



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

News and updates

July 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)

Thank you!

We would like to thank the department of Family Medicine for hosting the 50th Anniversary Gala. The event was a great success, and we were happy to be a part of the evening. Six of our faculty and staff, two year 2 students, six of our year 1 students and five graduate physician assistants all attended the event.

On behalf of all of us, we would like to say thank you for having us.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Welcome!

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) team would like to welcome Crystal Swain. Crystal is a great addition in her role as a program administrator and we look forward to her contributions to our program.

AWARDS

50th Anniversary Award Recipients

At the recent 50th Anniversary Gala, we honoured outstanding individuals for their contributions to teaching, leadership, research, and community engagement. Here are some highlights:

Postgraduate Teacher of the Year: Dr. Joanna Lynch, recognized for her leadership in shaping the northern and remote curriculum and her commitment to addressing community needs.

Early Career Development: Dr. Aaron Jattan, praised for his dedication to teaching, research and improving rural medical education.

Early Career Development Award: Rebecca Mueller, interim program director and academic coordinator for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies, acknowledged for her strong leadership and efforts in curriculum development and program expansion.

Excellence in Social Accountability: Dr. Alan Katz, affiliated with the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, commended for his commitment to equity, accessibility and establishing relationships with Indigenous communities.

Leadership Excellence: Dr. Ganesan Abbu, recognized for his outstanding leadership in critical care, advocacy for regional funding and mentorship of medical students and resident physicians.

Research and Quality Improvement: Dr. Alex Singer, Director of the Office of Research and Quality Improvement, applauded for his extensive research accomplishments, leadership in primary care innovation and commitment to data-driven patient-oriented research.

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Teaching Site of the Year: Portage Clinic, acknowledged for providing valuable experiences to learners and its excellence in education, scholarship and comprehensive care.

Resident of the Year: Dr. Kari Johnson and Dr. Katrina Leong, commended for their leadership, vision, and commitment to community engagement and medical education.

Undergraduate Teacher of the Year: Dr. Francine Paquin, recognized for her exceptional teaching, commitment to advancing knowledge and positive influence on medical students.

Staff Excellence: Michelle Jubenvill, honored for her instrumental role in the Parkland Unit, her dedication to learners and to a positive work environment.

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Awards

Leadership Award: Megan Skakum, acknowledged for her academic excellence and patient-centered approach to care.

Capstone Award: Madeline Murray, recognized for her outstanding performance in the Clinical Year Capstone Project and primary research on trauma-informed care.

Congratulations to all the award recipients for their remarkable achievements and contributions to the Department of Family Medicine!

Congratulations to Dr. Deni Pirnat!

We are delighted to acknowledge Dr. Deni Pirnat for receiving the prestigious 2022 Hemophilia Organization Twins of the Year Award. This recognition is a testament to Dr. Pirnat's outstanding contributions and dedication. Congratulations, Dr. Pirnat, on this well-deserved honour!

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATION

Strategies used in scaling-up eConsult across Canadian provinces

In a recent publication in *Evaluation and Program Planning*, Dr. Alex Singer and colleagues examined the scaling-up process of eConsult in four Canadian provinces. Their study identified key strategies including rigorous evaluation, stakeholder committees, securing endorsements, and funding diversification. Challenges remain due to a lack of clear processes supporting innovation scaling in health care systems.

[Learn more >](#)

PUBLICATION

Alternative treatment approaches to OUD, including SR0M (Kadian®)

Rafiq Andani's publication on alternative treatment approaches to Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), focusing on SR0M (Kadian®), is featured in the *Manitoba Opioid Agonist Therapy Recommended Practice Manual* by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. This article provides valuable insights for health care professionals.

[Learn more >](#)

PUBLICATION

Risk of muscle symptoms while taking statins

Jamie Falk, Allison Paige, Nicolas Dugré, and G. Michael Allan have authored a new publication titled "Risk of muscle symptoms while taking statins." This informative article is featured in the May 2023 issue of *Canadian Family Physician* (Vol. 69, No. 5, pp. 337).

[Learn more >](#)

PRESENTATION

Top studies of 2022 relevant to primary care

The PEER team, including Danielle Perry, Samantha S. Moe, Betsy Thomas, Adrienne J. Lindblad, Jessica Kirkwood, Jamie Falk, Jen Potter, Allison Paige, and G. Michael Allan, has published "Top studies of 2022 relevant to primary

care" in the May 2023 issue of *Canadian Family Physician* (Vol. 69, No. 5, pp. 325-329). This clinical review provides valuable insights for primary care practitioners.

[Learn more >](#)

EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

MPAS Inaugural Ceremony for Class of 2025

Join us in welcoming the incoming Class of 2025 to the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program. We are excited to meet the new students and invite you to mark your calendars for the Inaugural Ceremony on September 1, 2023.

Please stay tuned for more details, coming soon!

REMINDER

The next e-newsletter from Family Medicine is planned for the **first week of August**. Appropriate submissions include:

- Staff changes (arrivals/departures)
- Departmental news and announcements
- Recently published articles/books/chapters
- Awards
- Upcoming events

Deadline for submissions: July 24.

[Submit your news >](#)
