



Family Medicine Forum 2007

Annual Scientific Assembly turns 50

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In March 1957, the first Annual Scientific Assembly (ASA) of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) was held in Montreal, Que. This year, from October 11 to 13, 2007, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ASA in Winnipeg, Man. The ASA has become one of the most important events in our annual College calendar. It is poetic that its golden anniversary will be held a stone's throw from The Golden Boy, one of Canada's most famed landmarks, perched atop of Manitoba's Legislative Building.

Each year, Family Medicine Forum (FMF), with the ASA as its central activity, brings together hundreds of family physicians, residents, medical students, other specialists, and colleagues from other health professions who work with family doctors. With a program planned by CFPC members, FMF has become a highly recommended stop on the continuing professional development highway for Canada's family physicians.

In addition to offering the opportunity to meet and share some great times outside the halls of learning with old and new friends, FMF's program has become renowned as unique because it addresses the needs of family physicians in both comprehensive and focused practices, and it presents accredited, leading-edge learning sessions relevant to the various roles of today's family doctors across Canada—clinicians, teachers, researchers, and important players in our health care system.

During the 3 days, attendees will be able to plan their own learning tracks based on their own needs and interests. Sessions will be offered on such topics as emergency medicine, palliative care, rural practice, child health, mental illness, urban and multicultural practice, maternity care, and the challenges of interprofessional practice.

Though all topics and speakers are not yet finalized, there will be keynote speakers each morning for all registrants on topics such as caring for Canada's children, stroke management, and the value of humour as therapy. Following the keynote speakers each day, registrants can choose among concurrent large and small group sessions. Some activities, such as the Mainpro-C sessions, will require preregistration, but most presentations will be on a first-come, first-served basis. It's a

good idea to register for FMF as soon as possible to take advantage of early-bird rates and to ensure a spot in the sessions you want to attend that do require preregistration. For more program details and to register, visit our FMF website at www.cfpc.ca/fmf.

Since 2004, the week of FMF has been declared Family Doctor Week in Canada—an opportunity to celebrate the special bond between family physicians and their patients and to recognize the outstanding contributions made by family doctors to our nation's health and health

care. Family Doctor Week is also when the CFPC publicly honours Canada's 10 Family Physicians of the Year, along with the recipients of many other College awards and scholarships presented to outstanding family doctors, family medicine residents, and medical students. At Convocation on the evening of Saturday, October 13, we will recognize our new Certificants and Fellows, who have

earned these honours by demonstrating their knowledge, skills, and commitment to lifelong learning in the specialty of family medicine.

The week will conclude with the FMF celebration party—an annual highlight where all FMF registrants and Convocation guests are invited to join together for an evening of music, dancing, and fun. To salute the ASA's golden anniversary the celebration will feature a performance by Winnipeg's own international recording star Chantal Kreviazuk for ASA and Convocation participants. The benefits of registering for FMF extend beyond the excellent continuing medical education and continuing professional development!

Family Medicine Forum 2007 will also focus on helping others. The 2007 CFPC-Scotiabank Family Medicine Lecture, which will be the keynote address on the opening morning, and the performance by Chantal Kreviazuk will be dedicated to a special donation being made by the CFPC, Scotiabank, and Chantal Kreviazuk to support a CARE Canada and CARE International HIV and AIDS project in Haiti.

Family Medicine Forum 2007, cohosted by the CFPC, the Manitoba College of Family Physicians, and the CFPC's Sections of Teachers and Researchers, will be an event not to be missed!

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