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Thompson Region Division of Family Practice website
Check in regularly for upcoming events and information

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Divisions of Family Practice

An initiative of the General Practice Services Committee

www.divisionsbc.ca

Summer Update

The sun is shining and the temperature is rising, but we are working hard at the Division office to bring you a summer edition of our Division Focus newsletter! This issue will provide you with important updates about Division initiatives, committees, and events, as well as an overview of what we have been doing for the past few months. Read on!

AGM and New Board

Our AGM was held on May 14th and was attended by more than forty Division members and their spouses. Annual reports were given by Chairman Dr. Chip Bantock, President Dr. Shirley Sze, and Treasurer Dr. Lennard Pretorius.



The evening continued with the election of the Board of Directors for the 2013/2014 year. Newcomers Dr. Ben Anders and Dr. Servaas Swart joined returning directors Drs. Bantock, Sze, Pretorius, Graham Dodd, Krista Bradley, and Miranda Du Preez.

Following the AGM we extended a huge thank you to eight retiring family physicians who provided immeasurable care to our community. We celebrated Dr. Bob Smillie, Dr. Randy Patch, Dr. Jane McGillivray, Dr. Craig Meredith, Dr. David Ritenburg, Dr. Audrey Newhouse, and Dr. Don Newhouse.

New Staff

We reluctantly say farewell and good luck to our Office Administrator, Vivian Van Dorne. Vivian has moved on to a new and exciting opportunity! We are thankful to have had Vivian as part of our team, and are grateful for the tremendous amount of work she completed. In her stead, we are pleased to welcome Chelsea Brookes, our new Office Administrator.

Here Comes the Fall BBQ

The Recruitment and Retention Committee is hosting a Here Comes the Fall BBQ for GPs and their families. This event will take place on Friday, September 26, 2014 from 5:30-8:00 PM at Tranquille Farm, located at 4600 Tranquille Road. This event will be fun for the whole family, with access to the corn maze and outdoor games! A BBQ dinner will be provided.

Board Members

- Chip Bantock (Chair)
- Shirley Sze (President)
- Graham Dodd (Secretary)
- Lennard Pretorius (Treasurer)
- Ben Anders
- Krista Bradley
- Miranda du Preez
- Servaas Swart

Support Team

- Chris Hollstedt Executive Director
- Gerriane Clare, A GP for Me Project Lead
- Chris Matuschewski, Recruitment and Retention Project Lead
- Chelsea Brookes, Office Administrator
- Sandy Taylor, Finance

Newsletter Production Team

- Shirley Sze
- Chelsea Brookes

Please provide submissions for the September newsletter to cbrookes@divisionsbc.ca by September 15, 2014

As always, please email the Division at: thompsonregion@divisionsbc.ca if you need more information on any particular topic or wish to participate in any of our initiatives.

A GP for Me Update

Over the last two months our local “A GP for Me” team has been working together to create potential solutions to be included in the Implementation Funding Proposal we are submitting to the GPSC. Our date for submission is August 29th. We have strategies being developed that will help with Division Recruitment and Retention efforts, streamline some processes with Interior Health Community Integration Programs, help to support physicians in their practices and define the best ways to help unattached patients register their desire to get a family doctor. More details about the strategies will be available in the next newsletter once we have solidified exactly what we are doing and how you can be involved. Stay tuned.

Recruitment Progress

We would like to thank all those involved with the recruitment and retention project for their invaluable guidance and engagement! Great work is being done, and we anticipate the ball continuing to roll with ongoing GP interest in working in the Thompson area.

As a gentle reminder, please be sure to post your opportunities to the familypracticekamloopsarea.ca website so that your opportunity can be considered when interested physicians are gathering information. When an interested candidate presents to the Division they are referred to the website to choose which practices they would like to be introduced to. To ensure your opportunity is considered, please make sure your information is posted and up to date.

Also, if you currently provide locums and have time that you would like to work, please view the website for current opportunities to make a connection and book your time.

If you have any questions or require support please contact Christine Matuschewski, the Project Lead for Recruitment and Retention, at thompsonrecruitment@divisionsbc.ca.

New Residents

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the six new residents joining us in Kamloops for their family practice residency. We are excited to have Drs. Paul Dickinson, Harpreet Ghuman, Quinn Hamilton, Robert McKeough, Elizabeth Montgomery, and Brittany Weaver in our community for the next year! For more information about the UBC Family Medicine Residency program please contact Dr. Selena Lawrie.



Endocrinology Telehealth Pilot

Launched in late April, the Endocrinology Telehealth Pilot is a collaborative project with your Division, UBC Okanagan, Interior Health and Partners in Care. Dr. Charlotte Jones welcomes a call from community physicians interested in learning more about services available through this pilot project. To book a consultation call 250-807-9187.

CYMH Update and September Congress

The **Thompson CYMH Local Action Team** is refining the Community-Acute-Community algorithm to be ready to trial in the Fall. Progress from our local action team as well as others across the region will be presented at the Spread and Sustainability Congress from September 29-30 in Kelowna. To learn more about the collaborative [click here](#) or go to <https://www.doctorsofbc.ca/child-and-youth-mental-health-and-substance-use-collaborative>.

EMR Post-Implementation Support

When the Physician Information Technology Office (PITO) program came to an end on March 31, 2014, the General Practice Services Committee (GPSC) provided one-time funding to ensure that family physicians who want to get the most from their EMRs and reach Meaningful Use Level 3 (MU3) would have the support to do so.

At MU3, family physicians will find that their EMR can:

- Improve office efficiency and care for patients
- Allow physicians to establish registries of patients with chronic conditions to be identified, recalled, and optimally managed
- Enhance practice management processes by identifying patients whose care triggers eligibility for incentive fees
- Attract locums and new physicians because patients' past histories, medications, allergies, management plans, chronic disease information, and more are all readily accessible on the EMR
- Offer system-wide benefits, such as assisting in population health assessment, patient attachment, and health system integration, among others

All family physicians using an EMR are eligible for the support program and will receive funding of \$3000 and six Mainpro-C and six bonus Mainpro-M1 credits upon successful achievement of MU3.

To apply, physicians should email emrsupport@doctorsofbc.ca with their clinic name and the name(s) of physician(s) wanting to participate. More information is available at

http://www.gpsc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/EMR_PIS_Overview.pdf.

The deadline to indicate a desire to participate is September 30, 2014.

Walk With Your Doc

Thank you to the physicians and patients who attended the 5th annual Walk with your Doc and made this annual event a great success. Five physicians and 70 patients attended. The cooler temperatures made for a comfortable evening walk around MacArthur Island Park. The local TV station stopped by and provided a great recap of the walk. To view the news footage of the event please click the following link:

<http://www.cfjctv.com/story.php?id=19385>.

Home First

The goal of the Home First program is to delay residential care admission and to prevent emergency and acute care admissions. Their philosophy is that home is the best place to recover, manage chronic conditions, and live out final days. Home First has a large rehabilitation focus and quick response to nursing needs. A pilot program is in place that provides enhanced support. Current team members include RNs, OTs, PTs, and RAs, and the caseload is relatively small at 34 clients.

The typical client is at the residential level of care needs. They are frail, complex, and often with multiple chronic conditions. They are also at the highest risk for deteriorating health and admission to hospital and residential care.

The outcomes of the Home First Project have been very successful. ER admissions have been reduced by 19%, hospital admissions reduced by 19%, hospital re-admissions within 30 days reduced by 49%, and the average length of stay has been reduced by 37%.

There are several criteria for admission to Home First. There must be a need for rehabilitation and nursing interventions, and they must live in Kamloops, preferably with a family member or care giver living in the home. They must have a Maple score of 4 or 5, but those with a Maple score of 3 may be eligible if they have had two or more Emergency Department visits or Acute Care admissions in the last six months.

Summer Office Hours

Your Division office is open from 8:30-4:30, Monday to Friday.

Upcoming Meetings

Division Board of Directors: Your Division Directors meet monthly to review progress and develop strategies to address emerging opportunities.

Next Board meeting is: September 8, 2014

Thompson Collaborative Services Committee: The next CSC meeting is: September 18, 2014.

If you have items to bring forward to the Board and/or CSC please contact ThompsonRegion@divisionsbc.ca.