



The Manitoba
College of
Family Physicians^{inc.}

A Chapter of The College of Family Physicians of Canada

Le Collège des
médecins de famille
du Manitoba^{inc.}

Un chapitre du Collège des médecins de famille du Canada

Strength in Study
L'étude est notre force

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

DECEMBER, 2009

The Manitoba College of Family Physicians traditionally introduces the incoming President at the Annual General Meeting during the Annual Scientific Assembly in the Spring. Circumstances within the Board necessitated a change in that tradition as Dr. Fran Berard agreed to extend her Presidency for an additional 6 months and then I would become President at the beginning of December. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and briefly summarize what my goals will be during the next 18 months.

I have been a Family Physician in northeast Winnipeg for the past 20 years. Having graduated from the UBC medical school, I was accepted into the Family Medicine Residency Program at Kildonan Medical Centre. After completing the residency program, I joined a family practice group in North Kildonan, and for the first 10 years did obstetrics at St. Boniface Hospital and admitted medical patients at Concordia Hospital. I am currently the President of MAC at Concordia Hospital. This past summer our clinic relocated and combined with another clinic to form Concordia Health Associates. I am now in the process of mastering EMR for the first time, and, as many of you are aware, it is a tremendous challenge. But it is also helping to improve the quality of care for our patients.

I have been married for 19 years, having met my wife during my residency on the labour floor. She continues to work as a nurse at Women's Hospital. We have 2 wonderful daughters, aged 12 and 13. Although I haven't had much time lately, my interests include pottery, stained glass making, woodworking and reading. We also like to travel and have been fortunate to travel to places such as Greece, Portugal, Cuba, and Uganda. Uganda was particularly meaningful as we had an opportunity to work at a local clinic.

Before I go any further, I want to acknowledge the terrific way in which Fran Berard has represented the Manitoba College both here in Manitoba, and during the National Board Meetings. She has made a determined effort to support the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) which is an important resource to encourage our medical students to pursue Family Medicine as a career. She arranged a meeting with the Hon. Theresa Oswald to specifically confirm funding for the FMIG, as well as to emphasize the importance of family medicine residency program funding. And she has represented the College well during all the H1N1 preparatory meetings that have been taking place since last Spring. So I would like to say thank-you to Fran for her good work, her positive attitude, and her vision.

The H1N1 pandemic has certainly exposed some of the vulnerabilities in our healthcare system, particularly with regard to the complexities of providing a national standard of care, a consistent healthcare message, and being able to communicate to Canadians when dealing with

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a constantly changing medical landscape. However, I have been impressed by the willingness of family physicians to play a key role in the planning, development, and delivery of quality care to their patients at this time. Family physicians were prepared to change how they operated their offices, prepared to extend their hours, and prepared to make themselves more available to their patients. The Provincial Government has demonstrated a strong desire for the Manitoba College to be represented at these H1N1 planning sessions, and I think this is an opportunity we need to seize. Clearly, when the dust settles, and it will be time to evaluate how this pandemic was handled, our College will have much to offer through our members, to reveal what was successful, what failed, and how the response can be improved the next time we have to deal with a nationwide health issue.

This is just one example of how the College has had opportunities to be involved with healthcare planning. Virtually every month new opportunities present themselves for Family Physicians to be represented, whether it is the Institute for Patient Safety, the Physician Integrated Network, the Bridging General & Specialist Care Project or the Provincial Colorectal Cancer Screening Program. Members of the Board attempt to attend as many of these meetings as we can, but are limited due to our own medical practice obligations. Consequently, we have begun the process of searching for candidates to take on the position of Executive Director. We believe that the individual taking on this position will provide the College, and all the members, greater representation and a greater voice in healthcare policy decisions, in identifying systemic problems, and introducing innovative ideas to solve those problems. Having been working on the ground so to speak, Family Physicians are ideally situated to provide practical solutions for improving our healthcare system. I think that part of the role of the College of Family Physicians is to give voice to the Family Physicians who want to share their wisdom and improve the quality of care our patients receive. I look forward to hearing from many of you and invite you to participate in the many College committees and, of course, our Board as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carey Isaac".

Carey D. Isaac, MD, CCFP, FCFP,

President.

CDI/sjp