

**In celebration of National Resident Wellbeing Day, CAIR is offering a free copy of the Royal College CanMEDS Physician Health Guide to the first 15 residents who describe in three to four sentences how they maintain a healthy work-life balance. Send your responses to [cair@cair.ca](mailto:cair@cair.ca) by May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for your chance to win!**

## CAIR responds to the proposed new categories of discipline recognition

The Royal College proposal was presented to the Committee on Specialties (CoS) for decision on April 26, 2010. At this meeting the COS endorsed the creation of the three new categories of discipline recognition: diplomas, foundations and SIGMAs (Special Interest Groups of Medical Activity).

Diplomas and foundations will proceed to the Education Committee of the Royal College for approval on May 21 and SIGMAs will be considered further by the Office of Professional Affairs and the Fellowship Affairs Committee. CAIR participated in the Royal College's extensive consultation process (web conferences, committee meetings and an electronic survey). CAIR also heard from residents across Canada by e-mail and via an electronic survey, resulting in CAIR's position statement on the new categories of discipline recognition which was sent to the CoS prior to its April meeting. To view CAIR's position statement, please click [here](#).

## CAIR responds to the Royal College's GIM proposal

The proposal to recognize General Internal Medicine (GIM) as a new

subspecialty was also presented to the Committee on Specialties (CoS) on April 26, 2010. The CoS deferred a decision on the proposal, pending clarification of several aspects, including the relationship of GIM with the core training period of Internal Medicine.

In response to the revised application which was circulated by the Specialty Committee on Internal Medicine (SCIM) prior to the CoS meeting, CAIR submitted a revised position statement to the CoS. To view CAIR's position statement, please click [here](#).

The SCIM has decided not to pursue the proposal for a Foundations of Internal Medicine (FIM) program at this time. CAIR will continue to keep residents informed as new information becomes available.

## The written before oral certification examination pilot project for Internal Medicine and Paediatrics

The Internal Medicine (IM) and Paediatrics (PEDS) examination boards have asked the Royal College to pilot a shift in the timing of the written component of the IM and PEDS certification examination. The written component will take place in September and the OSCE/oral component will take place the following May and June of the year that the candidate will complete their training. The first written exam under this pilot is expected to be administered in September 2012.

The Royal College has stated that most of their examination boards are experiencing an increase in the number of candidates to be tested. Some of these candidates have no chance of passing the examination because of very low marks on the written. Several examination boards have requested that the written

component be used as a screen before the OSCE/oral component. Therefore those candidates with no chance of passing the examination based on the score of the written exam would not qualify for admission to the oral/OSCE component.

CAIR has heard from residents that some of their concerns are related to studying twice for their certification examination in their PGY-4 year, particularly for those already in their subspecialty training year; maternity-paternity leave for those candidates who take such leave after the written component and are unable to do the oral in the same year; additional examination fees and travel expenses etc.

The Royal College Office of Education is currently developing an implementation plan and is considering some of the following issues: process adjustments that must be made to the credentialing processes for Internal Medicine and Paediatrics; whether candidates who pass the written portion and fail the oral, must re-do the written at subsequent attempts; and, whether candidates should pay for both the written and oral if they fail the oral.

CAIR will monitor the development of this pilot initiative and will voice our collective concerns on the issues that residents have raised thus far. We will continue to keep residents informed as more information becomes available. If you wish to submit an opinion on this issue, please send your views to us at [cair@cair.ca](mailto:cair@cair.ca).

**CAIR will soon be seeking volunteers for 2010-2011. Watch [www.cair.ca](http://www.cair.ca) in June for more details on how to get involved as a Board Member, a Committee Member or a Liaison Representative!**

## CAIR Presents...

► **CAIR participated in the International Medical Workforce Collaborative (IMWC) conference in New York City May 2-5, 2010.** The IMWC brings together policy makers, academics, researchers and practitioners from the United States, Canada, Australia and United Kingdom with responsibility for and interests in medical workforce issues.

The four themes for this year's conference were:

- The Social Mission of Medical Schools in a Time of Expansion
- Working together - Team-based Models of Primary Medical Care: What's working in Complex Care Management
- Reducing physician requirements through improving practice and organizational efficiency
- Optimizing the medical workforce through improved system efficiency and physician training

CAIR presented two posters at the IMWC conference. The first poster outlines **proposed guidelines for safe and ethical elective placements abroad.** The second poster summarizes CAIR's research to date on **training capacity pressures being faced within the postgraduate medical education system.**

► **CAIR's abstract *Creating a National Resident Policy on Professionalism for Residents in Canada* was accepted as an oral presentation for the 14<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Conference on the Assessment of Competence in Medicine and the Healthcare Professions being held May 15-20, 2010 in Miami.** The Ottawa Conference is held biennially and contributes to the development of education in the health care professions by providing a forum for the discussion, debate

and reporting of innovations in the field of assessment of competence. CAIR has undertaken the development of a national resident policy on professionalism which seeks to better define what professionalism means for residents and the principles by which residents must be guided by. This project has highlighted several challenges that may require addressing before an effective policy is drafted. Dr. Andrew Toren will be presenting this abstract on behalf of CAIR.

► **A second CAIR abstract on *An Innovative Approach to Increasing Resident Participation in Accreditation* was also recently accepted as a poster for the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) Conference being held in Glasgow, September 4-8, 2010.**

The AMEE Conference has become the major gathering for all interested in medical and healthcare professions education to get together to network, share ideas and hear the best of what's happening in medical education throughout the world. CAIR's poster will explore the fundamental role that residents play in the accreditation of residency programs as surveyors in external reviews and internal reviews and examines the effectiveness of an Accreditation workshop to increasing resident interest and involvement in the accreditation process.

► **This spring, CAIR hosted lunches at Memorial, Dalhousie, Western, McMaster, NOSM, U Manitoba, and U Alberta** to give graduating medical students the opportunity to interact with a CAIR representative and to learn more about CAIR, its work, and how to get actively involved. All of the presentations were very well received, and CAIR looks forward to reaching all graduating medical students in 2011!

## Call for Applications

### ► 2010 CMA Leadership Innovation Grants

Click [here](#) for further details and the application form. **Please note that only applications received by May 25, 2010, midnight EDT will be considered.**

## Call for Submissions

### ► 1st Canadian Military and Veteran Health Research Forum

The Royal Military College of Canada and Queen's University seek abstracts for podium and poster presentations for this unique forum, being held November 16-17, 2010, in Kingston, Ontario. Full details can be found [here](#).

## Conferences

### ► Interventional Cardiology Symposium

**June 17-19, 2010, Montréal**

The 19th edition of the Interventional Cardiology Symposium: a medical educational opportunity covering the most recent advances in the field! Visit [the conference website](#) for further information or email [cardio2010@jpd.com](mailto:cardio2010@jpd.com).

### ► 2010 National Resident Leadership Summit

**September 25-26, 2010, Ottawa**

Details on how to register are available on the Royal College website [here](#). For more information contact [Marvel Sampson](#) or 613-730-6279.

## Upcoming Events

► **Resident Wellbeing Day: May 27, 2010**

► **CAIR Accreditation Workshop, June 13, 2010, Vancouver**

**CAIR will soon be seeking nominations for its 2009-2010 Awards. Visit [www.cair.ca](http://www.cair.ca) in June to see the full Call for Nominations!**