

June 9, 2010

A Message from ACFP President to Alberta Family Doctors

Canadian Medical Home – Attachment

The direction of Family Medicine is gelling around the concept of the [Canadian Medical Home](#). In an earlier message, I highlighted the underlying philosophy and principles of the Medical Home.

The Canadian Medical Home continues to gain momentum as a concept within which we are able to frame the components of comprehensive Primary Care. The foundation of this care is the Doctor-Patient Relationship, the first principle of Family Medicine. In our practices, this relationship expresses itself in the **Attachment** of each patient to a family physician for responsibility, delivery of care and payment.

Most of us know who our patients are - or do we?

- Is that roster every patient we've seen in the past 2, 3 or 5 yrs.?
- Every family member of that group?
- Everyone in our town or community?
- Everyone who calls us their Family Doctor?

We say we serve defined populations but how are we going to draw that circle around those for whom we will take responsibility of providing birth to death comprehensive management of acute, chronic and preventive care? The answer may be different for different practice environments or different team preferences.

The time has come to influence what choices of attachment patients will be able to make in the Canadian Medical Homes we are building with and for them. If we don't actively take part in this effort to support our patients' health and improve our own work styles, others may make these decisions based more on fiscal and power reasons rather than on sound best practice.

For starters, ask yourself and discuss with your colleagues the following questions:

- Who are our patients, and in what ways could we more specifically identify them?
- Could the concepts of the Canadian Medical Home fit our practices? Indeed, are those concepts already in place in many practices?
- Would you benefit from ACFP help to learn more about and discuss this with your practices or community? Send me an email acfppres@acfp.ca

ACFP will continue to facilitate workshops, regional meetings, e-mail blasts, government and medical organization information sessions, and open communications with, and for you, to accomplish this advocacy.

I will feature the theme of PCNs and the Canadian Medical Home in my next President's Message.

Introducing Alberta's 2010 Family Physician of the Year...

Dr. Karen Lundgard of Peace River has been named the 2010 Alberta Family Physician of the Year by the Alberta College of Family Physicians.

- This award is presented annually to a family physician that has demonstrated excellence in family practice, and exemplifies the four principles of family medicine in his/her practice.
- Karen has been described by her colleagues and community as "*the embodiment of a committed, engaged family physician and all-round community person. The north is a much better and healthier place because she has chosen to live and work here.*"
- Congratulations Karen on being the 2010 recipient of this most prestigious award!

CPD Advisory Committee

- Are you interested in providing CME leadership for your area of the province?
- The ACFP is taking a more active role in assessing the CME/CPD needs of our members.
- Our newly formed Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Advisory Committee is developing a vision for the ACFP's future role in CPD, and we are looking for a few more individuals to become involved. We are currently seeking members from north of Edmonton (Grande Prairie, Peace River, Bonnyville/St. Paul areas).
- If you are interested, or would like more information on this initiative, please contact the ACFP office at info@acfp.ca or email me at acfppres@acfp.ca

56th Annual Scientific Assembly – Feb. 24-26, 2011

- Planning for the 56th ASA is officially underway!
- We received more than 50 session proposals from the ACFP Call for Keynote & Workshop Presentations – and on June 5, the ASA Planning Committee met to review the proposals and begin shaping the conference program.
- The Prefunction exhibit area is completely sold out. Space is still available in the Salon C area.

National Physician Survey 2011

Remember to complete the survey www.nationalphysiciansurvey.ca/nps/

- Your responses will help identify priorities and interests of Canada's doctors and bring clarity to important issues including health human resources, changing scopes of practice, barriers to care and access to care.

Regards,

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