

## Margaret McGregor MD CCFP MHSC

*With a degree in political science, the future Dr McGregor went to China as part of a cultural exchange. A classmate of Jan Wong's, she too imagined and experienced Chinese socialism as a possible solution to the inequalities of society. She spent 2.5 years in Beijing and in the countryside studying philosophy and working in factories. Her roommate from that time, a lifelong friend and party member, has spoken highly of recent economic reform. McGregor returned to Canada and began working as a hospital ward clerk. One of her major responsibilities was inputting orders from staff physicians, and this created a curiosity about terminology: she wanted to know more than just what the terms meant as information; she wanted to know the implications of these terms on the patient. She became a doctor, eventually marrying a history professor with a focus on Asian history (and a particular interest in Asian immigration to Canada). She began working at a Vancouver community health centre with unique funding and staffing resources, allowing her to try out new initiatives that generate a vocabulary perhaps chiming with the old revolutionary one: "scaling up what works" and "dynamic process" and "the third-next appointment" are terms she uses frequently. As a part-time health services researcher, McGregor asks young doctors how they want to work and live; she's struck by the fact that, despite ever increasing enrolments to medical schools to offset physician shortage, no significant improvement ever comes, bringing to her mind the question of the public spiritedness of physicians. A founding member of Canadian Doctors for Medicare, an organization that has a meeting shadowing the annual CMA general assembly, she attended an early public meeting that featured a viewing of Michael Moore's documentary Sicko. 🍁*

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Cover photo: Gabrielle Beer, Coquitlam, BC

Story: Shane Neilson MD CCFP, Erin, Ont

Additional photos and the French translation of the story appear on page 1214.

D'autres photos et la traduction en français du récit se trouvent à la page 1214.

**THE COVER PROJECT** *Canadian Family Physician* has embarked on a project to assemble the portrait of family medicine in Canada. Each cover of the journal will feature a family physician chosen at random from our membership list, along with a short essay—a brief glimpse of the person and the practice. Over time, the randomness will become representative and the differences, taken together, will define what it is that all family physicians have in common.

*Inside half-cover (IHC)*