

david kay

Subject: RPAP Hotsheet - March 2002 Issue



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1. RPAP Seeks Orientation Tips

The Alberta Rural Physician Action Plan is pulling together an orientation guide for new physicians to rural Alberta – and can use your input. The RPAP welcomes your:

- Ideas on what type of information would be most helpful.
- Stories (humorous or otherwise) about your early experiences, which would help illustrate the need for this information.
- Willingness of you and your spouse to be a mentor or buddy to a new physician and spouse with similar interests.

Please contact Terri Taylor, Rural Physician Consultant, (780) 423-9911, Fax: (780) 423-9917, RPAP-Consultant@rpap.ab.ca if you can contribute to any of the above.

2. Rural Physician Consultants

Through the RPAP retention work plan, two Rural Physician Consultants, Terri Taylor (Northern Alberta) and Monica Kohlhammer (Southern Alberta), joined the RPAP team a year ago. Their role is to work collaboratively with physicians, health authorities and community representatives to address rural physician recruitment, retention and training issues.

The consultants are a key resource for communities and physicians to identify and access the supportive resources available through RPAP and other programs. They complement the role of the RPAP Skills Brokers, Drs. John Hnatuik (Northern Alberta) and Ron Gorsche (Southern Alberta).

Contact Information:

Terri Taylor, (780) 423-9911, Fax: (780) 423-9917, RPAP-Consultant@rpap.ab.ca

Representing the RHAs of David Thompson #6, East Central, WestView, Crossroads, Aspen, Lakeland, Mistahia, Peace, Keeweenok, Northern Lights and Northwestern

Monica Kohlhammer, (403) 283-1480, Fax (403) 283-8817, mkohlhammer@HSS-Associates.com

Representing the RHAs of Chinook, Palliser, Headwaters, Health Authority #5

3. New RPAP Award of Distinction

Rural family physicians who demonstrate superior commitment and contributions to their community may soon be recognized through a new award recently announced by RPAP, the **Rural Physician 'Distinction in Practice** Award program.

"This new award will honour and recognize the work of all rural physicians," says Odell Olson, Chairman of RPAP, "but especially those *'unsung heroes'* who provide Alberta rural communities with outstanding medical services and who also make huge contributions to medical practice and their communities by teaching other medical personnel, conducting research or working as community volunteers."

For most of the first ten years since it was established, RPAP focused much of its energies on physician recruitment and education initiatives. In early 2001, the organization recognized the need to also develop viable and tangible physician retention initiatives.

"It became apparent to us that we had to develop strategies that encourage long-term rural practice as well as to recruit and train physicians," continued Olson, "otherwise we will be in a perpetual recruiting cycle. That's why the retention plan and this award were developed."

Rural Alberta residents are encouraged to nominate a physician who demonstrates a superior commitment and contribution to their community through medical practice teaching, research and/or community service. Physicians must have lived and worked in rural Alberta for at least four years and work in communities outside the Calgary and Capital Health Regions.

Rural Alberta residents are being made aware of the award through rural Alberta weekly newspaper and TV ads. Deadline for nominations is April 12, 2002. The award will be presented in the winner's home community at a ceremony in June.

For more information or to obtain a nomination form, check the RPAP website at www.rpap.ab.ca or contact David Kay, RPAP Program Manager at (780) 423-9911, Fax: (780) 423-9917 or E-mail: Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca.

4. New RPAP Photo Contest

Enter the RPAP Photo Contest and help RPAP gather pictures of **rural physicians and their families** to be used

in its monthly newsletter, website, information updates, displays, brochures, and posters. RPAP produces a variety of communication materials throughout the year as it works to support the education, recruitment and retention of rural physicians.

RPAP will accept entries from **March through August 2002**. Winners will be announced in September. Everyone entering a photo in the contest will receive a small RPAP gift acknowledging his or her entry. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each of the three categories will be awarded special prizes in September. There is no limit on the number of entries accepted.

Contest Categories

The contest is open to all Alberta rural physicians and their family members. Photos will be accepted in two different formats and three different categories:

Categories	Colour or B/W 35 mm Photos	Colour Digital 600 dpi Photos
Photos shot by Rural Physicians		
Photos shot by Partners of Rural Physicians		
Photos shot by Children of Rural Physicians		

Entrants should fill out the entry form, and **sign the Photo Release Form**. The Photo Release gives permission to RPAP to use the photos in its communications and publications. Every person shown in the picture, as well as the person who took the picture, needs to sign the Photo Release. All children under the age of 18 should have a parent or guardian sign their release.

Entries should be sent to:

Alberta Rural Physician Action Plan, 1000 Manulife Place, 10180-101 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3S4

For More Information contact:

David Kay
 RPAP Program Manager
 E-mail: Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca
 Tel: (780) 423-9911
 Fax: (780) 423-9917

5. RPAP Surfing Opportunities

Check our web site at www.rpap.ab.ca for details about Alberta's RPAP or www.arfmn.ab.ca for details about the Alberta Rural Family Medicine Network (ARFMN).

Further information and details on the RPAP and its initiatives may be obtained from:

David Kay, RPAP Program Manager at 1000 Manulife Place, 10180 - 101 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3S4
 E-mail Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca, Phone (780) 423-9911, Fax (780) 423-9917.

Tell us what you think about this Hotsheet or the RPAP in general.