

March 27, 2013

President's Message and ACFP Chapter Update

Dear Colleagues:

Family Medicine Successes

At our recent Annual Scientific Assembly, Dr. Richard Gunderman gave a thought provoking lecture on the essential difference between success and excellence. Excellence comes not through comparison to others (as success is often defined) but by doing and being the best you can be. Medicine is a calling; a profession that strives for excellence and sometimes, I personally can lose sight of that within the stresses and difficulties of negotiations and the media storm that is surrounding them.

The ACFP's mission is to *promote excellence in family medicine for patients, families, and communities through advocacy, education, and research*. There are examples of excellence throughout the province despite the environment we are in at present—we need to celebrate them.

As the first example of excellence, I must acknowledge the volunteer speakers, researchers and workshop leaders from our own ASA. They have volunteered their time to share their expertise and knowledge at our annual educational event. Their passion for and commitment to family medicine and family physician education was evident throughout the conference.

Secondly, the success of the recent CaRMS (Canadian Resident Matching Service) results is a testament to the dedication of our academic family physicians and the hundreds of community preceptors who welcome medical students and residents into their practices and spend time teaching and mentoring. More students are choosing family medicine as a result of these dedicated physicians and innovative programs like [Med Zero](#), [the AMA and ACFP Joint Shadowing programs](#), and electives with family physicians. All play a part in the resurgence of family medicine interest in our students. I congratulate and thank all the people who are sharing what they love about their career with our learners.

Thirdly, despite the ongoing instability in the health systems, primary care network leaders and individual PCNs are looking at the next steps in improving primary care in the province. Some are looking at formal attachment projects; some are looking at patient involvement in program development and governance.

Finally, I see many family physicians giving up their time to participate in research activities, and quality improvements activities from [the International study of comprehensive primary care systems, co-sponsored by the Health Quality of Council of Alberta and the Alberta College of Family Physicians](#), to participation in AIM and TOP initiatives and the Physician Learning Program, to the ongoing research in community practices and our academic departments.

Family physicians are giving their time and energy in an effort to achieve excellence in our discipline, be it in large quality improvement efforts in their PCNs, participating in research studies, teaching and mentoring students and residents, and participating and developing Continuing Professional



Development programs. Family doctors are continuing to provide the best care they can for their patients every day. They are active advocates with the government of Alberta, within their own communities, and with their own patients, doing what they can in a very difficult time to improve the health care system. Thank you to all of our members and colleagues who continue to exemplify excellence in our discipline.

Cathy Scrimshaw, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President
Alberta College of Family Physicians

ACFP Chapter Update

New Executive Members

We are pleased to announce two new members of the ACFP's Executive Committee: **President Elect** – Dr. Patricia Smith from Airdrie and **Member-at-Large** – Dr. Ernst Snyman from Bittern Lake and bid farewell to long-time excellence leader himself, Dr. Paul Humphries. Thankfully Dr. Humphries will stay on the ACFP Board as our Past-President representative.

Still Recruiting Physicians – Study of Primary Healthcare (PHC) Performance

The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) is undertaking a study to gain a greater understanding of what contributes to high quality, comprehensive primary healthcare in Alberta. This study is part of a broader national and international collaboration, and will enable comparison of the unique developments in Alberta with a diversity of practice and healthcare delivery models across Canada and 30 other countries. This study is fully supported by the Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP), and the Alberta Medical Association (AMA).

- [Promoting and improving patient safety and health service quality across Alberta – study web page](#)
- [Register to participate in the study](#)

58th Annual Scientific Assembly – Thank you to all the registrants who attended the 58th ASA in Banff! In addition, we want to acknowledge our speakers, exhibitors and the ASA Planning Committee for their efforts to make the conference a great success! 58th ASA pictures:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/acfp_pics/sets/72157632977375890/show/

Mark your calendars for the 59th ASA, which will take place February 27 – March 1, 2014.

Deadline Approaching for ACFP Awards Nominations

The Call for Nominations for the ACFP Awards is April 30th. Make time to acknowledge and honour your colleagues. <http://bit.ly/acfpawards>

Save the Date for 2nd Annual Practical Evidence for Informed Practice Conference – October 18-19

Don't miss out and be sure to mark your calendar for the 2nd annual PEIP conference. Led by the expert team that brings you Tools for Practice, the Practical Evidence for Informed Practice conference brings together clinical leaders to speak on the latest findings that can affect your practice and how you treat your patients. <http://bit.ly/acfppeip>

ACFP Evidence & CPD Program

The Evidence & CPD Team are pleased to present the [upcoming Roadshows](#):

- Saturday, May 25 in **Grande Prairie**
- Friday, June 14 in **Lacombe**
- Sunday, September 1 in **Canmore**

If you are interested in hosting a Roadshow, the following Friday and Saturday dates are available: May 3 and 4; May 10 and 11; May 31 and June 1. Fall dates are also open for booking. For more information, contact Jyll Ward at jyllward@med.ualberta.ca

New ACFP Documents Now Available

2012 Year In Review – We are proud to share the ACFP’s 2012 Year in Review, which highlights the ACFP’s activities from December 2011 through December 2012. Read about the important work and strides of our chapter at http://www.acfp.ca/Portals/0/docs/Year_in_review_2012Web.pdf

2013-2015 ACFP Strategic Plan – A Vision for the Future – With great excitement, we introduce the ACFP’s Strategic Plan. The plan provides a strong foundation for guiding chapter activities for the next three years, based upon the ACFP’s vision, values, mission and goals. View the Strategic Plan at: http://www.acfp.ca/Portals/0/docs/2013-2015_ACFP_StratPlan.pdf

Resources:

[Price Comparison of Commonly Prescribed Pharmaceuticals in Alberta](#) is a reference document created to assist family physicians when choosing medications, especially when two products are therapeutically similar. Developed by Dr. Mike Kolber (Evidence Based Medicine Team, University of Alberta Department of Family Medicine), Tony Nickonchuk (BSc Pharm, APA, CDE, Pharmacy Manager, Peace River) and Jayson Lee (BSc Pharm Candidate, Class of 2013, University of Alberta).

MyHealth.Alberta.ca is a website designed to provide reliable health information and useful tools to Albertans through the internet. The site’s medical content was developed in consultation with health professionals and other Albertans –made in Alberta for Albertans.