Department of Family Medicine
2017 - 2018 Annual Report
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Department Vision

“Alberta has a well-integrated, primary-care-based health care system in which all have access to a family physician who provides timely, proactive, individualized, comprehensive and continuity care through an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals led by that family physician. That team practices evidence-based, patient-centred care, and uses its own data, dialog with its stakeholders, and published research to continuously improve its service, quality, and safety.”

Department Mission

“The Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta exists to teach the discipline of family medicine for the future of practice, and the needs of society, and to produce scholarly work that improves the practices of family medicine and primary health care.”

We will achieve this outcome by developing and demonstrating excellence in:
(1) Training residents for team-based, systems-based, socially accountable patient care and leadership.
(2) Providing medical students with high-quality education, and serving as role models of academically excellent, quality- and safety-driven, socially accountable generalists;
(3) Conducting and disseminating clinical, educational, epidemiological, and health services research that improves the teaching and practice of family medicine and primary health care.
Welcome to our new, more succinct, annual report format. (If you crave additional detail, our website is rich with information.) Credit goes to our Communications Administrator, Danica Erickson, for taking a step back and thinking about the annual report, and coming up with this innovative direction. Tells us how you like it.

In this "Checkup," you'll see a selection of highlights from the department's year. We again enjoyed, as we have for some years now, support from the Patricia Anne Peat, Lionel A. Ramsey, Dr. Joe Tilley & Allin Clinic, Scott McLeod, Frederick Brown, and Westview Clinic funds and awards. We deeply appreciate their funding support, and even more the confidence in our department and belief in our mission that their support conveys.

You'll also see a wide range of awards, from local to international, and I'm especially pleased to see the wide range of our junior and senior GFT and clinical faculty as well as learners represented there. Do read through them; good news is enjoyable!

Both our research and education programs have again had successful years and continue on their steady upward trajectories. Those teams have much to be proud of. The Checkup presents only a sample; there's much more on the website.

This year brought us the launch of our new purpose-built medical home model clinic, the MacEwan University Health Center. The MUHC represents the culmination of a great deal of work, and a great deal of thought, by many people. It holds much promise, and we look forward to reporting on it next year – as well as creating more like it.

The most important news of the year is not reflected in the awards or achievements listed. As those who follow my monthly column in the newsletter know, the health care system in Alberta, as in most of our peer nations, is entering what is likely the greatest time of transformational change since the Flexnerian revolution. Primary care is foundational to the success of that transformation, and our department's leadership in primary care places us squarely in the midst of the excitement. The challenge and the opportunity are great, and the best and most important thing in this year's update is how ready our department is to not merely manage the changes but thrive on them. The MUHC is one example; stay tuned for much more.

Lee A. Green, MD MPH
Professor and Chair
Department of Family Medicine
University of Alberta
Alberta Innovates Chair in Translational Health
In The News & in The Community

The Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) team continued to provide information to physicians, healthcare professionals and the public through news items. Articles in Folio, the University of Alberta’s public-facing online news site, in 2017-2018 included New National Guidelines warns pain benefits of medical cannabis overstated and How to be an effective health news skeptic.

The EBM team’s 2014 research into televised medical shows was noted in the Science Alert article Scientists find half the advice on Dr. Oz is wrong or has no evidence to back it up.

Dr. Mike Allan, Director of the Evidence-based medicine team during the 2017-2018 academic year, was also interviewed in the Globe and Mail’s article Medical marijuana is a mirage.

Dr. Erika Persson, clinical assistant professor with family medicine was featured in Representing the maple leaf, an article in Folio about her being named Team Physician for Team Canada’s figure skaters during the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Medical Education collaborated with the Faulty of Kinesiology and Physical Education to investigate What athletics can teach med students about preventing burnout and their work was featured in Folio.

The Spring 2018 issue of Dementia Connections features an article called 10 things about Capacity and Consent for which Jasneet Parmar provided information to inform people about what they need to know in regard to capacity and consent issues related to dementia.

BedMed, the blood-pressure medication timing research initiative, began seeking additional patients as part of their program expansion. An article about the initiative in Folio resulted in television coverage by Global News Edmonton.

In April of 2018, The Medically at-Risk Driver Centre (MARD) announced funding for two rural Alberta communities to undertake pilot projects for alternate transportation for seniors. Folio ran a story about the initiative.

Dr. Terry De Freitas appeared on Global News Edmonton to discuss the impact of a rare and serious torn achilles tendon injury.

Dr. Doug Klein has expanded his involvement with the CHANGE Program to include the CHANGE Clinic at Memorial Composite High School in Stony Plain, AB. The clinic team focuses on four areas: nutrition, physical activity and fitness, mental health and well-being and strong partner/family relationships and community connections.

If you would like to stay up-to-date on Department of Family Medicine news throughout the year, please visit our news page at ualberta.ca/family-medicine
Community Support, Awards & Recognition

The Department of Family Medicine would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organizations for their continued support of the department.

Patricia Anne Peat Award
The 2017-2018 recipient was Charissa Ho
The Patricia Ann Peat Residency & Student Family Medicine Enhancement Fund in the University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, was established to assist the department in providing exciting and personally enriching experiences in the discipline of family medicine and primary care family medicine research, and all residents registered in the first two years of the Family Medicine Residency Program of the Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta are eligible to apply.

Lionel A. Ramsey Memorial Award
The 2017-2018 recipients were Stephen Yam from Fort McMurray, Amy Morrison from Grande Prairie and Chelsea Henry from Red Deer.
The Lionel A. Ramsey Memorial Award honours the memory of Dr. Lionel Ramsey, a U of A graduate and a rural physician. Through the fund, an annual award of $500 is provided to two first-year residents chosen by the residents in the Rural Alberta North (RAN) program who have made the greatest contributions to helping other residents in the RAN program.

Dr. Joe Tilley & Allin Clinic Award
The 2017-2018 recipient was Kiranpal Dhillon
This award is given to a resident in the second year of the Family Medicine Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) program. Selection is based on demonstrated scholarly excellence, mentorship abilities and passion for family medicine.

Scott McLeod Fund
Dr. Scott H. McLeod Family Medicine Memorial Fund is an endowment held by the University Hospital Foundation. A graduate of University of Alberta and McGill University, Dr. Scott McLeod practiced in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Interest from the fund is used by Department of Family Medicine primarily for, but not limited to, initiatives contributing to “effective communication in medical practice”. During the 2017-2018 academic year, this fund supported physician learning opportunities for residents, faculty and clinic preceptors.

The Frederick Brown Fund
The Frederick Brown Fund is used in the area of education in palliative care. With the support of this fund, the department has been able to create the Care of the Elderly Education and Palliative Care Coordinator position. This position provides administration of education at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and coordinates palliative care medicine within the Department of Family Medicine.

The Westview Physician Collaborative Awards
The Westview Physicians Collaborative offers five awards annually, as follows:

The WPC FM Resident Research Award recognizes a resident who embraces the principles of evidence-based practice, contributes to clinical knowledge base through research, and had developed a research proposal or has completed a research study that shows validity, innovation, and originality.
The WPC FM Resident Clinical Excellence Award recognizes a resident who has demonstrated dedication to and excellence in the practice of family medicine, evidence-based clinical knowledge, excellence in teaching, professionalism and integrity.

The WPC FM Resident Leadership Award recognizes a resident who has played a significant leadership role in both clinical and extracurricular activities and in so doing has had a demonstrable impact on improving the quality of resident experience within and beyond the residency program, furthering the Family Medicine Residency Program (FMRP) education mission, and advocating on behalf of the specialty of family medicine. Such work could include, but is not limited to, organizing social events, educational forums, workshops and lectures; and participation in leadership and mentoring programs led by the FMRP and/or the residents’ association. The resident must be shown as a role model and contribute to the well-being of fellow residents.

The WPC Award recipients in 2017-2108 were:
Clinical Excellence: Fraser Olsen (PGY1): and Arsalan Hassan (PGY2)
Resident Leadership Kristen Timm (PGY1) and Kiranpal Dhillon (PGY2)
Resident Research: Poulami Banerjee

Northern Alberta Academic Family Physicians (NAAFP)

The Northern Alberta Academic Family Physicians Fund was established by the Northern Alberta Academic Family Physicians group to support initiatives promoting the advancement of family medicine. This fund supports smaller-scale research and projects that often establish the foundation for large and impactful initiatives that have the potential to significantly contribute to the transformation of primary care.

The Northern Alberta Academic Family Physician Funds were granted to 11 initiatives for a total of $53,416 in 2017-2018.

NAAFP has also established the Academic Enhancement Fund (AEF) to support academic enhancement initiatives such as research and personnel development activities, educational infrastructure, awarding prizes or any other educational, research and/or administrative activities which the NAAFP Fund Committee deems advisable for the general educational and/or research purposes of the department.

In 2017-2018, AEF funding was approved for 16 academic enhancement activities for a total of $36,805 dollars.

A number of department faculty and residents received recognition for their contributions to family medicine and medical education.

Department Awards

The 2017 Family Medicine Award recipients
Department of Family Medicine Resident Leadership Award: Kiranpal Dhillon
Department of Family Medicine Resident Peer Award: Chris Koo
Department of Family Medicine Research Award: Poulami Banerjee

Dr. Paul Humphries Resident as Teacher Award for Teaching Excellence
Meghan Chow

Co-chiefs for the 2017 - 2018 academic year, Bryan Frobb (l) and Kiranpal Dhillon (r), congratulate Chris Koo (centre), recipient the Family Medicine Resident Peer Award.
Teaching Excellence Awards
Brad Rowe (Lynnwood Family Physicians)
Neil Bell (Misericordia Family Medicine Centre)
Michelle Morros (Misericordia Family Medicine Centre)
Ron Shute (Grey Nuns Family Medicine Centre)

Faculty & University Awards

Jill Konkin Receives David Cook Award
Congratulations to Jill Konkin on receiving the David Cook Award for Innovation in Medical Education from the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. This award is named in honour of Dr. David Cook, for his many contributions to education at the University of Alberta.

Louanne Keenan, PhD, Receives Equity, Diversion and Inclusion Award
Congratulations to Louanne Keenan, who was recognized with an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award from the University of Alberta. This award recognizes individuals who support the university’s mission to “value diversity, inclusivity, and equity across and among our people, campuses, and disciplines”.

2017 Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP) Awards

Family Medicine Resident Leadership Award
Kiran Dhillon received this award in recognition of her strong leadership skills in advocacy, community service and/or education.

Outstanding New Professional
Karenn Chan received this award for demonstrating balance through commitment to family, patients, colleagues and community in her first five years of practice. Karenn is a member of the Division of Care of the Elderly.

Champion Award
Sudha Koppula received this award for her commitment to engaging with ACFP members and promoting ACFP services and programs. Sudha is the Director of Faculty Development with the Department of Family Medicine and is currently member of the Alberta College of Family Physicians Board of Directors.
National Awards

College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) Award Research Award for Family Medicine Residents
Poulami Banerjee received the Family Medicine Resident Scholarly Achievement Award
Kiranpal Dhillon received the Family Medicine Resident Leadership Award

Martin Moran Receives Canadian Geriatrics Society Peter McCracken Innovator in Education Award
Martin Moran, a member of the Division of Care of the Elderly and coordinator of the undergraduate geriatrics four-week clerkship program, has been awarded the inaugural Peter McCracken Innovator in Education Award from the Canadian Geriatrics Society. This award holds significant meaning, as its namesake was Dr. Peter McCracken, a former Director of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Alberta.

International Awards

North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Student Family Medicine/ Primary Care Research Award
Natalia Binczyk

Community Recognition

Melanie Currie Named Edmonton Area Physician of the Year
A heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Melanie Currie, who was named Physician of the Year by the Edmonton Medical Zone Staff Association (EZMSA) in April 2018. Dr. Currie practices out of the Westgrove Clinic in Spruce Grove, and is a clinical lecturer with the Department of Family Medicine.

Doug Klein Receives Community Champion Award
Doug Klein has received a Community Champion Award from Edmonton’s Central McDougall community in recognition of his volunteer work with students and families as part of the CHANGE Program.

Olurotimi Ogunsina Receives Teaching Excellence Award
Congratulations to Dr. Olurotimi Ogunsina who was awarded the Geambasu and Oshodi Award for Teaching Excellence at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre for the 2017-18 year. University of Alberta family medicine residents in Fort McMurray vote annually for the preceptor who they think was an outstanding teacher over the academic year. Dr. Ogunsina, a local psychiatrist, was selected as the award recipient for the 2017-18 year.

Paul Kivi Receives Geriatric Undergraduate Award
Paul Kivi received the 4th Year Geriatric Undergraduate Award for Undergraduate Coordinator for the 3 & 4th Year Geriatric for the 2017-2018 academic year.
Research

During the 2017-2018 academic year, a number of research initiatives expanded from clinic and research offices into Alberta communities. The MARD Centre announced a significant community grant funding a pilot project for senior’s alternate transportation in two rural communities. The BedMed High Blood Pressure Study began accepting participants from the public, and the CHANGE Program partnered with Memorial Composite High School in Stony Plain, AB to provide the CHANGE Clinic. The CHANGE Adventure Camp also televised the first episode of Adventure Camp TV, a television show for local kids to learn about local ways to get outdoors, be active and have fun.

The PEER (Patients, Experience, Evidence, Research) team, a partnership with family medicine research and Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP), continued to deliver the CPD Roadshows across Alberta. PEER team members also presented “Is it High time for Medical Cannabis? Doubee-ous Evidence or Smokin’ Results?” at a very well-received Family Medicine Grand Rounds in March of 2018.

The annual Family Medicine Research Day took place on June 8, 2018. The plenary speaker was Dr. Neil Bell, Professor with Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta. Dr. Bell, an alumnus of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care, shared his experience and knowledge with “Prevention in Your Practice: Keeping the Benefits, Reducing the Harms”. The day’s research presentations and posters covered topics ranging from patient communication to managing health issues related to drug and alcohol misuse.

Research teams and partners also continued to develop tools and resources for physicians as well as allied health professionals including the ACFP-supported and PEER-produced Tools for Practice, and the textbook Adult Development and Aging, co-authored by Bonnie Dobbs, PhD, research director for the Division of Care of the Elderly.

MARD funding announcement with Minister Sigurdson (L - R) Councillor Loraine Berry (Gibbons), Councillor Susan Evans (Sturgeon County), Councillor David McRae (Redwater), Dr. Bonnie Dobbs (MARD), Honourable Lori Sigurdson, Dr. David Evans (FOMD), Mayor Kevin Zahara (Edson), Councillor David Tighe (Sturgeon County), Mayor Alanna Hnatiw (Sturgeon County), Mayor Barry Turner(Morinville), Councillor Fred Malott (Legal)

Tina Korownyk and Joey Ton discuss marijuana misconceptions during the March Grand 2018 Rounds
Research Areas

There are several distinct areas of research in the Department of Family Medicine Research Program. These areas are:

**Care of the Elderly Research**
The research areas of the faculty members include the following:

1. Health Service Delivery for Seniors
   - Seniors Community Hub (Seniors care in primary care)
   - Geriatric Evaluation and Management in the Emergency Department
   - Geriatric Home Assessments and Interventions
2. Transportation Mobility of Seniors
3. Stigma and Dementia; Identification of Mental Health Disorders in Seniors
4. Core Competencies in the Care of the Elderly
5. Decision-Making Capacity Assessment
6. Support for caregivers
7. Large Data-Set Research on Dementia and Acute Care

The Division provides research support to its residents. Residents perform chart reviews, quality improvement projects, and systematic reviews on a variety of clinical interests including polypharmacy, hospital-acquired pneumonia, inappropriate urinary catheterization, and dementia management.

**Centre for Health and Culture**
The Centre for Health and Culture (CHC) is a nonprofit organization established at the University of Alberta in 1984 to study multicultural health issues. The Centre’s goals are:
- to research the relationship between culture and medicine,
- to explore cultural diversity as it engages the Canadian health care system, and
- to provide training for professionals in cultural competence and intercultural understanding.

CHC began at the University of Alberta in 1984 as The Project for the Study of Traditional Healing Practices under the direction of Dr. David Young. In 1990, the university officially recognized CHC as an interdisciplinary research project, in 1992 the university approved changing the status of the project to a centre and in 2000, the (CHC) became part of the Family Medicine Research Program.

**Clinical Research**
Many researchers in the department have a clinical research focus. Clinical research in family medicine is typically focused on new treatment regimens, prevention techniques, or diagnosis of diseases. A few examples of clinical research being conducted in the department are:
- Pragmatic Trials Collaborative
- BETTER Program
- EnACT
Epidemiology and Population Health Research
Population health research looks at health outcomes of a group of individuals. Research in this area examines the effectiveness of primary health care and primary health care interventions and its impact on the health of individuals or populations as well as impacts on health systems.

Evidence-based Medicine
EBM education supported by PEER focuses on providing residents with the understanding and skills to formulate clinical questions, determine the best resources to answer questions, access resources, quickly appraise evidence available and put evidence into practice. As part for their learning, residents take part in a Family Medicine Evidence Based Workshop and a Brief Evidence-based Assessment of Research (BEARS) activity.

Medically at-Risk Drivers Centre
The vision of the Medically At-risk Driver (MARD) Centre is transportation safety and mobility for all Albertans. The mission of the MARD Centre is to enhance the safety and mobility of medically at-risk drivers. The centre is committed to continue to conduct leading edge research that will enhance the safety and mobility of individuals who no longer drive due to illness, disability, or age-related changes and to disseminate the findings from research to government and community-based partners.

Medical Education
The department strives to improve the educational process of medical students and family medicine residents by undertaking scholarly inquiry related to education and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results.

Research on Distinct Populations
Currently, research activities on distinct populations are in the areas of:
- Medically At-Risk Drivers
- Centre for Health and Culture
- Cultural/Ethnic Groups

Translational Health Research
Translational health research involves research that moves from benchside to bedside and community. Translational health research has a focus on improving both health outcomes, as well as health system outcomes.
What Do Soccer Coaches Know About Asthma

Family medicine research team aims to help soccer coaches understand and deal with asthma

When Chandu Sadasivan was an 18-year old first-time volunteer youth soccer coach during the summer after his freshman year as a U of A undergraduate student, he found himself faced with something his coaching training didn’t prepare him for: a young player having an asthma attack. "It was my first season coaching soccer and I was in charge of an Under 18 team, meaning not many parents stuck around at practices or games. It was just a regular practice and we had been going through a quick activity as a team, when I noticed one of my players was out of breath gasping for air while grabbing his chest.” Sadasivan recalls.

A soccer player from the age of five, Sadasivan knows having asthma doesn’t deter kids from playing soccer. He recalls regularly seeing parents drop asthma inhalers from the bleachers down to their kids on the sidelines during his own time playing youth soccer, so he was aware he was probably not the first, nor would he be the last, coach to cope with asthma on the pitch. Fortunately the attack was not life-threatening, but the incident opened his eyes to a possible need. “Honestly at first, I thought the player was just tired at the time and told him to take a break for the rest of practice, but it wasn’t until I saw the child take out an inhaler that I knew he had asthma and he had suffered a mild asthma attack. It was frightening for myself because initially, I was at a loss of what to do and felt I wasn't prepared to handle this kind of situation. It made me wonder how common would these instances be and whether or not other coaches felt similarly ill-prepared to cope with these situations.”

That incident, which took place two years ago, compelled Sadasivan to learn more and he hoped to eventually be able to do formal research about the topic. He began with a search for an Edmonton-based physician who treats asthma who might be able to provide him with good information, which led him to Dr. Andrew Cave. A family physician, researcher and professor with the Department of Family Medicine, Cave has spent much of his career focused on respiratory disease, including asthma. His extensive research has resulted in him being a member of the Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network (RSCN), one of Alberta Health’s Strategic Clinic Networks, which helps Alberta Health Services determine strategies for improving respiratory care for patients. Cave’s work with the RHSCN includes being part of a working group to develop resources such as the Chronic Asthma Clinical Practice Guidelines as well as the Alberta Childhood Asthma Pathways Toolkit. “Being able to take part in sport along with their peers is important to young people with asthma and is beneficial to them. Knowing that they can do so safely and that the coach is aware how to manage asthma is very reassuring to players and parents alike” says Dr Cave.

When Sadasivan approached him hoping for support and guidance to conduct research on this issue, Cave recognized the opportunity to provide asthma education for families and members of the soccer community, and agreed to assist Sadasivan in applying for a research grant so he could put his research question into action. Despite being unsuccessful in obtaining a University of Alberta Undergraduate Researcher Stipend, they were not discouraged and their persistence paid off when Department of Family Research Program Director Donna Manca became aware of their research and worked with Dr. Cave to find a way to support the initiative.

“This research project is in keeping with a key principle of family medicine, that is, family medicine
is a community-based discipline. As a socially accountable, community-based discipline, our research includes discovering and exploring how to address gaps in the health of our communities. There may be a gap in providing resources and care to our asthmatic patients who participate in sports such as soccer. Exploring this gap and how it could be addressed may help improve the health of our asthmatic patients participating in this sport” explains Manca. With this support in place, the Asthma and Youth Soccer: An Investigation into the Level of Asthma Awareness and Training among Youth Soccer Coaches research project began in earnest, and Sadasivan joined Department of Family Medicine as a 2018 summer research student dedicated to the project.

Despite asthma being a chronic illness which affects about 12% of Albertans, and almost 3 million Canadians, a review of existing research about asthma education for soccer coaches revealed a gap in information on this topic. Both Cave and Sadasivan recognized this as an opportunity to improve, or even create, asthma-awareness resources for soccer coaches. They contacted the Edmonton Minor Soccer Association (EMSA) about their findings and their desire to improve the situation. The result is a collaboration in which EMSA agreed to distributing a survey to 2300 members to determine if there is an obvious need for coach education about asthma and identify the related educational needs.

Once the survey has been completed, Cave and Sadasivan will review the results and coaches’ preferences and use the information to develop an appropriate educational plan. At a minimum, they hope to create an educational section about asthma to be included in the presentation given during EMSA coach training. It might also include the eventual development of an asthma protocol card, similar to the one currently provide for dealing with concussions in soccer, to be available to every coach in the EMSA.

Sadasivan is excited about the potential for this project, because his research review also suggested lack of asthma protocols for soccer coaches at both national and international levels. This means his project has the potential to lead to awareness and training beyond Edmonton’s borders. But for now, this team is focused on giving Edmonton’s soccer coaches and players the hometown advantage against asthma.
Education

Education programs in the department had an exceptionally busy 2017-2018 academic year.

The undergraduate program expanded its influence within the U of A undergraduate medical school, providing medical students with earlier exposure to the career potential offered by a career in family medicine. Ann Lee continued her work as co-director and Roshan Abraham, pre-clerkship director, became the co-thread lead for undergraduate communications alongside a physician from the Department of Pediatrics.

In November of 2017 Accreditation of the residency program was completed with favourable results. The program began implementing changes, both recommended by the reviewers as well as and recognized by the faculty and staff, in early 2018 and continues to recognize and act on opportunities for improvement. The 2017-2018 academic year was also the first year of the Foundations Course, a three-day learning event for PGY1 residents incorporating opportunities to learn basic and advanced skills required in family medicine, build relationship with colleagues and the department and begin to build their identities as family medicine physicians.

The Enhanced Skills Program (PGY3) continued to be a leader in offering Family Medicine-Emergency Medicine, Care of the Elderly, Sport and Exercise Medicine, Palliative Care and Family Practice Anesthesiology post-graduate training programs.

Faculty Development’s annual Faculty Resident Extravaganza and Educational Retreat (FREzER) was once again a successful event. This year’s sessions included topics such as, peer coaching, changing family practice environments in Alberta and the use of medical Apps.

We are proud to have graduated a total of 66 residents into the role of family physician during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Ann Lee (l) with Shauna MacIver (c) and Doug MacIver (r) from Solace Medical Clinic, the recipient of the Urban Clerkship Site of the Year Award for Teaching

Photo credit: Patricia Armitage, Solace Medical Clinic
2017-2018 Learning Sites

There are hundreds of medical professionals throughout Alberta who open their clinic doors to family medicine residents and medical students in family medicine clerkships clinical education opportunities so they can learn about the provision of high-quality patient care for patients. Our thanks to the following learning sites and communities for their support of medical education in Alberta:

**EDMONTON AREA SITES**
- Dominion Medical Centres, Heritage Clinic
- Grandin Clinic
- Grey Nuns Family Medicine Centre
- Justik Medical Clinic
- Kaye Family Medicine Clinic
- LA Medical
- Lynnwood Family Physicians
- Misericordia Family Medicine Clinic
- Northeast Community Health Centre, Family Medicine Clinic
- Royal Alexandra Family Medicine Centre
- Westview Physicians Collaborative

**RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH LEARNING SITES**
- Athabasca, Beaverlodge, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Drayton Valley, Edson, Fairview, High Level, Hinton, Innisfail, Jasper, Lac La Biche, Lacombe, Lamont, Peace River, Ponoka, St. Paul, Sylvan Lake, Sundre, Rimbey, Rocky Mountain House, Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (Fort McMurray), Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (Grande Prairie), Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, Three Hills, Westlock, Wetaskiwin, Whitecourt, and Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory.

**Preceptor Recognition**

Every year, the department recognizes preceptors and teaching sites that offer an exceptional family medicine clerkship experience for medical students. The preceptors and site recognized for the 2017-2018 academic year are:

**Urban Clerkship Site of the Year Award for Teaching Excellence:** Solace Medical Clinic

**The Year 1 Longitudinal Clinical Experience in Family Medicine (LCE-FM) Preceptor of the Year Award for Teaching Excellence:** Dr. Christopher Lin from Smyth Associate Clinic

**The Year 2 Longitudinal Clinical Experience in Family Medicine (LCE-FM) Preceptor of the Year Award for Teaching Excellence:** Dr. Yuliya Kolodenko from The Allin Clinic

**The Urban Clerkship Preceptor of the Year Award for Teaching Excellence:** Dr. Ian Robert Johnson from Meridian Medical Clinic

Ian Robert Johnson (l), recipient of the Urban Clerkship Preceptor of the Year Award for Teaching Excellence, with Ann Lee (r), Family Medicine Undergraduate Program Clerkship Director
Who Wants To Be a Teacher?

Summer research project will shed light on effectiveness of medical teaching program.

Melina Sinclair graduated in June of 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts, honours, in linguistics. Her specific area of interest was phonetics, and the study of how our voices change as we age. But it was another very different interest that led to a summer research position in the Department of Family Medicine.

“I don’t know exactly how this research project links to linguistics.” Sinclair admits “I more so am interested in teaching in general. I worked last summer at the Centre for Teaching and Learning and I gained an interest in teaching and research on teaching”. Sinclair is assisting study investigators Olga Szafran, Oksana Babenko and Lillian Au on the Resident As Teacher research project. The purpose of this project is to examine the interest and involvement that family physicians have in clinical teaching over time as they progress from residency training into clinical practice. “I find teaching really interesting,” says Sinclair “so when I learned about this opportunity with Resident as Teacher, I realized it is similar to my previous work. How do we get people to come back and teach? What grabs people’s interest in teaching?”

The Resident As Teacher program, also known as RAT, was created to help address the learning needs of medical students at the University of Alberta. Dr. Amy Tan, former undergraduate program director in the Department of Family Medicine, introduced RAT as a formal part of the physicianship program, which is designed to develop the physician identity and includes learning skills such as communication, learning a patient’s history, performing exams and acquiring a knowledge of medical ethics. The physicianship program was added to the family medicine undergraduate program in 2013 during a curriculum renewal in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's undergraduate medical education program.

RAT programs are considered a critical part of resident education and are included in the accreditation criteria for family medicine residency programs in Canada. Because RAT programs involve teaching, they provide residents the opportunity to share their knowledge with medical students in family medicine clerkships in designated learning sites while solidifying their own skills. It is an invaluable experience; current director of undergraduate medical education in the department Lillian Au points out, “teaching is, in fact, the highest form of learning.”

Over the course of the RAT program, each resident teaches six sessions, primarily small group communication and physical exams, during their second year of residency to years one to four medical students and are supported by faculty coaches. Being taught by experienced residents allows medical students to benefit from working with “near peers” only a few years older than they are. This close proximity in age means both students and residents are likely to relate to each other better and feel comfortable in being more open and honest, serving not only as a teacher to undergraduate MDs, but as role models and mentors as well.

The two main questions of the RAT research study are whether residents are confident and interested in clinical teaching and if teaching during residency increases the likelihood that they will return to teach after they have begun clinical practice. This is a four-year study and participants will be followed up at one and three years following completion of their residency training.

Participants in the study are from the Class of 2017, the cohort that began their first year of residency in July of 2015. The first year of the study assessed residents’ level of interest in clinical teaching before and after taking the RAT.
program. This year, the second year of the project, the study will determine if these same residents remained interested in teaching following their first full year in clinical practice and if they are currently teaching.

In 2020, participants will be re-surveyed to see if they have continued to teach. The research will also examine if family physicians who did not participate in a RAT program continue on to teach once they have completed their program and gained sufficient experience to be able to teach. Although only urban family medicine residents are part of the RAT program, rural residents may participate in opportunistic teaching, but do not receive formal training in teaching or participate in formal teaching sessions.

Sinclair’s will be assisting with the RAT research until the end of August 2018, after which she will continue on to the next stage of her life, including her long-term plan to study speech language pathology. In the meantime, her interest in teaching will contribute to an understanding of the impact of the Resident As Teacher Program in the Department of Family Medicine.
Health Services

In addition to working with the planning team to bring to plan and create the MacEwan University Health Centre to fruition, Quality Health Services continues to work with residents, clinics/practices and community health partners to advance quality and safety in family practice/primary care.

David Moores, Quality Health Services Lead, and Mirella Chiodo, Informatics & Quality Supervisor, continued their work in the department to use the documentation of significant events and significant event analysis as teaching tools for residents as well as faculty and staff. Understanding the processes of medical error, misadventure, good catches and close calls will reduce the negative stigma of reporting medical errors and mistakes. The more active engagement of the public in analyzing significant events is the future. Patient/public quality and safety is captured in the mantra “Nothing to me, nothing for me, without me.”

Another highlight for the Quality Health Services Team was the invitation to the inaugural screening of “Falling Through the Cracks: Greg’s Story”. This documentary film depicts the devastating consequences in healthcare systems when a lack of continuity in care, coupled with poor or ineffective communication, negatively impacts patient care and the quality and safety of that care. Quality Health Services have had considerable consultation and engagement with the family of Greg Price, since 2013. Greg Price’s premature death is depicted in the film. The Price Family are finding ways to use Greg’s story bring attention to the issues of poor consultation/referral practices in the health system. They are endeavouring to better engage the general public on these quality and safety issues.

This Wordle was created by David Moores, using feedback from members of the public, physicians, and nurses. Over the course of three days he asked them to give three words they would use to describe the referral/consultation process. The Wordle was presented at a session of the Accelerating Primary Care conference held November 29 & 30, 2018 to characterize the challenges of the consultation/referral process to the public.
On June 29 of 2018, construction of the MacEwan University Health Centre (MUHC) was completed.

This facility, along with the primary care clinic to be housed within, is the fruition of the department’s vision to have a functional Patient Centred Medical Home (PCMH) model clinic within a medical teaching environment.

The clinic, which is a partnership between the Department of Family Medicine and MacEwan University supported by Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services, will provide health care to MacEwan University students and staff, as well as patients of the Royal Alexandra Family Medicine Clinic, which closed its doors in June of 2018.

The MacEwan University Health Centre is a significant step forward for teaching and implementing the PCMH model home model of delivering primary care. The clinic’s physical layout, administrative technologies and team-based approach to patient care makes it an ideal training environment for family medicine residents, medical students and allied health care providers, in addition to providing high-quality patient-centred care.

The development of MUHC will also serve as a template for the eventual transition of existing clinics to the PCMH model of providing care.

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2013 - 2014
The Department of Family Medicine and the Edmonton Oliver Primary Care Network begin collaborations to create an Academic Enhanced Family Care Clinic (AEFCC).

August 2014
A stakeholder group is formed and develops business and financial plans for the intended Woodcroft East AEFCC. In December of 2014, Alberta Health puts AEFCC programs on hiatus.

June 2015
Discussions begin with MacEwan University to use available space for a primary care teaching clinic that also serves MacEwan University student and staff health needs.

2015-2016
The Department of Family Medicine, MacEwan University allied health deans and MacEwan’s president develop a business case for the clinic. In July 2016, Alberta Health approves the business case and funding.

February 2017
The clinic project is fully green-lighted by MacEwan University, and construction begins in November of 2017.

June 29, 2018
Construction is completed on June 29, 2018 and clinic and university staff begin preparations to open the clinic to patients for the 2017-2018 academic year.
International Partnerships

China

Hoan Linh Banh completed her collaborative work with the Second Xiangya Hospital of Central South University in Changsha, Hunan, China, where she helped to teach pharmacists and graduate students clinical pharmacy practices.

In September 2017 Banh and fellow family medicine faculty member were part of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's visit to Yiwu's 4th Affiliated Hospital, part of the University of Huong Zhou the third most prestigious medical university in China. The Faculty has organized a residential course in Edmonton for clinical leaders from Yiwu for the last three years. Their visit was initiated at the request of the dean of the 4th Affiliated Hospital for the purpose of exploring and initiating the addition of family medicine as one of the specialties which sends their leaders to Edmonton. General practice in China is in an era of rapid evolution and the hosts were very keen to collaborate with the Department of Family Medicine at University of Alberta. Experienced general practitioners from Yiwu will spend six months in Edmonton observing the Canadian system of general practice before developing their own new system and curriculum. The two universities will also be undertaking collaborative research project together to screen for pre-diabetes in general practice in the rural areas around Yiwu with the support of Dr. Yongming Zhang and the hospital president Dr. Chen.

Uganda

From March 3 to 17, 2018, Connie Lebrun, family physician and professor with the Department of Family Medicine, travelled to Kampala, Uganda, with a delegation based out of UBC, which included a team leader, two sport medicine physicians, a physiotherapist and two pedorthists. The purpose was twofold: to teach sport medicine to the local physiotherapists and physicians who look after the Ugandan athletes, and to assess university and national team athletes there in consultation.

Each week the team alternated full days of teaching sport medicine, giving rounds at the local hospitals and holding clinics to see athletes. For the educational part, they were carrying on from what a similar group from UBC did last year, and offered a Level III and an Advanced Sport Medicine Course on two separate days. Dr. Jack Taunton, the Program Director for Lebrun's Sport and Exercise Medicine Fellowship training at UBC some 30 years prior, led the first group in May 2017.
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