Summers used to be a bit quieter. But I hear that the clinical demand carried on without much interruption this year. I hope most of you were able to find locums and enjoy healthy breaks. The Department of Rural Medicine is able to help if you need some assistance in the fall or winter. Now is the time to plan.

I have met a number of our new rural physicians and would like to welcome them to our Calgary Zone. As the recent group of Family Medicine graduates are absorbed, recruitment efforts are underway in many of our communities. The Department can help some of you with recruitment incentives as well as Services. If you are aware of physicians interested in Rural Medicine, please contact Andrea Taylor early on in the process of recruitment.

Again this year the periodic reviews will be conducted in the Fall. Probationary and older physicians (over 65) such as myself, require yearly assessments. Everyone in between has a By-Law mandated review every three years. As well, workforce planning will also start in a few of our rural communities this year.

Rosemary Burness (Rosemary.Burness@rpap.ab.ca) is the Medical Students Initiatives Coordinator and her office has received over 100 requests from students to shadow in Southern Alberta. I met with Rosemary at the Vulcan Medical Skills Weekend in August. I know many of you are committed to undergraduate and graduate education, and the introduction of new colleagues to your practice can bring many benefits.

All practitioners are required to complete health records within timelines outlined in the Medical Staff Rules.

Failure to complete health records within the timelines outlined in the Medical Staff Rules will result in a curtailment of clinical privileges.

During the period of curtailment, the practitioner in default shall not be permitted to:

- Admit patients, other than his/her own maternity and newborn patients, while not on-call.
- Write orders (except while on-call) on his/her personal Patients who are admitted under the care of another practitioner.
- Treat patients in his/her Site(s) of Clinical Activity except to continue to care for patients whom he/she was the most responsible physician prior to the administrative suspension.
- Perform surgery or procedures, assist in performing surgery or procedures or administer anesthetics, except within the conditions described in 4.21.4.3.
- Provide consultative services, except within the conditions described in section 4.21.4.2.
- Accept transfer of patients from within or outside the facility, except within the conditions described above.

Source: Medical Staff Rules Section 4.21

Department Staff Contacts

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Secretary (part time)
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Jaime MacDonald
Secretary (part time)
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Jaime.MacDonald04@albertahealthservices.ca
Continuing Medical Education

The Department of Rural Medicine encourages rural physicians to participate in continuing medical education and professional development.

**Upcoming CME Courses include:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>Geriatrics Update for Rural and Urban Primary Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Contemporary Topics in Prenatal Care: Hypertension in Pregnancy and New Advances in Molecular Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Chronic Pain Management for the Family Physician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Urgent Care Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>Current Obstetrical Management Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 19-22</td>
<td>37th Annual Family Practice Review and Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Calgary Pain Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>15th Annual Rural Anesthesia for GP Anesthesiologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25-27</td>
<td>29th Annual Emergency Medicine for Rural Hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26-27</td>
<td>3rd Annual Endoscopy Skills Day for Practicing Endoscopists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8-9</td>
<td>ECG Interpretation for Family Physicians and Other Healthcare Professionals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CME Courses**

Click [here](#) for a complete listing of CME courses offered through the University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine.

**PMI Courses**

Click [here](#) for a complete listing of courses offered by the CMA’s Physician Management Institute (PMI).

**Video Conference Program**

The Department of Rural Medicine has registered the sites listed below to participate in the Video Conference Program offered by the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. The 2012/2013 Course Schedule will be available soon by clicking [here](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claresholm</td>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didsbury</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>08:00-09:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanton</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>08:00-09:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High River</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>08:00-09:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rural Medicine Locums

In 2009, the department was successful in securing funding to develop a Rural Medicine Locum Program to assist family physicians and communities who do not qualify for the AMA Rural Physician Locum Program. The intent of the program was also to engage new physicians to rural with the hope that they would set up practice, physicians looking to retire from their practice and work in the program and to give an opportunity for foreign physicians to see if they are a fit for the community and vice versa.

The Rural Medicine Locum Program (Calgary Zone) offers several incentives including:

- Guaranteed income of $1000.00 per full day and $500 for half days
- We look after your billings
- Accommodation and travel (km) for weekends Friday 1700 until Monday 0800 is covered by the Department of Rural Medicine
- Accommodation and travel (km) for week locum (Monday to Friday) is the responsibility of the family physician requesting
- Department will pay the overhead to the clinic $300 for a full day and $150 for a half day,
- We ask that you be booked to see 20 -25 patients per day.

In 2011, the department was able to fill 91% of the 50 requests which resulted in 62.5 weeks of coverage.

A reminder to rural physicians who wish to book a locum; the Department of Rural Medicine is more successful recruiting a physician when provided more time.

For further information contact Andrea Taylor, Department Manager.

**Periodic Reviews**

Practitioners appointed to Active Staff must participate in a Periodic Review every three years or more frequently if specified in the Letter of Offer. Probationary and Locum Tenens Staff must have an initial Periodic Review at the conclusion of their first year and every three years thereafter. All practitioners, other than those in Community Staff category, are subject to annual Periodic Reviews when they reach 65 years of age.

The Department of Rural Medicine is in the process of completing Periodic Reviews and your support getting the information into the office in a timely fashion.

See Part 5 – Periodic Review of the Medical Staff Bylaws for more details.
The Charles Clark Medical Centre officially opened on June 22nd 2012. The $6-million dollar medical facility was named after former Prime Minister Charles Clark who was a publisher for the local newspaper and a High River Hospital Board Member.

The 22,000 square-foot building was built thanks to the considerable efforts of two High River physicians, Ron Gorsche and Keith Spackman, who conceived the project as a means to protect the quality of the town’s medical care.

The facility is a unique partnership between local governments, physicians and the community. The land for the centre was donated by the town and the financing was arranged by the MD of Foothills. The local Rotary club bought a $150,000 mammogram machine – a first for High River – and private donors funded new equipment to provide echocardiograms for local residents.

As dozens of rural communities around the province struggle to attract and keep physicians, the Charles Clark Medical Centre offers a big incentive for young doctors to move to High River.

Three of the four new doctors at the facility are graduates from the Rural Physician Action Plan of Alberta Innovative Rural Family Medicine Training Program which High River is a teaching site.

Over the next ten years, the facility can take on an additional eight to ten physicians.

The Charles Clark Medical Centre has earned a number of provincial awards and a national award for the unique partnership between local governments, community organizations and local physicians in order to boost available medical services for High River and surrounding areas.

Clinical Pathways

Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) are province wide teams bringing together the experiences and expertise of health care professionals, researchers, government, communities and patients and their families to improve our health care system.

Clinical Pathways are being developed across specific areas of care to determine how to improve practices based on best-evidence and provide quality care consistently across the province.

Some of the pathways that have been developed or are in the process of being developed by the Strategic Clinical Networks are:

- Hip Fracture
- Osteoarthritis and Inflammatory Arthritis
- Hip & Knee Arthroplasty
- Soft Tissue Injury
- Adult Depression Pathway
- Adolescent Depression Pathway
- Pediatric Asthma Pathway – coming soon
- Acute Childhood Vomiting and Diarrhea Pathway

For information on the Strategic Clinical Networks progress, please click here.

Ode to Boobs

Submitted by Gail McCracken, RN, IBCLC (403) 995-2621

In March 2012, Health Canada endorsed an advisory statement indicating that health practitioners should exercise caution when prescribing domperidone at doses at greater than 30mg/day. The advise is based on the theoretical risk that higher oral doses of domperidone can trigger ventricular arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.

However domperidone has a three-decade track record of use as a galactogogue to support breastfeeding mother/baby dyads. Importantly, to date, Health Canada has not received any reports of cardiac-related deaths in women taking Domperidone.

Click here to review the consensus statement by Canadian Physicians regarding the safe use of domperidone in supporting lactation.
Recruitment

The Department of Rural Medicine is focused on recruiting family physicians into rural communities.

COMMUNITY FEATURE: VULCAN

Vulcan is located 120 km southeast of Calgary on highway 23. The service population is approximately 7,200. There is one clinic which operates out of the health care facility.

- Acute Care Facility – 8 beds
- Emergency Department – 4026 visits in 2011
- Total discharges – 371
- Hypertension Specialty Clinics – 249

In 2011, Vulcan saw an expansion to their Chronic Disease Management program funded by the PCN. They have also seen several new graduated nurses who grew up in the area returning to practice nursing in the community. Being a rural, farming community, Vulcan is a great place to practice.

To learn more about opportunities in rural, visit http://www.albertaphysicianlink.ab.ca/ or http://www.healthjobs.ab.ca/ or contact the Department of Rural Medicine.

New Clinics

Care In The Creek
PO Box 425
Bragg Creek, AB T0L 0K0
Ph: 403-949-2457 Fax: 403-949-2424

Trinity Rose Medical Clinic (Dr. Dianne Smith)
PO Box 2467
Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0
Ph: 403-518-8762 Fax: 403-518-8746

New Physicians
(Jan 2012 - Present)

- Dr. Shameen Shaker - Airdrie
- Dr. Mohamed Alhaddad – Airdrie
- Dr. Gwynn Curran-Sills – Black Diamond
- Dr. Eric Jablonski – Black Diamond
- Dr. Martin Owen – Black Diamond
- Dr. Lise-Marie Acton – Canmore
- Dr. Jennifer Corrales - Cochrane
- Dr. Ben Andruski – High River
- Dr. Doug Page – Lake Louise
- Dr. Ashraf Khan – Okotoks
- Dr. Jacintha Ramlall – Okotoks
- Dr. Mark Boyko – Strathmore
- Dr. Will Emery – Strathmore

Section Chiefs

Dr. Rick Anderson - Banff Mineral Springs Hospital
Dr. Gary Ray - Black Diamond/Oilfields General Hospital
Dr. Rick Balharry - Canmore General Hospital
Dr. Jeffrey Jones - Claresholm General Hospital
Vacant - Didsbury General Hospital
Dr. Keith Spackman - High River General Hospital
Dr. Ben Sader - Strathmore General Hospital
Dr. Len Wade - Vulcan General Hospital

Medical Directors

Dr. Julian Kyne - Airdrie Urgent Care
Vacant - Cochrane
Vacant - Okotoks

Contact

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