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Family Medicine Forum



Canada's premiere family medicine conference.

President's Message



The four principles of family medicine: Our past, present, and future

It was a good year for family medicine in the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) match. Out of the 1,488 positions, 94% were filled in the first round. Furthermore, just over 38% of Canadian medical students ranked family medicine as their first choice overall. This is a new high for family medicine, and a long way from the mid-1990s, when 25% of Canada's medical students ranked family medicine as their first choice. While there are many contributing factors to explain this increase, one important influence has been the development of Family Medicine Interest Groups (FMIGs) in faculties of medicine across Canada.

As CFPC President, I have the privilege of talking to students at events hosted by FMIGs. To date, I have been to McMaster University, Western University, Queens University, University of Toronto, and the University of Saskatchewan. I hope to speak to students at many other medical schools over the remainder of my term as CFPC President.

Each time I have been invited to speak to medical students I have been asked to address different topics, but upon my arrival the students always ask for my perspective on what practicing family medicine is like and what the future will hold.

When I talk to students, I reflect on what my own practice has been like, and share what I know of the practices of my friends and colleagues. I also try to share my belief that, in many ways, the practice of family medicine is unique to the individual physicians, their patients, and their community. The depth and breadth of our collective practices are as vast as the country in which we live. Yet, at the same time, we share a commonality - our four principles of family medicine.

The four principles of family medicine:

- The family physician is a skilled clinician
- Family medicine is a community-based discipline
- The family physician is a resource to a defined practice population
- The patient-physician-relationship is central to the role of the family physician

I try to bring these four principles to life for medical students, as I think they continue to best describe what is at the heart of family medicine.

As we evolve and grow as a discipline and as our practices change based on evidence and innovation, the four principles represent what is at our core - skilled clinicians who work to understand the whole person; who build and sustain relationships with our individual patients; and who are grounded in the needs of our community, providing care to a population of patients where it is required. We are 60 years old as a discipline this year, and I feel confident that 60 years from now, a future president will be able to say that the four principles of family medicine remain at the core of family medicine.

Kathy Lawrence, MD, CCFP, FCFP
CFPC President



CFPC en Route is a blog by Dr. Francine Lemire, CEO and Executive Director of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), directed to members of the College. It's a great way to stay connected. Check back often or subscribe to this blog so you can keep up with Dr Lemire while she's en route.

Did you read Dr. Lemire's blog from May 14th, "[Bringing Social Accountability to Life](#)"?

Stay current with health news from the CFPC!

Be informed of health news and updates from the CFPC and other news outlets:

[Family medicine news highlights](#) (updated daily)

[CFPC news releases](#)

[Governor General of Canada receives Honorary Membership to the CFPC](#)

Continuing professional development (CPD) Regional Educator program

The Regional Educator program was created as a response to feedback from members regarding the need for more support in lifelong learning. In collaboration with other CPD organizations, the CFPC is proud to announce the launch of the Regional Educator program, and is looking forward to the opportunity to provide regional CPD support to our valuable Mainpro participants. To support the launch of Mainpro+ in 2015, six regional educators from across the country have been recruited to promote, support, and engage members in the Mainpro program. Specifically, CPD educators will:

- Facilitate workshops and other educational activities to help members understand the changes to Mainpro in 2015, known as Mainpro+
- Collaborate with College Chapters, Canadian university CPD programs, and other CPD organizations and networks related to the Mainpro+ program and requirements
- Identify and develop educational strategies and tools that support the learning of members within the Mainpro+ program

The regional educators:

- BC Region - Dr. Jim Thorsteinson
- Alberta Region - Dr. Khurram Jahangir
- Manitoba/Saskatchewan Region - Dr. Teresa Wawrykow
- Ontario Region - Dr. Eric Wong
- Quebec Region - Dr. Dominique Tessier
- Atlantic Region - Dr. Scott MacDonald

My CFPC is.../My REF is...



Tell us what the CFPC and the REF mean to you!

Write it!
Snap it!
Share it!



#mycfpcmyref

[Email your photos.](#)

[Check out what these people had to say.](#)

Calling all physicians in Canada-your input matters!

Complete the National Physician Survey



All physicians in Canada are invited to complete the National Physician Survey (NPS). The CFPC has joined with other physician leaders in support of this important initiative. Brief and confidential, the NPS is a unique opportunity to share your views and help shape the future of Canadian health care.

Add your voice to Canada's largest physician workforce survey.

The NPS is administered by the CFPC, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (Royal College). Invitations with a personalized survey link were emailed at the end of April. You can also find the survey on the [NPS website](#). It will take only 15 to 20 minutes to complete, and you may be able to use the learning that comes from completing the survey to earn Mainpro credits.

This year, the survey is looking at the use and the impact of information technology on physicians in Canada. Your input helps influence health care planning, research, policy, curriculum development, and advocacy.

Participate and you could win one of two \$1,000 prizes!

[Learn more or examine past survey results.](#)

Survey results will be available by fall of 2014 on the NPS website .

2014 Honours and Awards Program

Awards for family medicine residents and medical students

Nominations are now being accepted online.

All nominations are due by June 20, 2014:

- [Family Medicine Resident Leadership Awards](#)
- [Family Medicine Resident Awards for Scholarly Achievement](#)
- [Nadine St-Pierre Award for outstanding scholarly achievement submitted in French](#)
- [Research Awards for Family Medicine Residents](#)
- [Medical Student Scholarships](#)
- [Medical Student Leadership Awards](#)

Funding for all awards is provided by the Research and Education Foundation of the College of Family Physicians of Canada. If you'd like to support these awards, consider a contribution to the [Research and Education Foundation](#).



Resident and Student Leadership Award Winners, FMF 2013 (Vancouver)



Join us for FMF 2014

November 13th-15th (Preconference Day November 12th)
Quebec City Convention Centre

Registration opens in mid-July! Visit our [website](#) for more information.

Canadian Family Physician - May 2014

Canadian Family Physician and the web version of the journal are a great resource for news, articles, research reports, and commentaries.

Some of the topics in [May's issue](#) include:

- **Clinical Review: Fourth Canadian Consensus Conference on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Dementia**
Recommendations for family physicians
Ainsley Moore, Christopher Patterson, Linda Lee, Isabelle Vedel, Howard Bergman
- **Child Health Update: Online resources in pediatrics**
Ran D. Goldman
- **RxFiles: Hypertension in the elderly**
New blood pressure targets and prescribing tips
Tessa Laubscher, Loren Regler, Shannon Stone



The Faces of Family Medicine this month profiles Dr. Melanie MacCara, a family physician at the Eastside Collaborative Practice in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

CHAPTER NEWS

SOLD OUT: The BCCFP 2014 Spring Family Medicine Conference will take place June 7th and 8th in Vancouver at the Four Seasons Hotel

Walk-in registration is not available.

To be placed on the waitlist, please send an email to office@bccfp.bc.ca with the following information:

1. First and last name
2. Telephone number
3. Email address

Please note that presentations will be videotaped and uploaded to the [BCCFP YouTube page](#).

SAVE THE DATE - the BCCFP 2014 Fall Family Medicine Conference will take place October 18th and 19th at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver and will feature new and diverse topics

For an early-bird reminder, please email office@bccfp.bc.ca

My Family Doctor Award

The My Family Doctor Award honours and celebrates the doctor-patient relationship, which is central to good health care and is known to help improve patient satisfaction and health outcomes.

The My Family Doctor Award was announced by the BCCFP in November to recognize excellence among family doctors in the province. Unlike other BCCFP awards, which are based on peer nominations, the My Family Doctor Award will be determined from nominations by patients who wish to recognize their own family doctors.

"We have received more than 185 nominations and we were inspired by the care that our members provide that is so valued by their patients," said BCCFP President Dr. Patricia Mirwaldt. "It has been a true privilege to review these nominations as they highlight the compassion of the profession, the partnership in care, and the real appreciation that patients feel for their family doctors. We will be announcing the inaugural recipient of this award at our upcoming Family Medicine Conference in June and will be recognizing both the family physician who was nominated as well as the individual who nominated him or her."

Manitoba College of Family Physicians 2014 Annual Scientific Assembly: [Photo Gallery](#)

[2014 Annual Scientific Assembly: Handouts from the 2014 ASA speaker presentations](#)

[2014 Annual Scientific Assembly: 2014 Award Recipients - Manitoba](#)

Nova Scotia College of Family Physicians: 2014 Family Medicine Assembly

Early-Bird Registration June 30th
[See More...](#)

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