Continuing Medical Education on the Internet

Do you want to learn what’s new in medicine, plan a tropical holiday or do both at the same time? Or would you rather spend a quiet evening studying at home? The Web sites described in this article can help you.

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University continuing medical education (CME) Web sites are the best place to visit for information about local programs. They typically provide a calendar of events and course descriptions. Some provide on-line brochures, on-line registration and on-line courses. The highlights of each Web site are listed in this article.

University of British Columbia
www.med.ubc.ca/cme
Handheld computer courses. Clinical competence program.

University of Alberta
www.ualberta.ca/~cme/cme1.htm
Links to other CME Web sites.

University of Calgary
www.cme.ucalgary.ca
On-line quiz from The Canadian Journal of CME. See page 263 of this issue.

University of Saskatchewan
www.usask.ca/cme
Lists of books for a core library.

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CME On The Internet

University of Manitoba
www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/units/continuing_med_ed
Links to other CME Web sites.

McMaster University
www-fhs.mcmaster.ca/conted
Individualized Education. Physician review program.

University of Western Ontario
www.med.uwo.ca/oped/index.htm
Evidence-Based Medicine and Rural Practice. CyberSchool. On-line resources.

Queen’s University
http://meds.queensu.ca/ce
On-line courses.

University of Toronto (CME)
www.cme.utoronto.ca
Research and development resource base in CME.

University of Toronto (Family Practice)
http://dfcm19.med.utoronto.ca/cmedistancelearning.htm
On-line courses.

University of Ottawa
www.uottawa.ca/academic/med/emc-cme/index.htm
Local courses.

McGill University
www.med.mcgill.ca/~cme
On-line courses. On-line workshop on the Royal College Maintenance of Certification (MAINCERT) program.

Université de Montréal
www-emc.med.umontreal.ca/default.html
French language. Internet links.

Université Laval
www.fmed.ulaval.ca/fmc
French language. On-line courses.

Summary

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- University CME departments are the best place to visit for information about local programs. They typically provide a calendar of events and course descriptions. Some provide on-line brochures, on-line registration and on-line courses.

- Several Canadian medical associations sponsor CME courses or other educational activities for their members. In some cases, these courses and activities are located in a “members only” section of the Web site.

- Canadian specialty associations may host CME events for their members. The list of these associations on the Royal College Web site is difficult to find. Look for the “Canadian Specialty Associations” link near the bottom of the “site map” page.

- If you are trying to find a CME course in a particular location, try entering the name of a city, province, state, or country along with keywords that describe the type of course you wish to attend.
Université de Sherbrooke
http://cfc.med.usherb.ca
French language. Local courses.

Memorial University
http://cme.med.mun.ca
Internet links.

Dalhousie University
www.medicine.dal.ca/cme
On-line courses.

Medical Associations
Several Canadian medical associations sponsor CME courses or other educational activities for their members. In some cases, these courses and activities are located in a “members only” section of the Web site.

Canadian Medical Association (CMA)
www.cma.ca/prodev
The CMA Web site contains a list of courses indexed by date. Unfortunately, only a few Canadian CME providers list their courses here.

College of Family Physicians (CFPC)
www.cfpc.ca/whatson.htm
The CFPC Web site describes the College’s MainPro study credit program and lists courses that qualify for Mainpro-M1 or Mainpro-C credit.

CFPC Self-Learning Program
www.cfpc.ca/selflearning/SLS.htm
A multiple-choice quiz on current topics, available on paper or diskette. A Web-based version is being tested.

CFPC PEARLS Program
www.cfpc.ca/MAINPRO/mcppearls.htm
An excellent program where physicians can earn Mainpro-Credits by conducting an individual study program and applying the results in their practice.

Foundation for Medical Practice Education
www.fmpe.org
www.cfpc.ca/mainpro/mcpbsgl.htm
This non-profit organization provides a “Problem-Based Small Group” program for family physicians, developed at McMaster University and approved for Mainpro-C study credits. “Individual Learning” and “Ad Hoc” programs are now available. An on-line version is being tested.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
http://rcpsc.medical.org
The college provides information about the MAINCERT program. A new “Maintenance of Proficiency Portal” (MAINPORT) will soon be available. College members are free to use the on-line CME diary.

Specialty Associations
Canadian specialty associations may host CME events for their members. The list of these associations on the Royal College Web site is difficult to find. Look for the “Canadian Specialty Associations” link near the bottom of “site map” page.

Canadian CME Resources
Just The Berries
www.theberries.ns.ca/berrishp.html
As well as summaries of clinical topics, this site provides on-line courses for family physicians. Mainpro-M1 credits are now available, and MainPro-C credits will be available soon.
Medical Rounds
www.medicalrounds.com
This site offers free audio-visual CME presentations. It requires the free QuickTime software that can be downloaded from the site under “required computer resources.”

If you are trying to find a CME course in a particular location, try entering the name of a city, province, state, or country along with keywords that describe the type of activity you want to find.

Generation MD
www.generationmd.com
The on-line audiovisual presentations on this site are accredited by McMaster University. It uses RealAudio software.

Sea Courses Inc.
www.seacourses.com
A commercial Web site that specializes in courses on cruise ships.

Canadian Association of Continuing Health Education (CACHE)
www.cachecanada.org
A new CME organization for health professionals.

Doctor’s Review Medical Meetings (Canada)
www.parkpub.com
Click on the “Medical Meetings” link. It is searchable by region and date.

Canadian CME Directory
www.crha-health.ab.ca/clin/cme/cmedir.htm
This page provides an extensive list of Canadian CME contacts.

Bernard Sklar CME List
www.netcantina.com/bernardsklar/cmelist.html
This page lists Web sites providing on-line CME. It also contains a specific page of Canadian CME sites.

Medical Matrix (USA)
www.medmatrix.org
This is a large medical index site. The relevant sections are “CME Courses On-line” and “CME Meeting Locators.”

Medical Computing Today (USA)
www.medicalcomputingtoday.com/0listcme.htm
The site provides a large index of on-line CME courses. It is indexed by specialty and includes detailed course descriptions.

Doctor’s Guide (USA)
www.docguide.com/crc.nsf/web-bySpec
This locator page is searchable by specialty, location and date. It provides links to tourist and travel resources in the host country. Several amusing errors appear in the names of Canadian cities.

Meeting Locators & Indexes
These indexed Web sites provide links to other Web sites that offer CME. Only a few Canadian programs are listed on the American Web sites. Some “meeting locator” sites are slow to remove out-of-date courses.

New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)
www.nejm.org/custserv/cme
A study program based on articles in the NEJM.

Other Resources
Searching for CME Information

Google Search Engine
www.google.com
You can use an Internet search engine, such as Google, to search for CME events. This can be time-consuming because of differing terminology. Some sites use the key words “continuing medical education” or “CME,” but others use “health education” or “professional development.” Conferences also may be described as a “convention,” “assembly” or “congress.”

Search by Provider or Location
Try searching for the names of universities, specialty organizations or other groups that might sponsor the type of activity you seek. If you are trying to find a CME course in a particular location, try entering the name of a city, province, state, or country along with keywords that describe the type of course you wish to attend. This is probably the best way to find a course in a holiday location.

Put Your Knowledge to the Test
Answer the questions in our quiz found on page 263 and send the response card to the University of Calgary for CME credits.