



September 2023

In this issue:

General news

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – New resource guide for physicians
- Announcements made by Minister of Health at Representative Forum
- Membership renewal now open
- Thank a colleague! JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program

News and updates from:

Section of General Surgery

- Save the date – AAGS Review in the Rockies/Section of General Surgery AGM

Section of Intensive Care

- Save the date – ASICP 2024 – Lake Louise

Section of Internal Medicine

- Save the date – Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Conference – Banff
- Section update

Section of Neurology

- Save the date – Section of Neurology AGM

Section of Pediatrics

- Section update

Section of Rural Medicine

- Save the date – Section of Rural Medicine AGM (Virtual)

General news

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – New resource guide for physicians

In advance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, the Indigenous

Health Committee (IHC) of the AMA has created a resource guide for community physicians that contains links, recommendations and information about the realities facing Indigenous Health. The goal is to help physicians learn more about the importance of this day and support them in their ongoing reconciliation journey so that together, we can work toward health equity for all.

[View the guide](#). IHC has also created [an infographic](#) that illustrates a deeply concerning drop in First Nations life expectancy.

Announcements made by Minister of Health at Representative Forum

The Representative Forum held on September 22 and 23 included a session with Minister of Health Adriana LaGrange, where she made several announcements regarding virtual care mental health care codes, good faith claims and special authorization processes for prescription renewals. The September 23 [President's Letter](#) included information on the announcements and outlined some of the other critically important issues facing our health care system.

Membership renewal now open

The 2023-24 membership year begins October 1.

While we now have an agreement and our day-to-day working relationship with government has improved, there are still many urgent issues that need to be addressed. How we respond as a profession is important. To be effective, we must remain united. We must rely on one another – on our individual and collective expertise and dedication. There will be opportunities ahead, and we'll get further together.

Your association remains committed to serving you and we thank you in advance for renewing your membership. Your support is critical.

If you have any questions about AMA membership, please contact Jennifer McCombe, AMA Membership and Benefits Team Leader: 780-732-3359 | toll-free 1-800-272-9680 | email jennifer.mccombe@albertadoctors.org

Remain united and [renew now!](#)

Thank a colleague! JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program

The JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program gives physicians the opportunity to thank their colleagues for their acts of kindness, big and small. The process is as quick and easy as sending an email.

Complete the [submission form](#) and we will make sure the message gets to the person you want to express your appreciation to.

Section of General Surgery

Save the date – AAGS Review in the Rockies/Section of General Surgery AGM

Dates: November 3, 4 and 5

Location: Banff Springs Hotel

Registration and accomodation (with agenda) LINK IS OPEN NOW: <https://www.aags.ca/>

Please note the room block expires on OCTOBER 3. (Most of this year's room block is already booked.)

Our Section **Annual General Meeting and Review in the Rockies 2023** is on November 3, 4 and 5 at the Banff Springs Hotel.

A portion of your membership fee supports this meeting (so you might as well come), and there is lots to learn and great opportunities to meet your colleagues and have your say. **This will be a MOCOMP accredited event.**

- Friday night: Wine and cheese meet-and-greet with appetizers.
- Saturday: Academic Session (with CME section 1 credits). Topics include **cholecystectomy 'mishaps,'** GI and biliary guideline updates, lots of **'tough cases with the experts,'** how to (really) do an intraoperative consult, and breast cancer review with **new localization techniques and axillary management.**
- Saturday night: Gala Dinner (included in meeting registration) with **Sharon Wood – First North American Woman to Climb Everest.**
- Sunday: Section AGM and Business meeting (until noon).

To reach the Section of General Surgery President, Dr. Anthony Gomes, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Intensive Care

Save the date – ASCIP 2024 – Lake Louise

Dates: January 19-20, 2024

Location: Post Hotel, Lake Louise

We are excited to be returning to the Post Hotel for an in-person Lake Louise meeting. The meeting will follow a similar format to years previous. There will be an early morning session and an evening session on Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20, leaving the day free for skiing or enjoying the amenities. The Saturday morning session will be a trainee and multidisciplinary research session co-presented with the Critical Care SCN. There will be a pub night on Thursday, January 18 for those who arrive on the Thursday night, as well as a section dinner at the Post Restaurant on Friday, January 19.

We hope to expand the diversity of speakers and topics with this year's meeting so please send us your ideas. More details about the program, registration, and discounted room block will follow.

We hope to see members attend from all 17 ICUs across Alberta.

To reach the Section of Intensive Care President, Dr. Ken Parhar, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Internal Medicine

Save the date – Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Conference – Banff

Dates: November 16-17

Location: Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff

Registration and accommodation link: <https://www.rockymountainim.com/>

Please note the early bird registration deadline is fast approaching – October 1

The Section of Internal Medicine will be hosting an informal meeting open to those who arrive on the evening of Wednesday, November 15. Come share your thoughts around concerns about the current challenges and ideas about the future of our section.

Section update

Don't write off your good faith claims yet! It looks like we are close to a more streamlined model that reimburses you for those services and the plan is to be retroactive.

We are going to be participating in a spotlight on General Internal Medicine for [Alberta Doctors' Digest](#). Hearing from members about their practices across the province will add richness to this piece. Please reach out directly to me.

Thank you for the ongoing hard work you are all doing in and out of the hospitals. Although often underappreciated, it represents foundational work for our health care system moving forward. These are indeed stressful times for our section members in many different ways. Please check in with those closest to you.

To reach the Section of Internal Medicine President, Dr. Troy Pederson, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Neurology

Save the date – Section of Neurology AGM

Dates: November 10 - 12

Location: Banff Springs Hotel

Further information: <https://sites.google.com/view/ama-section-of-neurology/home>

The section would like to thank Dr. Scott Wilson for his many years of work as section president. Dr. Wilson has been elected to the AMA Board of Directors and Dr. Kashmere will serve as interim section president until the Annual General Meeting in November. We encourage all section members to become involved in the neurology executive.

To reach the Section of Neurology Interim President, Dr. Jodi Kashmere, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Pediatrics

Section update

With the end of summer and the start of the new school year, the Section of Pediatrics would like to inform their members of new and ongoing actions by the executive. On the advocacy front, we continue to press for improved access for pediatric lab work for all children but especially those who need additional care. We also continue to press for increased privacy for members of GSA clubs in the province. There will also be a reminder from the section to parents to ensure their children's routine vaccinations are up to date and to consider regular influenza and COVID vaccinations. We are currently in the planning stages to advocate for improved access to PUF programming and increased funding. Improved access to mental health will also be a priority of the executive this coming year.

With regard to fees, we continue to support the IEI initiative at the AMA. Unfortunately, with only a 1% increase in fees, we were unable to bring in any new fees or expand the application of certain modifiers such as CMXV 30 to 03.03FV. As such there will be an approximate 1% increase in all fees rather than new codes.

To reach the Section of Pediatrics President, Dr. Sam Wong, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Rural Medicine

Save the date – Section of Rural Medicine AGM (Virtual)

Date: Thursday, October 12

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, in addition to the agenda package, was sent to section members on September 25.

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Samantha Myhr, please email srmpres@albertadoctors.org.



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