

**Alberta College of Family Physicians
Annual Meeting of Members – March 2, 2019
Rimrock Resort, Banff, Alberta**

President Vishal Bhella's Inauguration Address

You have heard me speak earlier about some of the highlights of the past year for the ACFP.

That is where we have been. The question is where do we go from here? We are in a state of evolution. There are many emerging trends and issues being discussed across the province and in some cases around the country.

At a provincial level we are looking at the implementation of the Central Patient Attachment Registry and processes around Community Information Integration. The intent of these initiatives is to help facilitate information transfer and availability to coordinate delivery of health care at different levels of the system. More broadly, work around Primary Health Care Integration looks at the transitions in care a patient undertakes in the system and strategies to ensure effective transfer of care and information. We also see ongoing efforts and initiatives to promote progression of the medical home and team based care delivery models. We heard in our keynote earlier today an example of the importance of team based approaches to complex care needs in the case of frailty.

The Greg Price story, which we all heard and learned from yesterday afternoon, is an example of why initiatives like this are important to advancing communication and provision of continuous care through the province.

At a practice level, there are things we can do to improve patient care delivery. The process of continual quality improvement is important and is an area where emerging discussions on how to formalize this in our practices are ongoing. Tomorrow, we will hear about using practice data to improve how we provide care, and how we can relate this process to continuing medical education requirements.

However, with change, we must be mindful of the impact it has. The goal is to enhance and optimize delivery of care to our patients. But we as a profession are also becoming aware of the need to be mindful of the wellbeing of ourselves and our colleagues.



Issues of burnout are a topic of discussion, in our communities, across the province and in fact across the country. There are many variables that influence this, some that we can recognize in ourselves and our colleagues and some that impact us from a broader or systemic level. It is important to support our colleagues and be aware of the signs in ourselves and recognize it is okay to seek help before it drastically impacts ourselves, our families and colleagues or our patients. One of our breakout workshops later today will focus on wellness but I encourage us all to be open about discussing this in our own work settings as well.

Another topical discussion around the country revolves around the role of Family Physicians in the health care system, what value we bring, what makes us unique and integral to the delivery of primary care services. This includes following the basic tenets of the profession – being a resource to a community, delivering longitudinal and continuous care across the age and disease spectrum, including providing care for patients with complex medical conditions, mental health conditions and chronic pain. The CFPC's Family Medicine professional profile helps identify the various domains us as a profession serve in the health care system. By demonstrating that we are serving the needs of the entire population and doing it effectively, we can promote the value of our profession to the core functioning of our health care system.

The ACFP will continue to advocate for our profession, for the needs of our patients and provide the educational opportunities you need to help optimize the care you deliver in your communities. I look forward to these next two years serving as the President of your College.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Vishal Bhella, ACFP President