

# DrTalk

**New Physician-Assisted Dying Policy**

**Kendel Award Winners**

**Medical Aid for Syrian Refugees**

**Happy Holidays**  
to all our colleagues in health care



## COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

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*Public protection*

Healthy public policy

Medical profession prepared for  
the future

*Professionally-led  
regulation*

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Do you have feedback to provide or a suggestion for an article to  
include in the next issue of DocTalk?

Submit your ideas & articles by February 28, 2016 to [COMMUNICATIONS@cps.sk.ca](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@cps.sk.ca)

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## A Year in Review



At the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan Christmas Banquet and President's Dinner on the evening of November 20th, 2015, eight physicians were honoured for their dedicated service to the people of Saskatchewan and the Medical Profession for having practiced in Saskatchewan for 40 years.

As in previous years, it was extremely interesting and very moving to hear about the various life stories and careers of these dedicated physicians.

Council also presented Dr. Ryan Meili and Dr. Mark Wahba, both of Saskatoon, with the prestigious Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award. This award was instituted in 2012, and is intended to honour an individual or individuals who have made outstanding contributions to physician leadership and/or to physician engagement in quality improvements for healthcare in Saskatchewan.

Council was very pleased to present the award to two very deserving candidates. They have both made significant contributions with very positive

impacts on the quality of care for the people of Saskatchewan.

Over the past year, Council has been involved with many issues, not least of which have been the discussions and consultations regarding policies on Conscientious Objection and Physician-Assisted Dying. Both of these policies involved extensive committee work and consultation with various stakeholders, including debate amongst the Councillors at a number of Council meetings. We received a great deal of public input, which was very much appreciated. We had many members of the profession, as well as members of the public, attend our Open Council meetings, where we hope they were able to observe how much time and attention Council directed to these important matters.

The policy on Physician-Assisted Dying (PAD) was approved at the November Council meeting in preparation for February 2016, when the current legislation prohibiting PAD is expected to no longer be in effect. Council felt it important to provide some guidance to our physician members, and members of

the public, regarding professional expectations in this new paradigm.

I would like to thank all the Council members and the College Staff for their dedication and hard work over the past year. We have worked extremely well in a collaborative fashion and dealt with many interesting and sometimes complicated issues. It has indeed been an honour and a privilege to serve as the President of Council.

**Dr. Grant Stoneham**  
**President, CPSS**

# FROM THE REGISTRAR



## Communication with the College

### AGM SURVEY

You will have recently received a survey from us asking you for your input on whether the **Annual General Meeting and Educational Sessions** are something you are willing to support. Attendance to the AGM has been low in the past few years.

**Please provide us your opinion.** It will help guide Council in its decision whether it is reasonable to continue. More information on the survey is available on p.16.

### Are you up to date on the latest policy changes?

As we come to the close of the year and start to plan the next, I reflect on the work the College Council and staff have accomplished in completing and updating **policies, standards and guidelines** that pertain to the practice of medicine.

Many existing policies, standards and guidelines have been reviewed and updated with new sunset dates. There have also been a few new ones of significant importance.

### Are you aware of the following new and updated policies, guidelines and standards?

- Assisted Reproductive Technology
- Clinics that Provide Care to Patients Who Are Not Regular Patients of the Clinic
- Contents and Access to Information in Physician's College Files
- Conscientious Objection
- Medical Practice Coverage
- Methadone Guidelines and Standards
- Patient-Physician Communication Guidelines using Electronic Communication
- Patients Who Threaten Harm to

- Themselves or Others
- Physician-Assisted Dying
- Physicians Accessing Patient-Specific Information from the Pharmacy Information Program (PIP)
- Standards for Primary Care

In order for the policies and guidelines to be effective it is imperative that physicians are aware of these policies and guidelines.

### Do these methods of communication allow you to be informed?

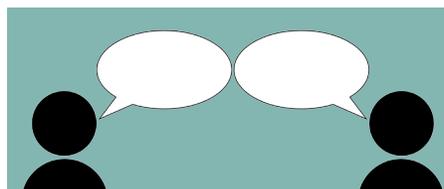
In the past, physicians were provided copies of policies/guidelines as inserts in the newsletter as a hard copy. More recently, we have emailed important alerts to physicians, using the required "email address for College purposes" on file and reported the policies/guidelines in DocTalk which is also sent to physicians by email. The policies and guidelines are also available on the CPSS website [www.cps.sk.ca](http://www.cps.sk.ca)

In addition, we have also provided updates on important work/policies at the **Annual General Meeting and Educational Session** held once per year.

To ensure that physicians are fully informed of the information they should be aware of, the College will start in the New Year to send a copy of any new policy/guideline directly to each physician through his or her email address on file. We will continue to place the information in DocTalk and on the website.

**Please ensure that you have provided the email address you wish the College to use for "College Purposes".** We will continue to respect the need to send only the information the College thinks is important for physicians to be aware of.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of Council, our Committee members, and other colleagues who assist with many facets of the College's business. Your support and commitment to professionally led regulation is appreciated. Last but not least, I would also like to recognize and thank the hard working College staff.



**Dr. Karen Shaw**  
Registrar, CEO



## Physician-Assisted Dying

*“It is extremely important that any physician who may receive a request from a patient related to physician-assisted dying be familiar with this policy.”*

The Council of the College adopted a policy on Physician-Assisted Dying at its Council meeting on November 20, 2015. The document is primarily focussed on the expectations of the College for physicians who are considering providing physician-assisted dying to patients and to patients who are seeking the assistance of physicians to end their lives.

The document is available on the College’s website at <https://www.cps.sk.ca/Documents/Legislation/Policies/POLICY%20-%20Physician-Assisted%20Dying.pdf>.

It is **extremely important** that any physician who may receive a request from a patient related to physician-assisted dying be familiar with the policy.

### Background – the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *Carter v. Canada*

In February, 2015 the Supreme Court of Canada declared that the laws which prohibit physicians from assisting patients to die are unconstitutional, provided the patient meets certain requirements:

1. **The patient must have a grievous and irremediable medical condition;**
2. **The medical condition must not be treatable using treatments the patient is willing to accept;**
3. **The patient’s suffering must be intolerable to the patient;**
4. **The patient must clearly consent to their death.**

The Court’s decision appears to contemplate both physician-administered dying

(where the physician injects a patient with substances to cause their death) and physicians prescribing medications to patients which patients can then take at a time of their own choosing.

The court suspended the declaration of invalidity to allow governments time to pass laws to regulate physician-assisted dying that are consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision.

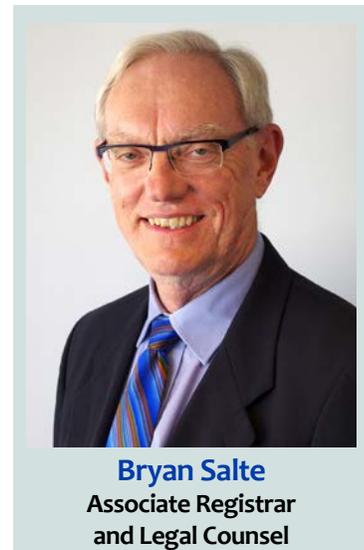
It seems extremely unlikely that there will be legislation in place by February 6, 2016 to regulate physician-assisted dying. The Government of Canada may ask the Supreme Court to extend the February, 2016 deadline to pass new legislation. If that request is made it may, or may not, be granted.

The College adopted its policy based upon the assumption that there will be no legislation in effect on February 6, 2016 and that consequently the only guide for physicians and patients on that date will be the College’s policy. The Council thought it was unacceptable that physician-assisted dying might be legal without any guidance to Saskatchewan physicians or patients how that could occur.

If the Supreme Court grants an extension for governments to pass legislation to regulate physician-assisted dying, it will remain a criminal offence for physicians to assist patients to die during that extension. *If that happens, the College’s policy will not come into effect.*

### Background – the development of the policy

The Canadian Medical Association was the first to develop a draft policy document. The organization for Canadian



**Bryan Salte**  
Associate Registrar  
and Legal Counsel

medical regulatory bodies, the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC), appointed a committee to develop a document for consideration at FMRAC’s annual meeting. The committee adapted the CMA’s draft document and presented it to FMRAC’s annual meeting.

The FMRAC board approved the draft policy document developed by the committee. That document was then distributed to Canadian Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

Saskatchewan’s College Council appointed a committee to develop a policy for Saskatchewan. The document developed by the committee was approved in principle by the Council at its September meeting. The draft policy was distributed for consultation with physicians and other interested parties. The committee reviewed the consultation responses and suggested certain changes to the policy. At the November meeting, the Council considered the recommendations from the committee and the results of the consultation. The Council then approved the final version of the policy.

### Council’s approach in the policy

The primary focus of the policy is to ensure that the criteria established by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Carter* decision have been met, with particular emphasis on ensuring that the patient

has given informed consent to their death.

The policy requires two physicians to confirm that the patient has a grievous and irremediable medical condition that is not treatable using treatments the patient is willing to accept, that the patient's suffering is intolerable to the patient and that the patient has clearly consented to their death.

The policy particularly focuses on the need for the patient to provide informed consent. Measures to achieve that include requiring the physician to advise the patient of all alternatives to physician-assisted dying, requiring the physician to be satisfied that the patient's decision is not the result of coercion by others and requiring the physician to document all of the relevant information.

## Unanswered questions

There are a number of unanswered questions arising from the *Carter* decision. Those questions may, or may not, be addressed by future legislation. Among the unanswered questions are the following:

1. Can a patient provide a directive that they wish to be assisted to die in specified circumstances? It is unclear whether a patient with a degenerative disease can provide informed consent at a time that they are competent and request that physician-assisted dying be administered at a time after they are no longer competent. As this is unclear, and as a physician who assists a patient who does not meet the *Carter* criteria to die commits a criminal offence, the



policy recommends against assisting a patient to die if they are not competent at the time that physician-assisted dying will be provided.

2. Can a "mature minor" consent to their death? The *Carter* decision applies only to "adults" without further defining the term. As that is unclear, the policy recommends that physicians should not assist patients to die unless they have reached the age of majority – 18 in Saskatchewan.
3. Will there be services available to assist patients who wish to die or will it be left to individual physicians in the current care settings to administer physician-assisted dying? That is an issue which is not within the College's authority. We understand that Regional Health Authorities and the Government of Saskatchewan are considering the options.
4. Will there be an oversight body which will review situations in which physician-assisted dying occurs? If there is such a body what will be its role? If that is to occur it will have to be established by legislation. The College has strongly supported such an oversight body being established, ideally by the Government of Canada to provide consistent oversight across Canada.

## Conscientious objection

The initial draft of the policy specifically did not address conscientious objection, leaving that to be addressed at some future time.

The most frequent comments from the consultation process related to conscientious objection, with significantly different perspectives expressed by the respondents.

The Council included a statement in the final policy, adapted from the draft Alberta policy, which states that there are four options for a physician faced with a request from a patient who is considering physician-assisted dying:

1. The physician can provide sufficient information and resources to enable the patient to make his/her own informed choice and access all options for care;
2. The physician can arrange timely access to another physician who can provide the necessary information or resources;
3. The physician can arrange timely access to another resource that can provide the necessary information or resources (no such resources exist at present, but may exist at some future time);
4. The physician can delegate the communication to another competent individual for whom the physician is responsible.

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## Additional Resources and Reading

1. *A Canadian Approach To Assisted Dying: CMA Member Dialogue* <https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/advocacy/Canadian-Approach-Assisted-Dying-e.pdf>
2. *What the Supreme Court of Canada decision on physician-assisted dying means for physicians* – CMPA - <https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/web/guest/-/what-the-supreme-court-of-canada-decision-on-physician-assisted-dying-means-for-physicians>
3. The Provinces and Territories appointed a Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician-Assisted Dying which has now completed its work and will be providing its report. [That report may be released to the public before the end of 2015.](#)
4. The Government of Canada established the External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to *Carter v. Canada* which has been asked to provide its report to the Government of Canada by December 15, 2015. [That report may be made publicly available.](#)



## e-Appointment now implemented

### Now, new physicians can benefit from online instead of in-person appointments for registration

Registration Services is pleased to announce the implementation of the **Registration e-Appointment**.

Historically the College required new registrants attend an in-person appointment with Registration Services to receive information related to licensure and the practice of medicine in Saskatchewan. For many new registrants this meant a trip to the College Office in Saskatoon. Appointments were limited to business hours of the College and there was a limit to the number of new registrants that could be accommodated in one face-to-face appointment.

Introduced in November, the new on-line e-Appointment is designed to replace the face-to-face meeting and eliminates unnecessary travel for many new registrants. The new appointment format allows Registration Services staff to direct time to other equally important work priorities.

Eligibility for the e-Appointment is determined by Registration Services staff following receipt of all necessary documentation and references required for licensure. While most registrants will be eligible for the e-Appointment, the College reserves the right to require some applicants to attend an in-person interview at the College.

The e-Appointment information is a downloadable e-book that applicants may retain for future reference as they enter medical practice. Content of the e-Appointment includes important College bylaws and guidelines as well as information on record keeping, mandatory continuing medical education and information on other topics important to new registrants.

Registrants completing the e-Appointment review the chapter information, complete a short quiz at the conclusion of each chapter and submit the completed quiz. Once Registration Services staff receives the completion certificate indicating that the e-Appointment is completed, the licence will be issued.

Feedback from new registrants has been very positive as they can complete the e-Appointment at a convenient time without a trip to Saskatoon and many are appreciative of the e-book that can be retained as a practice resource.

Registration staff appreciates the ability for registrants to complete the appointment at a time convenient for the applicants.

Registration Services wishes to thank the Continuing Medical Education Office at the College of Medicine for their assistance



**Barb Porter**  
Director of  
Physician Registration

tance and on-going support for this new initiative. A special thank you is extended to Dan Mittelholtz for his work in bringing this project to life.

**Please contact Barb Porter at the College office if you have questions or concerns:**

**barb.porter@cps.sk.ca**  
**(306) 244-7355**

## Continuing Medical Education

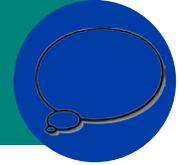
### Professional Development Opportunities

The College website features a section on its home page with links to several different conferences and other educational opportunities which may be of interest to you.

Physicians must remember that they are obligated to complete a certain number of educational credits over a period of 5 years in order to be eligible to renew their licence.

The College's website features some information concerning educational opportunities for your convenience. Several of the conferences and workshops listed are accredited.

For the latest list of upcoming continuing medical education opportunities, please see the News & Events section on our website homepage at [cps.sk.ca](http://cps.sk.ca) and click on **Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Abstracts**.



## Making Unbiased Referrals

### Providing patients with informed choices

Family physicians and specialists are often called upon to make recommendations to his or her patients regarding various products and services that would be helpful or required for a particular course of treatment.

These can include anything from vitamins to services by providers, prosthetics, home health care and mobility aids, auditory enhancement products and many more.

In doing so, it is very important that the physician remain unbiased with regards to particular brands, retailers or service providers.

When preparing an information pack-

et for a patient, physicians should keep in mind that the CMA Code of Ethics includes the following:

21. Provide your patients with the information they need to make informed decisions about their medical care, and answer their questions to the best of your ability.
22. Make every reasonable effort to communicate with your patients in such a way that information exchanged is understood.
23. Recommend only those diagnostic and therapeutic procedures that you consider to be beneficial to your patient or to others. If a service is

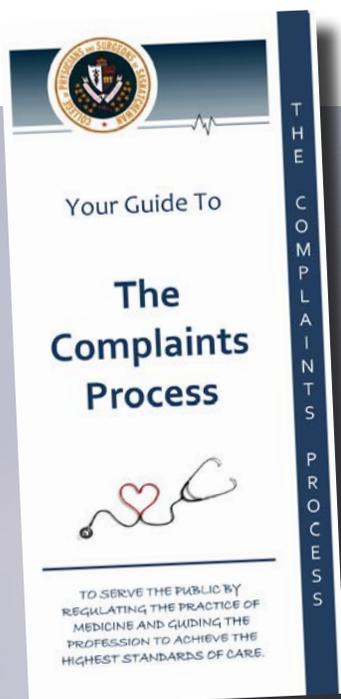
recommended for the benefit of others, as for example in matters of public health, inform your patient of this fact and proceed only with explicit informed consent or where required by law.

With this in mind, physicians may, if they wish, provide a referral or recommendation with regards to a particular product upon request by the patient when discussing options.

However, physicians should ensure that a fair, balanced and complete array of suitable options is offered so that the patient has the necessary tools to make an informed choice.

## QUALITY OF CARE

## CONCERNS?



Doctor? Patient?  
Talk to us!

If you have questions or a complaint regarding medical services you've received or a situation you're not comfortable with, we'd like to help.

1-800-667-1668



**Dr. Micheal Howard-Tripp**  
Deputy Registrar

# College Disciplinary Actions



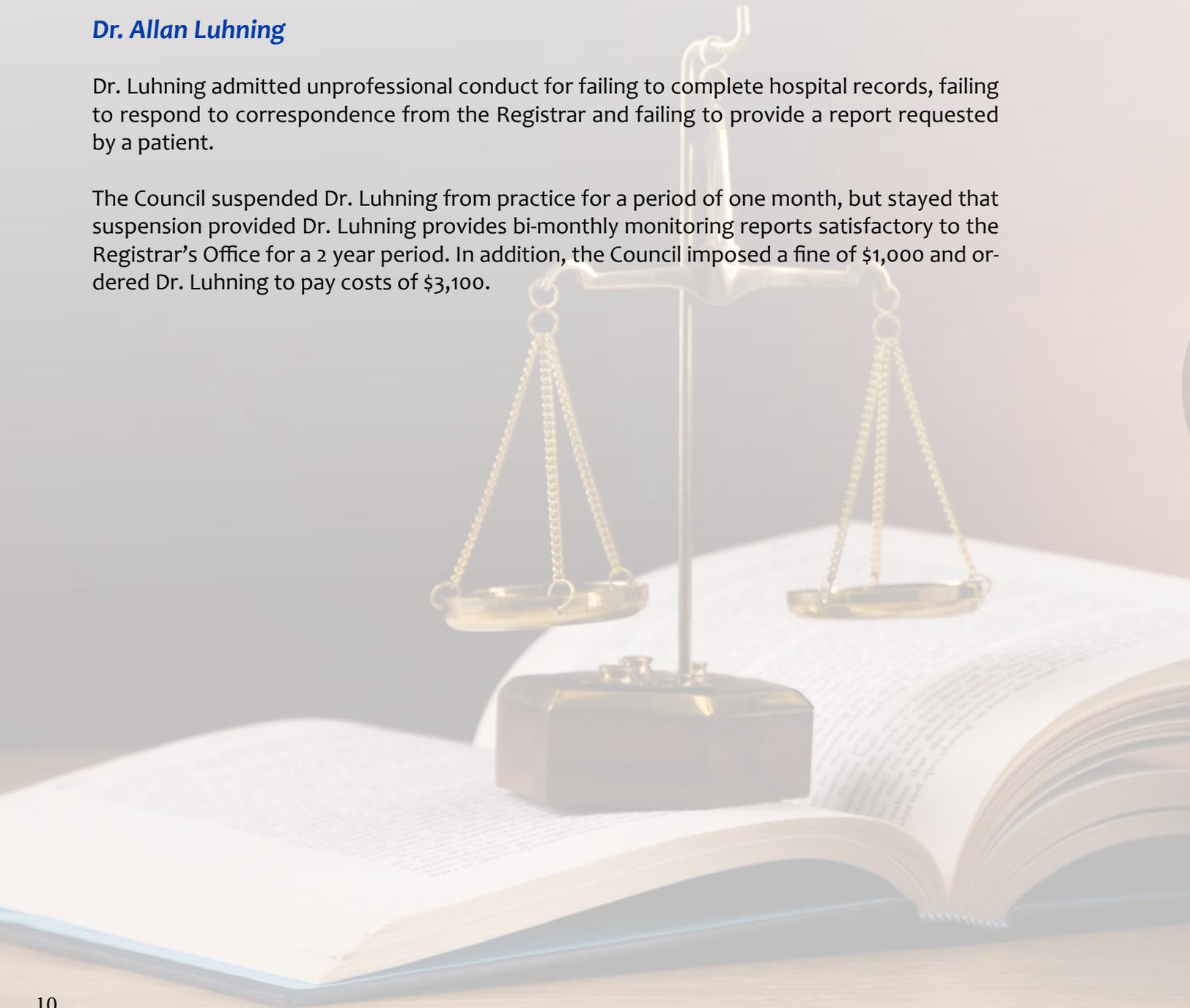
*The College reports discipline matters in the next issue of the Newsletter after the disciplinary action is complete. The College website also contains information on discipline matters that are completed, and matters where charges have been laid but have not yet been completed.*

*There was **one** discipline matter completed since the last Newsletter report.*

## **Dr. Allan Luhning**

Dr. Luhning admitted unprofessional conduct for failing to complete hospital records, failing to respond to correspondence from the Registrar and failing to provide a report requested by a patient.

The Council suspended Dr. Luhning from practice for a period of one month, but stayed that suspension provided Dr. Luhning provides bi-monthly monitoring reports satisfactory to the Registrar's Office for a 2 year period. In addition, the Council imposed a fine of \$1,000 and ordered Dr. Luhning to pay costs of \$3,100.





## New Pharmacist Manager to head PRP

### Julia Bareham accepts new position as Pharmacist Manager for Saskatchewan's Prescription Review Program

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan is pleased to welcome Ms. Julia Bareham as Pharmacist Manager for its Prescription Review Program. She will be replacing Mr. Doug Spitzig, who recently retired.

Julia Bareham holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology (2004) from the University of Manitoba and a business administration certificate from the University of Saskatchewan (2007). In 2008, she earned her Bachelor of Science of Pharmacy from the U of S, then returned to obtain her Masters of Science in Pharmacy (2014), focusing on comprehensive medication management.

Since 2008, Julia has worked as a community pharmacist and continues to do so on a casual basis. She has provided professional services within physicians' offices, including lung function clinics,

making use of her certified respiratory educator designation.

In 2009, Julia joined the RxFiles Academic Detailing Program where she led the RxFiles Long-Term Care Project, which resulted in the publication of the Geri-RxFiles books, in addition to many other resources.

Julia has also been a board member with the Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan since 2009, and currently is the Chair of the Board.

In her words, "I look forward to the many challenges that come with entering into a new position. This is an opportunity to review the Prescription Review Program and optimize its activities to support Saskatchewan's physicians in the optimal prescribing of monitored medication. I intend to support prescribers with education and resources



**Julia Bareham**  
Pharmacist Manager, PRP

to ensure that they are able to provide the highest quality of care to their patients."

"We are excited to have Ms. Bareham join our team. Her skills in critical analysis and education will be a definite asset to the College," added Dr. Karen Shaw, Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan.

Contact us at **306-667-4640** or at **prp@cps.sk.ca** with your questions!



# Save the date!



**Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23, 2016**

## Sneak Peek!

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan is proud to present the 2016 edition of its education days on Methadone and Suboxone Opioid Substitution Therapy.

This year's conference will feature presentations on The Importance of the Team Approach, Mental Health and Addiction Care, Take-Home Naloxone Kits and much more!

## Who should attend?

Physicians\*, pharmacists, nurses, pharmacy technicians, counselors and other individuals working with patients undergoing methadone and suboxone opioid substitution therapy would benefit from the valuable information and presentations that will be offered at this conference.

*\* Professional accreditation is pending.  
Certificates will be remitted with proper attendance at the end of the 2-day conference.*

## When can I register?

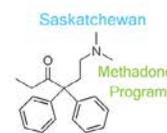
Registration packages will be available at the end of January 2016 on the College's website at [www.cps.sk.ca](http://www.cps.sk.ca)

Seating will be limited, so register early!

# Saskatchewan

## Methadone and Suboxone Opioid Substitution Therapy

# CONFERENCE | 2016





## Two Saskatoon physicians receive top honors



During a special awards banquet held on November 20th, 2015, the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan presented Dr. Ryan Meili and Dr. Mark Wahba (see biographies below), both of Saskatoon, with the prestigious Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to physician leadership and/or to physician engagement in quality improvements in health care in Saskatchewan.

“I’m extremely honoured to receive the Dr. Dennis Kendel Distinguished Service Award alongside Dr. Mark Wahba. Dr. Dennis Kendel has been an inspiration to a generation of community-minded physicians, and Dr. Wahba is a leader and innovator in moving us toward higher quality care. I’m humbled to be in their company, and pleased that my interest in and commitment to health equity was thought to be worthy of recognition by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatche-



Photo (L-R): Dr. Ryan Meili, Dr. Dennis Kendel and Dr. Mark Wahba following the presentation of the Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Award to the 2016 recipients.

wan” stated Dr. Ryan Meili, a family physician at the Westside Community Clinic in Saskatoon.

Dr. Wahba, an emergency physician in the Saskatoon Health Region, also shared his thoughts: “I’m humbled to be recognized for the Dr. Dennis Kendel Distinguished Service Award, and honoured to be sharing it with my friend and colleague, Dr. Ryan Meili. If I can try to improve healthcare at the sharp end and Dr. Meili can try to improve health at

the blunt end, hopefully we’ll make things better for people.”

“This year, Council is very pleased to present the awards to two young but very deserving candidates. Their initiative, leadership and innovative ideas have already had very positive impacts on the health services provided in their workplace,” said Dr. Grant Stoneham, President of the College Council, who presented each physician with his award.

# Who will be the 2016 recipient?

Nominations are already being accepted for 2016. Get your nomination in early!

**Nomination packages** are available on the College website or by contacting Sue Robinson at [OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca](mailto:OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca)

*The Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award was named in honour of Dr. Dennis Kendel, who retired in 2011 after a long career as Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan.*

## Milestones

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan would like to recognize remarkable milestones achieved by physicians over the course of their career in Saskatchewan.

If you know of a colleague whose work deserves mention, please write to [communications@cps.sk.ca](mailto:communications@cps.sk.ca).

## A Portrait Unveiled

To complement the awards ceremony, a painted portrait of Dr. Dennis Kendel was unveiled in recognition of his longstanding contribution as Registrar for the College from 1986 to 2011. The portrait will be displayed at the College's new office facilities.



## Senior Life Designation

### Eight “new” physicians mark 40 years of service

Physicians are entitled to receive a senior life designation if they have been licensed on a form of postgraduate licensure in Saskatchewan for a cumulative total of 40 years (including Service with the Canadian or Allied forces and postgraduate training after registration).

Senior Life Designation is an honorary title only, and conveys no right to practice medicine in Saskatchewan, to hold office or to vote.

Recognition awards were given during the Council President's Dinner prior to the Kendel Award Presentation on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

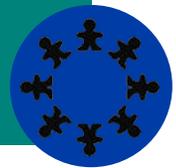
The College is pleased to award the following physicians for providing a lifetime of medical care to the residents of Saskatchewan:

- **Dr. Brian Colquhoun, Saskatoon**
- **Dr. Dennis Kendel, Saskatoon**
- **Dr. Maitland McNeil, Regina**
- **Dr. James Ledding, Rosetown**
- **Dr. Edwin Kusch, Saskatoon**
- **Dr. Angela Naidoo, Saskatoon**
- **Dr. Steven Zacharuk, Regina**
- **Dr. David Crawford, Prince Albert**

Thank you  
for your dedication!

Below (L-R): Dr. Maitland McNeil, Dr. James Ledding, Dr. Brian Colquhoun and Dr. Dennis Kendel were present to receive their Senior Life Designation at the Council President's Dinner on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Photo at bottom of page: Dr. Karen Shaw, Registrar, addresses the guests during the awards ceremony held after the dinner.





## Election Results 2015

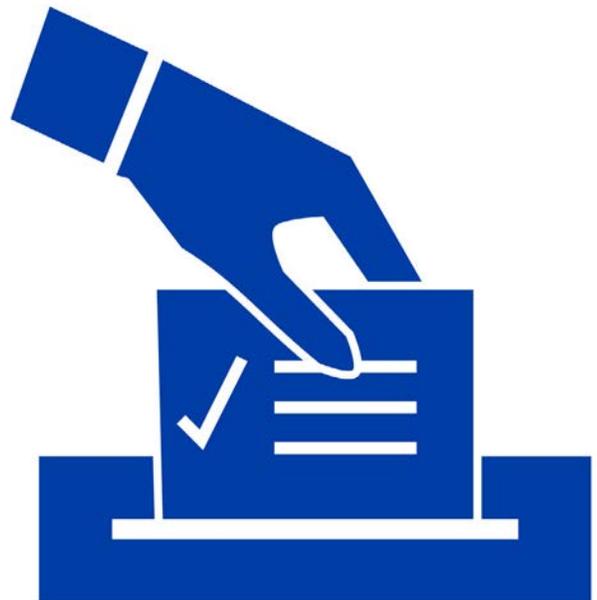
### New and Returning Faces to Council

Members of the College in six of the ten Electoral Districts have recently had an opportunity to nominate and elect colleagues for service on the Council of the College for the next three years.

Elections for members of Council for the Electoral Divisions 2 (Keewatin Yatthé & Prairie North), 3 (Saskatoon), 4 (Sunrise), 6 (Five Hills), 7 (Regina-Qu'Appelle), and 8 (Sun Country) took place as defined in The Medical Profession Act, 1981 and College bylaws and we are pleased to announce the results as follows:

Dr. Mark Chapelski in Keewatin Yatthé/Prairie North;  
Dr. Brian Brownbridge in Saskatoon;  
Dr. Oluwole Oduntan (Acclamation) in Sunrise;  
Dr. Adegboyega Adewumi in Five Hills;  
Dr. James Carter in Regina Qu'Appelle; and  
Dr. Edward Tsoi (Acclamation) in Sun Country.

Please join with us in congratulating the re-elected and newly elected members to Council and we look forward to working with them in the New Year in this very important work.



## Council and Senior Staff of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan 2015

**Back Row (L-R):** Ms. C. Gareau, Mr. C. Mason, Dr. D. Glaeske, Dr. L. Keaveney, Dr. K. Shaw, Mr. A. Battiste, Mr. B. Salte, Dr. M. Chapelski, Dr. T. Malhotra, Dr. J. Carter, Mr. K. Smith, Ms. G. Thompson, Dr. P. Hanekom, Dr. J. Stakiw, Dr. M. Howard-Tripp, Ms. B. Porter, Ms. S. Robinson  
**Front Row (L-R):** Mr. M. de la Gorgendière, Dr. O. Oduntan, Dr. A. Beggs, Ms. S. Halland, Dr. G. Stoneham - President, Dr. S. Kasset, Dr. E. Tsoi, Mr. R. Harder, Dr. P. Smith



# Annual General Meeting

**& Educational  
Session**

**WHAT WOULD  
YOU  
LIKE TO SEE  
FOR 2016?**

## AGM SURVEY

Over the past few years the College has provided an education half day event with a short Annual General meeting (15 minutes) incorporated. The AGM provides a very brief update on the College's activities and the emphasis has been on the educational event. Topics chosen were thought to be of interest and/or relevant to the profession.

1. "Effective Communication" The Key to Keeping Patients and Practitioners Safe
2. "Providing Quality Healthcare in Challenging and Changing Times"
3. "First Do No Harm: Prescription Drug Abuse"
4. Short snappers on various topics of interest; medical marihuana, spine pathway etc. (untitled)

All the previous educational half days have been given high ratings by those that attended, however the attendance has been variable and has generally been poor.

Council made several changes in order to increase physician participation which included:

1. Offering the event on a Saturday afternoon rather than a Friday afternoon so physicians did not have to leave their offices to attend.
2. Offering **Telehealth** sites so physicians did not have to travel so far to attend.
3. Offering the event in June rather than September as we were told September was too busy.
4. Ensuring the educational event was accredited for the continuing professional development credits (MOC/Main Pro 1)

We are seeking your input as to whether continuing with educational half days is important to you and if so, what changes would you like to see to encourage your attendance.

**Please fill out our survey before January 6, 2016 at**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cpss\\_agm\\_survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cpss_agm_survey)



## RQHR takes the lead with IPAC

### *RQHR Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Consult Service*

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) is dedicated to ensuring the safety of patients receiving healthcare services, regardless of where those services are delivered.

Many of our physician partners in the region perform procedures and minor surgical interventions in their clinics, and many reprocess re-usable medical instruments in their community offices. It is imperative that this reprocessing is done in compliance with recommended guidelines and standards.

RQHR is committed to assisting our physicians assess their current practices and

help them correct any deficiencies to become compliant with the most up to date Canadian Standards Association (CSA) requirements. To this end, the RQHR **Regional Infection Prevention and Control (RIPAC)** department, with the support of our Sterile Processing Department (SPD), will be undertaking the creation of a new service to provide expert consultation to community clinics focusing on all aspects of infection prevention and control, as well as medical device reprocessing.

We will begin trialing this service with a small number of physician practices early in 2016, after which it will be modified according to the feedback we receive before being fully implemented. Upon invitation from a community medical office, a regional infection control practitioner (ICP) will perform an on-site assessment of current practices followed by a written

report detailing recommendations for improvement.

If grievous deficiencies are identified that cannot be quickly remedied, we will continue to work with the clinic to find solutions that could include selecting suitable disposable instruments or arranging with the central SPD to temporarily take on the clinic's reprocessing activities on a cost-recovery basis.

We look forward to working with our physician partners to improve the delivery of safe healthcare to all our patients. Please look for further details to be announced soon.

Submitted by:



## Call to Assist Syrian Refugees

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan has been receiving a series of inquiries from various organisations and members of the public concerning medical care for the coming influx of between 770 and 800 Syrian refugees in the days and weeks to come.

We are strongly encouraging physicians to step forward and assist in providing care. A joint letter to Saskatchewan physicians from the CPSS and the SMA has been sent encouraging physicians to assist in various locations around the province.

Both Arabic-speaking and non-Arabic-speaking physicians are sought who would be willing to assist with this initiative.

As an example, Dr. Mahli Brindamour-Meili, a general pediatrician in Saskatoon, has been identified as a physician who has an interest and special expertise in refugee health. A significant portion of her practice is dedicated to seeing refugee children (she is also on the steering committee of Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care), and she works in close collaboration with the Global Gathering Place, one of the settlement agencies in Saskatoon.

**If you are able to assist initially and/or accept a family into your practice, please contact the agency coordinating the initiative in your community.**

### **Moose Jaw: Kliniek on Main**

Jana Garinger  
306-694-1440 or  
jana.garinger@fhhr.ca

### **Prince Albert: YWCA**

Kwame Boateng  
306-763-0736 or  
kwameboatengywca.sasktel.net

### **Regina: RQHR Family Medicine**

Charissa Amyotte  
306-766-0696 or  
Charissa.Amyotte@rqhealth.ca or  
family.medicine@rqhealth.ca

### **Saskatoon: Global Gathering Place**

Melanie Baerg at 306-665-0268 or  
melanie.baerg@globalgatheringplace.com

# Opiates, Stimulants & Marihuana: Am I prescribing properly?

## A Physician Toolkit for Ensuring Patient Safety

*This toolkit contains links to important resources providing information on best prescribing practices for benzodiazepines, opiates, medical marijuana and stimulants. It has been prepared in response to questions and concerns about what physicians and other prescribers need to know on calculating appropriate dosing.*

**Further questions can be directed to:**

**Prescription Review Program at 306-667-4640 or [prp@cps.sk.ca](mailto:prp@cps.sk.ca)**

### Benzodiazepines

**Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/e-learning-modules-medicines-and-medical-devices>

**Benzodiazepines: How they work and how to withdraw - Heather Ashton**

[www.benzo.org.uk/manual/](http://www.benzo.org.uk/manual/)

### Opiates

**Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain**

<http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioid/>

*Practice Toolkit:*

<http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/documents/practice-toolkit.pdf>

### General

**Methadone Drug Interactions Information**

[www.atforum.com](http://www.atforum.com) and /or [www.drug-interactions.com](http://www.drug-interactions.com)

**Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**

Phone: (416) 535-8501

[www.camh.net](http://www.camh.net)

**My Health**

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

**Health Canada Office of Controlled Substances**

Phone: (613) 946-5139

Toll-free: 1-866-358-0453

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/hecs-dgsesc/dsc-sp-psasc/index-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/hecs-dgsesc/dsc-sp-psasc/index-eng.php)

**Canadian Society for Addiction Medicine**

Phone: 403-813-7217

[admin@csam.org](mailto:admin@csam.org)

[www.csam.org](http://www.csam.org)

**American Society for Addiction Medicine**

Phone: 301-656-3920

[email@asam.org](mailto:email@asam.org)

[www.asam.org](http://www.asam.org)

### Medical Marihuana

**Health Canada Guidelines**

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/med/infoprof-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/med/infoprof-eng.php)

### Stimulants

**Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance (CADDRA)**

[www.caddra.ca/practice-guidelines/download](http://www.caddra.ca/practice-guidelines/download)





## Do you speak, write or understand a language other than English?

### How about sign language?

Patients, especially children and the elderly, usually feel more comfortable expressing themselves in their mother tongue, and even more so when they are not feeling well.

They will often seek medical care from physicians who are able to communicate, at least to some degree, in their language.

They may feel better understood by the individual on whom they depend for quality medical care. Familiarity, trust and a sense of connection with a medical provider can also help reduce stress with regards to procedures that can otherwise seem strange or even frightening.

From a physician's viewpoint, speaking the mother tongue can also be useful for ensuring informed consent.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan is encouraging physicians and specialists to **register their language proficiencies** by filling out a survey **form**. This information will be entered into our database, and will be made available in your public profile on the College's website at [www.cps.sk.ca](http://www.cps.sk.ca).

*(Please allow a few weeks for the information to appear online.)*



Register your language proficiencies online with the College at:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cps\\_language\\_survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cps_language_survey)

Interested in

# MEDICAL REGULATION?



## Looking to take on an active role?

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan is often looking for both public and medical professional individuals to serve on its various committees:

To find out about current and future committee openings, write to:

[OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca](mailto:OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca)  
or call (306) 244-7355

- *Advisory Committee on Medical Imaging (ACMI)*
- *Competency Assessment and Maintenance*
- *Complaints Resolution Advisory Committee*
- *Discipline Committee*
- *Health Facilities Credentialing Committee*
- *Laboratory Quality Assurance Program Committee*
- *Practice Enhancement Program (PEP) Advisory Committee*
- *Joint Medical Professional Review Committee (JMPRC)*

## Call for French-speaking Health Professionals Registry

### Do you speak some French?



In partnership with the College of Medicine, Department of Community Health & Epidemiology, the Saskatchewan Network for Health Services in French/ Réseau Santé en Français de la Saskatchewan (RSFS) is in the process of updating the directory of health professionals who are willing to speak at least some French when providing health services in Saskatchewan.

We are also seeking to add professionals who are new to the province, recently graduated or simply newly interested. Professionals are added to the directory on a volunteer basis and there are no legal obligations associated with being listed.

If you would like more information or are willing to be listed please contact

**Katie Pospiech** at

[katie.pospiech@usask.ca](mailto:katie.pospiech@usask.ca)  
or (306) 966-1270



# We're Working for You



## College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan

101-2174 Airport Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6

Phone: (306) 244-7355

Fax: (306) 244-0090

E-mail: [cpssinfo@cps.sk.ca](mailto:cpssinfo@cps.sk.ca)

Or visit us at: [www.cps.sk.ca](http://www.cps.sk.ca)

## OUR LOCATION:



### Senior Staff

Dr. Karen Shaw  
Dr. Micheal Howard-Tripp  
Mr. Bryan Salte  
Ms. Barb Porter

Registrar  
Deputy Registrar  
Associate Registrar/Legal Counsel  
Director of Physician Registration Services

## OUR DEPARTMENTS

### Administration & Finance

Telephone  
Office of the Registrar  
HR & Finance

1 (306) 244-7355  
[OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca](mailto:OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca)  
[amy.mcdonald@cps.sk.ca](mailto:amy.mcdonald@cps.sk.ca)

### Communications

Telephone  
Media Inquiries

1 (306) 667-4638  
[communications@cps.sk.ca](mailto:communications@cps.sk.ca)

### Complaints/Quality of Care

Saskatoon & area calls  
Toll Free  
Inquiries

1 (306) 244-7355  
1 (800) 667-1668  
[complaints@cps.sk.ca](mailto:complaints@cps.sk.ca)

### Diagnostic Imaging & Lab Quality Assurance (Regina)

Address  
Telephone  
E-mail

5 Research Drive, Regina, SK S4S 0A4  
1 (306) 787-8239  
[cpssinfo@cps.sk.ca](mailto:cpssinfo@cps.sk.ca)

### Prescription Review Program (PRP) and Methadone Program

Direct line  
E-mail

1 (306) 667-4640  
[prp@cps.sk.ca](mailto:prp@cps.sk.ca)

### Registration Services

Telephone  
Assessment/Supervision  
Registration Inquiries  
Corporate Inquiries  
Certificate of Professional  
Conduct/Good Standing

1 (306) 244-7355  
[cpssreg-assess@cps.sk.ca](mailto:cpssreg-assess@cps.sk.ca)  
[cpssreg@cps.sk.ca](mailto:cpssreg@cps.sk.ca)  
[cpssreg-corp@cps.sk.ca](mailto:cpssreg-corp@cps.sk.ca)  
[cpssreg-cpc@cps.sk.ca](mailto:cpssreg-cpc@cps.sk.ca)