Golden age of family medicine research

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end product follows a very similar process and is crucial to improving patient care.

There are many problems with current models of clinical practice guideline development and implementation,7 but they represent a tremendous opportunity for greater family physician engagement and influence on both research and knowledge translation.

Although Canada has been slow off the mark compared with other countries, one of the most exciting recent developments in family medicine research has been practice-based research networks, the largest of which is the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network.8 Practice-based research networks will provide unprecedented opportunities for family physicians who make important new clinical observations and who are practising as part of larger practice-based research networks to leverage the expertise of both their research colleagues and the collective clinical data available through the networks. Using evolving information technology to create virtual observatories where clinical observations can be shared and approaches to patient management compared is truly an innovation whose time has come.9

These are exciting times in family medicine research in Canada. If the past 20 years have seen a coming of age of research, surely the years ahead have the potential to be a golden age in which all family physicians—from the community-based family physician to the professional researcher—are fully engaged in the research enterprise of family medicine. The SOR will undoubtedly continue to play a crucial role as we usher this golden age in.

References
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