

General Practice Solutions

A Quarterly Newsletter from the GPSC

PRACTICE SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP) UPDATE PSP Adult Mental Health module designer wins UBC Faculty of Medicine Innovation Award

Victoria-based psychiatrist Dr Rivian Weirnerman has won the 2012 UBC Faculty of Medicine (FoM) Innovation in Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Professional Development (CME/CPD) Award for her role in the design and development of the PSP Adult Mental Health module.

The award recognizes exemplary and distinguished activities or service to the UBC FoM in the areas of CME/CPD by individuals, groups, or organizations affiliated with the faculty.

A clinical assistant professor of psychiatry in the UBC FoM, Dr Weirnerman has promoted the module nationally and internationally, garnering interest from the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

The Adult Mental Health module is also embedded in the UBC Family Practice and University of Victoria Nursing curriculae.

November OPUS orientation session preps physicians to lead as “best prescribers”

The PSP will hold its Optimum Prescribing Update and Support (OPUS) orientation session on November 19, 2012 at the Renaissance Hotel in Vancouver.

OPUS is one of the program’s newer training and support initiatives. Its aim is to improve prescribing practices for patients on medications from specific drug classes through analyses of prescribing patterns that physicians can compare with those of other physicians, as well as with evidence-based prescribing guidelines and best practices. (The initiative is currently focused on statins and proton pump inhibitors.)

Physicians from twelve local divisions of family practice participated in the first OPUS prototyping sessions, acquiring training and skills that they’ve since been testing in their practices, and the knowledge to lead OPUS training sessions for their fellow division members.

The PSP is now hoping to recruit physician practice leaders from local divisions that have yet to participate.

For more information, visit www.pspbc.ca.

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UpToDate through the Divisions of Family Practice website helps members in more ways than one

UpToDate is a clinical support system that helps physicians answer clinical questions quickly and easily at the point of care, which has been shown to save time, improve outcomes, and lower health care costs. With almost 10,000 topics, the system has grown popular among family physicians.

Previously, members of local divisions of family practice were purchasing UpToDate individually and began discussing the importance of the service within their family practices. Now the Divisions of Family Practice provincial office offers the knowledge system software, free of charge, through its website, www.divisionsbc.ca.

Members throughout the province now have easy access to clinical information and can also receive CME credits when using UpToDate. CME credits are applied with every clinical question they search when signing in to the support system through their local division’s website located within www.divisionsbc.ca.

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Board members and division staff have seen this as a valuable tool in member recruitment.

Since UpToDate was made available through the provincial office website in May, more than 5000 topics have been researched by members of local divisions.

For more information on UpToDate, visit www.divisionsbc.ca.

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The Linking Learning to Practice form guides physicians through a critical inquiry and decision-making process about particular activities and helps them to reflect on lessons learned, changes they anticipate making, and the impact this will have on their practice.

Physicians can earn two Mainpro-C credits and two bonus Mainpro-M1 credits for each completed Linking Learning to Practice exercise.

Forms are available on the CFPC site (www.cfpc.ca/Linking_Learning_to_Practice) and can either be completed online or downloaded for completion and subsequent submission.

GPSC and Divisions work eligible for Mainpro credits

The work of the GPSC and the Divisions of Family Practice is an important part of the evolution of family medicine in BC. This evolution has included an expansion of the roles of many physicians involved in the committee and the Divisions initiative. In addition to their role as medical expert, these physicians are demonstrating the responsibilities of health advocate, manager, collaborator, communicator, scholar, and professional.

These roles fall within both the framework for medical education used by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the modification of this framework used by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)—the CanMEDS(FM) roles.

The CFPC sets national standards for education in the discipline of family medicine, from undergraduate to postgraduate to continuing professional development. The BC chapter, the BC College of Family Physicians (BCCFP), represents over 4000 members and addresses continuing professional development and accreditation issues provincially.

With its vision of “standing for excellence in family medicine and the highest quality of health care for the people of British Columbia,” the work of the BCCFP parallels that of the GPSC and the Divisions initiative.

Most committee work and both formal and non-formal educational sessions are recognized within the CFPC Mainpro framework. Division and GPSC leaders may claim Mainpro M-1 and M-2 credits for attending most of their organizational meetings (maximum of 75 hours M-1 per cycle). Details on accreditation and eligibility requirements are outlined on the CFPC website and in the downloadable *Guide to Mainpro Accreditation*. Applications are made using the CFPC’s online application system, QuickConnect.

Local Divisions should be aware that organized educational events can be eligible for M-1 credits, either as part of a regularly scheduled series (similar to hospital rounds, pages 22 and 24 in the *Guide*) or individually (p. 8ff). A wide range of other activities is also eligible for credit. Detailed information is available in your CFPC account (log in, go to “add a CPD activity to my record” for a list and details).

Through an innovative process called Linking Learning to Practice, all family physicians can earn Mainpro-C credits, at their own pace and at no additional cost, for various clinical and non-clinical activities that contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of their knowledge and skills.

Linking Learning to Practice is a self-administered, semi-structured exercise that helps physicians to see day-to-day professional activities, such as interacting with patients, mentoring trainees, or serving on medical committees, as learning opportunities that can stimulate the generation of practice-related questions and answers.

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General Practice Solutions is produced by the General Practice Services Committee, a joint committee of the British Columbia Ministry of Health and the British Columbia Medical Association.

Formed under the 2002 Agreement between BC’s doctors and the provincial government, the GPSC is responsible for developing and implementing strategies that support improvements in primary care.

For more information, visit www.gpsc.bc.ca or www.bcma.org.