



# President's message. Expanding our scope of activities

*Karl Stobbe, MD,  
CCFP(EM), FCFP  
Beamsville, Ont.*

*Correspondence to:  
Dr. Karl Stobbe,  
kstobbe@srpc.ca*

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### Société de la médecine rurale du Canada

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

#### RESPONSABLE ADMINISTRATIF

LEE TEPERMAN  
SRPC Office, Shawville, Que.

#### SRPC / SMRC

Box 893  
Shawville QC J0X 2Y0  
819 647-7054, 877 276-1949  
fax 819 647-2485  
admin@srpc.ca

srpc.ca

**T**he Society of Rural Physicians of Canada has been gradually increasing its range of activities in response to our members' interests and to societal need.

We are collaborating with national and international medical organizations. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) all share some initiatives with us. The Canadian Medical Association is partnering with us to optimize our office function.

In April 2009 we will be awarding Canada's first Fellowship in Rural and Remote Medicine to deserving recipients.

Our new section of specialists has been active under the leadership of Dr. Kweku Dankwa, a pathologist from St. Anthony, NL. The section's goals are to support rural specialists in practice, recruitment and retention, and to explain the special needs of rural specialists. If you are a specialist serving rural Canada and would like to know more, Dr. Dankwa would like to hear from you.

We have international development projects in Iraq, Pakistan and the Philippines. The chair of our international committee is Dr. Dale Dewar, a family doctor in Wynyard, Sask. If you want to get involved, please contact Dale.

We have a very active student committee with a representative from every medical school in the country. Each member of this inspiring and energetic group is a leader of a rural student club in their school. This committee meets regularly by teleconference and has been very successful in generating student interest in rural medicine.

Our resident committee consists primarily of family medicine residents in rural programs. Rural residents value the opportunity to learn from and socialize with rural physicians across the country. Both students and residents provide us with valuable advice about how we can attract more learners to rural medicine.

Our Collaborative Committee on Rural Education works with the CFPC to ensure that we have input into training standards for rural programs in Canada.

Our committees on anesthesia, emergency medicine, maternity and newborn care, surgery and rural research have made important contributions in writing policy papers, setting standards and collaborating with organizations such as CFPC, the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians and others.

Our listserv, RuralMed, is an email gathering place where rural doctors discuss medicine, ethics, working conditions and life in general.

Our peer-reviewed *Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine*, which you are reading, is sent to all rural physicians in Canada, supported by our members' dues. We feel this is an important service to Canada's rural physicians.

Formed at a time of low morale and lack of recognition for rural doctors, the SRPC has become the respected voice of rural medicine practitioners in Canada. I am proud to be a member. If you don't feel the same way, either you're not a member, or you're not a rural physician. You can change both!

To contact me or any of the individuals named above, to join the SRPC or our committees, to register for courses or to join our RuralMed listserv, visit our website at [www.srpc.ca](http://www.srpc.ca).