

### **President's Report for the New Brunswick College of Family Physician –2015**

It gives me great pleasure to give you a summary of our last year within the College.

My presidency began in Tracadie last year at our 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly (ASA). Since that weekend several interesting events have taken place.

Members of the Board of Directors and chairs of various committees met in Bathurst in September to develop our strategic plan for the coming year. We discussed the previous year in order to evaluate our strengths and what needed a little more work. Highlights include the reallocation of funds from the provincial tour to a new committee which met for the first time yesterday. This is the Health and Wellness Committee. There will be a close collaboration with the New Brunswick Medical Society because I am convinced that we are very similar objectives.

There is also a great need to provide our graduating residents with learning opportunities regarding the every day practice. That is why we created a committee called "The First Five Years in Family Practice". There was a national initiative to the committee and several provincial chapters are working hands on to provide local flavor to this committee. We were honored to have Dr. Dominique Deschênes to present us the outlines of the Quebec version of this initiative during our inaugural meeting last night.

The ASA is renamed this year to FMC (Family Medicine Conference) to better reflect the diversity of our practice. This name is very similar to the name used by our parent organization – FMF (Family Medicine Forum).

In the same vein, the FMF was held in Quebec last year. Your college has once again sponsored two residents for this conference. Transportation, accommodation and registration were paid for these residents. The lucky winners of the draw were Dr. Sheldon Woof of Dalhousie University and Dr. Charelle D'Eon of the Université de Sherbrooke.

This year we have also selected two other residents for the FMF to be held in Toronto. In addition to these two existing grants and existing awards for family physician of the year and awards of excellence, we have introduced several new awards, grants and scholarships. The chair of the committee will share the details in her report.

During the last year we have worked diligently to update our bylaws to better reflect the conduct of the business and affairs of our College. The process is quite rigorous and has been examined by our own Board of Directors, the Executive Board Committee of the national office and our lawyer. Dr. Northrop, chair of the bylaws committee will provide an overview of its changes in her report.

Also new in New Brunswick this year is the SPOR network (Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research). This network is an initiative of the Canada Institutes of Health Research. Each province has a network that will target research projects. This is a network of networks that builds on the provincial, territorial and federal networks and national strengths in community primary and integrated community health needs. It will promote a new alliance between research, policy and practice to create dynamic and responsive learning networks. The network will develop, evaluate and replicate new large-scale integrated approaches to delivering vertical and horizontal services both in health care and between sectors (for example: Public Health, home care, community healthcare and primary, secondary and supplementary (additional) health services) and outside the field of health (for example: education, social services). The New Brunswick College of Family Physicians was approached to participate in this committee. I eventually became co-president of the health care branch.

Primary healthcare is changing in New Brunswick. Family Health Teams are gradually installed. Government initiatives implemented as pilot projects are expected to begin next month. These projects echo the Patient Medical Home. I hope these projects will be available quickly at the provincial level.

Thank you to the members of the board for their work during the past year, and to the national office for their continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Marc-André Doucet, MD CCFP