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Message from the Chair

It’s been four and a half years since I started here at the University of Alberta. I’m in the midst of my chair reappointment process for a second five-year term. Over the last week or so I’ve been putting together my “vision talk”, one of the requirements for reappointment. It’s a talk summarizing where we’ve been and where I see us going. It’s a tedious exercise, consuming a lot of time and effort during a time when I have a lot of other things to get done, but it has had an unexpected benefit: providing a good reflection on what we’ve done over the last four and a half years. I was surprised - there’s a lot! We’re always so immersed in getting it done, and those boulders we’re pushing move so slowly, that it often seems we’re not doing much. Stepping back and putting it all together shows a remarkable picture.

I want to call out one particular area for attention. Not because it’s the most important, but because six years ago the department had been told by a former dean that we didn’t do anything meaningful in that area and should probably just stop doing it. Today we have no fewer than 10 research programs (multiple projects in an ongoing organized effort) active in the department. They are, as they should be in family medicine, closely engaged with the practice and/or patient community, highly collaborative, aimed at providing the knowledge that patients and their family doctors need. They’re also getting quite good at securing external funding: well over $5 million actively managed by the department at present, and that doesn’t include the even larger total for grants on which we’re collaborators. Good show!

- Dr. Lee Green

CARE OF THE ELDERLY EDUCATION AND PALLIATIVE CARE COORDINATOR ANNOUNCED

The Department of Family Medicine is pleased to announce Dr. Karen Leung is the new Care of the Elderly Education and Palliative Care Coordinator. This position includes education administration at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and coordination of family medicine palliative care education across the department of family medicine.

Dr. Leung completed her Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Science (joint program) in Health Services Research from the Cumming School of Medicine Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. She completed her family medicine residency and care of the elderly diploma in the University of Alberta family medicine program. As a resident, Karen received a number of scholarships and awards for her work, and has been published in peer-reviewed dementia and care of the elderly medical journals.

The faculty and staff of the department look forward to working with Dr. Leung in advancing palliative care practice within the department and across Alberta.

Dr. Karen Leung
STAFF WELCOMES

Lisa Felicitas and Joyce Cabalo have joined the Department of Family Medicine. Lisa, a U of A graduate who previously worked in the private sector, is the new Administrative Assistant to the Residency and CBAS programs. Joyce graduated from NAIT where she also worked prior to joining the department as the new Accounting/Financial Assistant.

Welcome Lisa and Joyce!

FAMILY MEDICINE RECOGNIZED AT CELEBRATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Congratulations to Department of Family Medicine faculty recognized at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning held on November 8, 2016. Louanne Keenan received the Excellence in Pre-clinical Mentorship Award, and Dr. Lillian Au received the Physical Skills Preceptor Excellence Award. Congratulations also to Christopher Donoff, a medical education research summer student with the department who was recognized at the event for best poster.

FAMILY MEDICINE FORUM UPDATE

The University of Alberta Department of Family Medicine had a significant presence at the 2016 College of Family Physicians of Canada Family Medicine Forum (CFPC - FMF).

Faculty members Drs Andrew Cave and Neil Bell were both recognized with Lifetime Achievement Awards in Family Medicine Research. Dr. Paul Humphries accepted the Ian McWhinney Family Medicine Education Award, the Reg L. Perkin Award and became a lifetime CFPC member alongside Dr. Rick Spooner, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Family Medicine.

Residents and undergraduate family medicine students were also recognized for their work. Current PGY1 resident Adam Mildenberger received the University of Alberta Family Medicine Medical Student Leadership Award, 2016 residency program graduate Lisa World received the University of Alberta Family Medicine Resident Leadership Award and Danika Leung, a current undergraduate medical student, received a CFPC Medical Student Scholarship.

Congratulations also to Dr. Shirley Schipper who was elected to the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large for 2016 - 2019.

Several department members presented posters on family medicine topics such as care of the elderly, scope of practice of program graduates, and assessment and program accreditation. Medical education research was very active at FMF, presenting medical education-specific workshops, oral and poster presentations, facilitating tables at the Section of Teachers Knowledge Cafe, and hosting the Education Researchers’ Networking Breakfast.

Congratulations to all department attendees and honourees for outstanding work!

The 2016 Family Medicine Forum was held November 9 – 12 in Vancouver, BC.
DR. EARLE WAUGH TRANSFERS HEADDRESS TO UNIVERSITY ON PERMANENT LOAN

On November 7, 2016 representatives from Alberta’s Cree community, members of Edmonton’s Al Rashid Mosque, Aboriginal students, family physicians, university faculty, staff and friends and family of Dr. Earle Waugh gathered at the Timm’s Centre for the Arts to witness the transfer of a ceremonial Cree headdress to permanent loan at the University of Alberta.

Following a smudge and a prayer, Waugh spoke about his relationship with the Cree community in Alberta, his experience working on the Alberta Elders Cree Dictionary with Elders from the community and his reason for wanting the headdress to remain at the University of Alberta. Dr. Waugh was also recognized for his work with the Al Rashid Mosque in Edmonton, including work on a forthcoming book about the history of the Mosque.

The Department of Family Medicine has benefited from Waugh’s knowledge about Aboriginal, Muslim and other cultures: he has shared this wealth of knowledge to help develop resources for health professionals to foster awareness about the delivery of culturally appropriate healthcare to the communities in which the department works.

Waugh’s work has contribute greatly to the University of Alberta and the academic community, and is a wonderful example of the power of not merely knowing, but also understanding.

UNDERGRADUATE UPDATE

Electives

The undergraduate program has been working diligently to expand elective opportunities for students interested in pursuing family medicine as a career. Students are able to complete two weeks of urban family medicine over their clerkship years, and have been looking for options to do more. The options now offered are:

- Sports Medicine (community practice and at the Glen Sather Sports Medicine clinic)
- Marginalized populations
- Primary care obstetrics
- Primary care hospital teams
- Evidence based medicine research
- Family medicine – anesthesia

Opportunities in Indigenous health and Francophone electives are being considered in the upcoming academic year.

Family Medicine Interest Group

The FMIG hosted the following events in November for the students:
November 15, 2016: Alberta College of Family Physicians dinner
November 21, 2016: Dr. John Chmieleck presented 2+1 Enhanced Skills as a lunch speaker
In December FMIG will have a lunch speaker present Research in Family Medicine (date TBD).
RESEARCH UPDATE

Publications


FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Save the Date for FREzER 2017: March 24 & 25, 2017!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2017 Grand Rounds Dates

The dates for the 2017 Family Medicine Grand Rounds have been set. Please mark your Calendars.

January 19

HQCA: Understanding Panel Management Reports

March 16

M&M: Lessons Learned

June 15

Global Health

September 21

Choosing Wisely (to be confirmed)
FACULTY AND STAFF INFORMATION

Goal Orientations Survey of Practicing Physicians

Researchers in the Department of Family Medicine are conducting a survey to examine goal orientations of practicing physicians and invite you to complete a 5-minute online questionnaire.

This is a Tri-Council funded research project. Your participation in the survey will contribute to our understanding of goal orientations and how they relate to personal and professional outcomes. The direct benefit to you is a potential for greater self-awareness.

To take the survey, please click on the following link: https://goo.gl/forms/x0llAhwZtgr1Trx2

For more information about the study, "Exploring goal orientations of learners in professional education and of practicing professionals", please contact Dr. Oksana Babenko: obabenko@ualberta.ca.

The U of A is Hosting the 2016 Mountain Festival!

The Canadian Mountain Network’s 2016 Mountain Festival will be hosted on the University of Alberta campus December 9 - 15, 2016. The event is free and open to all mountain enthusiasts and includes a variety of activities from a bouldering competition and alpine art show to a mountain symposium and presentations. Sessions include Northern Indigenous Narratives of Land Connection through Language and Place, Mountain Symposium, and Life in the Vertical World with Sonnie Trotter: Climbing Keynote Event.

For the full schedule and to get FREE tickets, visit www.internationalmountainday.ca

Expressions of Interest Call – Prostate Cancer

The Alberta Cancer Foundation is inviting members of the Alberta cancer research and clinical community to identify specific opportunities and ideas that could be further developed into transformational investments that will improve prostate cancer patient outcomes in Alberta.

Highly qualified individuals in any area ideally holding an academic appointment at an Alberta University or Alberta Health Services appointment are invited to apply. Those putting forward an idea must submit an Alberta Cancer Foundation Expression of Interest Form by NOON (MST) on December 12, 2016.

Visit albertacancer.ca for an Expression of Interest Form and Expression of Interest FAQs.

Food Bank Donations

As you may be aware, the Edmonton Food Bank has seen a substantial increase in demand in this last year, and has struggled to meet the need. The newly-formed Family Medicine Social Club is inviting those attending the Christmas party on December 20 to bring a donation for the Edmonton Food Bank.

Donations will be delivered to the Food Bank by social club committee members.

Together we can help make Christmas a little brighter.