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 Agnes E. McIntyre, Administrative Assistant, Section Services: T 780.482.2626; TF 1.800.272.9680; email agnes.mcintyre@albertadoctors.org.

Primary Care Alliance
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◊ PCN Leads Executive
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◊ Alberta College of Family Physicians
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The Primary Care Alliance (PCA), which includes the Section of General Practice, Section of Rural Medicine, the Primary Care Network (PCN) Physician Leads Executive and the Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP), issues a joint Section News submission about current issues affecting general practitioners.

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

PCA Board meeting – June 2012

Members of the PCA Board met on June 13. Highlights of this meeting include:

• Family care clinics (FCCs) – Members received an update from AMA senior staff on the issue of FCCs. The AMA is currently finalizing a discussion paper on the AMA’s future vision for FCCs, primary care networks (PCNs) and family physician clinics. In a recent issue of the AMA President’s Letter, AMA President Dr. Linda M. Slocombe states: “[The discussion paper] outlines an approach to allow us to deliver a medical home for every Albertan, with a family physician supported by a multidisciplinary team to provide ongoing, comprehensive and integrated primary care.” The discussion paper will be available for download from the AMA’s website. Please stay tuned.

• Strategic clinical networks (SCNs) – The PCA, through the AMA, has made recommendations to Alberta Health Services (AHS) of general practitioner (GP) representatives to sit as members of the new SCNs. We continue to work with AHS on this front. For more information on SCNs, please refer to the May issue of Section News.

• Clinical pathways – Representatives from the Canterbury Initiative and Clinical Pathways in New Zealand presented to the PCA Board on their activities. They shared some of their opportunities and challenges working in New Zealand, particularly around the areas of primary care and health care delivery in general. The representatives were Carolyn
Gullery, general manager of the Canterbury Initiative and Canterbury District Health Board; Dr. Graham McGeoch, medical lead of the Canterbury Initiative and a general practitioner in Christchurch, New Zealand; and Dr. Rod Elford, medical director of Health Link Alberta and Calgary-based family physician.

- **Open discussion with Dr. Richard Lewanczuk** – As part of our efforts to continue our engagement with AHS, we invited Dr. Lewanczuk, senior medical director of primary care and chronic disease management with AHS, to speak to the PCA Board about AHS’ management reorganization, family care clinics and strategic clinical networks.

**Negotiations**

AMA President Dr. Linda M. Slocombe provided an update on the status of negotiations in the July 1 issue of the AMA President’s Letter. The Agreement in Principle (AIP), signed in March, has expired. While the deadline has passed, little else has changed – the profession still needs an agreement. All programs and benefits (including the Business Costs Program and Retention Benefit) will carry on. Stay tuned for further developments on this matter.

- **We want to hear from you about pharmacist prescribing**

A recent incident where a pharmacist viewed physician-ordered laboratory results from Alberta Netcare and subsequently made clinical decisions for a patient without consulting the physician has prompted the SGP Executive Committee to discuss the issue of pharmacist prescribing. To assist with our discussions, we would like to hear from physicians if they have had similar challenges or if they have positive success stories arising from their interaction with pharmacists. Please send your emails to nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org.

**Section membership**

Are you a member of the Section of General Practice (SGP) or Section of Rural Medicine (SRM)? If so, thank you for your continued support.

If not, consider becoming a section member to help ensure that the interests of general practice and rural medicine are considered in negotiations, allocation processes, and patient care initiatives. Your SGP and SRM executive need your support to carry forward these mandates.

- There is a difference between section designations and active section members: When you join the AMA, you become a section designate; that is, you choose, or are assigned, a section based on your practice. There is no charge for this.
- In order to become an active section member, you need to pay that section’s dues in addition to your AMA membership dues. You can do this by filling out Step 5 of your AMA membership form, which will be mailed to you in the fall.
- For more information on SGP or SRM membership, contact Ms Nella Papaianni by email (nella.papaianni@albertadoctors.org).

**PCN Physician Leads Executive**

- AHS members of the PCN Executive Director Compensation Subcommittee have approached the PCN Physician Leads Executive to approve the request to update the compensation guidelines which were developed for the PCN Executive Directors in 2010. The purpose of this request is to ensure that the guidelines reflect current market conditions. AHS has also recommended that the guidelines be compared with their own career framework. Members of the executive were supportive of the work proposed.
- Other areas of discussion have included supporting initiatives around enhancing PCN branding and developing a small working group to look at options for a PCN Crossover Policy that would be adopted by all PCNs and explore broader issues around geographic boundaries and funding rules.

**Primary Care Funding Proposal Subcommittee**

The Primary Care Funding Proposal Subcommittee (PCFP) held their first meeting on March 27. The group was formed by the PCN Physician Leads to formulate recommendations and provide guidance to primary care providers when submitting proposals for the $75 million fund established by Alberta Health to enhance primary care delivery. At this time, the subcommittee is awaiting response from Alberta Health on this initiative.
PCN Physician Leads Forum
The PCN Physician Leads Executive has formed a planning group to develop and organize upcoming forums. The group will work with staff on delivering a forum that provides a positive and valuable experience for all attendees.

The next forum will be held on October 26-27 in Calgary. Members of the executive have also set the dates for 2013 (March 8-9, October 25-26) and 2014 (March 7-8, October 24-25).

Accelerating Primary Care Conference
The 2012 Accelerating Primary Care Conference will be held on November 18-20 at the Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta. Information on registration, call for abstracts, program of events, and pre-conference workshops is available online at http://www.buksa.com/apcc/.

McMaster Muskoka Seminars
The 16th Annual McMaster Muskoka Seminars are taking place July and August 2012 at the Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario. The seminars provide clinicians with an opportunity to combine stimulating symposia with a relaxing summer vacation, while also obtaining their MAINPRO© credits. For more information, visit http://www.mcmastermuskokacme.com.

Section of General Practice
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Annual general meeting
The next Section of General Practice (SGP) annual general meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, from 8:30-9 p.m., in the Devonian Room of the Westin Hotel in Edmonton. In concordance with the SGP Constitution and Bylaws, a SGP president-elect will be nominated at this time.

Section of Laboratory Physicians
Dr. Lisa M. Steele, President

ASLP annual general meeting
All Alberta pathologists and pathology residents are invited to attend the AMA Section of Laboratory Physicians (ASLP) annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled for Friday, September 14, 12:30-2 p.m., at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff.

This ASLP AGM is held in conjunction with the 2012 University of Alberta/University of Calgary Banff Pathology Course – Breast Pathology.

The on-line registration and up-to-date course information for the 2012 Banff Pathology Course – Breast Pathology has been completed and posted including information for the ASLP Annual General Meeting. For more information, please visit the website: http://banffpathology.ucalgary.ca/.

Section of Occupational Medicine
Dr. Kenneth J. Corbet, President

U of A distance learning course
The Foundation Course in Occupational Medicine, developed by the University of Alberta (U of A) Division of Preventive Medicine is a distance-learning course designed to provide knowledge and training in the aspects of occupational medicine encountered in clinical practice.

The course involves 108 hours of instruction in:
- The fundamentals of recognizing and managing work-related disease and injury.
- Fitness to work assessment.
- Return to work planning.
- Disability management.

The program is designed to be taken on a part-time basis and to be completed within 10 months.

Registration for the pilot year of the course is now open. This year, registration is restricted to physicians in Alberta to whom we will be offering a reduced rate of $500. Feedback from participants at a course retreat will help develop the course material for future years.

For more information or to register your interest in the course, please contact:

Ruby Grewal
Email rubygrewal@med.ualberta.ca
T 780.492.4006
www.foundationcourse.ualberta.ca
# FALL 2012 SECTION MEETINGS

### Friday, September 15

**Section of Laboratory Physicians**  
Annual General Meeting  
The Delta Lodge – room TBA  
Kananaskis AB  
12:30-2 p.m.  

**Section of Orthopedics**  
Annual General Meeting  
The Rimrock Resort – room TBA  
Banff AB  

### Thursday, September 20

**Section of Cardiology**  
Annual General Meeting  
The Westin Hotel – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-8 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**Section of Emergency Medicine**  
Executive Committee Meeting  
The Westin Hotel – room tba  
Edmonton AB  
4-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**Section of General Practice**  
Executive Committee meeting  
The Westin Hotel – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
*Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.*  

General Practitioner’s Forum  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-8:30 p.m.  
By invitation only.  
*Dinner will be provided at 6 p.m.*  

Annual General Meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
8:30-9 p.m.  

### Saturday, September 22

**Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology**  
Annual General Meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

### Executive Committee Meetings

**Section of General Psychiatry**  
Executive Committee meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**Section of Laboratory Physicians**  
Executive Committee meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**Section of Orthopedics**  
Executive Committee meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**Section of General Practice**  
Executive Committee meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**Section of Emergency Medicine**  
Executive Committee meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**Section of Cardiology**  
Executive Committee meeting  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*  

**General Practitioner’s Forum**  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
6-8:30 p.m.  
By invitation only.  
*Dinner will be provided at 6 p.m.*  

**Annual General Meeting**  
The Westin – room TBA  
Edmonton AB  
8:30-9 p.m.  
*Dinner will be provided.*