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Section of Chronic Pain

Event
The Section of Chronic Pain presents: Finding Balance in Managing Chronic Pain
Hosted by the Primary Health Care Opioid Response Initiative grant and the Calgary West Central Primary Care Network

Consult with the experts in chronic pain management and opioid therapies.
The evening will include four presentations (Dr. Yasmeen Majeed; Dr. Lori Montgomery; Dr. Marc Klasa; and Dr. Scott McLeod) and a panel Q&A discussion.

When: Calgary - Tuesday, March 3 | 5:30 - 8 p.m. (buffet dinner provided)
Where: Holiday Inn & Suites Calgary South - Conference Centre
RSVP: Tuesday February 25
To register: Click on the ‘Sign Up’ button in the attached poster, or email: susan.carey@scpcn.ca

Section of Laboratory Physicians
Section Update
**EY Review**

The **Ernst and Young (EY) review of Alberta Health Services** highlighted the "sustained period of turmoil marked by interrupted and competing transformation agendas" that has plagued the laboratory services of Alberta over the past decade or so.

It is strangely satisfying to have an accounting firm acknowledge the upheaval that lab physicians have been living through. The report has carefully chosen to highlight some items, while ignoring others. For example:

- The report highlights the fact that the private lab has invested 84% more in its equipment than AHS-APL.
- The report says that 32% of DI equipment is past its recommended replacement timeline, but fails to mention that more than 70% of laboratory equipment is past its lifespan.

The narrative set forth by this report ends in one of the largest cost-savings recommendations (#30): further and complete privatization of the laboratory services in Alberta with a savings of $102 million. Privatization would have wide-reaching implications for patients and doctors in the short-term and the long-term.

**Turmoil in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

On another note, I want to draw your attention to our forensic pathology colleagues at the **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)**.

As **recent news stories** have indicated, the OCME is under tremendous pressure. There have been chronic issues with low staffing and high workload volumes in this very important office. Unfortunately, the situation is about to get worse with the departure of two forensic pathologists, including the Chief Medical Examiner. This will leave the office in a critical situation.

A province the size of Alberta should have at least 12-16 forensic pathologists; soon there will be six. The forensic pathologists are doing three-to-four times the number of cases of other forensic pathologists in Canada. As employees of Alberta Justice, these colleagues are isolated. They need our support and advocacy to ensure their vital role in our health care system remains viable.

Dr. Brinda Balachandra  
**President Section of Laboratory Physicians - Alberta Medical Association**  
**President of Alberta Society of Laboratory Physicians**
Section of Pediatrics

Pediatricians and contracts
Members should have seen the recent President’s Letter (February 5) from Dr. Molnar regarding potential terminations of stipends from AHS within contracts.

For pediatrics, we know this will be affecting currently a small number of pediatricians in Edmonton and Calgary. We have NOT yet been able to identify all those affected, so we encourage ALL pediatricians who are in contracts for all or part of their work outside of AMHSPs and clinical ARPs and FFS to review your contracts. If there is potential funding from AHS and you feel you may be at risk of having your contract end, contact your department head. You are also encouraged to involve the AMA in representing you in your contract discussions.

Events/Education

Save the date! Section of Pediatrics AGM
(Held during the 7th annual ACH Pediatric Update Conference, May 7-9)

When: May 7 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Where: Alberta Children’s Hospital, Calgary, and via telehealth locations and telephone conferencing

Please join us at the AGM. This is a pivotal time for Alberta pediatricians: Proposed government cuts target pediatricians in community, regional sites and those working in AHS facilities. All of our members, regardless of payment model, may be impacted significantly in the months ahead.

This is a time for us to remain united as pediatricians and as physicians in Alberta. The AMA is our physician association and we need to hear from our membership in the Section of Pediatrics so we can represent you and advocate for the care of our patients.

The AGM is an important opportunity to hear from our membership. We hope you can join us on May 7 and please reach out to your section executive – jamichelle.bailey@ahs.ca – with any input, topics and feedback.

Conference and AGM registration link coming soon!

CanREACH course
CanREACH offers a CME training program licensed and developed by The REACH Institute – “Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care (PPP)” – adapted for Canadian Primary Care Providers.

The PPP is a six-month, mini-fellowship CME that includes a dynamic, three-day interactive course followed by a six-month, case-based, distance-learning program. This course is subsidized to enable pediatricians to attend at a lower cost. Many have found the course material very helpful in their practices.

For more information
https://wp.hmhc.ca/canreach/

Section of Generalists in Mental Health

Events/Education

“MEET and LEARN” AGM and Social
When: May 23 | 2 - 3 p.m.

CME: Psyched UP
When: May 23 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Credit hours: 4.5

CME topics:
• Worried Sick: How Anxiety and Anxiety Disorders Wreck Havoc on Our Patient’s Lives? (GAD, SAD, OCD, PTSD, Panic)
• Epigenetics: How Early Life Trauma Can Result in Later-Life Psychopathology?
• Is It Smart to Use a Smartphone? How Screen Time is Making Some People Anxious and Depressed!

For more information

Stay tuned for email regarding a GROUP RATE FOR THE CME.

Section of Family Medicine

SFM Bulletin – February 13, 2020
Negotiations
In a recent President’s Letter (February 7), Dr. Molnar, informed members that negotiations with government have moved into mediation.

I have recently met with Dr. Molnar and have a further meeting scheduled with all three AMA Executive Officers (Drs. Molnar, Boucher and Clarke) and AMA CEO, Mike Gormley. I have been reassured that the AMA is fighting hard for family physicians at the negotiating table. ... more

SFM Representative Forum delegates
On January 10, a call for nominations for the positions of SFM Representative Forum delegates was sent to members. As the SFM Nominating Committee received no nominations by the closing date, the following physicians are acclaimed into their new roles effective immediately:

- Dr. Randall Sargent - SFM Representative Forum Delegate
- Dr. Serena Siow - SFM Representative Forum Delegate

Congratulations and sincere thanks to both for their desire to serve our section. We look forward to having their voices represent us at the AMA Representative Forum.

Kind Regards,
Jennifer Burke, MD CCFP FCFP
Chair, SFM Nominating Committee

Education
6th Annual MSK Pearls Course
This expert-lead annual course uses a blend of didactic presentations, case studies, panel discussion and hands-on skills training to enhance physicians’ care for patients with physical injuries or age-related limitations. This year’s topics focus on shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand injuries commonly seen in family practice.

When: March 14
Where: Delta Hotels by Marriott, Edmonton South Conference Centre

For more information and to register (registration form)