

May 2006

## Dr. LaBuick nominee for 2006-07 president-elect

St. Albert family physician Dr. Darryl D. LaBuick was nominated March 24 by the Nominating Committee to become the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) president-elect for 2006-07.

Dr. LaBuick currently serves the AMA on the Board of Directors, the Representative Forum and through committee work. He also chairs the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta's Triplicate Prescription Program Standing Committee, the Pharmacists and Primary Care Networks Advisory Committee as well as the St. Albert and Sturgeon Primary Care Network.

In selecting Dr. LaBuick, the committee considered the following criteria: credibility with the profession; ability to build trust with members and the public; strong relationship-building skills; and demonstrated proficiency in communication, composure, comportment, character and commitment. The committee's list of candidates also considers a mix of representation (specialty, practice location and age).

The president-elect's term will begin September 15 at the Representative Forum/ annual general meeting in Edmonton when Dr. Gerhard N. Kiefer, the current president-elect, becomes president.

The AMA Constitution and Bylaws allows for an election if other president-elect candidates step forward. Please see the nominations package in the

**Fall 2006 RF/AGM  
September 14-16  
The Sutton Place, Edmonton**

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MD Scope mailing or visit [www.albertadoctors.org/InsideAMA/PENominee](http://www.albertadoctors.org/InsideAMA/PENominee). **Forward nomination forms to Michael A. Gormley, Executive Director, AMA. Nominations must be at the AMA office by 9 a.m., May 30.**

### Emailed this month:

- ✓ MD Scope
- ✓ Classified Ads
- ✓ Section News
- ✓ Billing Corner
- ✓ Medicalendar

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## CME allotments available May 1

May 1 marks availability of 2006 Continuing Medical Education (CME) allotments. Statements and claim forms will be in the mail to eligible physicians in early May.

Eligible physicians who have not received their CME statements and claim forms by mid-May should contact Deanna J. Longmuir, Membership and Benefits Administrator, AMA: [deanna.longmuir@albertadoctors.org](mailto:deanna.longmuir@albertadoctors.org), T 780.482.0324, TF 1.800.272.9680, ext. 324.

## Tips for Aging Drivers booklet available from Alberta Motor Association

Physicians who perform driver's medicals or who care for aging Albertans may find a new Alberta Motor Association booklet helpful.

The *Tips for Aging Drivers* booklet should assist aging drivers in understanding how their driving skills are changing, how to compensate for the changes and maintain their independence while limiting risks to themselves and others.

View the booklet on the Alberta Motor Association's website at [www.ama.ab.ca/agingdrivers](http://www.ama.ab.ca/agingdrivers).

To order copies of the booklet, please contact Nancy Dumont: T 780.430.5685 or [nancy.dumont.ama.ab.ca](mailto:nancy.dumont.ama.ab.ca).



Sound advice on sustaining the independence and mobility of aging drivers.  
[www.ama.ab.ca/agingdrivers](http://www.ama.ab.ca/agingdrivers)



## CBS discontinues weak D testing on maternal samples

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) Edmonton is no longer performing weak D testing on maternal samples.

Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine (CSTM) Standards and American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services state that weak D testing is not required for women who are pregnant, or who have been pregnant recently, when the test for the D antigen is negative.

As a result, some women who previously were reported as Rh Positive (weak D) may now be reported as Rh Negative and will require treatment with Rh Immune Globulin.

In these instances, a specific comment will be added to the Prenatal Report explaining the discrepancy in results from previous testing along with the Rh Immune Globulin eligibility comment.

The rationale for this decision to discontinue weak D testing on maternal samples includes all of the following:

- Reagents in use today are blended IgM/IgG monoclonal antibodies that detect most D antigen categories/variants
- Some patients with a weaker expression of the D antigen may be capable of forming an anti-D so would be best categorized as Rh(D) Negative rather than Rh (D) Positive
- There is no evidence that injection of Rh Immune Globulin to a woman with a weak D phenotype will result in red cell destruction in vivo

For more information about this change in weak D testing, please contact Jean Ashdown, Patient Services Laboratory Manager, Canadian Blood Services: T 780.431.8727 or [jean.ashdown@bloodservices.ca](mailto:jean.ashdown@bloodservices.ca).

## Senior Medical Advisor, Professional Affairs Alberta Medical Association

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The Alberta Medical Association (AMA) is the official voice of the medical profession in Alberta. From health reform to health issues – with government, the public and other health providers – the association concerns itself with how Albertans receive care and with the physicians' work environment.

The AMA is seeking a Senior Medical Advisor who will work closely with the Assistant Executive Director (Professional Affairs) to provide leadership for programs including the Physician and Family Support Program and AMA Physician Locum Services. The individual will also participate on, and provide support to, various external committees such as the Alberta Perinatal Health Program, Alberta Breast/Cervical Cancer Screening Committee and Triplicate Prescription Committee. He or she will also be involved in reviewing legislation and providing advice and information to physicians on a variety of topics.

The Senior Medical Advisor will be a physician eligible for licensure in Alberta and must have 10 years of clinical medical practice experience with strong leadership and communication skills. The individual must be knowledgeable about the Alberta health care system. Some formal administration preparation, such as a post-graduate degree in administration or the Physician Manager Institute Program and/or administrative experience, would be a decided asset.

If you are interested in exploring this leadership opportunity, forward your resume to Gerry Davies or Rita Pomietlarz at Davies Park Executive Search Consultants:

- [careers@daviespark.com](mailto:careers@daviespark.com)
- 1505 Scotia2, 10060 Jasper Ave NW, Edmonton AB T5J 3R8

Visit [www.daviespark.com](http://www.daviespark.com) for a detailed Opportunity Profile.



## Recent postings to AMA website

To find these recent postings online, first sign in on [www.albertadoctors.org](http://www.albertadoctors.org) with your AMA member number and password.

- ◆ WCB/AMA Highlights and Agreement – [www.albertadoctors.org/WCB/Agreement](http://www.albertadoctors.org/WCB/Agreement)
- ◆ President-Elect Nominee 2006-07 – [www.albertadoctors.org/InsideAMA/PENominee](http://www.albertadoctors.org/InsideAMA/PENominee)
- ◆ April 7 and 13 *President's Letters* – [www.albertadoctors.org/PresLetter/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/PresLetter/Index)
- ◆ Alberta Health and Wellness Bulletin Gen 55, March 31, 2006, Changes to Alberta Health and Wellness premium assistance programs – [www.albertadoctors.org/BillingAdvice/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/BillingAdvice/Index)
- ◆ AMA billing seminars – [www.albertadoctors.org/BillingSeminars/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/BillingSeminars/Index)
- ◆ AMA web calendar of events – [www.albertadoctors.org/Calendar/Events](http://www.albertadoctors.org/Calendar/Events)
- ◆ Practice and Locum Opportunities – [www.albertadoctors.org/Locums/Opportunities](http://www.albertadoctors.org/Locums/Opportunities)
- ◆ *Medicalendar* – [www.albertadoctors.org/Medicalendar/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/Medicalendar/Index)
- ◆ *Section News* – [www.albertadoctors.org/SectionNews/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/SectionNews/Index)
- ◆ *DUE Quarterly* – [www.albertadoctors.org/DUEQuarterly/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/DUEQuarterly/Index)
- ◆ *MD Scope* – [www.albertadoctors.org/MDScope/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/MDScope/Index)
- ◆ *Alberta Doctors' Digest* – [www.albertadoctors.org/Digest/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/Digest/Index)

AMA/CMA members save time and money with free online clinical resources. Search OVID Medline and other medical databases, and access MD Consult and EBSCOhost's collection of medical reference books, journals and patient education materials. Through the Lexi-Online drug database, access more than 8,000 Canadian brand names and monographs.

Visit [cma.ca](http://cma.ca), click on Clinical Resources and log in or register.

## What's new at POSP?

### ➤ POSP published new VCUR Product List

On April 18, an updated version of the Vendor Conformance and Usability Requirements (VCUR) came into effect and the Physician Office Support Program (POSP) published a new VCUR Product List.

All of the physician office systems on the list have passed VCUR conformance testing. Physicians who have not yet selected a vendor must select a physician office system from the new product list to qualify for POSP funding.

POSP is continuing to conformance-test physician office systems against VCUR and will issue updates as new products are added.

Physicians and vendors will have a grace period of three months to install upgrades to their existing physician office systems. Some physicians may find that their vendor does not have a product on the new Product List. They will have a period of eight months in which to ensure they are using a system that meets the new VCUR requirements.

### ➤ ToPD and CoPD specifications finalized

POSP has developed specifications to enable the transfer or conversion of patient data between electronic medical records (EMRs) should a physician decide to change clinics or vendors.

The Transfer of Patient Data (ToPD) and Conversion of Patient Data (CoPD) specifications have been sent to physician office system vendors, who now have six months in which to ensure their products conform to these specifications.

For more information about what is included in these specifications, visit the POSP website menu called Information for POS Vendors ([www.posp.ab.ca/vendors](http://www.posp.ab.ca/vendors)).

For more information:

[www.posp.ab.ca](http://www.posp.ab.ca)

T 780.452.1616

TF 1.866.817.3875

[posp@albertadoctors.org](mailto:posp@albertadoctors.org)



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# Primary Care Initiative

## Round 3 and Primary Care Network update

A new round of Primary Care Networks (PCN) had their letters of intent approved and are working on project and business plans.

AMA's Practice Management Program (PMP) consultants are working with physicians in the new networks to develop the physician groups. Business-related advice offered by PMP include: relationship options, governance and management structures, financial issues, legal/liability counsel, technology options and change management issues.



Over the next few months, networks from the first two rounds will continue to "go live." They will be added to the 14 networks now operating as part of the Primary Care Initiative.

Operating Primary Care Networks by health region follow. There are now 500 primary care physicians who are working within operating PCNs, and another 400 physicians are engaged in developing new networks.

### **Aspen Regional Health Authority**

- Bonnyville/Aspen PCN

### **Calgary Health Region**

- Calgary Rural PCN
- South Calgary PCN

### **Capital Health**

- Edmonton Oliver PCN
- Edmonton Southside PCN
- Edmonton West PCN
- Leduc Beaumont PCN
- St. Albert and Sturgeon PCN
- WestView PCN

### **Chinook Regional Health Authority**

- Chinook PCN

### **David Thompson Regional Health Authority**

- Red Deer PCN
- Rocky Mountain House PCN

### **East Central Health**

- Camrose PCN

### **Northern Lights Health Region**

- Wood Buffalo PCN

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# Upcoming AMA billing seminars



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## Topic: Changes to WCB Billing

- ◆ **Seminar #107 - May 2 (6-9 p.m.) - Edmonton (Session full.)**  
Classroom D (2nd floor), 2F1.04 Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre,  
University of Alberta Hospital, 8440 112 St NW
- ◆ **Seminar #109 - May 3 (6-9 p.m.) - Red Deer**  
Dana Soltes Auditorium, Red Deer Regional Hospital, 3942 50A Ave
- ◆ **Seminar #111 - May 9 (6-9 p.m.) - Medicine Hat**  
Lecture Theatre Level 3, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, 666 5 St SW
- ◆ **Seminar #110 - May 10 (6-9 p.m.) - Lethbridge**  
Parkade Meeting Room P104A, Lethbridge Regional Hospital, 960 19 St S
- ◆ **Seminar # 116 - May 11 (6-9 p.m.) - Calgary**  
Theatre, Mount Royal College, 833 4 Ave SW
- ◆ **Seminar #113 - May 16 (6-9 p.m.) - Hinton**  
In Service Room, Hinton Health Care Centre, 1280 Switzer Dr
- ◆ **Seminar #114 - May 30 (6-9 p.m.) - Lloydminster**  
Conference Room #1, Lloydminster Hospital, 3820 43 Ave
- ◆ **Seminar #115 - May 31 (6-9 p.m.) - Vegreville**  
Meeting Room, St. Joseph's Hospital, 5241 43 St, Vegreville
- ◆ **Seminar #112 - June 12 (6-9 p.m.) - Grande Prairie**  
Auditorium, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, 10449 98 St

**Session facilitator:** Marilyn L. Kroon, Consultant, Fees, Health Economics, AMA

**Seminar fees:** No-charge seminar for AMA members and their staff for these WCB seminars. However, registration forms must still be submitted if you wish to attend. Download an application form from the AMA website ([www.albertadoctors.org/BillingSeminars/Index](http://www.albertadoctors.org/BillingSeminars/Index)). Print, complete and mail or fax to the AMA.

**Please apply early:** Contact Irene Townshend, Administrative Assistant, Practice Management Program, AMA: T 780.732.3356, TF 1.800.272.9680, ext. 356, F 780.482.5445 or email [billingadvice@albertadoctors.org](mailto:billingadvice@albertadoctors.org).



*"We cannot live better than in seeking  
to become better."*

Socrates

PFSP offers on-request presentations, workshops and seminars about physician health: Work/Life Balance, Physician Stress and Burnout, Physicians for Physicians, Creating Effective Healthy Workplaces, Effective Conflict Management, Physician Retirement – Beyond the Financials, Mindful Meditation, Sleep, Alertness and Fatigue, The Resilient Medical Family, The Medical Marriage and health promotion events and initiatives.

- ◆ PFSP can also provide support groups in your community.
- ◆ Interested in a presentation, workshop, seminar or support group? Phone the PFSP administration office at 403.228.2880 or email [pfsp@albertadoctors.org](mailto:pfsp@albertadoctors.org).

### Watch for these conferences/workshops

- ◆ **2006 AMA/CMA International Conference on Physician Health**, Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, November 30-December 2. For more information, visit [cma.ca](http://cma.ca). For details about the conference, please contact Susan Yungblut: TF 1.800.663.7336 or [susan.yungblut@cma.ca](mailto:susan.yungblut@cma.ca).
- ◆ **The Physician Health Program of BC, Annual Education Conference, "Physicians are Human Too,"** The Grand Okanagan, Lakefront Resort and Conference Centre, Kelowna, Saturday, May 6. To register, contact Suzann Schulhof, Administrative Coordinator, Physician Health Program: T 604. 742.0745 or [php.radiant.net](http://php.radiant.net).

### Access PFSP referral and counseling services

- ◆ Call 1.877.767.4637 toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

### Physicians for Physicians

- ◆ PFSP keeps an updated list of Physicians for Physicians.
- ◆ Are you a physician for physician in the PFSP clinical network? Would you like to be? Plan on attending a May workshop in Calgary or Edmonton to share and build upon your expertise. Contact PFSP administrative office: T 403.228.2880 or [pfsp@albertadoctors.org](mailto:pfsp@albertadoctors.org).

## @ your service

Discover the wide range of benefits and services available to you and your family as a member of the AMA and the Canadian Medical Association (CMA).

Refer to the AMA/CMA @ *your service* guide – go to [www.albertadoctors.org/BenefitsandServices/Intro](http://www.albertadoctors.org/BenefitsandServices/Intro) – for information about membership and about innovative products and services designed to meet your professional, personal and financial needs.

We're pleased to be "at your service."



## Email from AMA: It's the way to go!

Email is the best way to receive the latest information . . . in the least amount of time . . . in the most efficient way. If you haven't switched from fax or post, you may want to think about it now!

Forward your email address by contacting Kirsten M. Sieben, Membership and Benefits Administrator, AMA: [kirsten.sieben@albertadoctors.org](mailto:kirsten.sieben@albertadoctors.org), T 780.482.0323, TF 1.800.272.9680, ext. 323.

