

Family Medicine Review

August 18, 2022

Welcome to the most recent issue of the *Family Medicine Review*. Brought to you by the Sections of Family Medicine and Rural Medicine, the *Review* offers an at-a-glance summary of information, resources and events for Alberta's family physicians. New issues will be shared monthly.

Priority Notes

- ❖ *Voting for SFM President-Elect is now open (see Governance)*
- ❖ *Vaccines are now available for children under five (see COVID-19)*
- ❖ *Article on the challenges of being a family doctor in a small town (see Physician Supply)*
- ❖ *AGMs and learning opportunities (see Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Deadlines)*

Governance

- Voting for the SFM President-Elect position is now open. Two candidates are running for the position and the successful candidate will serve a one-year term beginning September 23, 2022.

The President-Elect will then serve as SFM President from September 2023 through to September 2026. Note that SFM members may only vote once for a single candidate.

Candidates running for the SFM President-Elect position are:

- Dr. Scott Beach, Calgary [Bio](#)
- Dr. Jon Hilner, St. Albert [Bio](#)

Voting opened on Wednesday, August 17 and will close at 4 p.m. on Friday, September 16. Ballot results will be tallied on September 16 in the presence of scrutineers.

If you are experiencing any issues with the e-vote, or have questions about the election, please contact section.services@albertadoctors.org.

****Please note: Only active, voting members of the Section of Family Medicine are permitted to vote.***

Ready to vote? Member login required. [VOTE NOW](#)

COVID-19

- On July 29, the province announced that parents and guardians [of children between six months and five years of age could begin booking appointments for a first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as of August 2](#). As of August 15, the province reported that [6,621 children under five had received their first dose](#).
- [Effective July 20, Albertans 18 years and older were able to book appointments for second booster doses](#), five months after receiving their last dose.
- Effective July 18, [AHS no longer required COVID-19 immunization as a condition of employment](#).
- [Several eligibility and operational changes to the province's PCR testing program came into effect on Monday, July 18](#). Going forward, tests to inform clinical treatment will need a referral from a medical professional and some testing locations will change.

Advocacy

- The [August 12 President's Letter](#) discussed the process for inviting AMA members and those that are part of the online [PatientsFirst.ca](#) community to share their health care-related questions for the candidates running for leadership of the United Conservative Party.
- The AMA's [Care Deficit Assessment Series \(CDAS\)](#) continues to explore the delays Albertans are experiencing in accessing care across the health care system. So far, the series has addressed issues such as Pediatric Mental Health, Women's Health, Care of the Elderly, Emergency Departments and Dermatology. Several other issue papers are planned.
- The AMA has set up [PatientsFirst.ca](#) as a place where patients can share their own care deficit experiences. The next time you or your staff have to tell a patient that you aren't accepting patients or that they must wait for a service they need, please direct them to [PatientsFirst.ca](#) to tell their story.
- SFM and SRM leadership continue to meet with partners and policymakers to advocate on the key concerns that matter to family physicians. This includes issues such as practice survivability, compensation, physician supply and informatics.

Physician Supply

- Several communities across the province continued to experience acute care and ED bed closures including, most recently, the communities of [Elk Point](#), [Consort](#) and [Grimshaw](#).
- A recent Maclean's article explored [one family physician's personal experiences and challenges living and working in a small town](#).
- [A CBC article explored why financial incentives aren't enough to address health care staffing shortages](#).

Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Deadlines

Section of Family Medicine - Annual General Meeting

To be held in-person immediately preceding the Family Medicine Meeting.

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m. (dinner and registration at 5:30 p.m.)
Location: Imperial Ballroom
Hyatt Regency Calgary
700 Centre Street S
Calgary, AB T2G 5P6

Only active members of the section are eligible to vote on section business matters.

SAVE THE DATE! Section of Rural Medicine – Annual General Meeting

To be held virtually.

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Only active members of the section are eligible to vote on section business matters.

Mark your calendars and watch your inbox for more information.

Practical Evidence for Informed Practice 2022

Registration for the 11th annual PEIP 2022 is now open!

Held on October 21-22, 2022 and will be a Hybrid Event: in-person (Edmonton) and live webcast.

Please plan to attend for entertaining, evidence-based reviews of clinically relevant primary care topics. Ideal for family physicians, nurses, pharmacists, Family Medicine residents and health care students. Free from industry support.

For additional information, please view the [PEIP Newsletter](#) and [PEIP Toolkit](#).

To register for PEIP 2022, please go to www.peipconference.ca.

Best regards,

Dr. Craig Hodgson
President
Section of Family Medicine

Dr. Samantha Myhr
President
Section of Rural Medicine