



President's message. Being a catalyst

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A catalyst may be defined as “a substance, usually used in small amounts relative to the reactants, that modifies and increases the rate of a reaction without being consumed in the process.”¹

The SRPC has a vision of excellent care close to home for all rural Canadians. We are a relatively small organization whose members work at the coal face of rural health care. We are intimately aware of the health care needs of the rural population but do not always have the personnel or funding to enact needed changes.

Since its inception, in 1992, the SRPC has worked with many other medical organizations to promote and improve health care for rural populations. A quick review of the *CJRM* will show several position papers that were developed jointly with other medical organizations. Recently, we worked with the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the Canadian Association of General Surgeons to produce the “Joint position paper on rural surgery and operative delivery.”² It is important for us to work with organizations sometimes larger than our own, in order to advance mutual interests. There is recognition that much of the enhanced skill training is done by members of specialty societies, that training is accredited by the CFPC, and that family physicians with these enhanced skills would be primarily serving rural populations.

Just a few months ago, we worked with the CFPC and the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians to respond to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's policy

regarding expectations of physicians not certified in emergency medicine intending to include emergency medicine as part of their rural practice.³ This collaboration resulted in the college's issuing a revised statement that will better meet the needs of rural emergency departments.

An important feature of a catalyst is that it is not “consumed in the process.” Members of the SRPC are busy physicians who frequently take on leadership roles and are involved in medical administration. It is important that, while caring for our rural populations, we also care for ourselves and support each other. Many of us do this by participating in the RuralMed discussion forum and by meeting and learning from our colleagues at the annual Rural and Remote conference.

The SRPC will continue to act as a catalyst that promotes excellent care close to home for Canada's rural population. We will do this by working with other medical and governmental organizations and by being an avenue of support, by rural physicians, for each other.

REFERENCES

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