

HAPPY RESIDENT AWARENESS MONTH!

February 2011 is Resident Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge the multi-faceted role residents play in Canada's healthcare system. Events kicked off with the presentation of the 2010 CAIR Awards on February 12. Dr. Keith Wycliffe-Jones, the Program Director for the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Calgary, received the CAIR-Dr. Derek Puddester Award for Resident Well Being, in recognition for his tireless advocacy for a proper work-life balance for all residents in his program.

Dr. Rishi Gupta, a fifth-year ophthalmology resident at the University of Ottawa, was presented with the CAIR -Dr. Joseph Mikhael Award for Medical Education, in recognition for his ongoing dedication to the improvement of medical education in his specialty. Click [here](#) to view pictures from the Awards Ceremony.

Resident Awareness Month culminates in the 10th Annual National Resident Awareness Day (NRAD), on February 22, 2011. Locally, residents will be able to participate in activities planned by their Provincial Housestaff Organizations (PHOs).

CAIR Resident Awareness Day posters will be put up in hospitals and other teaching sites. Also, CAIR buttons saying "Do you know what I do? I am a resident doctor" will be made available for residents to wear on their white coats or scrubs to encourage patients and their families to ask questions about their training.

Send photos of you and your fellow residents wearing your buttons to cair@cair.ca by March 22, 2011 for your chance to win a prize!

WRITTEN BEFORE ORAL EXAMINATION PILOT

In January 2011 CAIR received correspondence from Dr. Tim Allen, Associate Director of Assessment, providing details of the change to the

timing of the written portion of the Internal Medicine and Pediatrics certification examinations. Click [here](#) to view the letter.

The Royal College examinations pilot begins in 2012, is expected to run for at least two consecutive years and will be re-evaluated after the first year. The written component will take place in the fall of 2012 and the Oral (Internal Medicine) and OSCE (Pediatrics) component will take place in the spring of 2013.

For the examination fee structure, the Royal College has opted for a 'full fee and refund' model, meaning that if a candidate does not meet the final Credentials eligibility requirements or are unsuccessful on the written component and therefore not allowed to proceed to the oral/OSCE component, they will receive a partial refund, since they attempted part of the examination (written component) and costs have been incurred to allow them to do so. If a candidate withdraws themselves for personal reasons, whatever they are, after successfully completing the written portion, they do not receive any refund.

CAIR will be communicating with Dr. Allen on this latter point as we believe that a contingency plan should be developed for residents who successfully undertake the written component of the exam but are unable to complete the oral/OSCE in the same year due to health, compassionate or parental leave. We also look forward to participating in the evaluation process with feedback from residents who are affected by the pilot.

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE APPROVED AS A SUBSPECIALTY OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

At a special meeting on December 17, 2010, the Council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada approved the application to recognize General Internal Medicine (GIM) as a new two-year subspecialty of Internal

Medicine.

The **four-year Internal Medicine stream will continue to exist** and the Royal College has indicated that there is no intention to remove it as a route to practice. CAIR is committed to working with our stakeholders to ensure that the four-year option as a route to practice remains viable and that adequate positions exist for residents who wish to pursue training in the new GIM subspecialty and in the 4-year IM program.

CAIR would like to extend a sincere thanks and appreciation to the numerous Internal Medicine residents and chiefs who took the time to send in their views and to the CAIR liaison representatives who sat on the Royal College committees and were, in essence, the resident 'voice' on this issue.

We will forward more information to you as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to send them to us at cair@cair.ca.

CAIR STATEMENT ON GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVES

Global health, namely the health of marginalized populations domestically and abroad, is the subject of growing interest and activity among Canadian medical trainees. While training programs, student organizations, and national bodies have developed resources and standards for undergraduate learners, there are few common guidelines for resident physicians participating in Global Health electives. It is to fill this gap that CAIR has developed a statement identifying the key ethical, health & safety, and ethical considerations for residents and training programs engaged in global health activities. The full statement can be found [here](#).

CAIR RESIDENT SURVEY

CAIR will be surveying residents across the country this Spring. The intent of

this survey is to systematically capture resident perspectives on their educational experiences, practice patterns, personal well being, and career plans. This data will allow CAIR to provide the resident perspective in an informed manner, so as to affect improvements in medical education and the healthcare system more broadly.

Topics that your opinions will be solicited on include:

- Work hours and fatigue
- Benefits and challenges of training in distributed sites
- Educational models such as competency based training and inter-professional education
- Challenges in transitioning to residency and into practice

As Canada's upcoming generation of physicians, your perspective will be crucial to informing how medical education and healthcare is shaped in the years to come. Stay tuned for more information on this crucial initiative in the coming weeks.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS CANADA?

Newfoundland & Labrador: The PGME Office has received the final accreditation reports with two programs having their status changed from the preliminary recommended status. Overall, programs received excellent reviews. Negotiations continue and we are scheduled to meet again this week. In light of the recent agreement with the NLMA, we are cautiously optimistic that an agreement will soon be reached.

The Maritimes: PARI-MP has completed a membership survey in preparations for upcoming negotiations. PARI-MP will be distributing CAIR posters and buttons for National Resident Awareness Day. In March, PARI-MP will host Resident Appreciation week, which will feature a number of activities for its members, as well as a Living Library for use by medical students.

Ontario: The Restricted Registration Program, which provides licensing to eligible residents to provide services outside of their regular residency training, is now officially in place in

Ontario. The Resident Loan Interest Relief Program is now operational. PAIRO continued to work with Government to implement improvements to the Program that would make it an option for more of our members. PAIRO has begun preparations for entering into collective bargaining this spring.

Manitoba: PARIM has been very occupied with contract re-negotiations. PARIM hosted its first CAIR Accreditation Workshop in Winnipeg, in January 2011. PARIM is preparing for the upcoming Resident Awareness Day on February 22nd as well as the upcoming Resident Appreciation Dinner on March 11th at the Fairmont Hotel. This year, PARIM will present a new award to the Resident who has made a contribution to serving or volunteering with a humanitarian organization. A \$1000 reward will be donated to the organization and a plaque will be presented to the resident.

Saskatchewan: PAIRS is still in negotiations, but some progress has been made. A few Members of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Minister of Finance have been invited to participate as Residents for a Day in connection with other Resident Awareness Day activities. PAIRS continues to work with the SMA and the College of Medicine on issues of Resident Wellness.

Alberta: The University of Alberta undergoes its full accreditation survey in February. For Resident Awareness Day, PARA is running its 2nd annual PARAdime Backpack Campaign, which gives bags stuffed with clothing, toiletries, etc. to those in need. Additionally, PARA is presently preparing for arbitration, which will occur in March.

British Columbia: During the last few months, PAR-BC has been involved in a number of activities including bargaining, professional development events, development of communications, and social activities. PAR-BC's Distributed Medical Education Committee has released a report entitled *Residency Snapshot: The Distributed Medical Education Experience at the University of British Columbia*.

REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR CERTIFICATION EXAMS

Royal College Specialties:

Residents who wish to take the specialty certification examination of the Royal College must first have their residency training assessed by the Royal College to ensure that the specialty specific training requirements have been met in a program that is recognized and approved by the Royal College. Applicants must contact the Credentials Unit one year before they wish to write the examinations. You are encouraged to apply well in advance of the application deadlines to avoid late penalty fees. There are two examination periods:

Spring for primary specialties. The assessment deadline is April 30, one year before you wish to take the examination; The examination registration deadline is **February 1** of the year you write the examination.

Fall for subspecialties. The assessment deadline is August 31, one year before you wish to take the examination; examination registration deadline is **May 15** of the year you write the examination.

For further information on this process or to register please click [here](#).

Family Medicine:

The Certification Examination in Family Medicine is open to College members who have either successfully completed an approved residency training program in family medicine or successfully completed a combination of training and practice experience as outlined in the eligibility guidelines.

Residents wishing to sit the exam in the Spring of 2011 (April 28-May 1) must register no later than **February 1, 2011**. Residents wishing to sit the exam in the Fall of 2011 (October 20-23) must submit their registration application no later than **June 30**. For further information or to register, click [here](#).

COMING SOON!

CAIR will be seeking volunteers to sit on the CAIR Board of Directors, CAIR's Management Committees or to serve in one of CAIR's many liaison positions. Contact the CAIR Office for more information!