



March 2022

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General News

Negotiations Webinar

The Section of Family Medicine, Section of Rural Medicine and Specialty Care Alliance will co-host a webinar on April 5 from 6 – 8 p.m. to update members on negotiations.

The webinar will include a panel presentation, followed by a Q & A session with all attendees. The presentation component will provide members with the following:

- An update on our interest-based negotiations with Alberta Health.
- A progress update on the AMA's lawsuit.
- Information about the latest progress on the Income Equity Initiative.

The session will be recorded and posted to the AMA website (member login required), and we will inform members when the recording is available for viewing.

Please [register here](#) for the April 5 webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the webinar. We look forward to seeing you there!

The AMA Physician Hours of Work Study has launched!

The Alberta Medical Association is conducting a physician hours of work study, which will measure daily hours of work and is an important component of the AMA Income Equity Initiative. Additionally, the results may be used for negotiations, the AMA gender pay differences project, and other AMA physician workload analyses.

The AMA has contracted with Malatest, an independent research firm, to conduct this study. Malatest will be emailing randomly selected Alberta physicians to invite them to participate by logging work activities using a web-based tool. We encourage all who receive an invite to consider participating in this important study.

At this time, only physicians who are randomly selected will be able to participate in the study. This random selection process is used to achieve a statistically representative sample.

Please [click here](#) for further information.

Family Medicine

Call for Nominations for SFM Outstanding Service Award

The Section of Family Medicine is currently accepting nominations for the SFM Outstanding Service Award. The SFM Outstanding Service Award is a one-time recognition award bestowed for outstanding contributions in support of SFM's bylaw purposes. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to Dr. Craig Hodgson, President, Section of Family Medicine, by active/voting members of the SFM, accompanied by a detailed letter of support, outlining why the candidate should be considered.

In May, the SFM Executive Committee will render its decision on the final recipient and the award will be presented at the SFM's Annual General Meeting in September, along with announcements in the *SFM Bulletin* and *AMA Section News*.

The deadline for this year's nominations for the SFM Outstanding Service Award is Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

To submit nominations for the SFM Outstanding Service Award, or to reach the Section of Family Medicine President, Dr. Craig Hodgson, please email sfmpres@albertadoctors.org.

Pediatrics

Section Advocacy Work

Upcoming:

- COVID19 Mental Health Crisis: The section developed a RF motion to advocate for the AMA to develop a mental health task force. This will be presented at the RF in May.

Completed:

- Virtual Care Billing Code: The Section wrote a letter to Dr. Vesta Michelle Warren, AMA President, and JPAC requesting enhancement of the virtual billing codes given the prolonged visits that are often required in pediatric care, especially developmental and mental health care. The letter was responded to by Dr. Warren who identified that prolonged virtual visits should have alternative billing codes.

- COVID19 and Government Restriction Changes: The Section wrote an opinion piece expressing our disappointment at the early lifting of the COVID protections. This was followed up with a letter to government expressing the same opinion and asking for increased access to vaccinations for children 5-11 years of age.
- COVID-19 Immunizations in Children Ages 5-11: Section President, Dr. Sam Wong, met with the Minister of Health, Dr. Cora Constantinescu and Dr. Jim Kellner to review strategies to increase pediatric COVID-19 immunizations for children ages 5-11. The Minister was amenable to the idea of increasing vaccine accessibility including walk-in clinics, but government was not open to the idea of school vaccine clinics.
- A pediatric COVID-19 workshop was hosted by Dr. Constantinescu and was attended by approximately 35 physicians.

Upcoming Events

- Section of Pediatrics [Grant Application](#) due April 15, 2022.

To reach the Section of Pediatrics President, Dr. Sam Wong, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Rural Medicine

University of Calgary Professional Development Courses

Course: 39th Annual Calgary Therapeutics Course

Dates: April 1, April 29, April 30, 2022

[Registration](#)

Course: You Gut This: Managing GI and Liver Issues with Confidence in the Medical Home – Chronic Constipation and Pediatric Constipation

Date: April 7, 2022

[Registration](#) (registration is free)

Course: Pearls for Family Practice: Building Confidence to Recognize and Co-Manage Parkinson's Disease in Primary Care

Date: April 13, 2022

[Registration](#)

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Samantha Myhr, please email srmpres@albertadoctors.org.



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