



The Manitoba  
College of Family  
Physicians Inc.

# Communiqué

December 2008

**President**

Dr. Frances Berard

**Past President**

Dr. John Hedden

**President-Elect**

Dr. Carey Isaac

**Acting Treasurer**

Dr. Ihab Khalil

**Acting Secretary**

Dr. Perry Gall

**Member-At-Large – Urban**

Dr. Tamara Buchel

**Member-At-Large – Rural**

Vacant

**Resident Representatives**

Dr. Noor Amin

Dr. Frey Riskalla

**Medical Student Representative**

Ms. Deanna Cook

Ms. Zahra Abhari

**Administrator**

Mrs. Susan Patek

**Conference Coordinator**

Mrs. Kari MacKinnon

The Manitoba College of Family Physicians Inc., has 785 members in its various categories, representing over half of the primary care physicians in the Province. We are part of a national voluntary organization committed to quality patient care through promotion of the role of the family physician, provision of quality continuing medical education and maintaining excellent training programs.

The four principles of family medicine define our profession:

1. The family physician is a skilled clinician.
2. The family physician is a resource to a defined practice population.
3. Family medicine is community-based.
4. The doctor-patient relationship is primary to the role of the family physician.

**Our mailing address:**

240 – 1695 Henderson Highway,

Winnipeg, Manitoba R2G 1P1

Telephone: (204) 668-3667

Fax: (204) 668-3663

Email: [spatek@mcfp.mb.ca](mailto:spatek@mcfp.mb.ca)

Manitoba Website

[www.mcfp.mb.ca](http://www.mcfp.mb.ca)

National Website

[www.cfpc.ca](http://www.cfpc.ca)



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings to all my Family Medicine Colleagues! Winter is upon us and the Holiday Season is approaching fast. I am sure you are all as busy as ever. First let me thank you all for continuing to provide such important and valued service for Canadians. We live in a wonderful country and the dedication of our Family Doctors and other health care providers is definitely one of the reasons. Here is a snapshot of events at the Manitoba Chapter.

**Practice Tools:** *Catalogue of Specialized Services.* This internet tool is a collaborative project initiated by Manitoba Health which will be sent out to you soon. It should be a great resource to your practice. If you are a Family Physician who provides special services, please watch for the attached questionnaire which will be included with the Catalogue mail out. We are looking forward to finding out what our Manitoba Family Physicians are doing. If you wish to be listed in the Catalogue, a link is provided to enter your information. The National Board has very recently established a *Section of Family Physicians with Focused Practices* so this is great timing.

**Maintenance of Fellowship & Certification:** Calling all Fellows of our College!! The deadline of Dec 31st to submit your CME credits is approaching fast. In order to maintain your Fellowship you need not only 250 CME credits but also 25 Mainpro C credits. We have received notifications regarding this over the last years but because of the large volumes of communications we receive I realize this will still come as a surprise to many of you. The National College does not really want anyone to lose their Fellowship and is quite willing to help any physicians who calls them. We at the Manitoba College will also attempt to contact our members affected by this to help them with their options. If you are struggling to meet these deadlines for Fellowship or Maintenance of Certification, please call us or the National College for help.

**Medical Education:** Help us support our Manitoba Family Medicine Interest Group. These are medical students who are committed to Family Medicine and organize activities and promotional events to further their learning and recruit more interest amongst their peers. We may be contacting you for help with speaker sessions or Skills Clinics. These students will be our future colleagues and successors so I think we can take pride in taking part in their development.

*Continued on page 2*

## Highlights of This Issue

Awards News	2
Annual Scientific Assembly	3
Healthy Smile Happy Child	4
Candidate Approved Vendors for EMRs	4
Maintaining Membership/Fellowship in the CFPC	5
Specialist Phone Advice	5
Referrals to the Section of Pediatric Gastroenterology	6

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

**Advocacy:** Manitoba is fast becoming a hot spot for family medicine training at the undergrad and resident level. We hope to promote the need for better support and recognition of family medicine teachers and teaching programs in upcoming discussions with the government.

**National College:** Family Medicine Forum 2008 was a huge success with over 3000 registrants - that is a record number. This conference is a great opportunity to take in quality CME as well as network with colleagues and friends from all over the country. The National College is continuing to formalize our reputation as good collaborators and leaders of primary care teams. The *Section of Family Physicians with Focused Practice* is shaping up well and will welcome these important members of our community. The National College is also working hard to empower provincial chapters like ours so that we have the resources to better represent you and respond to your needs.

So, as you can see, there is a lot going on in the world of Family Medicine. I hope you all have a wonderful and well deserved Holiday Season. Keep up the great work!! As always, we are very happy to receive your comments and suggestions. Please don't hesitate to phone us at 668-3667 or email to [spatek@mcfp.mb.ca](mailto:spatek@mcfp.mb.ca).

**Frances Berard, MD, CCFP, FCFP,  
President.**

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

Should the Manitoba College of Family Physicians create more awards? This question was put to those present at the Past Presidents Breakfast held in the context of the Manitoba College of Family Physician's Annual Scientific Assembly April 10-12, 2008. After thoughtful discussion, it was agreed that we did not. It was recommended that we continue to advertise our current awards and that members be encouraged to nominate or apply for them.

The **Claude H. Murphy Continuing Medical Education Award winner for 2008 is Dr. Shawn Thomas.** He is a clinical instructor in the Department of Family Medicine and practices in the area of Concordia Hospital. The Award will assist Dr. Thomas in attending the annual meeting of the Section of Teachers of Family Medicine held in Toronto at Family Medicine Forum.

**Enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter are the Nomination Forms for "Family Physician of the Year" and the "Awards of Excellence". Please note that the deadline for receipt of Nominations for these Awards is January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.**

**Gary Beazley, MD, CCFP, FCFP,  
Chair,  
Manitoba College of Family Physicians  
Awards Committee**

## NATIONAL AWARDS

The Manitoba College of Family Physicians would like to congratulate the following recipients of National Awards in 2008:

### **Canada's Family Physicians of the Year Manitoba**

Dr. Michael Penrose

### **Awards of Excellence**

Dr. Raymond Singer

Dr. Darcy Johnson

### **Irwin Bean Award**

Dr. Joanne Barker

### **Janus Research Grant**

Dr. José François

### **Janus CPD/CME Scholarship**

Dr. Jason Scott

### **Hollister King Rural Family Practice Scholarship**

Dr. Elizabeth Senderewich

### **CFPC Scholarship in Women's Health**

Dr. James Laurence Reynolds

### **Medical Student Scholarships**

Mr. Justin Ting

### **Medical Student Leadership Awards**

Mr. Michael Isaac

### **Family Medicine Resident Leadership Awards**

Dr. Ainslie Mihalchuk

### **Family Medicine Resident Award for Scholarship**

Dr. Quy Doan

### **2008 Life Members**

Dr. Mithra Davey

Dr. Rajen Ramgoolam

### **Fellowship**

Dr. Ian J. Goldstine

Dr. Peter Kuegle

Dr. Cameron S. Lowden

Dr. Richard J. McCammon

Dr. Afsaneh Oliver

Dr. Michael Penrose

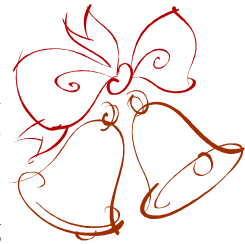
Dr. David Pinchuk

Dr. Richard Halim Tomy

Dr. Wendy D. Tretiak

## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE ASA COMMITTEE!

At this time of the year, we all know that the holidays, with family time and all the treats of the winter season are on everyone's minds, but I would also like to focus your attention, if only for a moment, on next Spring.



This upcoming year's Annual Scientific Assembly will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre from April 30 – May 2, 2009 and as I have written before, it helps if you plan ahead! Get your receptionist to mark the time off now, so that you can again take advantage of the excellent program that this year's Committee has put together for you.

As in years past, this is your one stop opportunity for excellent CME, delivered by both local and distinguished out-of-province presenters, in the company of your friends and peers. An excellent chance to learn and develop as a physician while cultivating both old and new friendships.

Increasing the amount of the short, direct snapper lectures was very popular last year and so we have continued with this format. Our emphasis this coming year will be on the Top 10 Medical Advances in the Western World including topics covering: sanitation, immunization, antibiotics and anti-virals, family planning, childbirth, cardiac surgery and care, and evidence based medicine. A wide field – with something for everyone. One of the biggest complaints we always get after our conferences is that there was too much to choose from, and we hope this will be the case again! The afternoons will again be filled with more intensive workshop format sessions, so that a deeper understanding of a topic can be achieved.

As always, we are working diligently on a fabulous Friday evening of entertainment – details will be available with your registration package when it arrives in the Spring. Another great evening for families!

As our political bodies move towards more standardized tracking of your continuing medical education, we are proud to continue to provide excellent opportunities for learning at a reasonable price. Remember too, that the MMA will rebate appropriate registration!

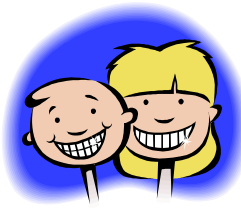
We are looking forward to seeing you next spring and wish you all the best of a glorious, blue-skied Manitoba winter,

**Helga Sickert, MD,**  
**Chair Annual Scientific Assembly Committee**

### **51st Annual Scientific Assembly April 30—May 02, 2009 Winnipeg Convention Centre**

**Watch your mailboxes in February for your program and registration forms!**  
Program and registration form will also be available in February at  
[www.mcfp.mb.ca](http://www.mcfp.mb.ca)

## HEALTHY SMILE HAPPY CHILD



**Did You Know?** *that early childhood caries (ECC) is the most common chronic disease among children under six!*

Over 2000 children between birth and six years of age go through surgery under general anesthesia every year in Manitoba to treat ECC. ECC is the presence of tooth decay in one or more primary teeth among children between birth and six years of age. Tooth decay is a rapid form of bacterial infection that can spread in just a few months if it is not treated. Even the first tooth is at risk of decay!

ECC is a very painful disease and can interfere with a child's development. Children with ECC often experience repeated infections and fevers; difficulties with eating, sleeping, and learning; problems with speech development and behavior management; decreases in self-esteem; and an increased risk of crooked or crowded adult teeth.

Growing evidence indicates a link between periodontal disease and overall health. Studies suggest that cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, premature births, and cancer are linked to gum disease and poor oral health.

*Healthy Smile Happy Child* is a Manitoba Health grant funded initiative that focuses on preventing ECC in Manitoba children. The project is based on building the capacity of existing services rather than on developing new services, and focused on exploring linkages with health providers, other intersectoral service providers, and the community at-large. We believe that as Family Physicians you have an opportunity to play an important role in the oral health of your young patients. Quick messages such as wiping the newborn baby's mouth daily with a clean cloth and brushing the first tooth can be imbedded within practice and positively impact families.

If you would like to participate in a focus group to help us understand the best ways to reach Family Physicians with ECC prevention messages please call Lavonne Harms, Project Coordinator at (204) 789-3500. All our resources are also available online to download at: [www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/preventill/oral\\_child.php](http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/preventill/oral_child.php)

### MANITOBA SELECTS "CANDIDATE APPROVED VENDORS" FOR ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS (EMRs)

The next step in providing Manitoba primary care providers and community physicians with a set of Approved EMRs has been completed. Four vendors have been selected as Candidate Approved Vendors through the EMR qualification process. See the complete list on our website.

The Candidate Approved Vendors will now be required to enter into a Master Standing Agreement with Manitoba and to modify their products to meet all of Manitoba's core EMR requirements. Once each vendor is ready, Manitoba will conduct a conformance testing process to verify that all core requirements have been met by that vendor. At this point the vendor will become an Approved EMR Vendor.

You can view the list on the Manitoba eHealth website at <http://www.manitoba-ehealth.ca/dr-EMRQual.html>

The qualification process which Manitoba facilitated started with Pan-Canadian requirements, developed by a collaborative group representing most Canadian jurisdictions. These Pan-Canadian EMR requirements were then reviewed and tailored by physicians in Manitoba. The open and fair process included demonstrations, written proposals, customer satisfaction results and pricing, and followed Manitoba Government purchasing policies and procedures.

Manitoba eHealth is establishing a Primary Care/Community Physician Information System Support (PCISS) office to assist physicians and clinics in acquiring an EMR that will meet their needs.

More information about the EMR qualification process and its implications for physicians and other providers can be found on the Manitoba eHealth website under the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page or contact [EMRQualification@manitoba-ehealth.ca](mailto:EMRQualification@manitoba-ehealth.ca)

## MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP/FELLOWSHIP IN THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA

As Family Physicians, we endeavour to better serve our patients by participating in various forms of Continuing Medical Education, also referred to as Continuing Professional Development. In the College of Family Physicians of Canada, membership not only has its privileges, but also its obligations and responsibilities.

Maintaining Membership/Fellowship involves a “renewal” cycle which is a five year cycle and it is important that you make sure that you are aware where you are in that cycle. The concept of Life Long Learning implies that continuing education, or development, takes place along a continuum both conceptually and chronologically. That means that there are different ways to learn and it should take place on an ongoing basis, not just in the last six months of the “cycle” when one may then have to scramble to complete the credits necessary to maintain Membership/Fellowship.

Unfortunately there is a problem currently wherein a number of members are in the last year of their “cycle” and completing the credits is proving to be a challenge, and as such the College is endeavouring to help the members successfully complete the “cycle”. Hopefully, in the future, such a situation will be obviated by more proactive strategies and an increased awareness among members.

With regard to Membership/Certification it is required that within the appropriate five year period the member must submit at least 125 Mainpro -M1 and/or Mainpro-C credits and a total of 250 credits comprising Mainpro -M1, M2 and/or Mainpro-C. Mainpro-C credits are **not** mandatory in order to maintain Membership/Certification.

With regard to Fellowship, if the Fellowship was obtained **prior** to **January 2004**, within each appropriate five year “cycle” the member must submit at least 125 Mainpro- M1 and/or Mainpro-C credits and a total of 250 credits comprising Mainpro-M1, M2 and/or Mainpro-C. Mainpro-C credits are **not** mandatory to maintain Fellowship obtained prior to January 2004.

With regard to Fellowship obtained **after January 2004** the member must, within each appropriate five year “cycle”, submit at least 125 Mainpro- M1 and/or Mainpro-C credits and a total of 250 credits comprising Mainpro-M1, M2, and/or Mainpro-C credits and 25 Mainpro-C credits **must** be submitted within that same five year “cycle”. Mainpro-C credits **are mandatory** to maintain Fellowship obtained after January 2004.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada is “user friendly” and endeavours to assist its members in any way it can but the onus still falls to each member, as a Family Physician, to participate in Life Long Learning in a meaningful and ongoing fashion and to maintain an awareness of the requirements and the timelines for maintenance of Membership/Fellowship in the College. Our patients deserve no less.

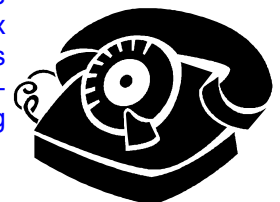
For further information go to the College website <[www.cfpc.ca](http://www.cfpc.ca)> and click on CME, then Mainpro and then either “CME requirements” or “What’s new?”

**Ian J. Goldstine MD, LMCC, CCFP  
MAINPRO-M1 Accreditor,  
Manitoba College of Family Physicians,  
Member of the National Committee on  
Continuing Professional Development**



### SPECIALIST PHONE ADVICE

I am sure that all Family Physicians can agree that it is a wonderful thing to receive timely telephone advice from a Specialist! Often, that is all we need to clarify the management of a specific patient or sometimes it gives us guidance on management while we are waiting for definitive consultation. Either way, we want to support Specialists to continue this service! Specialists can claim a telephone consultation fee, but it is often inconvenient for them to take the necessary information over the phone. Instead, we Family Physicians could take down the Specialist's name and fax number and then arrange to fax the necessary information directly to the Specialist's office. This includes patient name/ PHIN/ DOB and diagnosis and the Family Physician's name. Although the fee paid for this is not much, the courtesy would go a long way to reinforcing how much we appreciate the option of telephone consultation.



## REFERRALS TO THE SECTION OF PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY

**Dr. S. P. Moroz, M.D., FRCPC**, Pediatric Gastroenterologist at Children's Hospital has advised the Manitoba College of Family Physicians that he will be **retiring** at the end of this year. This will mean that there will be only one pediatric gastroenterologist (Dr. P. Sathya) to serve all of Manitoba.

As a result of growing waiting lists, we want to streamline the referral process. Patients are prioritized according to perceived medical need, but this often is problematic if referrals contain scant information. For example if you refer a child with abdominal pain, we would appreciate enough detail to ensure you have considered and ruled out common problems such as constipation, parasitic infection, UTI, functional abdominal pain, etc. and we request that you include all results/reports of relevant investigations (blood tests, stool tests, urine tests, radiological investigations) to avoid duplication of tests and appropriate triaging of patients.

For most gastrointestinal and liver related referrals to our subspecialty clinic, consultations should be made only if problems persist on assessment through follow-up visits at set intervals by the referring physicians. Re-evaluating the patients at set intervals will keep you in the loop and give you an opportunity to cancel the referrals if patients are asymptomatic or if a gastroenterology consult is deemed no longer necessary. This will also free up time for others who may need to be seen urgently. Also, please inform your patients that diagnostic imaging and endoscopy are arranged after the initial GI consultation process and cannot be done at the same time as the initial clinic visit.

Family Physicians are requested to be highly selective in the type of patient that is referred to the Section, according to the guidelines below. It is suggested that a referral to a Pediatrician should be considered first.

### Guidelines for Referral

While the Section would like to accommodate all referral requests, their manpower and resources are limited and they have to restrict their Gastroenterology / Hepatology practice to those deemed semi urgent, urgent or necessary. They would therefore appreciate your cooperation in streamlining the referral process and request the following:

1. All constipation/encopresis referrals should be initially referred to the pediatrician-run constipation/encopresis clinic at the Children's Hospital by sending a referral to this clinic c/o Children's Hospital or to a community pediatrician who is accepting referrals.
2. Non-specific abdominal pain / recurrent abdominal pain should be referred to a General Pediatrician for initial evaluation.
3. Feeding / texture aversion problems should also be referred to the Feeding and Swallowing team at the Children's Hospital for assessment, to avoid duplication of services.
4. Children with gastroesophageal reflux should have a therapeutic trial of a H<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonist and should have failed it when assessed at a follow up visit by yourself, before referral to our Gastroenterology service is considered. Please provide details of the therapeutic trial, i.e. dosage, period of trial, response, etc.

Acute gastroenteritis and acute diarrhea should not be referred to a gastroenterologist, as this is self-limiting.

Thus, the Section will no longer be able to accept the following referrals:

1. Referrals with insufficient information provided on the referrals.
2. Referrals without supporting documentation of relevant investigations.
3. Referrals from walk-in clinics.
4. Referrals from physicians who have seen the patient only once or casual consultations without appropriate follow-up arranged.

Also, if parents do not keep their child's initial appointment without calling to reschedule in advance, you and your patient will receive notification of the missed appointment. A re-referral will be necessary and will automatically move to the bottom of our priority list without reasonable justification.

## The Manitoba Catalogue of Specialized Services

The Catalogue of Specialized Services is a listing designed to assist physicians in directing patient referrals to an “**appropriate clinician, the first time**”. The catalogue includes a variety of physicians (specialists, functional specialists, and family physicians) and programs in service areas ranging from cardiology to vascular surgery.

The web-based Catalogue of Specialized Services is secure, requiring user names and passwords to access the system. User names and passwords will be provided by Manitoba Health and Healthy Living via letter (mailed or faxed) to every physician in Manitoba and to other referring clinicians such as nurse practitioners and nurses working in nursing stations. The Catalogue can be accessed via the link on the College of Family Physicians website at [www.mcfp.mb.ca](http://www.mcfp.mb.ca).

The catalogue includes clinicians and clinician service location information, the clinician’s predominant service area, and the specific services the clinician does and does not provide within that service area. For instance, Dr. X identifies that her predominant service areas is orthopedics, but that she only provides foot and ankle surgery services and does not provide any arthroplasty services or upper extremity services.

The catalogue has been compiled from information provided by clinician offices, and reflects only what clinicians have chosen to include or not include in their service area and specific service descriptions. Over 70% of Manitoban physicians contacted who provide specialized services responded with some information about their services. Where a physician has provided no response, the information listed includes only his/her area of specialty and contact information as identified on the College of Physician and Surgeon’s. The web-based Catalogue provides capacity for individual users to update their own profiles should their information change (i.e. practice location, services provided, etc). Users who do not currently have a profile can request to have one set up by contacting [bridging@gov.mb.ca](mailto:bridging@gov.mb.ca).

Some clinical groups are not represented in the catalogue as they do not typically accept referrals (e.g. emergency physicians, anaesthesiologists). Other clinical groups and/or programs not currently represented (e.g. oncology) that wish to be included will be added in future iterations of this catalogue. Participation in the catalogue is voluntary, thus not all clinicians may be represented.

Your feedback is important! Help us to improve the catalogue by providing your feedback via email to [bridging@gov.mb.ca](mailto:bridging@gov.mb.ca) or by following the feedback link on the catalogue site!