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General News

AMA unveils new land acknowledgement statement

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, an annual event that celebrates the rich history and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Earlier this month, the AMA unveiled a [new land acknowledgement statement](#), which demonstrates our deep respect for the Indigenous Peoples who have come before us and the land that hosts us. The new land acknowledgement statement represents an important element of the AMA's ongoing commitment to meaningful reconciliation.

Physician leaders wanted!

The Alberta Medical Association is seeking qualified physicians to contract for the casual position of ACTT Physician Lead. This is a dedicated pool of physician leaders who support the creation of a high-performing health system. All physicians, both family medicine and non-family medicine specialists are invited to apply! You will gain leadership experience and improve your ability to inspire, influence, collaborate and manage change. [Review the opportunity](#).

Email RFP@albertadoctors.org with any questions.

Discounts on driver's medical exams

Starting July 1, Alberta seniors will be eligible for a 25% discount on driver's medical examinations. The discount will be provided by Alberta registry offices as a reimbursement.

This means that seniors who took a driver's medical examination from April 1, 2024 to date may be asking for a receipt that includes this information from their practitioner.

To obtain the 25% discount, seniors will be required to present a receipt issued by their practitioner that outlines the following:

- type of service provided
- senior's name
- date of service
- physician's details (e.g., clinic, address, phone number)
- amount paid for the service

For more information on the seniors' discount on registry services, visit [Alberta.ca/seniors-discount](https://alberta.ca/seniors-discount).

Avoid excess lab testing: How you can help

Lab testing volumes are increasing at an alarming rate, placing pressure on an already overstretched health care system. Excess testing can increase health care

costs and create medicolegal liability for practitioners through delayed diagnoses and treatment and missed or misinterpreted result.

There are several drivers of increased use of lab testing and three examples of lab test utilization recommendations that have been implemented in Alberta and supported by [Choosing Wisely Canada](#).

[Read the full article to learn more.](#)

You're invited to join the Physician Health Inclusion space on CMA Community

There's a new space for physicians, residents and medical students with disabilities and chronic conditions looking to find a supportive community of peers and colleagues: the Physician Health Inclusion space on CMA Community.

As a closed group for physicians, residents and medical students with disabilities and chronic conditions, this space is intended to give this community of practice a platform to come together and share, support and accelerate improvements on disability inclusion in the medical workplace. This community was created and is managed by peers trying to make the health workspace more accessible, one issue at a time.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining, log in to [CMA Community](#) and request to join the Physician Health Inclusion community. Please note that in order to join the community you will be asked to confirm that you yourself are a physician, resident or medical student living with a disability or chronic conditions. There is no need to disclose your diagnosis. Your disclosure will be seen by only the moderator granting you access to the group.

You do not have to be a CMA member to join!

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.

AMA in the news

View [ongoing media coverage](#) of AMA President Dr. Paul Parks and other physician leaders who have been actively speaking to the media and providing interviews and insight about our health care system.

No time to keep up with health care news? Every day, the [News for Docs](#) team scours local, national and international news sources to find articles and leading opinions relevant to Alberta physicians. This curated media clipping service is available to all members at no charge. [Subscribe today!](#)

Section of Family Medicine

Save the date – Section of Family Medicine Annual General Meeting

Date: September 19, 2024

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary

Time: 6 p.m.

To reach the Section of Family Medicine President, Dr. Sarah Bates, please email familymedicine@albertadoctors.org.

Section of General Surgery

Registration now open – AAGS Review in the Rockies 2024

Please register for the annual Alberta Association of General Surgeons Conference which is again at the beautiful Banff Springs Hotel. Please visit the registration link below for further details and advantageously-priced accommodations.

The agenda will be updated soon, but topics should be of interest to the broad array of general surgeons in Alberta.

Date: October 25 – 27, 2024

Location: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

[Register here](#)

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

Section of Generalists in Mental Health

Section update

The Section of Generalists in Mental Health Annual General Meeting was held on June 6. The position of secretary-treasurer remains open. If members have any interest in this position (very minimal in work), please email section.services@albertadoctors.org. In addition, two committees were formed – the Education Committee and the Advocacy Committee. The Education Committee has been tasked with organizing a CME event and the Advocacy Committee is recruiting members to raise the profile of Generalists in Mental Health.

Comments from the AMA Transparency Survey and ideas discussed at the AGM are resulting in the formation of a discussion group (password protected on AMA site) for mental health discussion. Please stay tuned for launch dates.

The membership and focus of the section has evolved over the years and there have been discussions with the AMA regarding billing fees and some of the barriers the section faces. These discussions are ongoing and the AMA has agreed to take these concerns to the Section of Family Medicine, as Generalists in Mental Health is part of that economic section. We are seeking possible solutions from

the membership for solving the issue of how to validate who is qualified to bill as a Generalist in Mental Health provider when working outside of AHS facilities, as the executive has heard loud and clear that consult codes should be billable outside of AHS facilities.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions and concerns you may have regarding mental health care in Alberta.

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

Section of Laboratory Physicians

Save the date - Banff Pathology Course

The main topic this year is Endocrine Pathology.

Date: October 9-12

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

[Registration](#) now open.

Save the date – ASLP Annual General Meeting (hybrid)

Date: Friday, October 11

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and virtual via Zoom

Time: 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

The ASLP's next annual general meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual Banff Pathology Course. The ASLP executive committee is seeking the following:

- President-Elect for 1-year term (Calgary zone)
- Secretary-Treasurer for 1-year term
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Edmonton zone)
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Calgary zone)
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Rural)
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Medical Microbiology)

The ASLP executive committee is an active committee that advocates for laboratory physicians and promotes the Practice of Laboratory medicine in Alberta. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, or need more information, please contact Dr. Humaira Khanam, Dr. Todd Chaba or Dr. Chris Naugler at [AMA Section Services](#).

To reach the Section of Laboratory Physicians President, Dr. Humaira Khanam, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Registration now open: Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium

Dates: September 6-7

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

The Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology is pleased to invite you to the Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium (AGES). This 1.5-day symposium serves as a vital platform for medical professionals to exchange knowledge, and discuss best practices and advancements in our field. The event creates opportunities for networking, socializing and exploring career prospects. [Registration is now open.](#)

Registration costs are \$200.00 for trainees and \$350.00 for residents.

For detailed information, please visit our conference website: [AGES Conference Website.](#)

We encourage you to share this invitation with any colleagues or trainees who might be interested in partaking.

To reach the Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology President, Dr. Cameron Sklar, please email [AMA Section Services.](#)

Section of Rural Medicine

New AMA award celebrates rural/remote medicine

Rural and remote medicine is a unique specialty within the profession. Rural generalist physicians are integral to the care of rural Albertans. Across our beautiful province, these physicians are essential to – and deeply ingrained in – their home communities.

The AMA Board of Directors has established the **Medal for Excellence and Achievement in Rural/Remote Medicine**. This honour will recognize a physician(s) who has made an outstanding personal contribution to patients of rural/remote Alberta and to the rural/remote community(ies) in which they live.

Our hope is to bestow the inaugural medal at the Fall 2024 Representative Forum. We invite members to recognize rural colleagues with this award, or to spread the word in your communities so friends and neighbours around them may make worthy nominations.

To nominate an outstanding rural or remote physician, visit the [AMA website](#) to view the criteria and learn more about submitting a nomination.

The deadline for nominations is **August 16.**

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Rithesh Ram, please email ruralmedicine@albertadoctors.org.



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