Working with Section of General Practice, General Practice Liaison, TOP, Alberta Health and Wellness, the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services, the ACFP helped to develop and deliver important educational initiatives around the new complex care plan.

## 7. Messaging Forum

This important meeting, held in September in Red Deer, stimulated debate and brainstorming in the following months by the Executive and Board. The final menu of deliverables was presented in a newsletter before Christmas. It has already stimulated dialogue, action and forged alliances for future activities aimed at strengthening Family Medicine in the Province.

For details, please link to <http://tiny.cc/Messaging>

## 8. Cathy MacLean – President of CFPC

Our new National President of the CFPC is University of Calgary Family Medicine Department Head Cathy MacLean. Her energy, leadership and warm sense of humour will represent us well on the national stage.

## 9. Member involvement

Many thanks to:

- Our volunteer Executive (Paul Humphries, Lindy Smith, Pat Verones, Janet Reynolds, Fred Janke)
- Committee chairs (Dorcas Kennedy, Donna Manca, Margaret Churcher, Mary Hurlburt)
- Constant advice, input, wisdom (and a few complaints!) from our members through email requests, phone calls and letters.
- Time commitment from those who volunteered on committees, allowed medical students to shadow their practice in the summer, represented the ACFP on national and provincial committees.

An organization is only as strong as its members and this year our true strength was demonstrated through the activity and passion of its members. This was supported by our hard working group at the ACFP office. Good work team!

## Looking ahead...

Next year will include our ASA in February, activities related to the Messaging Forum, increased activity in our Care of Elderly Committee and will see the term of our new President – Paul Humphries.

Wishing you all the best in 2010,

**Rick**

*Rick Ward MD, CCFP, FCFP*

*President, Alberta College of Family Physicians*