



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

The department as a collective continues to make significant contributions across the CARE (clinical/quality; administration/leadership; research/scholarship; education/teaching) pillars. Several of these accomplishments are highlighted in the [2024 DOM annual report](#). The sky is the limit in terms of what new discoveries, innovations and practice changes department members can accomplish together moving into 2025.

Although there will be many challenges in 2025 as the Alberta healthcare system continues with government-directed changes, together we will continue to focus within our areas of control and influence – towards realizing our mission to equitably advance health and wellness by cultivating a community of diverse physicians who lead through care delivery, discovery, innovation, education and knowledge implementation.

Please review the winter newsletter for some departmental highlights and important announcements.



*Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc
Zone Clinical and
Academic Department Head*

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT MANAGER



*Allison Mirotnik
Manager, Department
Of Medicine*

As we step into a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work we do together as a Department. Each of you plays a vital role in delivering exceptional care to our patients, often in the face of ongoing changes and challenges within the healthcare system. Your dedication and resilience are truly inspiring.

This February, we will once again launch the Healthy Hearts Challenge, a fun tradition that not only promotes physical and mental health but also strengthens our sense of community and teamwork. I encourage everyone to participate, as it's a wonderful opportunity to focus on our well-being while connecting with colleagues.

As we navigate the months ahead, I encourage you to remember the power of small actions. Every interaction with a patient, every thoughtful collaboration with a colleague, every expression of appreciation, and every effort to improve a process contributes to the excellence we strive for. These seemingly small steps add up to transformative progress, both for our Department and the patients we serve.

Together, I am confident we can rise to any challenge and continue to make a meaningful impact in 2025. Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and outstanding care!

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THE 2023-2024 DOM ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE

Find this under
DOM Website > About Us > Annual reports

[Read The Report](#)

Department of Medicine

SAVE THE DATE

DOM DAY

at the Zoo

SATURDAY MAY 24, 2025

Please plan to come to the **Calgary Zoo** on **May 24** to share time with your colleagues and learn more about the department at a **community bar-b-que lunch**. Your entrance to the zoo will be covered, so you can enjoy your day at the zoo. **Immediate family is welcome to attend** the bar-b-que and will also be provided with free zoo admission. **More details and registration to come.**



COMING SOON!!

FEBRUARY HEALTHY HEARTS CHALLENGE

Watch your inboxes to sign up for the challenge which will run from Feb 1. This year will be slightly different, so look out for instructions!

...we're working hard on creating the prize packages right now!



LEADERSHIP & WELCOME FALL/WINTER

Please join us in welcoming the following members to their Leadership Roles.



DOM ASSOCIATE VICE CHAIR OF EDUCATION

Dr. Melanie Stapleton took on the role of **DOM Associate Vice Chair of Education** starting on **September 1, 2024**.

Dr. Stapleton is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine. She has been the Program Director for adult Gastroenterology for the past 11 years and moving into a new role as the CME Lead for the division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

When not working, Dr. Stapleton enjoys family time skiing as well as running and painting.



DOM SITE LEAD PETER LOUGHEED CENTRE

Dr. Rachid Mohamed took on the role of **Department of Medicine Site Lead at the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC)** as of **September 1, 2024**.

Dr. Mohamed is a therapeutic endoscopist in Calgary, based out of the Peter Lougheed Center. His clinical interests lie in endoscopy, specifically complex pancreaticobiliary endoscopy and advanced tissue resection. He was the regional head for advanced endoscopy from 2012-2024 and Peter Lougheed GI site lead from 2015-2019.

Outside of medicine, Rachid enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, exercising and playing golf. His love for golf takes him around the world exploring different course and challenges.

MANAGER, ADMIN SERVICES – DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE



Madison Baksza took on the role of **Manager, Admin Services, Department of Medicine** as of **October 28, 2024**.

Madison has several years of experience in various administrative roles within AHS and brings a wealth of knowledge to her new position. Most recently, she has served as the Executive Associate for the Calgary Zone Medical Affairs team, collaborating closely with senior leadership. Madison holds a Bachelor's in Business Management with a focus in Human Resources from the University of Lethbridge and a Diploma in Business Administration from Bow Valley College.

Outside of work, Madison enjoys spending time with her husband and their two children, Zayn (3) and Maliya (1). In her free time, she loves to sing and often performs at events around Calgary. She also enjoys staying active and exploring different fitness activities that keep her motivated and centered

Madison will be filling this role in coverage of Sandy Hafez's maternity leave.

LEADERSHIP & WELCOME FALL/WINTER

Please join us in welcoming the following members to their Leadership Roles.



SECTION/DIVISION HEAD OF RESPIROLOGY

Dr. Brandie Walker took on the role of **Section/Division Head of Respiriology** as of **January 1, 2025**.

Dr. Walker is a Clinical Associate Professor and has been a member of the Division of Respiratory Medicine at UCalgary for 13 years. She has been the Site Lead for Respiratory Medicine at the FMC, Program Director for the Advanced Fellowship in Severe Asthma at the UCalgary, and Deputy Section Head for Respiratory Medicine. Recently she took on the role of VC of Physician Wellness for the DOM. Dr. Walker completed her PhD at the UBC and her Respiriology Fellowship training at the UCalgary. She conducts clinical research in airways disease, and is Principal Investigator in

Calgary for the CanCOLD cohort study. She has a busy clinical practice including specialized clinics in Severe Asthma and a multidisciplinary Severe COPD clinic.

In her spare time, Dr. Walker enjoys travelling with her husband, Greg, and their two boys. She also prioritizes keeping active and watching her boys play hockey.



ASSOCIATE VC OF PLANETARY HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Dr. Claire Barber will take on the new role of **DOM Associate Vice Chair of Planetary Health & Sustainability** as of **January 1, 2025**.

Dr. Claire Barber MD PhD is an Associate Professor in the DOM and Community Health Sciences at the UCalgary and also a Research Scientist with Arthritis Research Canada. She holds a PhD in epidemiology and is a practicing rheumatologist with a focus on inflammatory arthritis. Her research interests include the development, testing and implementation of quality metrics for healthcare systems and supporting optimized models of care delivery. Higher quality care

is better for our patients, health systems and our planet. Dr Barber has additional training in implementation science (AbSPORU Implementation Science Certificate) and change management (PROSCI Certified Change Practitioner). She also completed the Advocacy and Mobilization Program through the Canadian Association of Physicians (CAPE), CASCADES training on Sustainable Health Systems, and Sustainable QI training through AHS. She is an active member of the Alberta Chapter of CAPE, and the Planetary Health Task Force of the Canadian Rheumatology Association.

SECTION/DIVISION HEADS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES



Dr. Ranjani Somayaji and Dr. Christopher Lata have jointly taken on the role of **Division/Section Head of Infectious Diseases (ID)** as of **November 1, 2024**.

Dr. Ranjani Somayaji will be the new UCalgary Division Head of ID and Dr. Christopher Lata will be the new AHS Section Head for ID. They will be working collaboratively to lead the Section/Division.

Dr. Somayaji completed medical school, internal medicine residency and infectious disease fellowship training at the UCalgary. She completed additional training by way of a Masters in Public Health through Johns Hopkins University, research fellowship training in cystic fibrosis at the University of Washington and a formal equity and diversity and inclusion certificate program through Cornell University, joining faculty in Calgary in late 2018. At present, Dr. Somayaji is an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Disease and holds the GSK Professorship in Inflammatory Lung Disease.

Dr. Lata completed his medical school, Internal Medicine residency, and Infectious Disease Fellowship at the UCalgary after completing his Masters degree at Queen's University in Chemistry. He has returned to Calgary after practicing in Nova Scotia on the island of Cape Breton, where he filled multiple leadership roles for the eastern medical zone as well as with Doctors Nova Scotia. He was also a zone medical leader for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), with major operations in the COVID pandemic response. Presently, Dr. Lata continues to devote time to IPC in Calgary at the new Arthur Child Cancer Centre, as well as with Tuberculosis Services in Calgary.

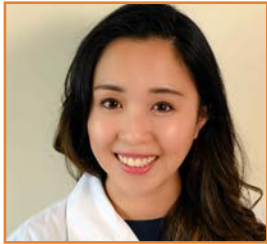
AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Join us in congratulating the following members for their achievements over the past few months



UCALGARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE CHAIR (UCREC)

Congratulations to Dr. Matthew James on being chosen for a UCalgary Research Excellence Chair (UCREC), one of the University's most prestigious awards celebrating scholars and empower their creative work. [Read UCalgary article.](#)



LUPUX NEXUS PROJECT

Congratulations to Dr. May Choi, her lab and the MitogenDx (co-applicant) has been selected for the Nexus Project from a Lupus Research Alliance. Lupus Nexus aim is to transform lupus research and drug development through unprecedented information exchange capabilities.

2025 EMERGING INVESTIGATOR AWARD - CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Dr. May Choi on receiving the Canadian Rheumatology Association 2025 Emerging Investigator Award.



2024 LUPUS THERAPEUTICS LUCIN CLINICAL TRIAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Megan Barber on being awarded the 2024 LuCIN Clinical Trial Investigator award (US\$100,000 over 2 years) from Lupus Therapeutics (the clinical research affiliate of Lupus Research Alliance).



M.S. I. FOUNDATION AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Jamie Benham on receiving the M.S.I. Foundation research grant for the project "The Effect of Virtual Care on Individuals Affected by Gestational Diabetes.

CIHR NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE - TRANSLATIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE GRANT

Congratulations to Dr. Jamie Benham on receiving this CIHR grant for the project "Optimizing Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Self-Management: Implementing International Evidence Based Guidelines in Alberta.



CORE OPERATIONS FUNDING THE WELLD0C INITIATIVE

Congratulations to Dr. Jane Lemaire and Alicia Polachek for receiving core operational funding for the Well Doc Initiative. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA), MD Financial Management Inc. (MD), and Scotiabank are partnering to support the ongoing advancement of physician wellness, providing \$5 million to enable the expansion of The Well Doc Initiative beyond Alberta. The Well Doc Initiative, housed within the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine,

helps physicians and health care organizations embed policies, practices, and programs in their workplaces to proactively enhance physician wellness. Physicians face a heightened risk of experiencing occupational distress syndromes such as burnout because of the work they do, and in a time when Canada's health systems are strained, it is imperative that health care professionals are provided with resources to support them. The funding provided by the CMA, MD, and Scotiabank will support the official launch of Well Doc Canada, while also enabling the ongoing work of Well Doc Alberta. Building upon the model they developed in Alberta, the Well Doc team will be working to increase capacity and scale their offerings over the coming months, with a goal of being able to work with physicians, physician groups, and health care system leaders across Canada, especially where resources are most needed.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Join us in congratulating the following members for their achievements over the past few months



FELLOW CANADIAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Congratulations to the now retired Dr. Man-Chiu Poon, who served for over 35 years in the Division of Hematology and Hematological Malignancies, has been elected as a fellow at the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences recognized for his transformative work in hemophilia care and research. His leadership, guidance and advocacy has facilitated modernization of and access to hemophilia care in many underserved countries.



WXN 2024 CANADA'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN TOP 100

Congratulations to Dr. Hanan Bassyouni on being selected in WXN Top 100 2024 Canada's Most Powerful Women, specifically recognizing women who strive to make a difference in their communities (Canadian Tire Community Impact Award). [See more details here.](#)



WXN 2024 CANADA'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN TOP 100

Congratulations to DOM Rheumatologist Dr. Dianne Mosher on being selected as one of Canada's most powerful women 2024 WXN awards. Specifically recognizing women who are professionals in a practice and play a leadership role within their organizations. [See more details here.](#)



AVENUE CALGARY TOP 40 UNDER 40

Congratulations to Dr. Kelle Hurd on being recognized in Avenue Magazine annual Top 40 Under 40, highlighting her work creating safe spaces in medicine for Indigenous patients to access culturally safe care.



CLARIVATE HIGHLY CITED RESEARCHERS

Congratulations to Dr. Marcello Tonelli, Dr. Remo Panaccione and Dr. Gil Kaplan from the Department of Medicine for being named as Highly Cited Researchers 2024 from Clarivate.

[Read more information](#)



CDA - AMC 35TH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL

Congratulations to Dr. James L. Silvius for receiving the CDA - AMC 35th Anniversary Medal which is awarded every 5 to 10 years to individuals who have nationally demonstrated excellence in Health Technology Assessment. [Meet Canada's Outstanding Leaders in Health Technology Assessment.](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Join us in congratulating the following members for their achievements over the past few months



SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE: SHEA FOUNDATION

Congratulations to Dr. John Conly who received the 2024 Senior Scholarship Award from the SHEA Foundation for his contributions to infection prevention/healthcare epidemiology for over 15 years. Dr. Conly was the first Canadian to receive this award!



O'BRIEN INSTITUTE AWARD WINNER - EMERGING RESEARCH LEADER

Congratulations to Dr. Christopher Ma who was awarded the Emerging Research Leader Award from the O'Brien Institute for his groundbreaking contributions to gastroenterology and clinical trials, alongside his commitment to mentoring the next generation of researchers. [Read more about these awards here.](#)



BOB COWIE AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Kerri Johannson for receiving the Bob Cowie Award which is intended to recognize an outstanding faculty member who has contributed to the care of respiratory patients in the Calgary Zone and to the academic life of the Division of Respiratory Medicine in the CSM.



CLARENCE GUENTER AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Ward Flemons for receiving the Clarence Guenter Award for a senior member in the Division of Respiratory Medicine recognizing a lifetime of achievements and contributions to the division.



JOHN CHAN AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Hergott on receiving the John Chan Award which is awarded for excellence in teaching within the Respiriology Fellowship Program.



CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Dr. Stephanie Garner and Dr. Aurore Fifi-Mah for receiving the Canadian Rheumatology Association Practice Reflection award.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Join us in congratulating the following members for their achievements over the past few months



2024 CHRON'S COLITIS CANADA

Congratulations to Dr. Remo Panaccione for receiving the 2024 Chron's Colitis Canada Research Leadership Award which is awarded to the Canadian Gastroenterologist who has made significant and lasting impact on IBD global research that effects the lives of patients.

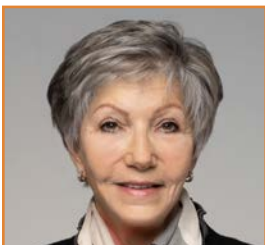
DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY RESIDENT MENTORSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Remo Panaccione also receiving the division of gastroenterology Resident Mentorship Award which is awarded by GI trainees to faculty for excellence in mentorship.



MEDAL OF HONOUR, HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Hill (DCNS, Community Health Science, Medicine & Radiology) for receiving a Medal of Honour from the Health Research Foundation, Innovative Medicines Canada.



CANADIAN CARDIO VASCULAR SOCIETY

Congratulations to Dr. Deb Isaac (also recently retired from the department), as the recipient of the 2024 Canadian Cardiovascular Society Women in Cardiovascular Medicine/Science Mentorship Award. [Read news article here](#)



PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED UNSUNG HERO'S

- **January**
Dr. Na'ama Avitzur
Dr. Rachid Mohamed
Dr. Munaa (Mani) Khaliq-Kareem
Dr. Kelle Hurd
Dr. Karen Fruetel
- **October:**
Dr. Paula Pearce
Dr. Khan Ali
Dr. Bhavneet Kahlon
Dr. Maria Bacchus
Dr. Daniel Wong
- **December**
Dr. Christina Thornton
Dr. Kristin Lyons
Dr. Taylor Wong
Dr. Kathryn Watson
- **September:**
Dr. Leonard Lim
Dr. Stephen Duncan
Dr. Peter Duggan
Dr. Meredith Borman
- **November**
Dr. Oscar Larios
Dr. Emily Kwan
Dr. Michael Bosch
Dr. Zahra Goodarzi

NOMINATE AN UNSUNG HERO

Please continue to nominate your colleagues who make your life a little easier in the Department of Medicine. We want to recognize all the unsung hero's in our department and they will be announced during Medical Grand Rounds on Tuesday mornings. Please email [Dr. Chandra Thomas](mailto:Dr.Chandra.Thomas@ahs.ca) Chandra.thomas@ahs.ca your nominations and a few words about why you're nominating that person.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Join us in congratulating the following members for their achievements over the past few months

We hosted our DOM Annual Awards Celebration evening in person this year at the Fairmont Palliser in November. A huge congratulations to all award winners for 2024.

IM CLERKSHIP AWARDS

- Dr. Irene Ma - Unsung Hero
- Dr. Sidra Javed - Unsung Hero

SITE SPECIFIC CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

- Dr. Julie Jarand - Dr. Howard McEwen Clinical Excellence Award (PLC)
- Dr. Peter Duggan - Dr. John Dawson Clinical Excellence Award (FMC)
- Dr. Brendan Kerr - Dr. Terry Groves Clinical Excellence Award (RGH)
- Dr. David Megran - South Health Campus Clinical Excellence Award
- Dr. Christina Moran-Toro - Dr. Tom Enta Clinical Excellence Award Community
- Dr. Erik Venos - Dr. Martin Atkinson Clinical Excellence Award (RRDTC)

SPECIAL DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- Dr. Braden Manns - Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn Professionalism Award
- Dr. Daniel Muruve - Dr. John M. Conly Innovation Award
- Dr. Anita Dey - Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Award
- Dr. Lorraine Lau & Dr. Nathalie Saad - Team Builder of the Year Award for the UCalgary Endocrinology Reproductive Program
- Dr. Kelle Hurd - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Award
- Dr. Amita Mahajan & Dr. Fareed Kamar - Early Career Clinical Excellence Award
- Dr. Ward Flemons - Dr. Jane Lemaire Physician Wellness Award
- Dr. Humberto Jijon - Citizenship Award

IMRP FACULTY AWARDS

- Dr. Irene Ma - Golden Bull Award
- Dr. Simon Taylor - Silver Finger Award
- Dr. Brandon Christensen - Silver Tongue Award
- Dr. Christopher Oleynick - Rookie of the Year Award
- Dr. Nathan Leader - Ectopic Award
- Dr. Michael Bosch - Repeat Offender Award
- Dr. Chris Ma - Research Preceptor Award
- Dr. Kelle Hurd - Work-Life Balance Award
- Jennifer Cowles - Allied Health Award
- Dr. Aaron Low - Rural Teaching Excellence Award

IMRP AWARDS - RESIDENT CLERKSHIP

- Dr. Heather Halperin - Dr. Kimberly Nix Benevolent Heart Award
- Dr. Hannah Yaphe - Resident Research Award
- Dr. Shivani Tauh & Dr. Roko Nikolic - Resident Professionalism Award
- Dr. David Campbell & Dr. Nicole Brockmann - Resident Medical Education Award
- Dr. Morgan Sosniuk - Resident Wellness Award
- Dr. Adina Landsberg - Resident Leadership

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Join us in congratulating the following members for their achievements over the past few months



COMMUNITY

Submit your photos to Dom.announcements@ahs.ca



GIM Crew having some fun over the holidays.



Pajama Party after the DOM Annual Awards Celebration

FOOTHILLS CAMPUS COMMUNITY PANTRY

NEW: Ability to send monetary donations for the community pantry through this giving page.
[https://engage.ucalgary.ca/Foothills Pantry](https://engage.ucalgary.ca/Foothills%20Pantry)



CSM continues to host a Community Pantry in the Health Sciences Centre Atrium (by the staircase near the Hippocrates statue). If you would like to donate to help stock the pantry, please see the list of [suggested items on the website](#). This is a community initiative and therefore any items should just be added directly into the pantry (items are not collected).
[Full Information](#)

DOM PEER SUPPORT TEAM



**Department of Medicine
Peer Support Team**

For questions or a list of the Peer Support Team members contact:

Dr. Jane Lemaire
Peer Support Team Physician Coordinator
lemaire@ucalgary.ca

The practice of medicine is rewarding but may at times be challenging. At some point, you may feel the need to seek support from a colleague.

The Department of Medicine has a group of formally trained peer supporters available as a resource for our colleagues. We encourage you to bring forth **any issue at any time**.

Any of our peer supporters listed on the contact information sheet can be reached through email or cell phone to set up a time to connect.

Department of Medicine





The Crossing at Ghost River
Highway 40 (25 minutes NW of Cochrane)



The Department of Medicine &
the Centre for Mindfulness present:

MINDFUL PRACTICE IN MEDICINE[®]

A workshop designed to:

- address burnout
- energize clinical work
- find joy, resilience & community

Facilitators:



Dr. Todd Hill



Dr. Susan Kuhn



Dr. Ward Flemons

Dates: March 5 (mid-afternoon) to March 8 (afternoon), 2025

Fees: \$1650.00 + GST (Fee includes 3 nights of accommodation, meals and training)

Register: [Wellness Retreat Registration](https://engage.ucalgary.ca/MPIM-March2025)

(<https://engage.ucalgary.ca/MPIM-March2025>)

For any questions - please contact: Ward Flemons (flemons@ucalgary.ca)

Title: Mindful Practice in Medicine

Location: The Crossing at Ghost River (Highway 40 – 25 minutes NW of Cochrane)

Dates: March 5 (late afternoon) to March 8 (afternoon), 2025

Facilitators: Todd Hill, Ward Flemons, Sue Kuhn

Register: <https://engage.ucalgary.ca/MPIM-March2025>

Fee: \$1650 + GST (covers 3 nights / meals / training)

Inquires: Ward Flemons (flemons@ucalgary.ca)

Transition Out of Practice: Supper Meeting Series for Late Career Physicians

Who Am I Now? Supporting Each Other Through Late Career Transitions

A Commensality Group by Well Doc Alberta

Commensality (noun):

1. The practice of eating together
2. A social group that eats together

Commensality groups were brought to the forefront of Physician Wellness initiatives through research by West et al⁽¹⁾ at Mayo Clinic who showed that the act of regularly sharing a meal with colleagues and exploring the meaning, impact, and challenges of various aspects of physician life significantly improved overall physician wellness.

This informal, facilitated session will be an in-person dinner gathering with colleagues contemplating transitioning out of practice.

Session Goals:

1. To share perspectives amongst peers contemplating transitioning out of practice.
2. To explore with one another the meaning of our professional identity and how it may impact our wellness as we think about transitioning out of practice.
3. To support one another as we prepare ourselves for late career transitions.

(1) West CP, et al. A randomized controlled trial evaluating the effect of COMPASS (Colleagues Meeting to Promote and Sustain Satisfaction) small group sessions on physician well-being, meaning, and job satisfaction. J Gen Intern Med. 2015 Jan;30(suppl 2):45.

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 | 1800 – 2030 | In-person

Registration is required: <https://ucdom-toop1.eventbrite.ca>

Location: W21C Multipurpose Room (*Cal Wenzel Precision Health Building-CWPH*)

Session Facilitators

Dr. Lara Cooke MD MSc FRCPC (Neurology)

Dr. Jane Lemaire MD FRCPC (General Internal Medicine)

Well Doc Alberta is an initiative aimed at advancing a collaborative, co-operative, pan-provincial approach to physician wellness. Our work, focused on education and prevention, is supported by the science of physician wellness and driven by need. We work with physicians at the grassroots level and with leadership to grow capacity, empower change, and shift culture. **Learn more at welldocalberta.org**



REMINDERS - AHS PROVIDED EMAILS

USE OF AHS IT-PROVIDED EMAILS FOR COMMUNICATION WITH MEDICAL STAFF – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 22, 2024

Effective Oct. 22, 2024, AHS and Recovery Alberta will only use AHS-IT provided email addresses when communicating with medical staff by email. AHS IT-provided accounts include those ending with @albertahealthservices.ca, @ahs.ca, @albertaprecisionlabs.ca, @apl.ca, @covenanthealth.ca and @recoveryalberta.ca.

As of Oct. 22, you are required to use physicians' AHS IT-provisioned email addresses for AHS business.

There are many reasons for this requirement, with the most significant being protection of sensitive information and mitigation of cybersecurity risks. All AHS IT-provided email content is stored on protected servers in Alberta and all transmissions between AHS IT-provided email accounts are encrypted. This helps ensure secure communications.

Provincial Medical Affairs will update the Appointment & Privileging (A&P) system on Oct. 22 to ensure all preferred email addresses are switched to AHS IT-provided email addresses automatically. If you currently have a preferred email address that is not one of our organizational email addresses, we will automatically make it your secondary email for emergency or exceptional contact.

Through upgrades and updates to Outlook, setting up and accessing your AHS IT-provided email account is easy. You can access it using your own personal device by registering it with AHS' Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, or you can access it through webmail. If you have questions regarding BYOD, or how to set-up your organizational email on your device, review the Frequently Asked Questions document (login required). You can also call the AHS IT service desk at 1-877-311-4300. For other questions, please contact your Zone or Recovery Alberta Medical Affairs team.

NOCTURNIST PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

The DoM Nocturnist Program provides an excellent opportunity for attending staff in the department to stay connected with acute inpatient medicine. Nocturnists are attending staff who, along with residents and Associate Physicians, provide overnight in-house coverage for GIM and subspecialty admissions as well as ward coverage for non-teaching GIM patients. Shifts run from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. at FMC, PLC and RGH. Remuneration is fee for service.

Reach out to Dr. Chandra Thomas at Chandra.thomas@ahs.ca for more information.

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

CARMS INTERVIEWS

Dates needed are January 30 am, February 5 am & pm.

The R1 IMRP CaRMS Interviews is being held virtually, via Zoom again this year

[Sign Up Genius](#)

R3 PROBLEM BASED LEARNING

Dates needed March 19, April 9 and May 21, 1 – 5 pm

All sessions will be held over Zoom. All material is provided. Sessions will run from 12:45 - approx. 4:45 pm.

[Sign Up Genius](#)

PGY3 OSCE

Dates needed April 16 & 30, 1 – 5 pm

The Standard OSCE exam is a formative exam, meaning that it is for resident practice only. Although the stations are marked, this feedback is for residents only and will not be part of their file. The stations are designed in a similar format to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Internal Medicine Specialty Examination. There will be 6 stations, each station will be 12 minutes long with 2 additional minutes for feedback. All information will be provided.

[Sign Up Genius](#)

RESIDENT RESEARCH DAY - ABSTRACT REVIEWERS AND SAVE THE DATE

The IMRP is recruiting for faculty to help review resident research abstracts in advance of Resident Research Day. We anticipate each reviewer will receive 10-20 abstracts to review for a time commitment of 1-2 hours. [Please sign up here for abstract review](#)

Also save the date for IMRP Resident Research Day: May 7, 2025 (9:00am-4:00pm). The IMRP Resident Research Day would not be the success it is without your support and assistance, and for that we THANK YOU!

DOM EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM ACTION COMMITTEE

CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A NEPHROLOGY DIVISION MEMBER

We are looking for members to join the Department of Medicine's Equity and Anti-Racism Action Committee - these members will attend quarterly meetings and will be supported to implement EDIA initiatives in their divisions, working with their section leaders. Interested members should e-mail Dr. Shannon Ruzycki or Dr. Zahra Goodarzi for more information.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SPRING 2025 - REVIEWER IN TRAINING CIHR

CIHR is currently accepting applications to the [Spring 2025 Reviewer in training program](#). Please encourage any eligible early career researchers in your departments and institutes to consider applying. This is a fantastic opportunity for early career researchers to learn what reviewers look for in CIHR Project Grants, what happens at the peer review committee meetings, and gain experience as reviewers.

CIHR Deadline to Apply: February 5, 2025

- Interested ECRs in the Cumming School of Medicine are asked to email me (brandi.povitz@ucalgary.ca) by January 22, 2025, to request a letter from the dean confirming their ECR status and appointment.

Eligibility: All applicants to the Reviewer in Training Program (RiT) must meet [CIHR's definition of an ECR](#) and be working at a Canadian institution on March 5, 2025. ECRs who have previously reviewed for the CIHR Project Grant competition or are [Full College Members](#) are not eligible to apply. ECRs can apply as mentees or ECR reviewers.

- **Mentees:** Must not have previously participated in the RiT Program (ECRs who have previously participated as a Mentee may be eligible to apply as ECR Reviewers)
- **ECR Reviewers:** Must hold at least one recent federally funded (or equivalent) peer reviewed grant as a Principal Investigator. ECRs who have previously participated in the RiT Program as Mentees and now meet the ECR Reviewer criteria are eligible to apply as ECR Reviewers. ECRs who have previously participated as ECR Reviewers are not eligible to apply.

As a reminder CIHR extended the period of eligible to 84 months for those who held ECR status between March 1, 2020, and September 15, 2022. Researchers who received their first independent appointment after September 15, 2022, receive the standard 60 months of ECR status.

More details and a link to apply are provided in [CIHR's call for applications](#).

NSERC CREATE ([LINK](#))

Research Services is launching the 2025 intake for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) [2026 Collaborative Research and Training Experience](#) (CREATE) program.

Faculty members who would like to participate in the 2026 competition must submit an [internal Notice of Intent](#) to Research Services by January 27, 2025

Program changes beginning 2025: NSERC notified institutions in November 2024 of program changes (details expected in February/March 2025):

1. The removal of institutional quotas.
New in 2025, there will be no institutional selection process to determine which CREATE proposals will be submitted as part of the institutional quota. It is expected, however, that all CREATE proposals submitted to NSERC will meet the rigorous requirements of the funding program.
2. Adjudication at the LOI stage will be determined by the total number of CREATE LOIs submitted by an institution.
 - NSERC will set an “allocation” number for each university (TBD by January 2025). If a university submits more than that allocation, all LOIs led by researchers/teams at that institution will be adjudicated at the LOI stage (i.e., not all will be invited to the full application review process). If an institution submits fewer than the allocation number, all LOIs will automatically proceed to full
 - application with no adjudication.
3. The content and format of the LOI will be communicated from NSERC by March 2025.

For questions on NSERC Create email: [Parneet Jaggi](#)

RESEARCH SUPPORT ENVIRONMENT

Human Organoid Innovation Hub

Did you know...The Human Organoid Innovation Hub (HOIH) is a Snyder Institute core facility with a vision to utilize organoid systems to drive cutting edge research.

Their mission is to use patient tissue to grow organoids that can be used to advance precision medicine.

To do this they offer guidance in designing and executing experiments using this model system and provide assistance by testing and development of novel organoid protocols while striving to deliver the most current innovations and technologies to support the CSM research community.

Services offered by the HOIH to the research community:

- Consultation on organoid projects/experiments and protocol sharing.
- Training support for organoid isolation, maintenance, Immunofluorescence preparation and RNA/DNA/protein isolation.
- Culturing two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) organoids.
- Generation and maintenance of mouse organoids.
- Generation and maintenance of healthy and diseased human intestinal organoids.
- Organ-on-a-chip organoids in isolation or co-culture.
- Bioassay or custom culture development.

To find out more, view their [website for more information](#) on their equipment and services.

CIHR 2025 SPRING PROJECT GRANT INFO SESSIONS

The CSM Grant Development team will be providing two information sessions to help applicants (and teams) prepare for the Spring 2025 CIHR Project Grant competition. We will provide tips for completing and submitting your Project Grant registration and application. We will also cover recent changes to the Project Grant competition and application requirements. Please encourage any staff or trainees who will be assisting with your application to attend. Questions about the information sessions or the Spring 2025 CIHR Project Grant competition? Contact brandi.povitz@ucalgary.ca

Info Session #1

January 23, 2025
10 – 11:30 a.m.
In-person, HS 1405B
[Register](#)

Info Session #2

February 3, 2025
1 – 2:30 p.m.
Zoom
[Register](#)

GRANT BASICS: HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH GRANT

For researchers and their staff. Planning to submit a research grant this spring? This short webinar will help you (and your staff) submit your research grant application without a hitch. We will explain what faculty members need to do to submit a research grant to a funding agency.

February 12 | 1-2 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS IN EDUCATION SESSIONS

Join host Kiara Mikita, PhD (she/her/Dr.), the [Sexual Violence Educator](#) for the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) and Alberta Health Services (AHS) as she engages in lively and playful 40-minute conversations with local experts over the lunch hour.

5 Reasons you should want to normalize talk about sexual and gender-based violence in your personal and professional Life.

January 28 | 12:10 - 12:50 | Zoom | [Register here](#)

Learn why it is important to normalize talk about sex and gender so that violence isn't made more permissible in silence about it all.

5 Things you probably didn't know - and should - about consent

February 12 | 12:10 - 12:50 | Zoom | [Register here](#)

Take a less common look at consent and why doing good consent work everyday benefits everyone.

5 mistakes people are afraid to make about diversity and sexual & gender based violence

March 5 | 12:10 - 12:50 | Zoom | [Register here](#)

Learn why doing nothing is not neutral and how much richer and stronger our practices become when we incorporate inclusive, accessible, and diverse considerations.

5 Everyday strategies you can use to help create comfort and safety when discussing harm

March 26 | 12:10 - 12:50 | Zoom | [Register here](#)

Learn why doing nothing is not neutral and how much richer and stronger our practices become when we incorporate inclusive, accessible, and diverse considerations.

5 problematic assumption you might be making about how you show up in the world

March 26 | 12:10 - 12:50 | Zoom | [Register here](#)

Explore some key questions we can ask ourselves about how to reflect on and consider how we show up in the world, and how to course correct where needed.

SUPPORT FOR PPIP

Is here to Simplify, Understand & Perform Practice Optimization Requirements Together (SUPPORT) to the meet the requirements for the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP)

Register
Now

[https://ecme.ucalgary.ca/
programs/support-for-ppip](https://ecme.ucalgary.ca/programs/support-for-ppip)



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Continuing Medical Education
and Professional Development

SUPPORT for PPIP

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Get Step-by-Step Guidance

- Interactive web content provides you detailed guidance
- Working webinar sessions with expert facilitators will walk you through each step of developing an action plan
- Join a community of healthcare providers that is dedicated to supporting each other



Generate Your Data with Built-in Tools and Reports

- Generate your practice data from patient charts using online questionnaire's based on CPSA's Standards of Practice that provide data reports; viewable right inside the online learning platform
- User-friendly design that makes data gathering easy for providers with little to no experience in QI

Earn Credit Hours & Meet Requirements for PPIP

- Earn CME credit hours with the CFPC or RCPSC
- Be equipped to respond with confidence to potential PPIP activity audits by the CPSA
- Complete all 3 PPIP activities in 1 program



2025 BETHUNE ROUND TABLE IN GLOBAL SURGERY

Hosted by University of Calgary
Cumming School of Medicine
Department of Surgery

Click here to [register!](#)
Click here to [submit an abstract!](#)

WHAT IS IT?

The Bethune Round Table (BRT) is an annual interdisciplinary conference dedicated to addressing the challenges of delivering accessible, high-quality surgical & anesthetic care to marginalized patients in underserved areas, both locally & globally. It provides a platform for health professionals from diverse disciplines & regions to exchange knowledge, share experiences, & collaborate on solutions.

When: May 23-25, 2025

Where: Health Sciences Centre
of Foothills Medical Centre



Click here to [register!](#)

Click here to submit an [abstract!](#)

2025BRT Theme

Pursuing Equity in Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma
& Anaesthesia (SOTA) Care: Bridging the Gap

- ...Through Research
- ...Through Multidirectional Teaching & Learning Programs
- ...Through Multidisciplinary Innovations
- ...In Hostile Environments