

# Section

# News



**ALBERTA  
MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

Welcome to the Alberta Medical Association's *Section News* - an opportunity for sections to report on their challenges and objectives. This service helps sections communicate with all AMA members as well as physicians in their own specialties. Your feedback is encouraged. Please contact Alexis Caddy, Communications Consultant, or Agnes E. McIntyre, Administrative Assistant, Section Services: T 780.482.2626; TF 1.800.272.9680; email: [alexis.caddy@albertadoctors.org](mailto:alexis.caddy@albertadoctors.org) or [agnes.mcintyre@albertadoctors.org](mailto:agnes.mcintyre@albertadoctors.org).

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May 2011

## **General Practice Representation Working Group**

◇ **Section of General Practice**  
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◇ **PCN Leads Executive**  
**Dr. Allan L. Bailey**  
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*The Section of General Practice (SGP), Section of Rural Medicine (SRM) and the Primary Care Network (PCN) Leads Executive now issue a joint Section News submission, under the General Practice Representation Working Group (GPRWG) banner, about current issues affecting general practitioners.*

*All comments and feedback on the GPRWG Section News submission should be emailed to Ms Nella Papaianni, Manager, General Practice Liaison ([nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org](mailto:nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org)).*

### **\* Primary care activities update**

The Alberta Medical Association's (AMA's) GPRWG recently met to determine which areas within the

AMA's Tactical Plan on Primary and Chronic Care are most consistent with the agreement in principle and will support the AMA's commitment to work with the Alberta Government to improve access and care for Albertans.

The following activities/priorities were identified:

- Allowing physicians to better use available technology to improve access to care, enhance communication and improve efficiencies
- Addressing over-crowding and resulting stress on Alberta's emergency rooms with an after-hours care modifier to serve as an incentive for physicians to keep their private practices open longer
- Enhancing the ability of physicians to use expanded health care teams by removing Schedule of Medical Benefits rules that provide a disincentive for physicians in the use of expanded teams
- Providing ongoing support to physicians to either develop or maintain validated patient lists

We are creating implementation plans for the activities/priorities above. Stay tuned for more information.

### **\* General practitioner governance**

Work continues to develop the new governance model. As we do so, we would like to have any organized special interest groups within primary care identify themselves (e.g., hospitalists). We want to ensure all primary care interests are well represented within the new governance model.

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If you are a leader of an organized special interest group within primary care, please email Ms Papaiani ([nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org](mailto:nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org)).

★ **Clinical networks**

SGP, SRM, PCN Leads Executive and the Alberta College of Family Physicians are looking for general practitioners interested in serving on the following clinical network committees and working groups.

- Cancer Care Clinical Network
- Cancer Care Working Groups – Lung Cancer, Referral and Triage, Tumor Boards, Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Clinical Network

More information is available on the AMA's website ([www.albertadoctors.org](http://www.albertadoctors.org)), click on the Advocacy header and select Primary and Chronic Care.

The deadline for submission is **Monday, May 16**.

For more information or to submit an application, please contact Ms Cindy Trueman, Coordinator, Health Economics, Alberta Medical Association by email ([cindy.trueman@albertadoctors.org](mailto:cindy.trueman@albertadoctors.org)).

★ **Joint AMA-AHS consultation meetings**

Thank you to everyone who attended the joint AMA-AHS consultation meetings in March/April about primary care models. We received great feedback from attendees.

We will be meeting with AHS in the next couple of weeks to evaluate the outcomes of the meetings and to discuss next steps.

★ **GP leadership**

This is a reminder for all general practitioners in leadership positions to identify themselves. The GPRWG is creating a database that will be utilized to seek feedback on some projects and/or issues. This is an ongoing project.

If you are a physician in a leadership position who has not yet identified yourself, please email Ms Papaiani ([nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org](mailto:nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org)).

★ **PCN continuance and AHW Grant Funding Agreement**

The PCN Physician Lead Executive and AMA senior staff recently met to discuss the request from the

Ministry of Health and Wellness for Non-Profit Corporation (NPC) signature of a Grant Funding Agreement by April 30. The AMA received lots of feedback from PCN physicians on the details of the Grant Funding Agreement as well as the unilateral nature with which it was done.

Following the discussion, an urgent meeting with Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW) senior staff, Dr. Allan L. Bailey (Co-chair, PCN Physician Leads Executive) and AMA staff was held to clarify key issues and questions raised by a number of physicians. These included, but were not limited to, whether the existing rules and established trilateral processes remain unchanged and whether this new Grant Funding Agreement gives AHW the ability to unilaterally approve PCN business plans. Early suggestions indicated the process was an interim measure to continue the flow of PCN funds while the Trilateral Master Agreement is being negotiated; however, your executive needed explicit confirmation of that to ensure the best interests of all NPCs is being considered.

Outcomes of the meeting offered the following confirmations:

- Funding for the April payment to the NPCs would flow whether the Grant Funding Agreement was signed by April 30 or not.
- The deadline to sign the Grant Funding Agreement has been extended to May 16 to allow the parties time to get written clarification on the issues.
- Communication will go to each of the NPCs clarifying the purpose of the Grant Funding Agreement as well as clarifying those issues identified by physicians.

The PCN Physician Lead Executive met May 6 to discuss the implications for NPCs relating to the Grant Funding Agreement and will communicate their recommendation to all NPCs following their discussion.

★ **Evolution of PCNs**

The PCN Physician Leads Executive met on Friday, May 6 to further discuss the evolution of PCNs. The executive will review the goals/objectives of PCNs and primary care going forward. Specifically, they will consider short, medium and long term strategies for primary care.

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### \* Annual Cardiovascular Update

Please save the date for the Annual Cardiovascular Update for practising general practitioners/family physicians taking place Saturday, November 19 at Telus Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

This will be the 25th year of the Annual Cardiovascular Update. With the grand opening of the C.K. Hui Heart Centre on May 2, this will be a year of momentous events in cardiology at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

We hope you will be able to attend this popular and important conference. Please watch for more details.

### Section of Internal Medicine

**Dr. Rajdeep S. Padwal, President**

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### \* Notice of meeting

Canadian Society of Internal Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting in collaboration with the American College of Physicians (Atlantic Chapter):

- October 12-15
- The Westin Nova Scotian, in Halifax, NS
- Reservations: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1012214653&key=760C5>
- For more information:  
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### Section of Ophthalmology

**Dr. J. Gary Chornell, Executive Director**

### \* February 4-6 - annual general business and scientific meeting

The Ophthalmological Society of Alberta (OSA) held its annual scientific meeting and tradeshow at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, February 4-6. The scientific meeting was very successful with 45 ophthalmologists attending the conference and over 100 technicians attending the technical program.

The tradeshow featured 18 different exhibitors featuring the latest technology in diagnostic equipment and the newest ophthalmic lasers.

At the annual general business meeting on February 4, it was announced that the OSA has officially changed its name to Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta. Dr. Bill P.C. Chow of Calgary will stay on as president and Dr. Ken G. Romanchuk will serve as president-elect.

- **September 23 - semi-annual general business meeting**

The Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta (formerly OSA) will hold its next semi-annual general business meeting at the Calgary Westin Hotel on Friday, September 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Supper will be served. It will be held in conjunction with the AMA Representative Forum.

- **February 3-5, 2012 - annual general business and scientific meeting**

The next annual general business meeting and scientific meeting of the Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta will be held at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, February 3-5, 2012. This is a combined business meeting, scientific meeting and tradeshow. Dr. Dean Y. Mah and Dr. Ezekiel Weis are the contacts for this meeting (contact details below).

- **February 9-11, 2013 - annual business and scientific meeting**

The Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta will hold its 2013 annual business and scientific meeting at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel February 9-11, 2013. Drs. Mah and Weis are the contacts for this meeting.

### Registration chairman

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