



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 OUTGOING PRESIDENT

DECEMBER, 2009

Hello to all my Family Medicine Colleagues,

I hope you are all surviving the H1N1 pandemic. Thank you to all of you for supporting your patients during this challenging and scary time. It sure has been a wild ride and definitely a learning experience for everyone involved. I personally have learnt a lot about the important role that your elected representatives from the Manitoba College of Family Physicians can play in these instances. It is so important that Family Physicians have good, dedicated representation at primary care planning tables and clear consistent communication.

I have also been very impressed with how many different practice situations exist in Manitoba, all with their individual challenges. I suspect that the pandemic experience has been very different depending on where you live and practice. There are promising signs that the outbreak is on the decline. When it is all over, we will be able to look back and analyse what went well and what didn't. And though the stress on the system exposed lots of weaknesses, it also allowed our strengths to shine. So many Family Physicians contacted the College because they wanted to do as much as they could for their patients in this time of need - this in spite of heavy clinic schedules and likely, sick family members. You are all obviously very dedicated and you are a precious resource to Manitobans.

Our goal at the Manitoba College is to become better advocates for you. Our role has been limited by our small size and the fact that your Executive is comprised of full time practicing Family Physicians. We are presently seeking to fill a Medical Executive Director Position at the College. This dedicated position will help us to become more active in representing you at primary care planning tables.

Dr. Isaac and I attended the National meeting in Calgary in October - highlights include:

- Approval of a revision of the process for Maintenance of Certification and Fellowship.
- A discussion document on *Patient Centred Primary Care – The Concept of the Medical Home*.

- A Position Statement on *Prescribing Rights of Health Professionals*.
- A Discussion Paper on *Obstetrical Training and Practice*.
- A review of the current challenges of the *Canadian Family Physician* in relation to reduced income from advertising.
- The Section of Physicians with Focused Practice now has formalized committees for Palliative Care, Maternity and Newborn Care, Care of the Elderly and Emergency Medicine. More of these will be created as interested groups of physicians work through the process.

Congratulations to our University of Manitoba Family Medicine Interest Group who took third place at the Walk for the Docs at FMF Calgary in October 2009.

As of December, Dr. Carey Isaac will be taking over the Presidency of the Manitoba College. I thank you all for a wonderful learning experience. It has been especially gratifying to meet so many of you and know that I belong to such a great profession. I hope we all have a great H1N1 free Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Berard".

Frances Berard, MD, CCFP, FCFP,
Past President.

FB/sjp