Message from the Chair

The theme for my last two newsletter columns has been change. This will make three in a row and there will be more in the future – we live in interesting times! This month though I want to take a longer view on change, to focus on the research going on in the department that is changing how we practice.

Dr. Scott Garrison’s EZMSA researcher of the year award, featured in this newsletter, derives from his work on pragmatic clinical trials. Dr. Garrison is working with the largest network of family practices doing research in North America, studying how some of the things we do often (managing anticoagulation, treating high blood pressure) really work in community practice, as opposed to the often highly artificial trials common in the medical literature. As the noted clinical epidemiologist Lawrence Green pointed out, “if we want evidence-based practice, we must have practice-based evidence”, and Dr. Garrison is leading the change to get it for us.

Also in this issue, Drs. Khera and Abbasi and their team have received another grant in their ongoing program for improving seniors’ care in community practice. At the end of the newsletter is an announcement for Dr. Klein’s CHANGE camp, one of the components of the initiative he’s leading to change the sedentary lifestyles that bring so many of our patients to harm. Dr. McDonald’s work may well contribute to changing physician reimbursement policy in Alberta – stay tuned.

Not in this issue, but ongoing and active, are more department researchers whose work is changing what we do. Dr. Campbell-Scherer’s 5As Team is changing how we understand, and how we manage, obesity. Dr. Manca and her team are changing how preventive services are delivered, Dr. Salvalaggio’s team is changing services to urban underserved populations, and Drs. Cave and Banh are working to raise the bar on how we manage COPD.

There are more, but I think you get the picture. The key is that how we practice family medicine is being changed for the better by researchers in family medicine. So it should be, and we’ll keep it going.

- Dr. Lee Green

Congratulations to Scott Garrison

Scott Garrison has been named the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association (EZMSA) Researcher of the Year! This award acknowledges physicians whose research has significantly affected clinical practice in their area but whose work may not being widely known. Congratulations!

For information about the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association, visit the EZMSA website.
UNDERGRADUATE UPDATE

The College of Family Physicians of Canada is offering the following awards to medical students in the class of 2017 and 2018. If you are interested in pursuing a career in family medicine, please look into these award/scholarship options. Application deadline is Friday, April 14, 2017.

You can submit your applications for the Medical Student Leadership award and the Medical student Scholarship to Erika Siroski by email at erika.siroski@ualberta.ca or by fax to 780-492-8191. If you have any questions about applying, please call 780-248-1977.

Applications forms can be accessed via this link: [http://www.cfpc.ca/Medical_Student_Scholarships/](http://www.cfpc.ca/Medical_Student_Scholarships/)

MEDICAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

These awards recognize the leadership abilities of outstanding medical students in the graduating class of 2017. One student from each of the 17 Canadian medical schools will be selected. A selection committee comprised of student and faculty representatives has been asked to collaborate on the selection process. Award recipients will be invited to attend the Family Medicine Forum 2017 in Montreal, November 8-11, 2017. Students have been invited to apply to for these scholarships by April 14, 2017.

A letter of support from a faculty member addressing the nominee’s skills as a leader must be included. These letters are an important component in the selection process and should include sufficient information to support the nominee’s demonstrated interest in family medicine and skills in areas of leadership, academic and/or research achievement, communication skills, publications, and non-medical/community interests. Where possible, you are encouraged to consider recognizing a student not previously nominated for a Medical Student Scholarship.

MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships recognize outstanding medical students in their second last year of study (graduating class of 2018) who have an interest in family medicine as a career. Students have been invited to apply for these scholarships by April 14, 2017.

One student from each Canadian medical school will be selected. A selection committee coordinated through the Department of Family Medicine, comprised of student, resident, and faculty representatives, will collaborate on the selection process.

The student application form is available using the above link. Two letters of support from faculty members, one of which is a family physician are required.

POSTGRADUATE UPDATE

Good Sports!

Connie Lebrun and Terry De Freitas were featured on the University of Alberta website in an article about their work in sports medicine! [You can read the article here.](http://www.cfpc.ca/Medical_Student_Scholarships/)
FINANCIAL YEAR-END REMINDER: DEADLINES AND DUE DATES

March 31 is the fiscal year end for the University of Alberta. Below are a couple of deadlines to give enough time for processing transactions in this year's books:

Friday, March 24 - Travel and Expense Claims - this allows time to ensure that claims are entered, reviewed for any corrections, and final approvals done by March 31.

Monday, March 27 - Invoices and Requests for Payment - please have these into our finance people for review, coding, and forwarding for processing.

These dates include all travel, expenses, and other purchases of goods or services up to and including March 31. If you are unable to meet these deadlines please contact David Heritage, Joyce Cabalo, or Amy Swearingen (for Research accounts).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cancer Control Workshop

Date: April 22, 2017  
Locations: Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge  
The workshop will provide family physicians the opportunity to build linkages between oncology and primary care communities of practice and improve integration of care by promoting knowledge exchange and relationship building. Topics include case studies, palliative care, clinical genetics Immunotherapy overview, and updates screening guidelines. Registration forms are now available. If you have any questions, or would like a copy of the registration form, please contact Anna Fabbroni at 780-643-7140 or anna.fabbroni@ahs.ca.

Orthopedic Surgery Update for Primary Care

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017  
Location: The Robbins Pavilion at the Royal Alexandra Hospital  
Primary care physicians will be informed of new developments in the accurate diagnosis and management of common musculoskeletal disorders. For more information and online registration, please visit the course website.

Regional Conference on Mid-Life Women’s Health Issues

Date: April 29, 2017  
Location: Lister Hall on the University of Alberta campus  
The event is being organized by the Canadian Menopause Society, and will feature: a postgraduate course on "Menopause Primer"; a lunch symposium on TSECs; sessions addressing peri- & post-menopausal bleeding as well as mid-life sleep and case studies on osteoporosis. Visit the conference website for more information.

Gairdner Symposium

Date: May 24-26, 2017  
Location: University of Alberta campus  
In partnership with the Gairdner Foundation, the Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta (CRINA) is proud to host a two-day Canada Gairdner Symposium titled Cancer Discoveries: Molecules to Man.

For more further details, schedules and registration information, visit the Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta (CRINA) Gairdner Symposium website.
RESEARCH UPDATE

Research Publications

Grants
Congratulations to Dr. Sheny Khera, Dr. Marjan Abbasi, and team on their successful application for the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association - Quality Improvement Grant. Abbasi M, Khera S, Dabravolskaj J, Sadowski C, Yapp A, Ramji J. Improving Medication Management for Seniors Living with Frailty in the Community - Quality Improvement Project in Collaboration with the Edmonton Oliver Primary Care Network.

Research Forum
The next Research Forum is being held **March 23, 2017** From 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in University Terrace 6-10D. Lillian Au and Oksana Babenko will be presenting **Family Medicine Residents’ Interest & Experience in Teaching and Motivation for Learning**

EnACT
EnACT is providing support to a research initiative poised to make a major contribution to the transformation of primary care in Alberta.

With the support of EnACT and Dr. Lee Green, Dr. Terrence McDonald, who received his MSc from the London School of Economics in December of 2016, has been conducting research into the relationship between physician demographics, geography, and high GP patient volumes in fee-for-service practice in Alberta.

Keep watching the Department of Family Medicine website to find out more about this exciting research initiative.

RESEARCH AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Research Administration Day
Mark your calendars for Research Services Office's upcoming Research Administration Day (RAD). Whether you are new to research administration or you want to learn more, come to RAD. Past topics included challenges of multi-sponsor partnership projects and unboxing research finance. This year's theme is **Today's Research, Our Future** and will align with University of Alberta's strategic plan, For the Public Good.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017  
**Time:** 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
**Location:** L1-490, L1-420, & L1-430, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA)

Pediatric Research Day
**Date:** Wednesday May 17, 2017  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Edmonton Clinical Health Academy  
Abstract submissions are now open. Oral presentations will be invited from both faculty and students, and you are encouraged to submit your best abstracts. Posters will also be adjudicated and prizes awarded.

Submit your abstract online by 4:00 pm on April 1, 2017. Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure your abstract submission is successful. Visit the **Pediatric Research Day** website or email **Neera Chaulagai** if you have any questions.
FACULTY AND STAFF INFORMATION

Condolences

Our thoughts are with Dr. Carly Barnett, a University of Alberta family medicine residency graduate, and her two young children. Her husband, Jeffrey Bird, was killed in a plane crash near Calgary on Monday February 13, 2017.

- submitted by the staff of the Glenora Medical Clinic

Health, Wellness and Learning Opportunities

The University has many development, learning and support resources available to its staff members. Here are a few:

- Programs & Workshops including Lunch and Learns, Health Promotion Workshops and Workplace Learning Workshops.
- The university also offers wellness and mental health resources for staff, including the Employee Family Assistance Program, and Counselling and Clinical Services Drop-In workshops.
- Human Resource Development Funds, which enable eligible employees to access learning opportunities, will be accepting applications again beginning April 1, 2017!

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The CHANGE Adventure Camp is coming to TV!

The team that introduced CHANGE Adventure Camp is developing a television show, and needs you help!

Do you know any local children born between 2004 and 2007 who are adventurous and creative? They could win a spot on the show, just by answering this simple question:

What is Your Adventure?

Want to know more? check out this clip from their recent television guest spot.

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ABOUT FAMILY MATTERS

Family Matters is the monthly Department of Family Medicine newsletter highlighting the work of department faculty, staff and researchers. If you have news or information for Family Matters, please send it to danica.erickson@ualberta.ca.