



February 2022

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General News

Blood test supply shortage

Last week physicians were advised that AHS is experiencing a temporary shortage of blood test supplies. Please see the [lab bulletin](#) and [news release](#) for more information.

Renew your membership today!

If you haven't already, please consider renewing your membership today. Every membership renewal counts, and ensures members stand together on the issues that matter to patients and each other. Visit the AMA website to learn more about [why you should renew](#).

Please feel free to reach out to the AMA's Membership team with any questions:

phone: 780-482-0323 | toll-free 1-866-714-5724, ext. 5323

email: kirsten.sieben@albertadoctors.org.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry & General Psychiatry

2022 APA Virtual Scientific Conference March 26 & 27

Speaker schedule is 9 am-12:30 pm daily, leaving afternoons for Psychiatry AGMs.

The conference will be virtual again this year, but we hope that members will enjoy the dynamic speaker schedule that has been organized. Please join us! Upon registration, meeting link and information will be emailed.

[Schedule and Registration](#)

- **Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual General Meeting – March 26 @ 1:30 pm**
- **Section of General Psychiatry Annual General Meeting – March 27 @ 12:45 pm**

Call for Resident Presentations for the APA Scientific Conference:

Presentations should be no more than 30 minutes and remitted no later than **Monday, March 7, 2022**. Prizes available. Please click [HERE](#) for details.

Advocacy Efforts

Your APA Executive has been advocating for urgently needed updates to psychiatry's virtual codes. We have written letters sounding the alarm about the impact on our section when we were excluded from the corrections addressing indirect care and complexity for other sections in the AHCIP Bulletin, MED 252: Enhanced Virtual Care Codes, released January 1, 2022. We then had urgent meetings with AMA leadership, and late last week with AMA's support, directly with Health Minister Copping. The Minister then directed that there be a follow up meeting with SOMB staff, and this occurred February 24, 2022. We will be providing further details on this meeting, which reiterated concerns and observations from our section as soon as we are able.

General Psychiatry's two RF representatives, Dr. Sudhakar Sivapalan and Dr. Manrit Kaur Takhar, are now drafting a resolution for the next AMA RF to address concerns around the negotiation process that has been imposed, one that has significantly impacted AMA's ability to consult with sections during negotiations.

The Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry also recently collaborated with the Section of General Psychiatry, with our Presidents sending a joint letter ([SCAP member access](#) & [General Psychiatry access](#) – member login required) of concern to the Minister of Health and to [media](#), flagging the crisis in child and adolescent mental health, and engaging in subsequent media interviews to expand awareness of the issues.

To reach the Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry President, Dr. Sterling Sparshu, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

To reach the Section of General Psychiatry President, Dr. Kathy Fitch, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Family Medicine

MEME Conference (Making Evidence Matter for Everyone)

The MEME Conference is being held **May 27 & 28**, online and in Vancouver, BC.

From the clinicians who brought you Tools for Practice, BS Medicine Podcast, and the Meds Conference, this event is evidence-based with no sponsorship and funded entirely by registration fees – we make evidence fun!

Topics include:

- Top 5 Strong Recommendations with Really High NNTs
- What to Aim for When Your Heart and Kidneys Are Under Pressure?
- An Acute Discussion of a Chronic Pain Guideline
- One Pill, Two Pill, Red Pill, Blue Pill
- Next Steps in Difficult Depression
- To Bleed or Not to Bleed: Rational Perioperative Anticoagulation Management
- What Is the Evidence for Pain Management in People Who Use OAT?
- Insulins: A Stabbing Look at Which Ones and When
- When Should Drug "Approval" = Your Approval? and much more.

Register at <https://hectalks.com/conferences/> before early bird rates expire.

To reach the Section of Family Medicine President, Dr. Craig Hodgson, please email sfmpres@albertadoctors.org.

Generalists in Mental Health

Invitation to Meet and Greet

The Executive of the Section of Generalists in Mental Health invite all members to a Meet and Greet and introduction to the Executive.

Date: March 3, 2022

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Zoom meeting:

Please register by following this link: <https://albertadoctors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrf-mpqDMrHtXfzs10fPRc3amYJai68tLW>

Once registered, a direct link to the meeting will be sent to you to join.

This will be a great opportunity to meet fellow colleagues - we hope to see you there!

Section Annual General Meeting

Date: March 15, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm

Zoom meeting:

Please register by following this link (once registered, the meeting link will be sent to you):

<https://albertadoctors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrdugogDMpGdIMmH4Fbz34AZZeQg-4m2BN>

Once registered, a direct link to the meeting will be sent to you to join.

To reach the Section of Generalists in Mental Health President, Dr. Monica Hill, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Specialty Care Alliance

The Specialty Care Alliance (SCA) provides a forum for the unified voice of Alberta's Specialty Care physicians. SCA works with stakeholders to advance common interests and shared goals, with a commitment to patient care, partnerships, and driving system improvement.

Two key upcoming SCF sessions and highlights:

Specialty Care Forum (SCF) Virtual Meeting – Tuesday, March 8

- Board presentation
- Health Economics update & discussions on an interim income equity approach & transition plan
- SCA & Joint Physician Advocacy Committee (JPAC) updates
- RF motions

Specialty Care Forum (SCF) In-Person Meeting – Thursday, May 12

- Board updates on negotiations
- Health Economics update on continued discussions on interim income equity approach and transition plan
- Community Information Integration (CII) update & Informatics

For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact:

- [Dr. Graham Campbell](#), Chair
- [Dr. Duncan McCubbin](#), Deputy Chair



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