



ENHANCED SKILLS SURGERY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – WINTER 2016

CPD OPPORTUNITIES

- **CAGS DSTC Course**, Vancouver, BC, April 5–7, 2016
- **Canadian Hernia Society Hands-on Cadaver Lab**, Toronto, ON, September 7, 2016
- **CMAS Basic Laparoscopic Surgery Course**, Hamilton, ON, August 19–20, 2016

TOOLS FOR PRACTICE

- [Alberta College of Family Physicians – February 2016](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

- **SOGC West/Central CME 2016**, Banff, AB, March 31–April 2, 2016
- **SRPC Rural and Remote Medicine Course**, Charlevoix, QC, May 5–7, 2016
- **Alberta Digestive Disease Summit**, Lake Louise, AB, June 2–5, 2016
- **Canadian Surgery Forum**, Toronto, ON, September 8–11, 2016
- **Canadian Association of Wound Care Conference**, Niagara Falls, ON, November 3–6, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr Brian Geller, Chair, SK
Dr Fred Janke, BC/AB
Dr John Guilfoyle, ON
Dr Ryan Falk, Territories
Dr Nichelle Desilets, MB/SK

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Enhanced Skills Surgery (ESS) Program Committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada is a relatively new Community of Practice within the CFPC. The objective of the Committee is to create awareness of and support for the provision of surgical services within the context of a comprehensive family practice. There has been a lot of progress on this front in the past few years thanks to the leadership of Dr Robert Woollard and the support of the Rural Coordination Centre of British Columbia (RCCBC), the Alberta Rural Physician Action Plan (RPAP), the Saskatchewan Medical Association's Committee on Rural and Regional Practice (CORRP), the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC), and the CFPC.

The Committee has worked with the agencies above, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), and the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) to create a Joint Position Paper on Rural Surgery. The Committee has also created and published a curriculum for the teaching of ESS to family physicians. As we move forward, the Committee will continue to collaborate with these organizations and the Family Practice Anesthesia Community of Practice to develop more concrete next steps for the provision, maintenance, and expansion of rural surgery services.

As part of advancing these goals, the Committee attended the Enhanced Surgical Skills CME Program held in Banff, Alberta, at the end of January. At this highly productive meeting four subgroups, composed of members of the CFPC, SRPC, Royal College, CAGS, SOGC, Ministry of Health, regional health authorities, and regulatory agencies, worked together to find ways to meet the rural surgical needs of Canadians. These subgroups discussed issues related to operative obstetrics, privileging, and building networks, and worked on identifying the next steps for developing rural surgery. The workshops were well attended by people with plenty of good ideas and enthusiasm. An excellent vision for the future was developed and will serve to guide the interactions of this group with other agencies for quite some time.

Concurrently with the Banff meeting, the Committee took some time to plan continuing professional development (CPD) for this year's Family Medicine Forum (FMF). The Committee is excitedly planning for both top of scope and standard CPD offerings for the FMF in November 2016 in Vancouver and hopes to see you there.

Finally, the Committee is looking forward to striking a working group in the near future to work with the CFPC in developing a Certificate of Added Competence for ESS physicians. This is an exciting development for ESS physicians, who have strongly endorsed the process. We are eager to identify family physicians from around the country who are offering surgical services within their practices, and we are always looking for assistance with our many projects. If you or somebody you know is interested, please [contact us](#).

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Dr Brian Geller, Chair

Enhanced Skills Surgery Program Committee