



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

**News and updates**

**October 2023**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Promotion and tenure for faculty

Faculty members, submit your updated CV to Debby Hando at [debby.hando@umanitoba.ca](mailto:debby.hando@umanitoba.ca) by November 30, 2023. Our committee will review it in December and provide initial feedback. Full applications due by April 14, 2024 (senior/associate professors) or May 26, 2024 (assistant professors). We offer support and guidance throughout the process. Key components include your CV, a university form (Part A), external reviewers, teaching evaluations, and documentation of contributions in research, teaching and service/administration. Professionals without a graduate degree can pursue promotion within the instructor stream.

#### **For more information:**

Contact: Alexander Singer

Title: Chair of Promotions and Awards Committee

Phone: 204-940-2040

Email: [alexander.singer@umanitoba.ca](mailto:alexander.singer@umanitoba.ca)

[Learn more, UM Login required](#) >

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## APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

### Winnipeg Foundation Martha Donovan Women's Leadership Development Award

The Winnipeg Foundation Martha Donovan Fund has launched its \$250,000 fund aimed at supporting leadership development opportunities for women in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Female students, post-docs, residents and academic faculty members (full-time or part-time) are encouraged to apply by November 1, 2023.

[Learn more](#) >

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## JOIN OUR STUDY

### Help shape health care for individuals experiencing homelessness

The department of family medicine at University of Manitoba, in collaboration with community members, invites community-based health care providers to participate in a research study. Led by Dr. Gayle Halas, the team aims to develop and test a transition process to support homeless individuals after a cardiac event, incorporating peer-support workers and designated shelter units.

Your input is needed to understand the perceived medical needs and barriers faced by individuals experiencing homelessness. Participate in a 45-minute focus group at your preferred clinic site or schedule a 1-to-1 interview at a location and time convenient for you (in-person or virtual). An honorarium will be provided for your time.

#### For more information:

Contact: Dr. Gayle Halas

Phone: 204-977-5666

Email: [gayle.halas@umanitoba.ca](mailto:gayle.halas@umanitoba.ca)

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## **NEW PODCAST EPISODE ALERT: As PER Usual**

Check out our latest episode of "As PER Usual", a podcast that explores patient engagement in research: Creating a world of wonder: Supporting capacity building in patient engagement. Listen to our audio interview with our guests, Yvonne Pelling and Dr. Annie LeBlanc.

[Learn more](#) >

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## **AIM Training**

Practice facilitation is gaining popularity as an approach to enhance health care delivery by improving efficiency, prioritizing patient-centered care, and ensuring continuity of care. Practice facilitators fulfill various roles, including organizing quality improvement initiatives, helping staff use data for quality improvement (QI), promoting better communication through team-building, sharing best practices, and showcasing successful care quality improvements by other organizations.

Moreover, practice facilitators play a crucial role in fostering interest in change, guiding practices in setting goals, implementing new workflow processes, collaboratively resolving process-related challenges, and integrating health information technology.

Access Improvement Model (AIM) has successfully completed pilot site training. In AIM, we are committed to providing continuous support from our dedicated practice facilitators. Achieving real change extends beyond eight workshops, and our AIM team is dedicated to offering ongoing practice facilitation to support ongoing improvement efforts. This sustained support helps groups progress into the sustainability and expansion phase of their quality improvement work, maintaining momentum.

To learn more, visit the [AIM website](#) or email [aim@umanitoba.ca](mailto:aim@umanitoba.ca).

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## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **For fly-in doctors of Manitoba, work is far from home but close to the action**

Remote nursing stations are a lifeline for First Nations and rural communities, and a fulfilling challenge for the physicians who choose the demanding line of work.

[Read more >](#)

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## FACULTY AND STAFF

### **Staff changes**

Congratulations to **Dr. Katherine Kearns** and her family med obstetrics colleagues, who have been co-appointed to the department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences.

**Dr. Aaron Jattan** has accepted the position of associate program director for the family medicine residency program.

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## Staff changes continued

**Dr. Sameer Kassim** has accepted the position of professorship in family medicine research and innovation.

**Dr. Sameer Kassim** holds the role of associate medical director at Nine Circles Community Health Centre and serves as an assistant professor in the department of family medicine. With over a decade of experience, Dr. Kassim has a rich background in clinical medicine, education and administration, gained in diverse health care settings across northern, rural and urban communities, as well as in acute medical and laboratory services in Canada, the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

Dr. Kassim holds a master's degree in molecular immunology, virology and inflammation. He completed his medical training at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and pursued residency training in medical microbiology, the Clinical Investigator Program, and the Family Medicine Residency at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Kassim's research primarily focuses on viral infections, HIV-1 co-infections and testing. However, his research interests are expansive, encompassing a wide range of collaborative areas. Presently, Dr. Kassim is actively engaged in studies related to infectious diseases, the complexities of care in HIV, infection prevention and control, addictions medicine, medical education and virtual medicine.

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# AWARDS AND HONOURS

## Doctors Manitoba Top 40 Under 40 award

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rafiq Andani has been honored with the prestigious Doctors Manitoba Top 40 Under 40 award. This award is dedicated to outstanding health care professionals and medical students in Manitoba, all under the age of 40, who have displayed remarkable accomplishments in research, clinical practice, education, leadership and advocacy for enhanced patient care, as well as the well-being of fellow physicians and students. Congratulations to Rafiq for this outstanding recognition!

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## Regional Medical Advisory Council's Physician Emeritus Award

Congratulations to Dr. Don Klassen, who will be presented the Regional Medical Advisory Council 's Physician Emeritus Award later this month. He is also a 2023 recipient of the province's Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

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# PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

## ARTICLE

### Tools for practice naltrexone-bupropion for weight loss

Medicine's Betsy Thomas, Adrienne J. Lindblad and Allison Paige, along with Thao Luu, contributed to an article published in the *Canadian Family Physician (CFP)*. The article explores the efficacy of the combination of naltrexone-bupropion for weight loss. The researchers found that about half of the patients taking this combination achieved a 5% or greater loss in body weight, compared to about 20% in the placebo group. The study is featured in the September 2023 issue of CFP (Volume 69). For further details, follow DOI: 10.46747/cfp.6909627.

## PRESENTATION

### **SPIDER, a structured approach to quality improvement for deprescribing: Feasibility evaluation**

Dr. Alexander Singer is among the co-authors of a research presentation being showcased at the 2023 Trillium Primary Health Care Research Day in Toronto. The study, led by Michelle Greiver from the University of Toronto will be orally presented. The research reveals the feasibility of the SPIDER approach in tackling polypharmacy among Canadians aged 65 years or older.

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## LETTER

### **Enhanced access but increased testing with virtual care: Insights from a multinational survey**

A letter co-authored by Dr. Alexander Singer titled, "Enhanced access but increased testing with virtual care: insights from a multinational survey" has been published in *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*. The letter discusses the impact of the surge in virtual care, particularly in primary care, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors examine a multinational survey of primary care physician perspectives on how virtual care has altered their clinical practices, revealing that while virtual care offers benefits such as improved timeliness of care and effective mental health assessment, it also leads to more test ordering and greater antibiotic prescribing. Learn more on the BMJ's website under DOI: [10.1136/bmjebm-2023-112582](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjebm-2023-112582).

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## FUNDING

### **SAFE-CKD designing and implementing a safety net surveillance program for high-risk CKD**

Kudos to the department of family medicine's principal investigator Navdeep Tangri and co-investigators Alexander Singer, David Collister, Amit X Garg and Ann Young, who have been awarded significant funding for their project. They secured a total of \$345,000 from various sources: CIHR (\$200,000), Research Manitoba (\$40,000), TD Bank (\$70,000) and Bayer Pharmaceuticals (\$35,000).

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## EVENTS

**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!**

### **Max Rady College of Medicine 140th Anniversary Gala**

Saturday, November 18, 2023

RBC Convention Centre

Cocktail reception: 6:00 PM

Gala dinner: 7:00 PM

This year marks the University of Manitoba medical school's 140th anniversary. As Western Canada's oldest medical school, we have much to be proud of as faculty, staff, learners and alumni. To commemorate this historic milestone, Max Rady College of Medicine is hosting a gala and we are seeking your support and presence at this special event. Individual tickets may be purchased through Eventbrite and [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available on our website. [Purchase tickets](#) >

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### **FAREWELL CELEBRATION**

#### **Dr. José François**

Date: December 1, 2023

Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Boardroom A106-Chown Building

Join us in celebrating the successful 10-year tenure of Dr. José François as department head and provincial specialty lead of the department of family medicine. Don't miss this opportunity to say farewell and express your gratitude for Dr. Francois' contributions to the department.

Limited seating is available; please RSVP to [debby.hando@umanitoba.ca](mailto:debby.hando@umanitoba.ca) by November 20.

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Grand Rounds**

Join us for these informative sessions on Thursday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. via Zoom:

November 23, 2023 - Cannabinoid topic  
December 14, 2023  
January 11, 2024  
February 15, 2024  
March 21, 2024  
April 18, 2024  
May 9, 2024  
June 6, 2024

Led by residents with preceptor and multi-disciplinary support, these DFM Grand Rounds are accredited for Mainpro+ credits. More details will be sent for each session.

[Register now](#) >

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Family Medicine Resident's Annual Quality Improvement Day**

Date: Friday, January 26, 2024

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Mark your calendars for the department of family medicine's Annual Quality Improvement Day (QID). This full-day event is dedicated to residents in their second year of training, who will be presenting their quality improvement projects. The QID serves as an annual forum to showcase the residents' QI education and celebrate its application within a primary care setting.

Contact [Alyzia Horsfall](#) for more information.

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## REMINDER

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

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

**Deadline for submissions: October 25**

[Submit your news](#) >

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