Dear Family Physician,

As you know, the job of the Section of General Practice is to represent front-line family physicians and our patients in a very complex health care system. As a section, we are leaders in health care reform and we are a driving force for the transformation of primary care in our province. SGP brings the perspective of family physicians into discussions and decision-making with our government and health care partners.

**A section by any other name...**
While we as family physicians know the importance of the role we play in our patient’s lives - and in the health care system as a whole - it has become increasingly obvious that the name of our section (General Practice) does not necessarily reflect the complex dynamics of practicing family medicine.

Last night, at the GP Forum in Calgary, the SGP executive proposed a new name for the Section of General Practice. One that we believe will more accurately describe the work we do as family physicians every day. The proposed new section name is: **Section of Family Medicine**.

There are a few reasons for the proposed name change. The first being that the term "family medicine" recognizes the specialized care we offer. Secondly, the term “general practice” denotes a sense of being the default section or practice and does not communicate the importance of the work we do. Lastly, "general practice" is also simply not how the average patient or health care system partner would describe us or our work. We are more commonly known as "family physicians" and the title "gp. individual to practice as a GP in our province. Since then, we are all trained in family medicine and provide excellent, patient-centered care. Our section needs to keep up with the times and the expectations of our practicing family physicians.

**The logistics...**
March 14: Intent to change the section name announced to delegates at the spring GP Forum (received strong support to move forward with "Section of Family Medicine")
March 15: All family physicians informed of the proposed name change via (today’s) SGP Bulletin
March 17: Notification of proposed name change shared with AMA Board
March to August: Notification sent to all AMA sections for information and any potential feedback
August 27: Notice of bylaw amendment (name change) sent to all section members 30 Days Prior to 2019 SGP AGM
September 26: Motion to amend bylaws (name change) tabled at 2019 SGP AGM
September 27/28: Assuming motion is passed at SGP AGM, announcement of name change made at the Fall 2019 Representative Forum

Remember, this is your section. We are here to represent the interests and needs of family physicians, our clinics and our patients. We want to strengthen the voice of family physicians in Alberta and we are keen to hear your thoughts.

Please e-mail us with any feedback or questions you have regarding the proposed name change (or any other issue) at gppres@albertadoctors.org.

Regards,

Dr. Darryl D. LaBuick

*President - AMA Section of General Practice*