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## October 2023

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## General news

### **New AMA President and AMA Executive Director want to hear from you on their Local Doctors, Local Issues member tour**

AMA President Dr. Paul Parks and AMA Executive Director Athana Mentzelopoulos are hosting a series of member-only town hall meetings across the province to meet with members in person and to hear directly about local issues, concerns and ideas. You can find out more, including upcoming dates, [on the AMA website](#).

### **AMA in the news**

AMA President Dr. Paul Parks has been involved in many interviews since beginning his presidency. Journalists have wanted to know what doctors think about the state of the health care system and where solutions may lie. Check out some of the recent coverage [on the AMA website](#).

### **Zonal/Regional RF Delegates - Call for Nominations**

The Call for Nominations for election of zonal/regional delegates to RF is now open. The deadline for nominations is 9 a.m., Friday, November 3. [Visit the AMA website](#) (member login required) for more information.

### **Help Alberta get immunized – Alberta’s fall vaccine program has launched**

Alberta’s immunization program began Monday, October 16, offering influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, free of charge, to all Albertans six months of age and older. The vaccine is available through public health clinics, local pharmacies and doctors’ offices.

Vaccines are our best line of defense against infectious diseases, and physicians and health care teams are in the ideal position to educate patients about the importance of getting vaccinated. You can address fear and trepidation around vaccine hesitancy, identify patients at risk of serious outcomes with influenza and/or COVID-19 infection, and reach out to patients when they are eligible to receive a vaccine.

Further information about the vaccines can be found through the following links:

#### Alberta Health

- [COVID-19 vaccine information](#): All Albertans six months+ can get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- [Influenza](#): Learn about influenza (the flu) and how to protect yourself by getting immunized.

#### Alberta Health Services

- [Get immunized against influenza](#): COVID-19 immunization is also available.
- [Influenza Immunization](#): Information for health professionals

Questions about the process/policy to administer immunizations in your clinic? Email [health.imm@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.imm@gov.ab.ca).

### **Membership renewal now open**

The 2023-24 membership year began October 1.

While we now have an agreement and our day-to-day working relationship with government

has improved, there are still many urgent issues that need to be addressed. How we respond as a profession is important. To be effective, we must remain united. We must rely on one another – on our individual and collective expertise and dedication. There will be opportunities ahead, and we'll get further together.

Your association remains committed to serving you and we thank you in advance for renewing your membership. Your support is critical.

If you have any questions about AMA membership, please contact Jennifer McCombe, AMA Membership and Benefits Team Leader: 780-732-3359 | toll-free 1-800-272-9680 | email [jennifer.mccombe@albertadoctors.org](mailto:jennifer.mccombe@albertadoctors.org)

Remain united and [renew now!](#)

### **Thank a colleague! JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program.**

The JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program gives physicians the opportunity to thank their colleagues for their acts of kindness, big and small. The process is as quick and easy as sending an email.

Complete the [submission form](#) and we will make sure the message gets to the person to whom you want to express your appreciation.

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## **Section of Clinical Assistants**

### **Save the date – Section of Clinical Assistants Annual General Meeting (Virtual)**

**Date:** Monday, November 6

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, in addition to the agenda package, was sent to section members on October 19.

To reach the Section of Clinical Assistants President, Dr. Elmer Espinoza, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

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## **Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism**

### **Save the date – Diabetes & Endocrine Update 2023 Conference**

**Date:** Saturday, November 18

**Time:** 7 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Location:** Lister Centre, University of Alberta, 116 St & 87 Ave, Edmonton

This one-day event will provide physicians and health care professionals with the latest in diabetes information as well as an approach to common endocrine problems. The format of interactive workshops and presentations will enable the participant the opportunity to discuss cases and topics of importance to clinical practice.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the University of Calgary Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development. You may claim a maximum of seven hours (credits are automatically calculated).

For further information please [view the poster](#).

To reach the Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism President, Dr. Peter Grundy, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

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## Section of Family Medicine

### Meet the new Acting SFM President

The Section of Family Medicine Executive has appointed Dr. Sarah Bates as the Acting President of SFM, effective immediately. This appointment follows the October 16 resignation of Dr. Jon Hilner from the role of SFM president. Dr. Bates will remain in place as acting SFM president until our regularly scheduled AGM on September 19, 2024.

Dr. Bates has been a family physician for over 20 years, practicing in both Calgary and Edmonton. Currently, she is an assistant clinical professor for the Department of Family Medicine, Cumming School of Medicine, at the Central Teaching Clinic in Calgary. There she provides full scope family practice and helps to oversee the next generation of family doctors. Dr. Bates has worked closely with the AMA and the Section of Family Medicine, including serving as a Representative Forum delegate for SFM and on the Board of Directors from 2009 to 2016.

To reach the Section of Family Medicine Acting President, Dr. Sarah Bates, please email [sfmpres@albertadoctors.org](mailto:sfmpres@albertadoctors.org).

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## Section of General Surgery

### Save the date – Section of General Surgery Annual General Meeting (Hybrid)

**Date:** Sunday, November 5

**Time:** 9:15 a.m.

**Location:** Banff Springs Hotel, Banff or Zoom option

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, in addition to the agenda package, was sent to section members on October 20. Revised agenda and Zoom option sent October 27.

To reach the Section of General Surgery President, Dr. Anthony Gomes, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

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## Section of Internal Medicine

### Save the date – Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Conference – Banff

**Dates:** November 16-17

**Location:** Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff

**Registration and accommodation link:** <https://www.rockymountainim.com/>

To reach the Section of Internal Medicine President, Dr. Troy Pederson, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

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## Section of Neurology

### Save the date – Section of Neurology Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, November 12

**Time:** 10 – 11:45 a.m.

**Location:** Banff Springs Hotel, Banff

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, in addition to the agenda package, was sent to section members on October 26.

To reach the Section of Neurology Interim President, Dr. Jodi Kashmere, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

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## Section of Rheumatology

### Section Annual Awards

It is that time of year when we have the pleasure to invite you to nominate a colleague for our 2023 Annual Awards. Last year, we honoured four deserving Alberta rheumatologists at our AGM:

#### **2022 award recipients:**

Dr. Dale Sholter - Distinguished Rheumatologist

Dr. Steven Thomson - Educator of the Year

Dr. Mo Osman - Future Leader Award

Dr. Claire Barber - Research Paper of the Year

Further information can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#) **The deadline to submit nominations is December 1.**

To reach the Section of Rheumatology President, Dr. Jason Soo, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

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## Section of Rural Medicine

### Meet the new SRM President

Dr. Rithesh Ram officially assumed the role of the Section of Rural Medicine President on Thursday, October 12 during the section's AGM. Dr. Samantha Myhr now becomes immediate past president.

Dr. Ram is a rural generalist practicing in Drumheller and is the director of the University of Calgary Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (UCLIC) program, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, University of Calgary and a clinical academic colleague of the University of Alberta. In addition, he is the Alberta Representative of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada.

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Ritesh Ram, please email [srmpres@albertadoctors.org](mailto:srmpres@albertadoctors.org)

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