Sara Gambino joined the College’s Continuing Professional Development (CPD) team in August 2013 as the Mainpro Records Coordinator—a role previously held by Diane Hamilton, our new Mainpro Audit Coordinator. In this role, Sara oversees the entry and validation of member credit submissions—taking a lead role in efforts related to membership communications and outreach.

Sara earned her honours BA at York University in French and Italian studies. She is fluent in four languages—English, French, Spanish, and Italian—and lived and studied in Italy for a few years as a child. She brings with her five years of experience working in customer service and sales.

Myriam Poncelet joined the CPD team in September 2013 as our new Accreditation Applications Coordinator. In this position, Myriam takes a lead role in the day-to-day operations of the College’s QuickConnect program and related affairs.

Myriam holds a master’s degree in communications science from the University of Brussels and a BA in public relations. Before her arrival at CFPC, Myriam worked as a settlement coordinator in Moncton, New Brunswick, and prior to this she spent more than 10 years in communications in her native country of Belgium. She brings with her a solid experience in corporate communications, website management, and event organization.

In November, Jessica Black joined the CPD team as our first-ever Accreditation Manager. Jessica will lead all activities related to CPD program accreditation, including a number of special events such as the National CPD Accreditation Conference (hosted jointly by the CFPC and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) and the MAINPRO® Accreditation Workshop for CPD Providers.

Jessica earned her honours BA at Trent University and her master of education degree at the University of Toronto. Her career experience includes almost 10 years in the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine. She joins us from her most recent role there as an accreditation education consultant. She worked previously as an accreditation coordinator and an event planner—experiences that will be assets in her new position.

In July we bade a fond farewell to Lori Hill, former Associate Director of CPD, who, after more than five years with the College’s CPD Department, moved west with her family to Vancouver. Lori has continued to work with the College in a consulting role, assisting the department on select projects. Those wishing to contact Lori may do so at her College email address until the early new year (lhill@cfpc.ca).
For the past several years, the College’s National Committee on Continuing Professional Development and one of its key subcommittees, the Mainpro Standards Working Group, have worked closely with CPD Department staff and leaders from across the organization on the evolution of Mainpro. On November 5, 2013, the CFPC Board of Directors approved a plan for a new Mainpro program—“New Mainpro”—that will significantly improve not only the way in which members can earn and report CPD activity, but also how the College awards credits to CPD programs. New Mainpro is scheduled for a 2015 launch.

Details on the changes and how they will impact CPD planners and providers, College members, and the patients they care for will be available starting in early 2014. The CPD Department encourages planners and providers to attend the 2014 Mainpro Accreditation Workshop for Providers (see item regarding this workshop in this newsletter) to learn about New Mainpro and associated changes to CPD program accreditation.

**SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE:**

**2014 Mainpro Accreditation Workshop for Providers**

The College’s CPD Department will once again host an accreditation workshop specifically for those who develop, deliver, or manage professional development programming for Canadian family physicians. This conference will be open to all, including hospitals, communications firms, industry groups, and health professional organizations.

Possible topics for the 2014 workshop include:

- New Mainpro: how the changes in 2015 will impact CPD planners and providers
- Task Force on the CFPC’s Relationship with Healthcare Industry: where we are and where we’re going
- CPD planning committees: rules, regulations, and best practices
- Programming with an impact: examples from CFPC-accredited programs

**Target audience:** This year’s program will be aimed at individuals possessing intermediate- to advanced-level knowledge as it pertains to CPD, accreditation, and Mainpro.

**Looking to learn the basics?** Those interested in a fundamentals-level workshop should contact Jessica Black, CFPC Accreditation Manager, at jblack@cfpc.ca. If there is sufficient interest, the College will provide this introductory-level training on the day prior to the Mainpro Accreditation Workshop.

**Date and location of the providers’ workshop, as well as registration and fee information, will be announced shortly.**
CFPC and SOGC: Joining forces to improve intrapartum care with ALARM

We are pleased to announce that the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) will join forces to offer the Advances in Labour and Risk Management (ALARM) program as the single pan-Canadian training program on dealing with intrapartum emergency situations. The change takes effect July 1, 2014.

As a result of this collaborative venture, the CFPC will no longer offer the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO®) program once the change occurs in July of 2014. In the interim, the CFPC will continue to support those wishing to offer ALSO training in Canada. Requests for program information can be sent to also@cfpc.ca.

Visit www.cfpc.ca/ALSO to find more information, including FAQs for providers/planners and ALSO instructors, and a message from Dr Francine Lemire (CFPC Executive Director and CEO) and Dr Jennifer Blake (SOGC Chief Executive Officer).

HIGHLIGHTS: The 5th National CPD Accreditation Conference

The 5th National Accreditation Conference was held in Ottawa, Ontario, on October 7 and 8, 2013. More than 180 participants, representing university offices of continuing professional development, CFPC Provincial Chapters, Mainpro program reviewers, and Royal College–accredited CPD providers, were in attendance for this unique learning opportunity.

A prominent theme this year was the detection and management of bias and conflicts of interest in CPD programming. The conference included a comprehensive program of plenary sessions, discussion panels, and workshops. The program was designed to appeal to the interests and meet the needs of CPD professionals working within a variety of contexts and settings and at all experience levels, from neophyte to expert.

Presentations from the conference are available through the link below:
http://www.cfpc.ca/NationalCPDAccreditationConferences_archive/

The CPD Department extends their thanks to the many College staff and members who contributed to the success of this annual event. Planning for next year’s event is well underway and promises to deliver another lineup of excellent presentations and learning opportunities.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the CFPC national office will be closed for holidays from December 23, 2013, to January 1, 2014. The office will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

COMING SOON:
IMPORTANT UPDATES TO MAINPRO RESOURCES

The CFPC’s CPD department will release early in 2014 two important updated resources for those involved in professional development planning and accreditation.

A Guide to Mainpro Accreditation
This revised version—replacing the December 2012 iteration—will reflect current accreditation criteria. As well, many sections have been edited to improve clarity and enhance ease of access to important information.

The Mainpro Reviewers Guide
The CFPC has produced a resource guide for family physician members who serve as Mainpro reviewers (the individuals who review and assess program applications for Mainpro credits). The CPD Department has revised many sections contained within this guide to reflect accreditation policy and guideline changes, and also to ensure all optional resources and tools are up to date.

The Mainpro Reviewers Guide is available only to Mainpro reviewers, CFPC Chapters, and university CPD/CME offices. Please contact Zarreen Warsi, CPD Assistant Manager, at zwarsi@cfpc.ca for information on how to obtain your copy.
The CFPC National Committee on Continuing Professional Development (NCCPD) is the College committee charged with overseeing all matters pertaining to lifelong learning and professional development for Canadian family physicians.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from each of CFPC’s Provincial Chapters as well as invited guests from organizations including the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

The NCCPD gathered in Ottawa on the weekend of October 5–6, 2013, for its fall meeting. Here are some of the highlights:

- The College’s Research and Education Foundation (REF) is looking at possible funding opportunities for CPD providers wishing to develop programming for family physicians in Canada. Stay tuned for details!

- Mainpro reviewers will be required to complete an annual conflict-of-interest (Col) declaration for the previous two-year period; this process will be similar to the one for the CFPC Board of Directors members.

- The NCCPD discussed changing the deadline for ethical review submissions from five days before a CPD event to 10 days (minimum), to facilitate timely submissions, to allow sufficient time for review, and to ensure that suggested changes are incorporated. The CPD Department is reviewing the feasibility of this change and welcomes feedback on the matter from all stakeholders; please email your comments to zwarsi@cfpc.ca using the subject line “Ethical Review Timeline.”

**General questions? Comments? Concerns?** Please contact Zarreen Warsi, CPD Assistant Manager, at zwarsi@cfpc.ca.

### 2013 CFPC CPD PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year, the College recognizes Mainpro-accredited educational programs that provide exceptional learning experiences with the [CPD Program Award](#). As in the past, 2013 saw numerous program nominations, each demonstrating innovative, high-quality education.

Our judges—the members of the CFPC National Committee on Continuing Professional Development—had a difficult task selecting a winner from among the excellent candidates. As a result, and for the first time in the history of the award, three programs were recognized by the College at the 5th National CPD Accreditation Conference in Ottawa. Below is a summary of the three award-winning programs.

- **Dr Greg Dubord and colleagues at CBT Canada** were recognized for their [Medical Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) Training Programs for Family Physicians](#). Over the years this program has consistently provided CFPC members with quality Mainpro-C–accredited learning opportunities.

  Under the guidance of Dr Dubord and his colleagues, these CBT-based courses provide practical, hands-on training in an important skills area of family practice. This nomination came from members who took courses such as “CBT for Anxiety,” “CBT for Depression,” and “CBT Tools” at FMF, Provincial Chapter annual scientific assemblies, and other Mainpro-C venues across the country and who went out of their way to express the program’s value. *Above left, Dr Jamie Meuser with, L to R, Drs Greg Dubord, Clement Sun, and Peter Duffy.*

- **The Comprehensive Approach to Rural Emergencies (CARE) Course** is a two-day interprofessional course delivered in rural communities. Using local teams, local equipment, and local resources, and emphasizing the community’s local challenges (transportation, access, skill sets, etc.), the course delivers intensive learning through 16 skill stations and 16 high-fidelity, low-technology simulations. To date, more than 1600 high-fidelity patient simulations have been delivered through the CARE Course curriculum. Over two days the course covers all aspects of rural emergency care: airway management, trauma care, acute cardiac care, emergency pediatrics, obstetrics, and neonatal resuscitation. *Above right, Dr Jel Coward, one of CARE’s co-founders, accepts the award from Dr Meuser.*

- **Dr Steve Senior** was nominated for this award by his colleagues at Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Ontario, for what they called his “lifetime achievement” as it relates to CPD. For more than 30 years, Dr Senior was the primary organizer of weekly grand rounds for the Peterborough County Medical Society. Dr Senior’s colleagues noted his exceptional ability to produce credible learning experiences month after month. This was an unpaid role for Dr Senior, who had even been handling the logistics of these events up until a few months prior to the nomination.

  Shortly after this nomination was submitted, Dr Senior, a family physician in Lakefield, Ontario, for 35 years, died tragically in a canoeing accident. The CFPC was honoured to present the national CPD award to Dr Senior posthumously, with his daughter graciously accepting this award on his behalf *(photo unavailable).*

Information on the 2014 CPD Program Award will be available early in the new year. Please stay tuned to CPD in Focus for information!
UPDATE: Implementation of three-step CoI disclosure

CPD program providers will be well aware of the CFPC’s three-step conflict-of-interest (CoI) disclosure policy introduced last spring. In developing and introducing this policy, the CFPC’s National Committee on Continuing Professional Development (NCCPD) had two audiences in mind: program planning committee members and participants of Mainpro-accredited CPD activities. With this new policy, the NCCPD aims to arm both groups with more information on the potential impact of conflicts of interest in CPD programming.

Planning committees

- As proxies for their colleagues attending accredited CPD activities, planning committee members require complete information about the relationships individuals bring to their roles as program faculty/speakers.
- The NCCPD makes no assumptions about these relationships and does not assume that they will result in a biased program or presentation.
- The NCCPD expects planning committee members to:
  - Be aware of ALL faculty/speakers with a relationship to a commercial entity that produces or distributes a product or service that is germane to the CPD program.
  - Ensure appropriate steps have been taken so that program content is in compliance with CFPC standards, including those addressing balance and scientific validity.
- In declaring all sources of program support, the planning committee puts valuable information in the hands of attendees. This information allows participants to assess, in an informed manner, how potential conflicts of interest have been handled in developing an educational program where a commercial entity with an interest in product promotion has been involved.

For these reasons, planning committees must take ownership of the content of conflict-of-interest disclosure slides to the same extent that they take ownership of the content of the overall educational program.

CPD program participants

- It is the view of the NCCPD that those participating in Mainpro-accredited CPD activities have a right to know about the sources of resources provided for the development and dissemination of a given educational program.
- Participants need to be aware of relevant relationships between program presenters and commercial entities that might influence the presentation.
- Family physicians deserve specific information about the potential for bias in the presentation and about how speakers and their colleagues on the planning committee have managed potential conflicts of interest.
- Transparency is necessary so that participants can exercise judgment about the validity of the information presented.

Points of clarification: Three-step CoI policy

Based on the information presented above, our experience responding to inquiries about the new policy, and discussions with program developers and event organizers about practical aspects of implementing the policy, the CFPC’s CPD Department offers the following points of clarification:

- When a speaker has no relationships that might pose a potential conflict of interest AND the program has been developed without support from commercial entities, the slide regarding management or mitigation of conflict may be omitted.
- Program planning committees are expected to review and approve the content of the conflict-of-interest slides for each speaker associated with the program (step 1 and 2). Where potential for conflicts exists, the committee must discuss and approve the management plan (step 3; see example slide 3).
- Program planning committees are expected to declare any relationships that exist with one or more commercial entities with respect to the development or dissemination of the program (step 2; see example slide 2).
  - Where potential for conflict exists, program planning committees must develop and declare a plan for managing such conflict(s) and details of that plan must be outlined (step 3).
  - It is anticipated that these conflict-of-interest slides, approved by the planning committee, will be available for the ethical review whenever the program is presented.
  - Chapters undertaking ethical reviews need simply to ensure that these approved slides are part of the package they are reviewing. Since they are assumed to be approved by the planning committee, ethical review should not be declined based on their content. If Chapters have concerns about the content of these slides, these concerns should be raised with the CFPC’s CPD Department.
- For large events with multiple sessions and speakers, information for participants about commercial support for the entire program needs to be presented only once at the beginning of the program, as well as in written program materials. Individual speakers within such programs need only present information about their own relationships (or lack thereof).
- It is not required that declaration information be presented using PowerPoint slides; however, it must be provided verbally and in print (e.g., handout inserted within the event syllabus).

For distribution to planning committees and speakers

In response to a need expressed by numerous program organizers and sponsors, the NCCPD has drafted a message for planning committee members and speakers—on behalf of the College—explaining the practicalities of this three-step CoI policy.

Please feel free to share this message, available here or at http://www.cfpc.ca/CPDProvidersandPlanners/, with all planning committee members and, through them, all speakers at Mainpro-accredited events.
QuickConnect

QuickConnect Helpline
For more information on QuickConnect, to receive a tutorial, or to register for a QuickConnect account, please contact Deborah Blois:
1-800-387-6197+1, ext. 319
or quickconnect@cfpc.ca

Reader Comments or Suggestions?
The goal of CPD in Focus is to provide a forum for ongoing communication with our CPD partners and providers. We value your feedback. If you have an item or issue that you would like to see addressed in future editions of CPD in Focus, let us know! Send your feedback to Jessica Black at jblack@cfpc.ca

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