



NEWS

In this issue

- Bassano Rural Practice Model
- New Unit Directors Needed
- Rallying Interest in Rural Schools

Rimbey Physician *Award Recipient*



Dr. Michael G. Boorman of Rimbey is the 2004 recipient of the Alberta Rural Physician Award of Distinction. Following a review of the 14 outstanding candidates nominated this year, the RPAP Coordinating Committee selected Dr. Boorman based on his well-rounded contributions to rural medicine, significant

medical practice, teaching of other health professionals, conducting research, or volunteering in the community. The RPAP hopes that through the Award process, communities will recognize the contributions of their physicians and more physicians will choose and continue to practice in rural Alberta.

4th. The Honourable Halvar Jonson, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations and MLA for Ponoka-Rimbey, represented the Alberta Government at the event.

Nominations for the Award this year were received from Camrose, Consort, Edson, Lethbridge, Peace River, Picture Butte, Ponoka, Rimbey, Spirit River, Three Hills, Viking, Vulcan, and Whitecourt.

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contributions to his community and his international service.

The Award of Distinction honours and recognizes the work of all rural physicians and is presented annually to an Alberta family physician who lives and has worked in rural Alberta for at least four years, and who demonstrates a superior commitment and contribution to the community through

“This Award process,” says Dr. Odell Olson, RPAP Coordinating Committee Chair, “demonstrates that not only do the nominees contribute to their profession, but their communities also recognize their contributions in many volunteer areas.”

Dr. Boorman received his award at a community celebration co-hosted by RPAP and the Rimbey community on Friday, June

Breaking News!

RPAP is pleased to announce that Nancy Rowan of Edmonton has been hired as RPAP's new Rural Physician Consultant (North). Nancy replaces Leah Lechelt. Our thanks to Leah for her hard work and contributions both in this role as well as her former role as Administrator for the Rural Physician Spousal Network.

RPSN CONNECTIONS

Whether you're male or female, with or without children, stay-at-home or career professional, new to Canada or life-long resident, the Rural Physician Spousal Network (RPSN) offers valuable information, resources and help to connect you with other physician spouses. Our local Advisory Board members are physician spouses who likely understand what you're experiencing.

Following is a listing of the Advisory Board members or you can check out the RPSN information on the RPAP website at www.rpap.ab.ca

RPSN ADVISORY BOARD

Della Marie Woodruff, RPSN Chair
Bow Island
(403) 545-2146
wwodjrjm@ta.monarch.net

Gail Wacko,
Spousal Network Administrator
(780) 435-4679 • gail.wacko@rpap.ab.ca

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Annelie Groenewald – High Level
(780) 926-5508 • etgroen@webmail.co.za

Sylvie Sauve – Fort McMurray
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Christine Bly – Grande Prairie
(780) 402-3808 • jbly@ualberta.ca

SPOUSAL NETWORK CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVES

Elmari Anderson – Wainwright
(780) 842-5734

Cathy Janke – Sylvan Lake
(403) 887-4476 • cjankeis@shaw.ca

Valerie Kendall – Edmonton
(780) 479-6733 • vlkendall@hotmail.com

SPOUSAL NETWORK SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE

Bev Garbutt – Blairmore
(403) 628-2797 • bgg@telusplanet.net

RURAL ALBERTA HAS SOME OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE PRIMARY CARE PRACTICES OF THIS PROVINCE. ONE OF THESE, THE BASSANO HEALTH CARE PROJECT, IS SITUATED 75 MINUTES SOUTH EAST OF CALGARY.



Dr. Tony Mucciarone
and Dr. James Richards

Bassano Rural Practice Model

Dr. Tony Mucciarone started the project five years ago with an idea and a "let's go with it and see what happens" attitude. Two physicians, Dr. Tony Mucciarone and Dr. James Richards, now work with the project in an Alternate Relationship Plan (ARP).

Each day starts with a multidisciplinary team meeting, including MD's, nurses, Home Care, physiotherapy, public health, a psychologist, and a social worker. The physicians see patients in the clinic and are on call for ER. They have close communication with their primary care nurse about patient teaching, blood pressure checks, injections, etc. and often speak with Home Care nurses, especially about the care of the elderly in the community.

The Palliser Health Authority runs the project office and hires staff, maintains the clinic, provides office and medical supplies. This frees up the physicians from running the office. The physicians practice full-time and are paid on a contract basis. On-call coverage

is done by the physicians with one in two call for the weekdays and one weekend of call per month. The Rural Locum Program provides locum coverage for weekends and holidays.

Mucciarone sees that this ARP model has two strengths: enabling the community to attract physicians, and providing residents in the immediate and surrounding communities with preventative and comprehensive care.

"We have been able to attract more doctors to come here because of the way we practice using the model," says Mucciarone. "We have been freed up from running the office and that has allowed us to focus more on the practice of rural medicine. We have a primary care nurse who works with us on prevention through teaching. We also have a contract. All these attributes help to relieve some of the stress of running a medical practice. We can spend more time with patients who require more care. Our model works well in smaller centres" continues Mucciarone, "I am not sure how well it would work in a larger centre."

Physicians Needed for Study!

The University of Calgary is recruiting physicians who both have or have not preceptored students and who would be willing to be interviewed for a research study for approximately an hour about their ideas and experiences. The research study, "An exploration of preceptorships for the education of

health professionals in rural/remote settings," arose from a need to address the shortage of rural practitioners. If you are interested in participating, contact Meg McDonagh at the U of C Faculty of Nursing, mkmcdona@ucalgary.ca or phone (403) 220-6799.

New ARFMN Unit Directors Needed

The RPAP is in the process of recruiting two new Unit Directors to manage each node of the RPAP's Alberta Rural Family Medicine Network or "rural stream." One node is affiliated with Family Medicine at the UofA and the other with the UofC.

The terms of the Network's original unit directors – Dr. Hugh Hindle (RAN) and Dr. Doug Myhre (RAS) - end next summer (2005) however the process to recruit new unit directors and to begin their orientation will start during the 2004 summer/fall.

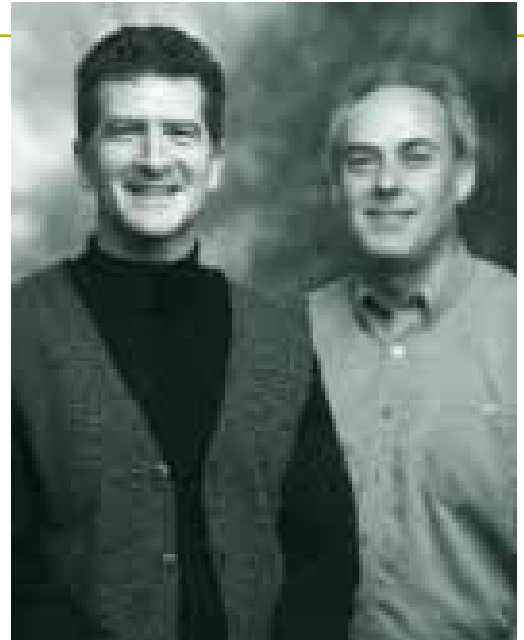
The position profile calls for the successful candidates to have a substantial knowledge of, and exposure to, the issues faced by rural medical education; to possess significant experience in the health care and academic sectors; to be self-motivated and self-directed; and to possess superior

interpersonal, facilitation, communication, management and problem-solving skills.

The positions have a term of two (2) years renewable for a second two year term (with an optional third year) and are filled through a search and select process involving RPAP and Faculty representatives.

If you are interested in either of these exciting opportunities, please contact David Kay, RPAP Program Manager. See his contact information noted on the back of RPAP News.

RPAP appreciates the fine work and contributions of Drs. Hindle and Myhre as ARFMN's first Unit Directors. In the next



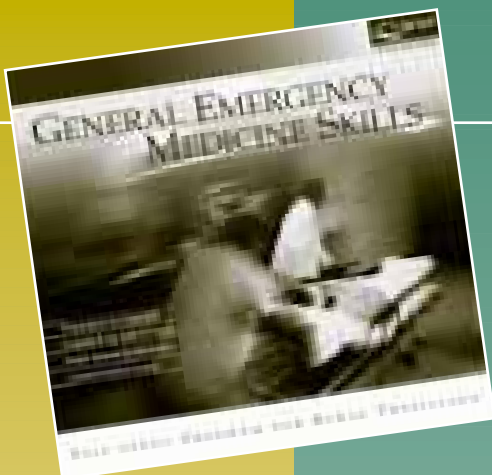
Dr. Doug Myhre (RAS) and Dr. Hugh Hindle (RAN)

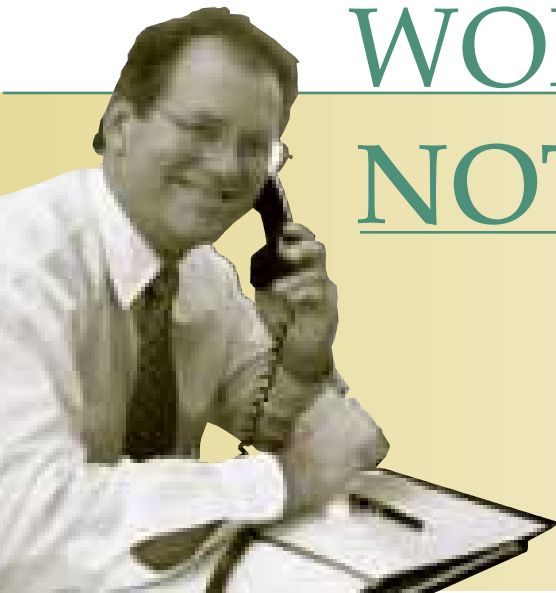
issue of RPAP News, we will provide highlights of their service as well as their plans for the future.

GEMS CDs to IRAQ

Copies of RPAP's new multi-media self-study training program were used in Iraq this spring as part of presentations of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC)'s "care to care" international project. A group of SRPC representatives flew to Iraqi Kurdistan to provide various medical presentations.

While Kurdistan is still considered the poor cousin when it comes to distribution of medical supplies and equipment from Baghdad, the Minister of Health sees the need for well-trained generalists in rural communities and now supports disseminated education with training in rural centres rather than concentrating all the resources in urban areas.





WORK PERMITS NOT REQUIRED NOW

A new federal change means good news for those IMG physician partners who want to work in Canada but historically haven't been able to even apply for a Canadian work permit without a confirmed job offer.

Now International Medical Graduates (IMG) spouses or common-law partners may apply for a Canadian work permit without a job offer because their IMG partner is considered a "skilled foreign worker."

The process in the past was a bit of a chicken and egg thing. A family often couldn't decide whether to come to Canada unless they knew that both the physician and partner would have meaningful employment. The IMG partner, however, was not eligible to work because they were not a permanent resident of Canada or a holder of a valid work permit.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is now making things easier. Spouses may be authorized to work without first having a confirmed job offer. Spouses who have declared their intention to work can apply for an "open" work permit at the same time that they apply for entry to Canada.

Alternatively, spouses who accompany physicians to Canada first as visitors but who later decide, once in Canada, to seek employment may apply for a work permit to the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta. They can apply for an open work permit which authorizes them to work for any employer. An immigration medical examination may be required before an open work permit can be issued.

For more information, contact the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100 or check out www.cic.gc.ca

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS (CAEP)
CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD
JUNE 2005 IN EDMONTON.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
DR. ROB DALOISE, CAEP 2005
RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE TRACK
CO-CHAIR AT ROBDALOISE@SHAW.CA

NEW RPAP MEDICAL ST

A new award program sponsored by the Alberta Rural Physician Action Plan (RPAP) aims to encourage students who come from a designated rural area to pursue a career in rural medicine by reducing their financial burden.

The Rural Medical School Award provides \$5,000 for each year of medical studies to assist with the student's tuition, accommodation, living and/or travel

expenses. The Award is available to students in any year of their medical degree. Once accepted, the student receives the Award every year until medical school graduation, contingent upon their meeting the program requirements. The number of Awards available from the RPAP may vary on an annual basis. The intent is to grant up to two Awards per medical school per year.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply, applicants are required to be an Alberta resident or a permanent resident of Canada living in Alberta; enrolled as a first or second-year full-time medical student at the University of Calgary or University of Alberta; have resided in a defined Alberta rural area for a minimum of five consecutive years

Welcome to our new RAN Residents!



This year the Alberta Rural Family Medicine Network's Rural Alberta North (RAN) residency program filled its ten spots with five residents in each of Grande Prairie and Red Deer. (The ARFMN's RAS program also filled its 10 spots).

Three of the new residents have children aged three to fifteen. Gary Davidson and his wife Pam will be moving to Red Deer with their four children, Brayden, Mikeala, Thomas and Daniel. Julie Hemberger will be returning to her childhood city of Red Deer bringing with her two children, Alec and Jessica, and her husband Tom. Andi Scheibenstock and her daughter Georgina are moving to Grande Prairie but leaving behind the rest of her family.

A special treat this year will be a resident couple. Lina Kung is joining her significant

other, current resident Jared Yeung. Lina has a PhD and an interest in research. She will be based out of Red Deer. Carla Pilch who will also be based out of Red Deer is unfortunately leaving her significant other in Edmonton, so she is sure to be doing a lot of commuting. Carla isn't alone; Stephanie Anderson is also leaving behind her significant other. Stephanie's outgoing personality and interests outside of medicine (including singing and theatre) are sure to help her meet lots of people in Grande Prairie. Maggie Naylor, her husband Brian and their husky cross are expected to enjoy the biking paths and wild life when they move to Grande Prairie.

Residents have traveled from far and "wide to be involved in the RAN program. Jo Ann Robinson is moving to Red Deer from Kingston, Ontario and Candace Chow is moving from Winnipeg to Grande Prairie. Nicole Mathews and her fiancé have traveled the farthest to be in the program. They are moving from Ireland to Grande Prairie.

The residents will be doing rotations in various communities around northern and central Alberta. You may see them around your community or you may be their preceptor. Please give our new RAN residents a warm welcome.

Watch for information about our new RAS residents in our next RPAP News issue.

URGENT Telepsychiatry Service

A new service is now available that provides access for rural clients to urgent psychiatric services.

In collaboration with Capital Health, the Calgary Health Region, and the David Thompson Health Region, the Telemental Health Service of the Alberta Mental Health Board is offering a Provincial Urgent Telepsychiatry Consultation Service.

Using videoconferencing technology available at local hospitals and health centers in all health regions, this initiative promotes timely access to mental health services by connecting a rural client with a consulting psychiatrist within one to four business days of the referral being received.

Psychiatrists are available Monday through Friday, morning and afternoon to provide consultation services to rural communities. If you have a client who you think could benefit from this Urgent Telepsychiatry Service, complete the Telepsychiatry Referral form available by calling (403) 783-7887.

Above photos Left: Tom and Julie Hemberger and their two children, Alec and Jessica. Right: Lina Kung and Jared Yeung

URGENT AWARD

immediately prior to entering a pre-medical program; and be a member of a student Rural Medical Interest Group at the university at which the medical degree is being undertaken.

For more information, check the RPAP website at www.rpap.ab.ca In addition to this Award, students may also wish to apply for the following awards:

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BURSARY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

For information, see Bursaries at www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc/Bursary/bursary_home.htm

AMA SECTION OF RURAL MEDICINE MICHAEL TARRANT SCHOLARSHIP

For more information, call Bev Garbutt at 403-628-3222 or bgg@telusplanet.net.

Physician Profile

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

Dr. Jim Saunders

Dr. Jim Saunders has always had a passion for the mountains and knew he wanted to be near the great outdoors. Rocky Mountain House provides opportunities for him to enjoy professional practice close to both these amenities.

Born and raised in Calgary, Jim graduated from the U of C Family Medicine in 1983. He did locums around the Calgary area before venturing to new locations with his wife Jane. With a goal of traveling the world before returning to Alberta, the couple set off through New Zealand, Asia and other locations.

In 1987, Jim and his wife Jane arrived in Rocky Mountain House to establish a medical practice. This rural community of about 6000 citizens and a catchment area of approximately 14,000 is supported by industries such as gas exploration, forestry and agriculture. Eleven physicians practice in a newly-renovated and fully-computerized clinic with a 30-bed hospital only two blocks away. Jim's practice affords him the opportunity to provide family practice surgery and one day each month he practices with the Community Mental Health Program. He also has an appointment to the Ponoka Mental Health Review Panel, through the Minister of Health.

"This practice is successful because of the time spent fostering positive relationships with one another," says Jim. "There is a lot of time spent accommodating the age range of doctors recognizing the importance of lifestyle. A group of specialists are also available through Red Deer and patients have the option of traveling two hours to either Calgary or Edmonton to access specialist services."

Jim believes his father (a physician) and his mother (a pharmacist) were instrumental in guiding him and other family members towards careers in medicine. Two other siblings also have medical careers - one sister is a pediatrician in oncology, the other a family physician. Jim is passionate about rural medicine because it is challenging and exciting even though it also brings with it stress. "In rural medicine," says Jim, "we have autonomy and the ability to work with people to make decisions. It is very rewarding." Jim sees the challenges of rural medicine to be recruitment, access to laboratory and specialty care, and support of a reasonable lifestyle with a balance of work and play.

Jim is passionate about rural medicine because it is challenging and exciting even though it also brings with it stress.

The community continues to serve the family well with Jane volunteering within

the schools while available on call as a volunteer firefighter. Two of three children, Amy (16 years old) and Marc (13 years old) continue to attend the local school while Chris, their oldest son is in his second year of studies in computer science at Acadia University in Nova Scotia. When he is enjoying the outdoors, you can find Jim mountain scrambling or spending time with his family hiking, downhill skiing or camping.

Calling all PHYSICIAN RESEARCHERS!

Rural physicians interested in learning or refining their research skills may want to consider applying to become part of the fifth intake of researchers to the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research SEARCH program. The next intake begins in 2005.

The Swift Efficient Application of Research in Community Health (SEARCH) program trains health professionals throughout Alberta to conduct research on priority health issues affecting their community.

For more information about SEARCH opportunities, contact Dr. Ron Gorsche, RPAP Skills Broker and SEARCH graduate at (403) 652-2929 or check out the SEARCH website at ahfmr.ab.ca/researchers.html.

Resident Rallies Interest in Rural Schools

SOME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA HAVE HAD MORE EXPOSURE TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF A RURAL MEDICAL CAREER THAN THEY WOULD NORMALLY GET.

Jared Bly, first-year RAN Family Medicine Resident and Beth Zazula, Career Transition for Youth, recently traveled to rural schools to talk with students about a possible career in rural medicine. They hope they have planted seeds that will take root as these students think about their future career options.

The project got started when a high school student got in touch with Bly and asked if she could look around the local hospital. Though it sounded like a simple request, Bly found it was not because there was no process in place to make it happen easily. Bly realized that there were a lot of people who were willing to talk about their health careers and to show students around.

Jared teamed up with Beth Zazula to make a Power Point presentation about a career in rural medicine. He and Zazula then made presentations to six high schools (two in Grande Prairie, and Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Ridge Valley and Spirit River).

From the presentations, Bly and Zazula learned that many of the students wanted to go into rural health professions but not necessarily medicine.

"As residents," says Bly, "we often talk about how we can get people into rural family medicine. I've come to realize that the big thing is to get rural people into rural medicine because they are more likely to go back to work in small towns if they're from a small town. We need to give rural kids exposure to rural health careers so that maybe down the road they consider that option."

Reaction to the presentations has been positive. Students seem to really enjoy the game show format – especially the candy that is dispensed with questions based on the presentation! Teachers and principals have also provided a lot of positive feedback.

Bly and Zazula have completed an evaluation of what was learned from the project and from questionnaires completed by students.

Lunch and Learns

As previously reported in this newsletter, RPAP is also very interested in working to attract rural students to rural medical careers. In May, a Lunch and Learn session was piloted in Camrose by Ariane Fielding, a U of C Medical Student, RPAP Rural Physician Consultant Monica Kohlhammer and RPAP Skills Broker Dr. John Hnatuik.

Rural Health Week



The third annual Alberta Rural Health Week was celebrated June 13 – 19, 2004. More than 40 provincial, regional and local partnering organizations joined with RPAP to help raise awareness and showcase success stories and the unique positive contributions and skills of rural health professionals and organizations. Rural health services contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by Alberta residents.

The 2004 theme is 'Grow Your Own.' Many special programs exist which

encourage young people from rural areas to train in the health professions and to go back to work and live in their rural areas.

At the request of our Rural Health Week partners, RPAP developed and is hosting a new Rural Health Week website which showcases stories of rural innovation and success. Check out the site at www.ruralhealthweek.ab.ca

If you know of an organization that may be interested in participating in Rural Health Week, please forward the contact information to Rhonda.Crooks@rpap.ab.ca

Welcome

New Rural Alberta Physician Families

Please join us in welcoming to Rural Alberta the following physicians and their families. Note this list is supplied by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and may include a full range of practice categories ranging from temporary locums to fully licensed and practising physicians. Errors or changes to this information should be reported directly to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

DECEMBER 2003

Dr. Musbah Abouhamra – *Lloydminster*
Dr. Barend Durand – *Brooks*
Dr. Willem Grabe – *Lacombe*
Dr. Timothy Hanton – *Killam*
Dr. Magdalena Kapp – *Innisfail*
Dr. Johannes Koen – *Bashaw*
Dr. Maria Muller – *Strathmore*
Dr. Richard Swanepoel – *Lacombe*
Dr. Frans Van Eetveldt – *Fort Vermilion*

JANUARY 2004

Dr. Amaraegbulam Anozie – *Slave Lake*
Dr. Coenraad Basson – *Drumheller*
Dr. Charles De Leeuw – *Cold Lake*
Dr. Gerald Eaton – *Canmore*
Dr. Colleen Forestier – *Cold Lake*
Dr. Patrick Gore-Hickman – *Lloydminster*
Dr. K. Kalyana-Sundaram – *Devon*

Dr. Swapna Masurkar – *Olds*
Dr. Jacobus Oosthuizen – *Sexsmith*
Dr. Andries van Heerden – *Bonnyville*
Dr. Holly Wells – *Lloydminster*

FEBRUARY 2004

Dr. Mohamed Cassim – *Lloydminster*
Dr. Antia Daniel – *Brooks*
Dr. Theodor Endemann – *Lloydminster*
Dr. Abdul Kamran – *Edson*
Dr. Jean-Michel Worms – *Canmore*

MARCH 2004

Dr. Andries Botha – *Blairmore*
Dr. Barend De Klerk – *Elk Point*
Dr. Jacobus Grobbelaar – *Brooks*
Dr. Mykhaylo Levinsky – *Fort McMurray*
Dr. Georg Portwig – *High Level*
Dr. Marthinus Strydom – *Sexsmith*
Dr. Izak Vorster – *Slave Lake*

APRIL 2004

Dr. Amaraegbulam Anozie – *Spirit River*
Dr. Matheus Van Zyl – *Sexsmith*

MAY 2004

Dr. Nicolaas Botha – *Stony Plain*
Dr. Heinrich de Jongh – *Whitecourt*
Dr. Riaan Nieman – *Daysland*

Recruitment Fair 2004

Representatives from regional health authorities, the Rural Locum Program and other organizations will be hosting booths at two RPAP-sponsored Recruitment Fairs in September. The Fairs provide opportunities for medical students and residents and organizations recruiting physicians for Alberta communities to talk with one another and to start building future practice relationships.

Edmonton Location	Calgary Location
September 14, 2004 Bernard Snell Hall Walter C. Mackenzie Health Science Centre 8440-112 Street Edmonton, Alberta 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	September 16, 2004 Health Science Centre Mall 3330 Hospital Dr. NW Calgary, Alberta 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Canadian Publication Agreement Number 40591011

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

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