Mandate:
In January 2001, the CFPC Executive Committee recommended that a Task Force be established to examine the future of Family Medicine Research in Canada, in particular to define the roles and relationships of the CFPC (including its Chapters) and the University Departments of Family Medicine in relation to family medicine research. Issues identified by the Executive Committee included the need for more cohesive promotion of Family Medicine research, strategic communications with the CIHR, and the potential for Chapters and University Departments of Family Medicine to become more involved in Family Medicine Research Networks.

Participants:
Dr. Michel Labrecque was appointed to be the Chair of this Task Force in April of 2001, effective for one year, beginning at the time of the first meeting.
Task Force participants represented various groups:
Dr. Alan Katz – representing the Family Medicine Department Research Directors
Dr. Marshall Godwin – representing the CFPC Section of Researchers
Dr. Marie-Dominique Beaulieu – representing Family Medicine Department Chairs
Dr. Louise Naismith – representing the Family Medicine Department Chairs
Dr. Peter Norton – representing the Family Medicine Department Chairs
Dr. Fred Burge – representing the Family Medicine Department Research Directors
Dr. Moira Stewart – representing the CFPC Section of Researchers
Dr. Cal Gutkin – representing the CFPC Executive Committee
Dr. Dominique Tessier – representing the CFPC Executive Committee
Dr. Rick Glazier – representing the CFPC Honors and Awards Committee
Mr. Peter Taylor – representing the CFPC’s Research and Education Foundation
Ms. Inese Grava-Gubins – representing the CFPC Research Department
Ms. Vanessa Orr – representing the CFPC Research Department (NaReS) 2001
Ms. Anita Lambert-Lanning – representing the CFPC Research Department (NaReS) 2002

The Task Force Activities:
Two face-to-face meetings:
September 15th-16th 2001 (cancelled due to world situation)
December 16th –17th 2001 at CFPC National Office
September 9th – 10th 2002 at CFPC National Office
Three teleconferences:
May 13th 2002
June 27th 2002
August 6th 2002
Large-scale e-mail consultation throughout the summer of 2002 on draft recommendations

Minutes of the meetings, teleconferences and summaries of the e-consultations are available upon request.
Preamble to the Recommendations of the Task Force:

Despite a climate of evidence-based medicine, there is a critical paucity of evidence to support the practice of Family Medicine. The Task Force on Research believes that research is vitally important to Family Medicine in Canada. The College and the University Departments, therefore, must support the generation and dissemination of unique knowledge to improve the practice of Family Medicine.

The Task Force on Research recognizes the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) as a member-centred organization dedicated to the well being of Canadians. Nearly 600 College members, with a defined interest in research, are represented by the CFPC Section of Researchers (SoR). The SoR is the College’s advisor on Family Medicine research matters. In the document, when the Task Force refers to the CFPC, the intended activities are aimed at the SoR as the CFPC’s advisory group on research matters.

The SoR is administratively supported by the Research Department of the CFPC.

The Research Department of the CFPC is currently involved in two realms of activity:

1) The promotion, support and development of Family Medicine research nationally as per the direction of the SoR

2) The support of research to meet the needs of the College as a national organization

Therefore, in order to successfully implement the Task Force recommendations, there must be vigorous and sustainable partnerships with the University Departments of Family Medicine and adequate human and financial resources for the Research Department at the CFPC.
A. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1. The University Departments of Family Medicine should work towards developing an accredited R3 (third year FM residency) enhanced skills training programs in family medicine research.

2. A proposal for a Research Training Fellowship in Family Medicine should be developed by the CFPC and University Departments of Family Medicine and submitted to CIHR.

3. A proposal for a comprehensive and targeted Family Physician Scientist Program should be developed by the CFPC and University Departments of Family Medicine and submitted to CIHR.

B. LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

1. The CFPC should advocate on a national level to achieve:
   a) the presence of a special advisor on Family Medicine research at the CIHR
   b) greater family physician presence on national grant panels and institute advisory boards
   c) an increased number of nationally funded research development meetings
   d) targeted research grant competition requests specific to Family Medicine at the CIHR and other granting agencies

2. CFPC should take a co-ordinating role in disseminating information about research opportunities to research directors and department chairs.

3. In partnerships with university departments, community-based research networks and others, the CFPC should assume roles in responding to opportunities of national importance to Family Medicine research.
   a) CFPC roles should include one or more of the following:
      - Facilitating networking (e.g. identifying potential national team members)
      - Hosting meetings & teleconferences
      - Providing a portion of travel costs for developmental meetings
      - Providing letters of support where appropriate
      - Initiating a key project (e.g. JANUS)
      - Providing direct project development support (e.g. provide pertinent demographic data)
      - Designating a co-investigator to represent the College
   
   b) University department roles should include one or more of the following:
      - Initiating projects
      - Creating core research teams
      - Ensuring release time for project investigators
      - Providing a portion of travel costs for developmental meetings
      - Obtaining ethics approvals
      - Providing direct project development support (e.g. writing the majority of the proposal)
      - Providing letters of support where appropriate

C. COMMUNICATION

1. Communication strategies of the CFPC should include showcasing the research accomplishments of its members to the profession (e.g. CFP, Kaleidoscope, FMF keynote speakers) and the public
2. The CFPC Research Department and the SoR webpages should (at the minimum) include:
   a. Contact information for:
      • the CFPC Research Department
      • SoR Executive Committee members
      • University department Directors of Research
      • CFPC Provincial College and Chapter research chairs
      • NaReS
      • JANUS
   b. Other Research Department documents (e.g. the FMR:CCI in a searchable format and other relevant documents to be determined by the Research Department in consultation with the SoR)
   c. Links to University DFM research webpages and other appropriate FM research-related website links (e.g. NAPCRG)

3. The university department websites should maintain research-related content. They should (at minimum) include:
   i. Link to the CFPC research webpages
   ii. Other research-related information as appropriate

D. CFPC RESEARCH INFRA-STRUCTURE

1. The CFPC Research Department should remain the administrative arm accountable for two realms of activity:
   a. The promotion, support and development of Family Medicine research nationally through the direction of the SoR
   b. The support of research to meet the needs of the College as national organization

2. In the light of recommendations of this report the SoR should review its mandate, structure and support. This will include preparation and submission of a revised SoR and Research Department budget.

3. SoR executive should organize a meeting with the research directors 1-2 days once a year at the FMF with support from the university departments.

4. NaReS is an important asset to family medicine research and should be promoted and maintained. The SoR should carry out a review of the role (terms of reference, mandate, organisational structure & infrastructure funding) of NaReS in the light of the Task Force Recommendations.

5. The SoR should develop policy/guidelines concerning the types of research projects that should be carried out by the CFPC in its various mandates.

6. On an annual basis the Honors & Awards Committee should consult with the SoR to ensure that the research awards are consistent with the Task Force recommendations.

7. The SoR, with the University departments, should develop strategic proposals for targeted funding in research development through the Research Education Foundation.

8. Working with the University departments and the Section of Research Executive, the CFPC Research Department will develop an annual summary document of all grant funding for Family Medicine Research in Canada.