

Presidents Report – Spring 2023 Council Meeting

1. Membership Growth and Engagement

Expansion of staff within the SRPC

Over the past year, the SRPC has seen growth in membership numbers and have embarked on several larger projects. With a small but mighty staff, we have accomplished a great deal, but we are thrilled have expanded our organization's staff and welcome Diana Chavez, Marketing Officer; Daria Parsons, Project Manager for the National Advanced Skills and Training Program; and Kristen Kluge, Project Coordinator for the National Advanced Skills and Training Program to the team.

Strategic planning and website enhancements

Over the past year, the SRPC Council revised its strategic plan, to focus on three priority areas that align with our vision and mission statements. These are Membership Growth and Engagement, Enhancing Rural Generalist Education, and Supporting our Communities. As part of this work, we are also we are updating our website, enhancing our social media presence and outreach, and aligning our communications strategies to highlight the SRPC work in these areas.

2. Enhancing Rural Generalist Education

CFPC's Outcomes of Training Report

Dr. Kristy Penner is SRPC's representative on the CFPC's Education Reform Taskforce and is the Chair of SRPC's Education Reform Advisory Committee. SRPC's advisory committee distributed a survey to SRPC members to gain insight regarding the Outcomes of Training Project and the suggested extended length of residency training. There will be a two-hour session at Rural and Remote on Friday morning with an update about education reform and the new family medicine postgraduate training curriculum. Data will be presented from the SRPC membership survey about education reform. Participants will break into small focus groups to discuss how education reform will impact rural or remote communities. SRPC and the Education Reform Advisory Committee will use information gathered from the focus groups to advocate to the CFPC OTC Taskforce and Education Design teams from post graduate programs across Canada for rural and remote education reform resources. Following the two-hour session on Friday, we invited the rural program directors to a meeting to discuss the outcomes of the initial session and how the SRPC may be able to support them as they embark on this work. Our intention is to use this follow-up session as the starting point in developing a network within the SRPC that can offer program directors and other rural Med Ed leaders with ongoing opportunities for support and collaboration.

Rural & Remote 2023

Rural & Remote 2023 is chaired by Dr. Paul Cano and Dr. Michelle Lajzerowicz. The theme of this years conference is *Continuing Excellence in the Next Generation*. Including attendees, partners, and exhibitors, we have 940 registered this year. We sold 100 booths this year, the most we've ever sold.

National Advanced Skills and Training Program for Rural Practice

The SRPC launched their National Advanced Skills and Training Program for Rural Practice this March. This Program, funded through a grant as part of Team Primary Care: Training for Transformation, will offer up to 166 rural physicians in active practice the opportunity to access funding for up to 30 days of training, travel, accommodation, preceptor payments, and locum costs to a maximum funding of \$35 000 per physician. The goal of this program is to increase opportunities for access to training by providing support and funding for rural physicians, including IMG's and those currently in active practice, to increase their skill sets based on the needs of their rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. We have received applications from 15 trainees which the Expert Advisory Committee is the process of reviewing. We are also accepting applications from preceptors who are interested in acting as a mentor to our trainees.

3. Supporting our Communities

National Medical Licensure

At the Canadian Medical Forum meeting in December, the CMA proposed a CMF sub-committee on national licensure to start addressing some the barriers. The motion was accepted and the SRPC offered to co-chair this committee, along with the CMA. SRPC's co-chair is Dr. Kyle Sue-Milne. Other organizations including FMRAC, MCC, CFPC, RDoC, RC, and CFMS will be members of this committee. As we look at Pan Canadian medical licensure, the needs of various stakeholders must be taken into consideration. This is especially true of patients, physicians, and payers/employers all of whom have unique perspectives and challenges. To better understand these needs, the working group is conducting three empathy mapping workshops, with one target user group per workshop. The results of these workshops will be used to structure a two-hour discussion at the June 7th CMF meeting. The results from the meeting will help frame the terms of reference, establish a mandate and review potential other groups to be involved.

Call to Action Statement – Rural Patient Transfer

The SRPC is hosting an in-person national Summit meeting (by invitation only) in May to highlight innovations which improve access to medical transport. The purpose is to bring together key partners to identify how rural transport care can be provided to ensure equitable access to care. Participants will include professional organizations, Indigenous-led and rural community-based health care organizations, transport providers, paramedics, rural hospital administrators, transport referral centres, health care providers, community leaders/patients and policy/decision-makers directly involved in the provision of rural patient transport. Following the release of the [Call-to-Action Statement](#) on Rural Patient Transfers in April 2021, the SRPC is coordinating and working with key stakeholders to develop a strategic action plan with concrete deliverables. This plan will identify roles for those directly involved in the policy and delivery of transport care, using a quality improvement approach to achieve patient health outcomes based on best practices.

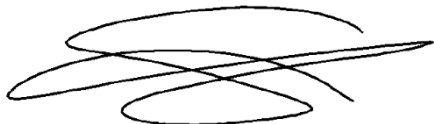
CO-RIG II Application

The project team led by Dr. Stefan Grzybowski and the SRPC were successful in the COVID-19 Pandemic Response & Impact Grant Program (Co-RIG) provided by the Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine and the Canadian Medical Association Foundation. The project CCEDARR (Climate Change and Ecosystem Disruption Adaptation Responses in Rural Canada) focusses on understanding rural community resilience in the context of COVID-19, and how these lessons can be translated to support resilience in the face of climate change and other future ecosystem shocks. The findings from this project can be found [here](#).

Coalition for Action for Health Workers

The SRPC was invited to participate in the Coalition for Action for Health Workers. This is a group comprised of a wide range of experts from multiple sectors, to drive systemic change to address the current health workforce crisis. The group is working to coordinate national efforts to identify key pathways to address the Canadian health workforce crisis and, where possible, drive concrete actions and policy implementation to appropriately respond to the crisis. The Coalition for Action for Health Workers provides a forum for discussion on complex issues spanning the four key pillars of a pan-Canadian approach to health human resources (retention, recruitment, planning and innovation), as well as support equity, diversity and inclusion, including the needs of marginalized populations. .

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Sarah Lespérance
President, Society of Rural Physicians of Canada