



September 1, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had some time for yourselves to recharge and relax, and to spend with friends and family over the summer months. For those who were distressed and displaced due to unprecedented forest fires, this was a difficult season. Many of you have helped or are helping those who have been affected – to you, and all family doctors in our province, I express my sincere gratitude for your commitment to helping those you care for.

I have been busy working with Section of Rural Medicine representatives to make sure your voice is heard. As mentioned in the recent [SFM/SRM update](#) we have been meeting with Premier Smith, Minister LaGrange and Alberta Health to address the crisis in family medicine. Please keep an eye on your email for developments as we are able to share them.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Section of Family Medicine Annual General Meeting and Family Medicine Meeting September 21, 2023, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton.
- AMA Representative Forum September 22-23, 2023. Key topics for this RF include determining the next steps in the AMA Income Equity Initiative.

#### **Thanks and Welcome**

On behalf of the SFM Executive, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. JoAnn Robinson for her consistently thoughtful input and dedication to improving family medicine in our province. Dr. Robinson has been elected to a new role and will be joining the PCN Physician Leads Executive as the North Zone representative. I know we'll miss her at our meetings and look forward to the opportunities ahead to work together. Thank you and congratulations!

Elections for SFM Executive member-at-large positions closed on August 23, and I would like to welcome Dr. Sarah Bates and Dr. Kerri Treherne who will be officially joining us later this month, along with Dr. Maeve O'Beirne who joins our nominating committee.

If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved with the SFM, please reach out to Dr. Van Nguyen, our acting nominating committee chair at:  
[sfmexecutive@albertadoctors.org](mailto:sfmexecutive@albertadoctors.org).

#### **Awards**

Congratulations to Dr. Brian Siray, winner of the SFM Outstanding Service Award!

Dr. Siray is a lifelong learner and advocate for his patients. He started a developmental pediatric clinic to serve the rural population south of Calgary, where there was limited access to developmental pediatricians. He coordinated this specialized clinic with the schools,

psychologists and other providers to review psycho-educational development plans in coordination with potential medical therapy. Dr. Siray ran the Black Diamond family medicine residency program for several years and has trained many physicians – leaving a huge legacy of teaching in the profession. He is well-known for always giving back to new learners. Thank you Dr. Siray.

If you have any comments or questions, please send them to [sfmpres@albertadoctors.org](mailto:sfmpres@albertadoctors.org).

Sincerely,



Dr. Jon Hilner, Acting President

*On behalf of your SFM Executive:*

Dr. Heidi Fell, Member-at-Large

Dr. Emmanuel Gye, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Peter Jamieson, Fees Representative

Dr. Katherine Kasha, Member-at-Large

Dr. Samantha Myhr, SRM President, Ex-officio

Dr. Van Thuy Nguyen, Member-at-Large



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