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General News

There's still time to renew your membership!

We are now entering the homestretch in terms of AMA membership renewals for the 2021/22 year. We are seeing a strong response overall and as of January 25, 89.5% of the AMA's total members from last year have renewed.

If you haven't already, please consider renewing your membership today. Every membership renewal counts, and ensures members stand together on the issues that matter to patients and each other. Visit the AMA website to learn more about [Why you should renew](#).

Please feel free to reach out to the AMA's Membership team with any questions: phone:

780-482-0323, toll-free 1-866-714-5724, ext. 5323 or email kirsten.sieben@albertadoctors.org.

Virtual Fee Code Update: Navigating the Updated Virtual Fee Codes

All physicians were invited to join AMA Health Economics and Virtual Care physician leaders on January 26, 2022, to review:

- policy and progress to date in advancing changes to virtual health service codes
- the latest changes in Virtual Care billing codes
- practical applications of updated codes and modifiers

If you were unable to attend, the recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

2022 APA Virtual Scientific Conference March 26 & 27

- [Schedule and Registration](#)
Upon registration, meeting link and information will be emailed.
- **Annual General Meeting:**
Date: March 26, 2022
Time: 1:30 pm

To reach the Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry President, Dr. Sterling Sparshu, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

General Psychiatry

2022 APA Virtual Scientific Conference March 26 & 27

- [Schedule and Registration](#)
Upon registration, meeting link and information will be emailed.
- **Annual General Meeting:**
Date: March 27, 2022
Time: 1:45 pm
- **Call For Resident Presentations for the APA Scientific Conference**
Presentations should be no more than 30-minutes and remitted no later than **Monday, March 7, 2022**. Prizes available. Please click [HERE](#) for details.

APA Docs Lounge 2022 - Unmet Needs in Psychiatry

Are you working in an underserved area of psychiatry? Is something preventing you from providing optimal patient care? The next APA Docs lounge will be a place to share and to brainstorm as your APA Executive works to strengthen the support and advocacy we are doing for our patients and our profession.

Date: February 17, 2022

Time: 6:30 pm

[Registration](#)

Upon registration, meeting link and information will be emailed.

Executive Elections

We welcome you to consider serving on the APA Executive. Available Executive positions are elected at the AGM each year, and all members in good standing are eligible to run. For more details or be added to the ballot, contact the Nominating Committee Chair, [Dr. Arlie Fawcett](#) or submit your name during the AGM. Elections are immediately following nominations at the AGM.

Advocacy Work

The APA has sent a letter to the AMA Board advocating around the recent Bulletin updating virtual care code fees. We expressed concern around the failure to address psychiatry fees as well as ongoing gaps left by the virtual care codes. We will share the AMA response as soon as we are able. Please click [HERE](#) to view the letter, which will be reviewed at the next AMA Board meeting.

We are also brainstorming with SCAP on how to address the crisis in child and adolescent mental health and the urgent need for increased resources. Further details will be provided when available.

Stay well and we hope to see you at the upcoming APA Docs Lounge and APA Virtual Conference, both places where we hope APA members will find community and connection.

To reach the Section of General Psychiatry President, Dr. Kathy Fitch, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Pediatrics

Announcing our new Section President!

Dr. Sam Wong has taken over as AMA Section of Pediatrics President as of January 24, 2022. Sam is the past president of the Canadian Pediatric Society and practices as a pediatrician in Edmonton and Northern Alberta. Dr. Michelle Bailey will serve on the executive as the Section past-president.

Welcome Sam!

Evening Webinar on Vaccine Hesitancy in Pediatrics: Focus on COVID-19 vaccination

You are invited to an AMA Section of Pediatrics Special Event:

Date: Monday, January 31

Time: 7:30 – 9 pm

[Registration](#)

Upon registration, meeting link and information will be emailed.

Dr. Cora Constantinescu, pediatric ID specialist, will share her expertise and practical approaches to vaccine hesitancy in pediatrics. While tailored to current issues with pediatric COVID-19 vaccination, the information and approach is applicable to vaccination discussions in all settings. Registration for the event is required.

The event WILL be recorded and available on the AMA website (didactic portion). Those attending the event will be able to interact in the large and small group settings to aid in applying the information to your practice right away.

Injury Prevention Centre - Prescription for Safety Invitation

The Injury Prevention Centre would like to invite your input in the development of a child injury prevention resource. For information, [click here](#).

Injury causes 3,915 hospitalizations and 127 deaths annually among Alberta children and youth, and many of these injuries are preventable. Prescription for Safety seeks to provide evidence-based childhood injury prevention resources to health care professionals and others who connect with parents and caregivers to enable them to

protect their children from serious injury.

Originally conducted by the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute and the Injury Prevention Centre, Prescription for Safety began in 2010. It provided posters and information sheets for physicians and other health care professionals to use in parent/caregiver education. These resources conveyed information on childhood injury prevention to parents and caregivers, and associated resources were provided to health professionals as well. The project saw success but is now somewhat outdated. We are looking at bringing this project up to date with current evidence and communication strategies.

We hope to discuss the following with various professionals who work with parents and caregivers:

- Need for this project
- Best ways to provide information
- Priority issues in your field
- Feedback as the project progresses

Please contact jpc@ualberta.ca for more information.

To reach the Section of Pediatrics President, Dr. Sam Wong, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Specialty Care Alliance

The Specialty Care Alliance (SCA) provides a forum for the unified voice of Alberta's Specialty Care physicians. SCA works with stakeholders to advance common interests and shared goals, with a commitment to patient care, partnerships, and driving system improvement.

Two key things happening this quarter:

Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) webinar with Dr. Francois Belanger February 2022

- Overview of ASI for hospital based and community specialty care.
- Explore opportunities for partnerships in advancing surgical care
- Begin our constructive dialogue between AHS and specialist physicians to strengthen and improve the implementation of the ASI.

Specialty Care Forum - Thursday March 10

- Health Economics Update
- CII Update
- Joint Physician Advocacy Committee and RF Preparation
- SCA Strategic Planning

Other news of interest:

Connect Care not available for Community Clinics

- Connect Care is being deployed in AHS facilities and clinics where AHS holds the legal record of care. It cannot be deployed where AHS does not hold the legal record of care.
- Community Specialists EMRs will be connected to Netcare via [CII \(Community Information Integration\)](#).

Congratulations to the newly appointed member of Board for SCA, Dr. Derek Townsend!

For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact:

- [Dr. Graham Campbell](#), Chair
 - [Dr. Duncan McCubbin](#), Deputy Chair
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