

Brief Overview of the Annual Scientific Assembly

Hosted by the Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP), the Annual Scientific Assembly (ASA) is recognized as Alberta's premier conference for family physicians. The conference offers continuing medical education and an opportunity for family physicians to network with colleagues to share best practices in primary care. ***Education for Family Docs by Family Docs!***

The ACFP's ASA Planning Committee oversees the development of the conference, and committee members are family physicians from various locations in Alberta. Historically, the ASA has taken place at the end of February/early March in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

For the past several years, ASA attendance has reached or is near a 350 attendee capacity. Registrants represent a range of practice profiles from different geographic locations; however the majority of attendees are from Alberta. Registration at the ASA is limited to family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students.

The conference begins with the Official Welcome on Thursday afternoon, and sessions conclude late Saturday afternoon.

The ACFP hosts two major events at the ASA:

1. Thursday evening Welcome Reception and Research Poster Presentation (complimentary)
2. Friday night family-friendly celebration, featuring a buffet dinner and dance. Tickets are required.

On occasion, other meetings, special events or celebrations are also scheduled.

Exhibits are an important component of the ASA. Space is sold on a first-come, first-served basis and sells out quickly. The ASA Sponsorship Program offers additional options to become involved with the ACFP's flagship event. For more details regarding exhibit and sponsorship opportunities, contact Susan Wong-Armstrong at susan.wongarmstrong@acfp.ca.

ASA Program

To receive College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) accreditation, the ASA program must meet specific criteria as outlined in the CFPC's [A Guide to Mainpro Accreditation](#). It is the policy of the ACFP to ensure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in all its accredited educational programs.

Through a Call for Presentations process, the ASA Planning Committee reviews proposal submissions to determine if a proposal will be accepted for presentation at the next ASA. Submitters are then notified of the status of their proposal.

The following session types are offered at the ASA:

- **Keynote Presentations**
Scheduled in the first timeslots of the morning and afternoon, keynotes are attended by all registrants.

- **MainPro-C programs**
While MainPro-C programs vary in length, 3 or 4 hour timeslots are most common, spanning a morning or afternoon. Program costs for presenting MainPro-C at the ASA are negotiated between the provider and the ACFP.
- **Workshops** (Clinical, Skill, Knowledge Transfer and Implementation, Program/Policy and Other)
With the exception of skill sessions, ASA workshops are presented twice consecutively to different groups of attendees. A refreshment break occurs between the two presentations.

Skill sessions (such as casting) can be presented in lengthier timeslots, as the schedule allows.

In addition to the Call for Presentations, the selection of programs for the ACFP's ASA is guided by CanMEDS-Family Medicine (CanMEDS-FM), an adaptation of CanMEDS 2005, the competency framework for medical education developed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). For more information visit [CanMEDS-Family Medicine](#).

Ancillary Sessions (formerly Satellite Symposia) Providers can purchase a timeslot during the ASA for the opportunity to present Ancillary Sessions to ASA registrants. These sessions are held during the lunch hour, and pre-registration is required.

Should you require additional information or have further questions about the ACFP's Annual Scientific Assembly, please email Wendy Steele, Coordinator, Communications & Events at wendy.steele@acfp.ca or telephone 780-488-2395 (toll free in Alberta: 1-800-361-0607).

