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Dr. Melanie Marsh-Joyal, President
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Dr. Tyler Pirlot, President, Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
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Section of Palliative Medicine
Welcome to the Section of Palliative Medicine!
The Section of Palliative Medicine welcomes any physician providing palliative care in Alberta as a member, and associate membership is open to other physicians.

Framework on Palliative Care in Canada
In December 2017, the federal government passed a Private Members Bill C-277 (42-1) – “An Act providing for the development of a Framework on Palliative Care in Canada”. On December 4th, 2018, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, tabled the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada.

Improving palliative care in Alberta
Most physicians and caregivers practice a spectrum of palliative approach to care. In order to improve palliative care in Alberta, the Section of Palliative Medicine is in the early stages of exploring, with the AMA and the Section of General Practice, an appropriate compensation strategy for family physicians.

Event
Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians - ALPM Conference
When: May 23 - 25
Where: Calgary
Theme: Expanding our Reach Together
For more information:
CSPCP Advanced Learning in Palliative Medicine
Registration

Section of General Practice
It takes a team! Supporting dementia-affected and vulnerable adults
AHS releases PHC IGSI Final Evaluation Executive Summary

In 2015, a joint AMA/Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network survey of Alberta's general practitioners revealed that many family physicians did not feel equipped to support the needs of patients living with dementia.

Since then, through a series of workshops and a study*, the Primary Health Care Integrated Geriatric Services (PHC IGSI) team has been committed to enhancing the capacity of community-based teams (including physicians) to recognize, diagnose and provide ongoing care and support for people living in the community with dementia, frailty or other geriatric syndromes.

A series of three workshops – delivered in 2017-18 to primary care teams and partners from health and social sectors – focused on increasing capacity to support patients through their dementia journey; from recognizing dementia and providing proactive, post-diagnosis care, to supporting dementia-affected patients through end-of-life. A fourth workshop – “Healthy Aging: Social and Health Supports” – is scheduled for June 14 (email seniorshealth.scn@ahs.ca for more information).

Developing an integrated approach to the care of vulnerable adults by supporting primary care teams in their development of relationships with health and social partners is a priority of the PHC IGSI. Health partners include PCNs, home care and seniors’ mental health agencies; social partners include organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Society, Family and Community Support Services, seniors’ outreach groups and caregivers for those living with dementia.

*PHC IGSI Final Evaluation Executive Summary

For more Information:
Primary Health Care Integrated Geriatrics Services Initiative/PHC IGSI, Seniors Health SCN
Alberta Netcare e-Referral Advice Request: Support patient care in the community

Alberta Netcare e-Referral Advice Request (FAQs) is a confidential electronic messaging system for physicians to ask non-urgent clinical questions and get a response from specialists within five calendar days.

Currently, 22 specialties offer this service in Alberta. A complementary service to telephone advice such as Specialist LINK (a physician-only service providing a tele-advice line, clinical pathways and other resources to Calgary area physicians), the Alberta Netcare e-referral Advice Request system allows physicians to send their questions, along with attachments, 24/7. It is available to all physicians and clinical support staff who have access to the Alberta Netcare system.

Survey
Please complete this short survey (deadline: April 1) to help Alberta Health understand primary care physicians’ awareness of and satisfaction with the eReferral Advice Request system. Your input is important and will help inform improvements to this secure messaging system, which helps physicians provide timely care to patients in their communities.

For more information:
FAQs – Alberta Netcare e-Referral Advice Request
Alberta Netcare e-Referral

SGP Bulletin - February 20, 2019

Medical Informatics Update
As you are well aware, there are several IM/IT initiatives currently underway in Alberta. Community Information Integration (CII), Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR), Connect Care, and MyHealth Records are a few that will directly impact family physicians. ... more

Section of General Psychiatry
Events and Education

Event

Alberta Psychiatric Association Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting

When: March 22-24, 2019

Where: The Rimrock Hotel in Banff

Details: Keynote speaker, Dr. Sidney Kennedy, will be kicking off the conference at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 22. Fees Representative, Dr. Roger Rampling, will close the conference Sunday, March 24, with a billing seminar sure to help you optimize your billing.

Click here to register now!

Education

Psychiatric Quarterly Updates: March 8 - November 30

This series of updates aims to provide healthcare professionals with an evidence-based overview of multiple topics within the psychiatric domain. Each half-day session aims to cover important topics such as diagnosis review and update, treatment/therapeutic use and application and local perspectives and resources as it pertains to that sessions’ focus. This course will be structured as a self-assessment program eligible for Section 3 MOC credits.

Alcohol Use Disorder - March 8

June 7th, 2019 - Psychosis

September 2019 - TBD

November 2019 - TBD

Virtual Learning Journey: Opioid Dependency Treatment

Join Dr. Rob Tanguay, Dr. Laura Evans and Dr. Krishna Balachandra as they take you on a Virtual Learning Journey through Opioid Dependency Treatment, with the following series of case presentations:

March 15   Why do I have to be aware of cultural diversity when treating my patients?
April 12   How do I treat my patient who is in different settings with OAT**?
May 17     iOAT (IV) SROM
June 21    How do I taper my patient to completion of OAT?

These three-hour sessions (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) will give you an opportunity to learn from experts across the province about *Opiate Use Disorder (OUD) and **Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) through didactic presentations, de-identified case discussions, and Q&A periods.

Join via livestream: https://livestream.com/accounts/3923953/events/8457082 (note: link will be active at time of events)

Joint submission: Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry / Section of General Psychiatry
2019 Psychiatry Online Literature Review Course

Events and Education
The Psychiatry Online Literature Review Course (POLRC) is a very easy way to obtain up to 38 CME credits from the convenience of your home, while keeping up with recent developments in the field of psychiatry. The POLRC also offers an opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues.

2019 Psychiatry Online Literature Review Course
When: February 4 - May 26
Registration is now open
‘Highlights of 2018’
The focus of the 2019 POLRC is 'Highlights of 2018'. As in previous years, we chose seminal articles from the areas of General Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, that were published in 2018.
For more information:
POLRC brochure
POLRC course information and to register

Please feel free to contact me (Thomas.raedler@ahs.ca) if you require additional information.
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