



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

News and updates

February 2023

50th Anniversary Gala

The Department of Family Medicine is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on May 26, 2023. Visit [Entrada](#) for gala information and tickets.

Nominations for the 50th Anniversary Awards have been extended to February 17, 2023. Please refer to [Entrada](#) for further information on the nomination process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty profiles

Faculty members in the Department of Family Medicine, including NILs and GFTs, can now showcase their work and achievements by creating a profile page on the University of Manitoba website. The process is simple:

1. Visit <https://umanitoba.ca/health-sciences/faculty-profile-form> to submit your information
2. The page will be built for you and you will be offered a chance to review before publication.
3. A profile photo is required, which can be sent to support@umanitoba.ca after completing the form.

No research requirement is necessary to create a profile, so all faculty members in the Department of Family Medicine are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Access Improvement Model (AIM) program

The Department of Family Medicine has teamed up with Shared Health to create the Access Improvement Model (AIM) program. This program is designed to help primary care teams improve patient access by teaching them about quality improvement, change management, and team-building skills.

Participating teams will attend eight one-hour workshops, which will be tailored to fit the clinic's schedule. They will also complete a mentored project to reinforce their newfound skills and knowledge, which will help them to continue making ongoing improvements, both access-related and otherwise.

The AIM facilitation team will provide ongoing support to clinics to help ensure the success of their quality improvement efforts. We are proud to launch the AIM program with teams from Percy E. Moore Primary Care Clinic and Access Fort Garry as our first participants.

If you're interested in learning more about the AIM program, please visit the AIM website or contact the team at aim@umanitoba.ca.

Scholarly activity

The Department of Family Medicine is proud to announce the compilation of its annual report of scholarly activity. This comprehensive report showcases the achievements and dedication of the department over the past two years, from July 2021 to June 2023. The report will be submitted to the Dean's office of Max Rady College of Medicine later this month.

Over the course of the reporting period, the Department of Family Medicine and affiliated colleagues have been productive, authoring or co-authoring more than 125 peer-reviewed publications. Additionally, their work has been displayed at over 100 posters and invited presentations, highlighting their impressive research and contributions to the field of family medicine.

This snapshot of the department's scholarly activity is only a glimpse into their exceptional work and dedication over the past year. The department continues to strive for excellence and make significant contributions to the advancement of family medicine.

PUBLICATIONS

The following items have been published since our last newsletter:

Singh J, Singer AG, Paige A. "Introducing change management education program for family medicine residents: a demonstration project." CMEJ, 2023. ePub ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.76015> (Available in French and English).

Telencoe S, Singer A, Kosowan L, Dart AB. "An analysis of sex differences and socioeconomic deprivation among Canadian children with high blood pressure: a retrospective cross-sectional study." Pediatric Nephrology, 2022.

Singer A, Kosowan L, LaBine L, Shenoda D, Katz A, Abrams EM, Halas G, Wong ST, Talpade S, Kirby S, Baldwin A, Francois J. "Characterizing the use of virtual care in primary care settings during the COVID-19 pandemic: a retrospective cohort study." BMC Primary Care, 2022; 23:320.

Singer A, Kosowan L, Muthumuni D, Katz A, Zafari H, Zulkernine F, Richardson JD, Price M, Williamson T, Queenan J, Sareen J. "Characterizing primary care patients with posttraumatic stress disorder using electronic medical records: a retrospective cross-sectional study." Family Practice, December 2022 (ePub ahead of print).

Singer A, Kosowan L, Abrams EM, Katz A, Lix L, Leong K, Paige A. "Implementing an audit and feedback cycle to improve adherence to the Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations: clustered randomized trial." BMC Primary Care, 2022; 23:302.

Kosowan L, Singer A, Zulkernine F, Zafari H, Nesca M, Muthumuni D. "Pan-Canadian electronic medical record diagnostic and unstructured text data for capturing PTSD: retrospective observational study." JMIR Medical Informatics, 2022; 10(12):e41312.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Interested in joining us?

Vacant positions can be viewed online on [Entrada](#).

Arrivals and departures

We're excited to introduce several new team members to the Department of Family Medicine:

After five years of dedicated service on the MPAS team, Jenessa Grabski has transitioned to a role as projects and program evaluation coordinator within the Department of Family Medicine.

We welcome Dr. Donna Neufeld as a new faculty family physician at Northern Connections Medical Centre (NCMC) and Dr. Soujanya Chavali, who will also join us as a GFT physician and serve as Northern Remote R1 Education Director. Aimee Schwager has joined us as a designated Indigenous social worker, and Chantelle Swan and Kristen Skrumeda have joined as designated Indigenous primary care nurse and assistant, respectively.

Sherin Paraplammoottil Cheriyan has joined the Office of Research and Quality Improvement as a research assistant for the Can Treat COVID study. She brings a background in pharmacy and a master of science in pharmacy from the University of Manitoba.

We're also proud to announce the addition of Elder Beverley Courchene, an Anishinaabe Knowledge Keeper, supported by short-term project funding from the MB Chapter of Family Physicians. This new addition aims to support the wellness of our patients, residents, and staff while promoting Anishinaabe ways of being and healing.

We say farewell to Dr. Lisa Craig, who has departed NCMC after 10 years as a GFT. We thank her for her dedication and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

It is with mixed feelings that we announce the upcoming retirement of Dr. Nene Rush from Kildonan Medical Centre (KMC) on March 31, 2023. We thank her for her many years of service and wish her well in retirement.

In Memoriam:

Cathy Higham

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Cathy Higham. Cathy passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on January 23, 2023, at the age of 69. Our thoughts are with her family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Cathy had a long history with us, starting with her role as Clerkship Program Administrator, taking care of Med 3 & 4 students and placing them in rural family medicine rotations. Following retirement she returned to fill in as Program Administrator.

In honor of Cathy's memory, the family has requested that donations be made to the True North Youth Foundation. A celebration of Cathy's life will be held in the spring. Full obituary available [here](#)

We will keep you informed of next steps for administrative support in our program. In the meantime, Kim will be available to respond to any inquiries at PHPM@umanitoba.ca.

RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS

Annual quality improvement event

The Department of Family Medicine's commitment to advancing health care in Manitoba was on full display at the recent virtual annual quality improvement event, where second-year residents presented their quality improvement projects.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all residents for their contributions to the successful event, held on January 20. The quality of the projects was exceptional, making it a challenging task to determine the top projects. However, we are proud to announce the following as the top three:

1st Place: Improving Physician Access at Centre Medical Seine - Residents: Drs. Nicole Bourrier, Deanna Rudiak, Marise Svistovski.

2nd Place: A Prospective Initiative to Improve Urine Drug Screening for Access River East Patients with Opioid Prescriptions using Accuro - Residents: Drs. Ka Yan Xu, Sam Marleau.

3rd Place: Documentation of Smoking Status as a Means to Promote Cessation - Residents: Drs. Nikola Svitlica, Brennan Kaita, Janessa Jacobs, Blake Ducharme.

We would like to commend the hard work and dedication of these residents and all those who participated.

EVENTS

Valentine's Day bake sale

The MPAS Class of 2024 is holding a Valentine's Day bake sale in Brodie Atrium on February 14, from 11 AM to 1 PM, to raise funds for their graduation dinner. The bake sale will be accepting payment by donation, and both cash and cards are welcome. All proceeds from the sale will go towards the MPAS Class of 2024 graduation.

Pick up a sweet treat and support a great cause!