

Presidents Report- Dr. Paul Sawchuk

Two thousand and thirteen was a busy year for the Manitoba College of Family Physicians.

Over the course of the year we saw several important transitions. At the beginning of the year, Dr. Francine Lemire took over from Dr. Cal Gutkin as CEO of our parent organization, the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

In April, after her 9th Annual Scientific Assembly as the ASA Committee Chairperson, Helga Sickert stepped down. In Helga's final year, 269 family doctors attended the the ASA, more than any other year. We were lucky enough to recruit Drs. Richard Rusk and Ainslie Mihalchuk to help us build on Helga's legacy.

In July, Dr. Jamie Boyd retired from his position as the Head of the University of Manitoba Department of Family Medicine. A thorough search was conducted and Dr. Jose Francois was named his successor.

After 22 years, Mrs. Susan Patek, who for many personified the MCFP, retired as our Administrator in December. Ms. Amanda Wellnitz was hired as the new College Administrator.

We will surely miss all of our colleagues who have chosen to step down from their positions and we wish them all well. At the same time, we welcome all of those who have moved in to their new positions and look forward to very productive relationships in the future.

Part of the Mission of the MCFP is to engage and acknowledge our members. One way we do that is to recognize and celebrate excellence. This year the MCFP Award for Family Physician of the Year went to Mark Duerksen from Steinbach. David Ross and Jeff Sisler, both from Winnipeg, were honoured with Awards of Excellence. In 2013, we announced a new award, the Gary Beazley Award. It will be given to the family practice that best embodies the principles of the Patient's Medical Home. The first Gary Beazley Award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in April.

To help the Manitoba College speak with authority on behalf of Manitoba family physicians, we need to be in touch with our members. Our Executive Director, Dr. Tamara Buchel, accompanied by several members of our Board Executive, met with four different clinic groups of family physicians as part of what we call "Road Trips". We found the meetings very valuable to hear the perspectives, views and experiences of a range of our colleagues. We expect to make several more Road Trips in 2014, including trips to rural and Northern Manitoba.

The MCFP advocates for the role of family physicians in Manitoba. We do this by collaborating with other stakeholders. This year we were particularly active with Manitoba Health, Doctors Manitoba and the University of Manitoba. We hope to work with these organizations to help every Manitoban get access to a family physician by 2015, just a very short time away.

This year we partnered with the College of Family Physicians of Canada to plan a Patient's Medical Home Symposium which will take place in Winnipeg in April 2014. We hope this will provide a platform for family physicians and other stakeholders to move towards a bold vision for the future of primary care for both Manitoba and Canada.

It has been an exciting year. We expect it to be an even more exciting future.

Executive Directors Report- Dr. Tamara Buchel

PROGRESS FOR THE FUTURE.....

Reflecting on our progress in 2013 inspires us as we look forward to 2014. We are committed to furthering our strategic initiatives.

Ensuring access to family medicine. The Manitoba College of Family Physicians strongly believes that every Manitoban should have access to a personal family physician. We are supportive of Manitoba Health's promise of "a family doctor for all" by 2015. It is not enough, however, to simply assign extra patients to family physicians without the necessary infrastructure supports to allow them to care for all their patients appropriately and effectively. It is important that this encompasses a meaningful commitment to high quality care for all Manitobans.

Advocate for the role of Family Physicians to all stakeholders. It is important for the Manitoba College of Family Physicians to be a credible and valued voice that is present and relevant. Continued presence of MCFP at the leadership level in planning/policy is a valuable part of this strategy.

Ensuring funding models promote the effective development of team-based care in the Patient's Medical Home model. These initiatives are closely tied with the vision of access to family physicians for all Manitobans. The Patient's Medical Home model supports family physicians in providing high quality care to their patients. We plan to continue our collaboration with stakeholders in the implementation of such models throughout Manitoba as we feel that this is one important and necessary component to reaching the goal of access to a personal family physician for all Manitobans. We are very excited to be hosting, along with the

College of Family Physicians of Canada, a Symposium on the Patient's Medical Home in April 2014. This will bring together stakeholders, policy makers and family physicians with a goal to advancing the Patient's Medical Home.

Engaging and mobilizing our members. Engaged, dedicated grassroots family physicians will be our strength. The importance of this cannot be overemphasized. The Manitoba College of Family Physicians plans to continue both urban and rural road trips. Our goal is to do one trip each month and hope to visit as many of you as we possibly can. We are also interested in improving and enhancing communication with all our members on an ongoing basis. We have plans to enhance our website including interactive areas and relevant resources and links that we hope will be used regularly. Our goal is to be one of your "favourites"! Watch for regular e-updates which will serve to keep you abreast of what is going on at MCFP between our more substantial Newsletters.

Education: Increased involvement of community based family physicians in the continuum of education. We continue to have a strong relationship with the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Manitoba and will continue to advocate for fair and appropriate support for teaching. One of the tenants of the Patient's Medical Home model is that it is an ideal teaching site. Indeed, if we capitalize on this strong alignment between the Patient's Medical Home and high quality teaching of family medicine learners, we will be facilitating and supporting the future of primary care in Manitoba.

We also need to support grassroots family physicians as learners themselves. In this regard, in addition to our Annual Scientific Assembly, we are committed to developing a network of local, smaller scale CPD programming. In regards to the ASA, we are excited to be able to offer an online registration process.

Collaboration with other organizations towards common goals. Supporting and advocating for the provision of high quality patient care is a noble goal that intersects on various levels with missions and scopes of several organizations. These organizations include Doctors Manitoba, Manitoba Health, Regional Health Authorities, professional organizations of other health professionals, the Department of Family Medicine, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. The Manitoba College of Family Physicians regularly meets and sits at tables with many of these players and will continue to do so in furthering our cause. It is important to keep all these conversations going and deliberately making advances in this regard.

So in summary, we are looking forward to advancing these initiatives in 2014 with enthusiasm and success!