

## CAIR's Study of Training Capacity Underway

A key priority for CAIR this year is to study issues arising with training capacity across the country. CAIR is concerned that the rapid increase in physician and non-physician learners may detract from the educational experience that is fundamental to residency training.

A multi-faceted approach has been adopted to gain further insights into this issue. A literature review and environmental scan are underway. Literature on this topic is being supplemented by first-hand field research being conducted by CAIR. Three focus groups with a wide array of residents have already been held in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Maritimes. To ensure a fulsome representation of views, these focus groups have sought the participation of both specialty and family medicine residents, and residents based in both urban academic centers and distributed learning sites. Among other things, residents have been asked about the impact that an increase in trainees is having on their access to teaching and the educational experience of training in "non-traditional" sites.

Further focus groups are planned in the other provinces in the near future. Additionally, a questionnaire is being developed to solicit the views of all residents on this topic.

The capacity of the training system to provide high quality medical education is something that directly impacts all residents. This makes it vitally important that all residents are proactive in this crucial initiative, allowing CAIR to develop an evidence-based position to advocate with governments and other stakeholders for much-needed and urgent change.

If you have any comments or would like further information on this initiative, please contact [cair@cair.ca](mailto:cair@cair.ca).

## Pandemic and Disaster Planning

As front-line workers in Canada's health-care system, residents will play an important role in delivering health care during a pandemic or a disaster. To ensure the proper use of residents in these critical situations, CAIR has produced "**Guidelines for Incorporating Resident Physicians into Pandemic and Disaster Response Plans**". Electronic copies of this document are available on the CAIR website at:

[http://www.cair.ca/document\\_library/library\\_view.cfm?intCategoryID=100](http://www.cair.ca/document_library/library_view.cfm?intCategoryID=100)

## CAIR's PGME Project on track

This resident-centred review will specifically focus on identifying the principles that are felt to be integral to high quality postgraduate education and training. Thus, unlike other projects which seek to raise awareness of problems within or limitations of the post-graduate system, this part of the project seeks to highlight the positives.

This project's goal is to identify and assess the characteristics/qualities/principles that must underpin Canada's post-graduate medical education system today and in the future.

CAIR is currently holding Focus Group Sessions and is looking forward to seeing the results from all of the focus groups. The collected data will be analyzed by the CAIR Education & Professionalism Committee and converted into short statements about residency programs in general.

Next, CAIR will conduct an online survey of its members, asking them to rank these statements on a scale. The survey results will be analyzed and a document outlining the characteristics of an ideal residency program will be produced.

CAIR is interested in determining what residents value about their residency

programs and using this information to create a framework of broad concepts that that would describe the necessary elements in post-graduate medical education system for today and in the future.

We are eager to work with other stakeholders on the review of PGME in Canada in shaping the discussion for what PGME should be now and in the future, so it can better serve the health care needs of Canadians.

## Regional Highlights

**Newfoundland & Labrador:** PAIRN has been working on several key issues in the past several months. At the forefront has been our involvement with our provincial medical association. In 2006 PAIRN entered into a strategic alliance with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA,) and recently we have been working to strengthen this relationship. This is an extremely important issue as we are nearing negotiations in a time of economic uncertainty. We have also been working with the office of Postgraduate studies to develop a new policy regarding moonlighting. PAIRN also played an important role in our annual Staff versus Resident Physician hockey game which was held on April 3rd. This event was held to raise awareness for our provincial organ donation program, and as well to raise money for daffodil place, a facility developed to provide accommodations for cancer patients and their families. The executive and staff of PAIRN have been busy working on these issues and look forward to seeing more progress in the coming months.

**Ontario:** Debt Deferral – a new program through the Ontario Ministry of Health will provide for Provincial and Federal Student Loan deferral (the debt can be incurred in any Canadian province) during residency for Ministry of

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Health-funded residents training in Ontario committed to practicing in the province for 5 years post-training.

Home After Handover – along with a number of other provinces, Ontario makes the transition to home after handover for in-hospital call this summer.

**Saskatchewan:** PAIRS is establishing a Memorial Fund for one of our Orthopedic Residents, Dr. Brad Ardell who was killed in a car accident in September 2008. The Dr. Brad Ardell Spirit Award in Medicine will be administered, and donations accepted through the University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine. The yearly award will be open to all residents enrolled in the postgraduate medical training program at the University of Saskatchewan. Nominations will be based on specific criteria in memory of Dr. Ardell. PAIRS is currently in negotiations with the University of Saskatchewan. We have presented all our proposals, including monetary requests and expect negotiations to continue for several months.

As you are all aware, PAIRS has had many issues with the Postgraduate Office over the lack of due process for residents facing academic appeals and intimidation. These concerns have been brought forward to the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Dean's office. The Dean has been very supportive of PAIRS concerns and has taken steps to establish an external review of the academic process of his postgraduate office. This external review will involve representation from the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the College of Medicine and PAIRS. We are optimistic that this will result in a positive outcome for residents facing academic proceedings.

**Alberta:** PARA is looking forward to its Fourth Annual Residents in the Legislature (RIL). RIL is a non-partisan event that offers PARA Resident Physicians the opportunity to build relationships with their elected officials and senior bureaucrats. Discussions focus on education and healthcare issues and

participants receive advocacy and communications training.

This year, our Resident Physicians are looking to raise awareness about the need to ensure quality training in both perceptual and procedural knowledge, especially in light of the current influx of physician and non-physician learners. Issues that will be highlighted include the current and potential use of medical simulators and the recruitment and promotion of medical educators.

**Maritime Provinces:** This year PARI-MP is celebrating 40 years. It is an exciting time to look back at what we have accomplished and how things have changed over the last four decades. We held an Anniversary party during the week of National Resident Awareness Day in February where we invited colleagues past and current. We also have prepared a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of our newsletter, PARIscope, to go out this spring. Here's looking forward to many more decades!

## Bulletin Board

### Innovations in Residency Education

The 2009 Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada International Conference on Residency Education is being held September 24-26, 2009 in beautiful Victoria, BC.

With a special focus on postgraduate medical education (PGME), this event is geared to clinical teachers, program directors, postgraduate deans, program administrators, government leaders and policy makers, and researchers.

On line registration is now open at: [http://rcpsc.medical.org/meetings/registration\\_e.php](http://rcpsc.medical.org/meetings/registration_e.php).

### 2009 CFPC Family Medicine Resident Awards

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) offers several awards to support study, research and the career development of family medicine residents. For further details about the awards, visit

<http://www.cair.ca/announcements/index.cfm>

### 2009 CFPC Family Medicine Forum

The 2009 Family Medicine Forum will be held in Calgary from October 29th to 31st at the Telus Convention Centre. As part of FMF, CAIR will be holding a session on “**Developing tomorrow's medical leaders in a collaborative environment**” Look for further details in upcoming issues of CAIR Update!

### Upcoming June Funding Announcements from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

The Institute of Health Services and Policy Research at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will be launching research capacity building funding opportunities in **primary care** in their upcoming June 2009 funding announcements. The funding opportunities for research training in graduate and post-graduate studies include **Masters, PhD or Fellowships**.

Further details about these and other CIHR-IHSPR funding opportunities can be found on their [website](#) or on the [CIHR Funding Opportunities Database](#) in June 2009. If you would like to register for notification about these opportunities when they are launched, please email [stephanie.soo@utoronto.ca](mailto:stephanie.soo@utoronto.ca) to be put on the mailing list for their e-newsletter.

### CMA Leadership Innovation Fund

The CMA Leadership Innovation Fund supports Canadian medical students and residents in the creation of non-clinical innovations that will contribute significantly to the advancement of leadership in the medical community.

Each CMA Leadership Innovation Fund recipient will be granted an amount up to a maximum of Can \$2500. To be eligible to receive this award, applicants must be members of the CMA and enrolled in a Canadian medical school as a medical student or resident at the time of the application.

**Deadline: May 25, 2009**

**Project duration:  
July 2009–March 2010**

To learn more about this opportunity, visit [cma.ca/leadership](http://cma.ca/leadership) Or email [leadership@cma.ca](mailto:leadership@cma.ca)