



Future Directions

Continuous Professional Learning

Doug Klein, MD, CCFP, MSc



The Division of Continuing Medical Education (CME) at the University of Alberta is undergoing major changes this year. The Division is recruiting a new Associate Dean, with the retirement of Dr. Paul Davis.

Over the last 16 years, Dr. Davis has led the office through tremendous growth. He implemented planning committees for every course CME developed that included the target audience. He oversaw the growth of a small Teleconference Program that began as a small room, a microphone and a telephone and became a collaborative province-wide Video Conference Program.

Throughout his tenure in CME, Dr. Davis authored more than 30 published articles and 35 presentations, both nationally and abroad, and the CME staff grew from three to 14 members. He has had several successful collaborations with other continuing education providers, as well as with the pharmaceutical industry. The office wishes to thank him for his years of hard work within the Division.

The next big change is renaming

the Division of CME to the Division of Continuous Professional Learning (CPL). The name change represents a new direction in the education provided by our office. CPL will continue to offer several of our successful longstanding programs, but the office will have a dedicated focus on innovation and research in continuing education.

Physicians across Canada are moving away from working in the isolation of their clinics to developing a network of interdisciplinary health professionals to help serve patients more effectively. Continuing education is responding to this shift by incorporating new interdisciplinary education programs. The Division of CPL will be partnering with other Faculties within the University of Alberta and across the province of Alberta to embrace this change in philosophy.

One upcoming program that will highlight this change in direction will be an interdisciplinary program targeting the care of aboriginal people with diabetes.

In the near future, a new initiative

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will be unveiled to emphasize the continuum of medical education. Thus far at the University of Alberta, Undergraduate Medical Education, Postgraduate Medical Education and CPL work in independent areas, with little collaboration in other areas of medical education. This new initiative will enable collaboration between various areas of continuing education through structured workshops and informal opportunities. Instructors will be recruited from all areas of medical education to cover a broad range of top-

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ics, including the latest developments in specific medical fields, communication, teaching and research skills.

The Division will be launching a new Web site early in 2006. This new and improved site will be a resource for physicians and other health-care providers. A single point of entry will list all education events in Edmonton and Northern Alberta. The site will list CPL's own programming and conferences, but will also include hospital grand rounds, interdisciplinary courses and conferences, faculty development and continuing education by other faculties at the University of Alberta. The site will also offer credit tracking services for its members.

I look forward to the future and working within this changing environment and collaborating with new partners as CME becomes CPL.

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