



# NEWS

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## First ARFMN Class *to graduate*



**R**PAP is proud to announce that the first cohort of 16 Residents in the new Alberta Rural Family Medicine Network (ARFMN) program are on schedule to graduate in June 2003.

"These students were incredibly daring to jump into a completely unknown program with just the assurances of people like me and my counterpart, Dr. Doug Myhre, Rural Alberta

South Unit Director," says Dr. Hugh Hindle, Rural Alberta North Director.

The ARFMN offers hands-on Family Medicine residency training to prepare competent physicians for the broad demands of rural practice. It is a unique collaborative venture of the RPAP, the Family Medicine departments of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, Alberta's rural physicians and rural regional health authorities.

The two-year Family Medicine curriculum provides training in community and hospital practices within rural Alberta,

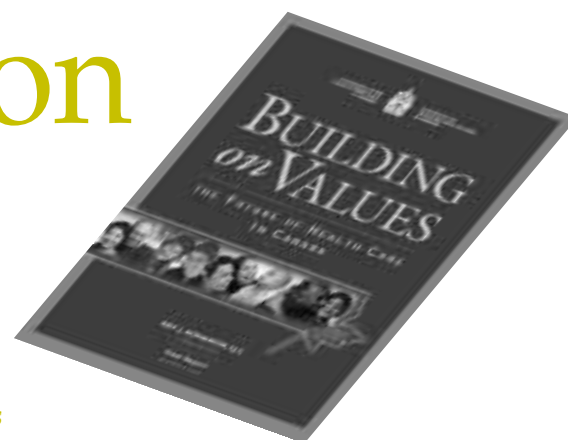
and the curriculum is taught largely by rural-based family physicians and specialists attached to the Family Medicine and Royal College specialty departments of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary. The second class of 19 residents began the program in July 2002.

Should you wish to contact the new grads regarding practice opportunities, please contact the Rural Alberta North office at 1-866-444-6353 and Rural Alberta South office at 1-866-382-1666.



*June 2003*

# Romanow Commission Reports



Roy Romanow, head of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, released his final report November 28. The Commission was established by the Prime Minister to make recommendations regarding the long-term sustainability of Canada's health system.

The Commission's final report details 47 recommendations related to three overarching themes. First, that strong leadership and improved governance is needed to keep Medicare a national asset. Second, that the system needs to be more responsible, efficient and accountable to

Canadians. And third, that strategic investments need to address priority concerns.

With respect to this last point, the Commission recommended creation of five new targeted funds, one of which is \$1.5B over two years to improve timely access to care in rural and remote areas.

RPAP welcomes this report and any others that help focus attention on the challenges and opportunities that exist in rural health care, and the acknowledgement that the demand for health care providers must embrace both a recruitment and a retention focus. This is something RPAP has been doing for some time.

## Health Regions Consolidated

The Alberta Government recently announced that it will consolidate Alberta's 17 health regions into nine larger ones by April 2003. RPAP will be examining the implications of this change as it affects access to rural health care and RPAP programs in the coming weeks.

## Rural Locum Program to be Evaluated

The RPAP is continuing its multi-year evaluation cycle by funding an evaluation of the Rural Locum Program which will be conducted with the Rural Locum Program Steering Committee. One of the original initiatives of the RPAP was the introduction of a "short-term" rural locum service to rural physicians practising in communities with four or fewer physicians for short periods of time.

The "short-term" locum service started January 1992, a year after the RPAP, and

was expanded beginning in January 1996 to include weekend emergency department coverage on a cost-recovery basis. The RPAP agreed to fund this component beginning April 1996. Then again, in September 1999, the RPAP approved a senior's enhancement to the weekend locum program so that physicians 54 years of age can reduce weekend emergency department coverage. The RLP evaluation steering committee plans to have its inaugural meeting before Christmas.

## Physician Profile

Rural physicians and their families add to the fabric of Alberta's rural communities

## Family Time Most Important for Whitecourt Physician



Harvey and Gail Bablitz agree. "Family time has always been the most important aspect of our lives and it has paid off. Summer vacation was always at least four weeks long." Although the kids are getting older, the family still tries to get together at this time.

The Bablitz family has lived in Whitecourt for 25 years. They have three children: Amy in her fourth year of Geology at the University of Alberta, Cara in grade 12 and Craig in grade 10. All are active in school and sports.

Like most rural doctors, Harvey does emergency, obstetrics and an office practice. In addition, he does anesthesia and epidurals. Harvey has been active over the years on provincial committees for the Alberta Medical Association and the Section of Rural Medicine, on various committees within the Aspen Health Region, and has also helped to develop CME programs for rural doctors including teleconferencing and videoconferencing.

Always active in the community, Harvey was voted 2001 Whitecourt Citizen-of-the-Year. At present Harvey is attempting to decrease his workload, but is finding it a challenge to slow down in rural Alberta. His future goals include "becoming a basketball star in the NBA, golfing more and trying to find a cure for sleep deprivation!"

Gail has a nursing background and presently works as a Health Promotion Coordinator in Whitecourt, where she is involved in the P.A.R.T.Y. program, injury prevention programs and various other initiatives related to health. She also serves as chairperson for the Rural Physician Spousal Network Advisory Committee, which is under the RPAP umbrella. Always actively involved in the community and schools, her goal this coming year is "to plan Amy's wedding and university graduation and Cara's high school grad while attempting to keep up with everything else."

## Resident Reflects on Experiences in First Cohort

Before the new ARFMN program was even launched two years ago, Tom Peebles (R2) and his wife followed its development online. And while there was some anxiety about the structure, because there were lots of unanswered questions initially, he can now say that he has no regrets and that the new program has proved to be an excellent experience.

"Moving around to different placements was difficult but we feel it was all worth it in the end because of the great friends we made," says Peebles. "I was surprised and disappointed that some of the rural communities did not want to be part of the program. I'm not sure why, but they are certainly going to have difficulty recruiting new grads if they don't invite residents out during their training."

Tom, Jodie and one year old baby Brooke plan to make Grande Prairie a home base for the year following his graduation while Tom does rural locums. "The Rural Locum Program gives me the opportunity to work as little or as much as I want," says Peebles, "which is a comforting feeling for my wife and young family."





# RURALbits

RPAP Rural Physician Consultants Monica Kohlhammer (south) and Leah Lechelt (north) are a resource to physicians and their families, health authorities and community representatives. Following are some newsy items they have collected from their connections, travels and phone calls throughout Alberta over the summer months. If you need information or assistance relating to physician resource issues or RPAP programs, contact the consultants through the RPAP's toll-free line 1-866-423-9911 or directly.

## NORTH



**LEAH LEHELDT**  
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RPAP-Consultant@  
rpap.ab.ca

A week-long northern trip this fall included visits with medical staff, some spouses and community representatives in three health regions:

**Mistahia** (Beaverlodge, Grande Prairie, Valleyview, Spirit River, Fairview);

**Peace** (Grimshaw, Peace River) and

**Northwestern** (Fort Vermilion, High Level).

Other visits were made to Stettler, Lac La Biche and Bonnyville.

### Physicians and their families are active in their communities in many ways.

For example, Dr. Tom Phillips of Spirit River coaches soccer and teaches painting. Annelie Groenewald of High Level, a member of the Spousal Network Advisory Committee, teaches figure skating (yes, they do skate in sunny South Africa). Alida Milne of Fort Vermilion, also a Spousal Network Advisory Committee member, initiated involvement in the Communities in Bloom competition. Dr. Andries Botha of Grimshaw goes even further afield for a good cause. His Beyond Extreme bicycle tour in 2002 raised money for children with cancer when he cycled from Alaska to Argentina in only 139 days.

**Increased computerization** of offices is underway in the North. High Level and Peace River are among physician groups participating in the Physician Office Support Program (POSP) of the Alberta Medical Association and Alberta Health and Wellness.

### Community groups are contributing to health care throughout the north.

In Fairview, the Municipal District and Town are building a new medical clinic next to the hospital. The local Foundation is also contributing to facilities for medical services.

In Beaverlodge/Hythe, the active Hospital Foundation funds advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) training for physicians, as well as training and equipment for other health care professionals.

**Grimshaw physicians and community members have banded together to protest** the Peace Regional Health Authority's proposal to close the hospital. In Beaverlodge, there is hope that a new hospital will one day be built.

### Many RHAs and physicians participated in the RPAP-sponsored Recruitment Fair at the U of A this fall.

Displays, videos, photographs – and a chance to talk one-on-one with experienced people – attracted students to the booths. Among the many innovative materials was a "School Exercise Book" developed by a medical student to describe his experience at Mistahia Health Region. Recruitment efforts are paying off in some areas. Peace River is hopeful about adding three physicians to its roster.

And a new physician from South Africa has brought the physician complement in Stettler to six.

Dr. Hassan Lockhat and his family welcomed Dr. Vogel and his young family into their home until their new Stettler house is ready.

## SOUTH



**MONICA KOHLHAMMER**  
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mkohlhammer@  
HSSAssociates.com

**Sabbatical Leave-** RPAP, in partnership with RHA #5 and DTHR, created a Sabbatical Leave pilot project to determine if the program will help retain physicians in rural Alberta communities. Two rural family physicians, Dr. H. Ullah from Ponoka and Dr. Dennis Ethier of Lacombe, have been successful candidates to date, currently working and living within RHA #5 and DTHR. A Steering Committee consisting of representatives of DTHR, Region #5, AMA, and RPAP provide direction to the project. An evaluation of the project will also take place.

**Quality of Care-**The community of Milk River, south of Lethbridge and 20 minutes from the US border, will be participating with the Calgary Health Region in a rural pilot project towards prevention of renal disease. Individuals in the community will receive education on diabetes, blood pressure, nutrition and exercise for example. Milk River is one of eight rural sites for this program.

## Upcoming Event

REACH NEW HEIGHTS  
SPOUSAL RETREAT.

Friday-Sunday, 7-9 March 2003  
Kananaskis Delta Lodge.

Discussions, watercolor painting, naturalist activities, free R and R time. (Joint with PFSP). For more information contact RPAP 1-866-423-9911

# New RPAP Programs Launched

The RPAP has introduced two new initiatives: the Student Summer Elective Support Program, and a Community Development and Partnership Grant Program. Full details are available on the RPAP web site.

The purpose of the Student Summer Elective Support Program is to provide matching grants of \$2,500 to RHAs to foster the hiring of a medical student who has completed their first or second year, and in so doing, further expose early careerists to rural medical practice. The matching grants are intended to provide funding for a 4-12 week summer clinical and research experience for up to eight medical students. Priority will be given to medical students of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary who demonstrate an orientation to rural medical practice.



The purposes of the Community Development and Partnership Grant Program are to foster the development of:

- Community/regional health authority/local physician relationships,
- a comprehensive community/RHA recruitment and retention plan, and
- materials required as part of the plan, such as pamphlets/information sheets/CDs.

The grants – up to \$5,000 per community or a total of \$10,000 per RHA - will provide one-time funding for the development of community/RHA recruitment and retention materials that are determined to be required as part of a comprehensive recruitment and retention plan.

The RPAP's Rural Physician Consultants will facilitate and assist the development of a comprehensive community/RHA recruitment and retention plan for those communities in which one does not already exist. Examples of 'best practices' from other communities will be available as a resource. Rural Physician Consultants will also be available for assistance to communities in which a plan already exists.

If you have questions about these programs contact Leah Lechelt, Rural Physician Consultant North at (780) 432-2829 or Monica Kohlhammer, Rural Physician Consultant South at (403) 283-1480.

## Tips for Living with On-Call

Fourteen physicians and spouses were among the first in Alberta to hear preliminary results of the Alberta On-Call Study, partly sponsored by RPAP\*, at a Rural Physician Spousal Network Take Time Out November weekend in Calgary. A video brought the humorous and not-so-funny realities of on-call to life. Study results, presented by chief investigator Dr. Ron Gorsche of High River, showed the significant impact on-call has on physicians, spouses and children.

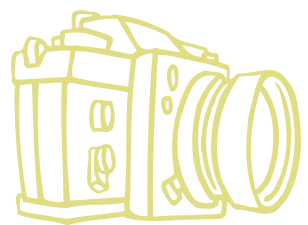
The group brainstormed coping ideas for couples which included:

- Take time for planning,
- Schedule trips away (at least every three months),
- Plan a night out together once a week,
- Organize some weekends away, and
- Plan a holiday away just for the physician spouse.

The spouses – from as far north as High Level and south as Bow Island – represented rural "lifers" as well as residents and newcomers to Canada. They also learned more about the RPAP, Spousal Network and the Physician and Family Support Program. An informal dinner for physicians and spouses, while children enjoyed laser tag and pizza, completed the weekend.

(\*Funders included the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, ALTANA Pharma – Canada, College of Family Physicians (Alberta Chapter) and the RPAP)





# Rural Life... through the lens of rural physician families



Grand Prize Winner  
Ken Riess, Hinton

The results are in from our first ever photo contest! RPAP wishes to express appreciation to all those who participated. The judging panel selected a winner in each of three categories and an overall grand prize winner. Prizes were sent to winners and all other entrants received a nifty RPAP T-shirt for their efforts. While not everyone could be a winner, we felt everyone's efforts should be acknowledged through this special edition of RPAP News.



Family Life Winner  
Alida Milne, Fort Vermilion



Recreation Winner  
Dave Holland, Lethbridge



Landscape Winner  
Alida Milne, Fort Vermilion

Thank you to this year's participants for all their beautiful pictures of rural life.

- |                                         |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ron Gorsche, High River                 | Evelyn Smith, Boyle               |
| Minette Van Der Westhuizen, Ponoka      | Adam Jeeva, High River            |
| Daniel and Marisa Milne, Fort Vermilion | Johannes Maritz, Blairmore        |
| Alida Milne, Fort Vermilion             | Mansing Yeung, Cold Lake          |
| Dave Holland, Lethbridge                | Wendy Fung, Cold Lake             |
| Rob & Alisa Greidanus, Peace River      | Gail Witten, Rocky Mountain House |
| Laurie-Marie Elgersma, Brooks           | Rob Wedel, Taber                  |
| Teresa Wierick, Olds                    | Ken Riess, Hinton                 |
|                                         | Milne Family, Fort Vermilion      |

## Fun

## Family

## Home



Don't put your cameras away! We are accepting snapshots for the "day in the life of a rural physician and his family" photo contest until August 31.

# A Big Thank You!

## Shadowing Program

## New Skills Day *Launched*



### Upcoming Events 2003

#### PHYSICIAN AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM (AMA)

**Finding Meaning in Medicine discussion/support group.** Monthly, first Tuesday evenings commencing January 3, Calgary.

**Parenting Teens discussion/support group.** Four Wednesday evenings, January to April,

**Reclaiming Equilibrium,** March 21-23, Diamond Buffalo Guest Ranch, Sundre.

To register, contact PFSP administration toll-free at 1-877-262-7377 or e-mail

[robin.robertson@albertadoctors.org](mailto:robin.robertson@albertadoctors.org)

#### CONFERENCES

##### Family Medicine Faculty Development Workshop

February 6 - 9

Delta Lodge, Kananaski

On behalf of RPAP and the medical undergraduates from the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, we would like to thank all of the rural physicians who have volunteered to take part as a preceptor in the new RPAP Shadowing Program. The Program enables interested students to follow a rural physician around for all or part of a weekend on call and appears to be a great success with the students. The Shadowing Program would not be possible without rural physicians being willing to donate their time to help teach and to see that rural medicine continues to grow.

A thank you is also extended to Kevin Laskowski, President - U of A, Rural Interest Group and U of C Presidents Kim Veale and Carolyn Donnelly. These students have been working hard to help RPAP promote rural medicine to the medical undergraduates of the two universities.

The Preceptors who have had the opportunity to host a shadowing student to date are:

Smoky Lake - Drs. Goldstuck, A. Raubenheimer, and S. Raubenheimer

Black Diamond - Drs. Grisdale, Cuning, Higgins

Three Hills - Drs. Reedyk, Taylor, Husband

Drayton Valley - Drs. Brocken, Thompson

Cardston - Drs. Low, Allen, Clarke, Taylor, Bester

Edson - Drs. O'Callaghan, Quaye, Oishi, Govander, and Bland

Vulcan - Dr. Wade

Bonnyville - Drs. Hauptfleisch, Coetzee

Brooks - Dr. Elgersma

Viking - Drs. Jackman and Cunningham

Crowsnest Pass - Drs. Sara and Garbutt

Coronation - Dr. McKenzie

Lac La Biche - Drs. Lindsey, Birkhill, Mare

Wainwright - Drs. Ramsahoye and Brilz

Strathmore - Dr. Curtain

Olds - Dr. Wiedrick

Stettler - Drs. Drummond and Elkatateb

Sundre - Drs. Warren and Irvine

Pincher Creek - Dr. Gelber

Wetaskiwin - Drs. Bakshi, Jeffery, and Schlenker

Trochu - Dr. Vermaak

Vegreville - Drs. Verster and Sung

Rocky Mountain House - Drs. Myers and Aasman

We look forward to connecting many more shadowing students with additional preceptors who have volunteered for the Shadowing Program.

## Weekend Day Tours

A big thank you is also extended to the physicians, nursing staff, EMS, fire departments and Towns of Camrose and Drumheller for the RPAP Weekend Day Tours that they hosted for medical students.

These tours give medical students an opportunity to listen to rural physicians discuss the day-to-day realities of rural medicine and to get a first hand account of the life of a rural physician, from the perspective of both male and female rural physicians. The trip also include a tour of rural hospitals. Many students are amazed at the diversity of services offered by them.

Medical students attending the first ever RPAP "Skills Days" had an outstanding time learning how to put on casts, suture, do injections, perform detailed patient assessments, use various instruments and even take blood pressure.

The first trials for this new program were held 9 November 2002 in Ponoka for U of A students and 10 November 2002 in Sundre for U of C students. We would like to thank the administration, staff and Drs. Brian Lee, Robert Halse, Z. Rafiq, Allan Garbutt, Ms. M. Lee, Ms. K. Angel, and EMS staff for the Ponoka event; and preceptors

Drs. Carol Rowntree, Hal Irvine, Les Cunnning, John Irwin, Peter Warren, Allan Garbutt, and Rick Buck for the Sundre one.

Comments from the students were very positive and they would like to have more of them. An advanced skills day is in the works for the new year. Skills to be taught on this day will include starting I.V.'s, intubating, patient histories etc.

Invaluable support for the RPAP Skills Day initiative was received from Welsh Allyn representative Rick Graham who loaned otoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, panoptic scopes, blood pressure cuffs and

stethoscopes. Stryker Canada's representative Chris Skibington donated new polyurethane splinting material and assisted in Ponoka. 3M's Andrew Stephen, and Smyth & Nephew's Kent Warnock also donated supplies for the events.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make these days so successful.

For more information about medical student programs, contact Bev Garbutt, Medical Students' Initiatives Coordinator at (403) 628-2797 or [abgar@telusplanet.net](mailto:abgar@telusplanet.net)

## Enrichment Program *Benefits Specialists*

On completing his Residency Training in Diagnostic Imaging, Dr. S. Dharampaul accepted a position with a Radiology group in Red Deer, Central Alberta Medical Imaging Services (CAMIS LTD.), which provides services for the David Thompson Health Region (DTHR). The DTHR needed someone with skills in the area of Nuclear Medicine, and Dr. Dharampaul, having developed an interest in this area during his Residency, was delighted to take advantage of the RPAP's Enrichment Program to obtain seven months of training in Nuclear Medicine. The RPAP's Enrichment Program helps physicians in rural communities to upgrade their existing skills or to gain new

skills in order to better meet the medical needs of the community.

Dr. Dharampaul finished his enrichment training in February 2002 and has begun practicing in Red Deer. "The Nuclear Medicine training has expanded my scope of practice," says Dharampaul, "allowing me to better meet the needs of the people of central Alberta. Not only am I better able to serve the patients, but I also feel a sense of personal fulfillment in being able to practice these complementary fields of Medical Imaging, that is, Radiology and Nuclear Medicine."

"I believe that in providing the opportunity for more rural physicians to acquire the skills that are in demand in

their community, the RPAP's Enrichment Program benefits all by lessening the burden on those physicians that already possess those skills. This, no doubt, facilitates the recruitment and retention of physicians to rural areas, and ultimately, patient care."

If you are interested in applying for enrichment training, download an application form from our web site, or discuss your training request with one of RPAP's Skills Brokers:

Dr. Ron Gorsche (403) 652-4257  
E-mail: [rgorsche@telusplanet.net](mailto:rgorsche@telusplanet.net)

Dr. John Hnatuik (780) 753-6447  
E-mail: [jnhpc@telusplanet.net](mailto:jnhpc@telusplanet.net)



# A Story We'll Be Following

## The Immigration Process Without a Lawyer

A High Level IMG and his spouse have decided to tackle the Canadian immigration process – without a lawyer.

“It’s primarily because of cost,” says Johann’s wife Retha. “After listening to a presentation at an RPAP-sponsored event and looking at the process outlined in RPAP’s new orientation guide, we decided to work our way through the process ourselves. We understand that others

have done it and many of Johann’s colleagues here in High Level have offered their support.”

“We’ve launched the process,” continues Retha. New immigration requirements and procedures came into effect on 28 June 2002. I called Citizenship and Immigration Canada and got the address for the application forms. The first steps in the process are taken by the RHA completing

certain forms. I am also applying for a work permit and called Human Resources Foreign Worker Unit to get that underway. The process may take between one and two years to complete.”

We will update you on the van der Vyver’s progress in future issues of RPAP News. Dr. Johann van der Vyver has a three year contract in High Level.

## Contribute to the Rural Research Agenda

Rural researcher, Pamela Brett-MacLean, has been recruited by the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta with RPAP support, to develop a research program that will contribute to rural family medicine in Alberta. Along with a team of respected collaborators (including Dr. Jill Konkin, Dr. Donna Manca, and Dr. David Topps), she has initiated a study to develop an agenda for research in rural family medicine in Alberta.

Using an on-line Delphi survey approach, the research team hopes to

identify 10 key areas or themes as priorities in rural family medicine in Alberta, based on the perspectives, concerns and interests of Alberta rural family physicians selected as key informants for the present study. The Delphi process will proceed through a number of rounds (three-five in total), with each round directed to developing broad consensus across the group, although the team anticipates some research themes or areas will be characterized by a diversity of opinion.

The entire study will be completed on-line over a two-three month period

(beginning mid-to late February 2003), with participants’ actual time commitment estimated at 3-4 hours. Participants will receive an honorarium of \$400 for contributing to the study. It is hoped that 20-25 practicing rural family physicians will be involved.

To nominate yourself and/or one or two colleagues who have a good level of experience and interest in rural family medicine, or to learn more about this initiative, contact Shufen Edmondstone at (780) 492-8102 or e-mail: [sedmondstone@med.ualberta.ca](mailto:sedmondstone@med.ualberta.ca)

## Guide to Help

# Physician Newcomers

A new Orientation Guide to Medical Practice and Life in Rural Alberta, developed by the RPAP, is striking a chord with some newcomers to rural Alberta.

Messages on some mailback feedback cards show the Orientation Guide’s value:

*“This Guide was very useful. I wish I had had it in 2000 when I commenced rural practice.”*

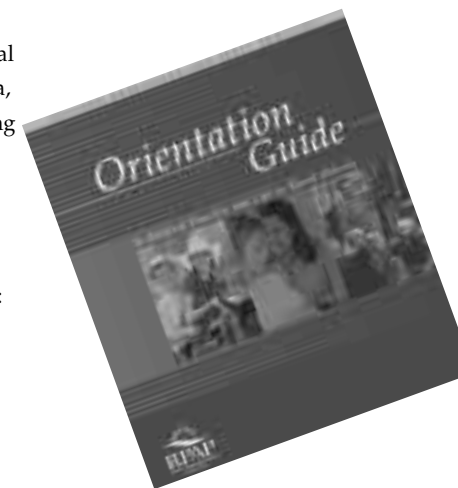
*“This resource was particularly good at showing the step-by-step requirements to practice here. If I had had a resource such as this 4-5 years ago, this would have answered all my questions and saved me countless phone calls.*

*Well done, excellent work.”*

*“Excellent compilation of information. Keep it the same – just update the information.”*

RPAP developed the Guide with input from physicians, regional health authorities, Colleges, the AMA, government departments and many more. Including brief descriptions as well as website and phone access information, the Guide is designed to:

- Help ease the transition into rural practice and rural life for newly recruited physicians and their families,
- Be a handy reference for practicing rural physicians, and
- Be used as a recruitment tool for rural communities and practicing physicians.



The Guide was mailed to all rural physicians and members on the Rural Physician Spousal Network list this fall. On an ongoing basis, RPAP will mail it to physicians on monthly new registrant lists provided by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. The mailout will be followed by personal telephone calls by the Rural Physician Consultants (North and South) to see if additional assistance is required.

Included with the Guide was a new brochure, Recruiting and Immigration Steps for International Medical Graduates. The RPAP welcomes any feedback on this information, which was developed in collaboration with Human Resources and Development Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The information and forms contained in the brochure are also available on the RPAP web site.

## New Faces Around The Office



LEAH LEHELDT, BCOMM, ABC, will step in for Terri Taylor as the RPAP Rural Physician Consultant (North) while Terri is away on a year-long

sabbatical. Leah runs a small consulting firm specializing in public relations, strategic planning, social marketing and research. Leah begins her new responsibilities with RPAP in January 2003. She can be contacted through the RPAP Office.



BEV MAXWELL is the new RPAP Program Support Assistant.



BUNNY EDWARDS is RPAP’s new Rural Accommodations Coordinator.

### Join the more familiar faces of:



DAVID KAY, RPAP Program Manager



JANICE DRINKILL, RPAP Program Support Coordinator

# Welcome

## New Rural Alberta Physician Families

Please join us in welcoming the following physicians and their families who moved to rural Alberta since August 2002. The RPAP News will regularly welcome newcomers, using information supplied by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

### AUGUST 2002

Dr. Allyson Jill Adolph – Lethbridge  
Dr. Nicol Basson – Fort Vermilion  
Dr. Jan Gideon Joubert – Slave Lake  
Dr. Prakash Jugnundan – Wabasca  
Dr. Charles Gordon Metcalfe – Red Deer  
Dr. James Christopher Richards – Bassano  
Dr. William Lane McKenzie Robson – Redwood Meadows  
Dr. Tejinder Sainbhee – Camrose  
Dr. Nirmal Kumar Shahoo – Red Deer  
Dr. Daniel Tailliferre Hauman van der Merwe – Fort McMurray  
Dr. Catherine Anne White – Cold Lake

### SEPTEMBER 2002

Dr. Wayne John Edwards – Lethbridge  
Dr. Philip Louw Immelman – High Prairie  
Dr. Maria Hanna Krzywicka – Red Deer  
Dr. Stephen Kwan – Ponoka  
Dr. Fernando David Moreno Merlo – Medicine Hat

Dr. Helen Rachel Mott-Trille – Canmore  
Dr. Willem Marius Myburgh – Red Deer  
Dr. Lachman Das Oad – Wetaskiwin  
Dr. James Christopher Richards – Bassano  
Dr. Ernst Retief Snyman – Two Hills  
Dr. Francois Cobert Visser – Ponoka  
Dr. Liezl Wepener – Barrhead  
Dr. Frederik Jacobus Wepener – Barrhead  
Dr. Kirsten Ingrid Westberg – Red Deer

### OCTOBER 2002

Dr. Gerrit Dekker – Fort Vermilion  
Dr. Gert Cornelis Du Plessis – High Level  
Dr. Johannes Lukas Le Roux – High Level  
Dr. Hermanus Hendrikus J. Potgieter – Viking  
Dr. Peter James Scoates – Lethbridge  
Dr. Victor Starke – High Prairie  
Dr. Jay Jianhang Sun – Slave Lake  
Dr. Philip Lodewyk Vogel - Stettler

## Study Participants Wanted

Canada is facing a major shortage of all professionals within the next decade. To address these predicted shortages, education programs across the country are beginning to enroll more students with the result that additional field experience sites outside the traditional urban settings must be considered. The need to encourage and engage more rural/remote professionals to act as preceptors is crucial. An understanding of the role of educating professionals for rural/remote communities will be invaluable to facilitate the process.

The following persons are seeking professionals (physicians, nurses, students, managers) willing to participate in a study to determine factors that influence the education of health professionals in, and for, rural/remote practice:

Dr. E.(Betty) Thomlinson, Faculty of Nursing  
University of Calgary;

Ms. Meg K. McDonagh, Faculty of Nursing,  
University of Calgary;

Dr. Carol Rowntree, Faculty of Medicine,  
University of Calgary, Greenwood Family  
Physicians, Sundre, AB; and

Ms. Bonnie Jones, Director Patient Services,  
Sundre General Hospital.

The University of Calgary is asking participants to take part in individual interviews or focus groups (whichever they desire) at a time and place that would be convenient for them. If you are interested in participating, contact:

Dr. Betty Thomlinson at (403) 220-6917  
or e-mail: thomlins@ucalgary.ca

Further information and details on the RPAP and its initiatives may be obtained from:

David Kay, RPAP Program Manager  
Alberta Rural Physician Action Plan  
1000 Manulife Place  
10180-101 Street Edmonton  
Alberta, Canada T5J 3S2

Phone: (780) 423-9911  
Toll free 1-866-423-9911  
Fax: (780)423-9917  
Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca  
www.rpap.ab.ca

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