

David Kay

Subject: RPAP Hotsheet - November 2002 Issue



November 2002 Issue

Included in this issue:

1. New Student Summer Elective Support Program
 2. New Community Development & Partnership Grant
 3. RPAP Accommodation Support Coordinator Role
 4. Additional Skills Trainees Looking for Practice Opportunities
 5. External Evaluation of the Rural Locum Program Begins
 - 6 . RPAP Surfing Opportunities
-

1. New Student Summer Elective Support Program

The purpose of the new RPAP **Student Summer Elective Support Program** is to provide matching grants of \$2,500 to RHAs to foster the hiring of a medical student who has completed their first or second year, and in so doing further expose early careerists to rural medical practice.

The matching grants are intended to provide funding for a 4-12 week summer clinical and research experience for up to 8 medical students. Priority will be given to medical students of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary who demonstrate an orientation to rural medical practice.

Generally, the summer elective experience should offer at least two days per week of clinical or community exposure to medical practice (however structured), with the balance of the week geared to the completion of an RHA-approved audit or RHA-University-approved research project with some patient exposure.

For more information check the RPAP website at www.rpap.ab.ca or contact David Kay, RPAP Program Manager, 1-866-423-9911, Fax: (780) 423-9917, E-mail: Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca

2. New RPAP Community Development & Partnership Grants

The purposes of the new RPAP **Community Development & Partnership Grant Program** are to foster the development of:

1. Community-Regional Health Authority-local physician relationships
2. A comprehensive Community-RHA recruitment and retention plan, and
3. Materials required as part of the plan, such as pamphlets/information sheets/CDs.

The grants are intended to provide one-time funding for the development of Community-RHA recruitment and retention materials that are determined to be required as part of a comprehensive recruitment and retention plan.

The RPAP's Rural Physician Consultants will facilitate and assist the development of a comprehensive Community-RHA recruitment and retention plan for those communities in which one does not already exist. Examples of 'best practices' from other communities will be available as a resource. Rural Physician Consultants will also be available for assistance to communities in which a plan already exists.

For more information check the RPAP website at www.rpap.ab.ca or contact David Kay, RPAP Program Manager, 1-866-423-9911, Fax: (780) 423-9917, E-mail: Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca

3. New RPAP Accommodation Support Coordinator Role

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Bunny Edwards to the position of RPAP Rural Accommodation Support Coordinator. This position is being piloted for Northern Alberta (RAN and UofA). The position is being launched for Northern Alberta and over the next year will be expanded to include Southern Alberta (RAS and UofC).

Bunny's role is modeled after a similar position with Health Sciences North in Ontario, and very generally will be to recruit new accommodation sites and maintain our existing +70 rural teaching sites to suitable standards, and to facilitate the maximum use of the RPAP investment in accommodation.

Bunny will generally be working Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. She can be reached through the main RPAP number 1-866-423-9911 or (780) 423-9911 or via e-mail at RPAP-Accommodation@rpap.ab.ca.

4. Additional Skills Trainees Looking for Practice Opportunities

Every year upwards of 24 second-year family medicine residents enter RPAP-sponsored Additional Skills Training (AST) positions each July in GP-Anaesthesia, GP-Obstetrics, GP-Surgery and Emergency Medicine, to name but a few areas. The objective of the RPAP AST Program is to give the trainees additional skills needed in a rural practice setting (e.g. anaesthesia, general surgery, obstetrics, emergency medicine, care of the elderly) and which are beyond the skills which the average rural physician equipped with a two year residency could reasonably be expected to have acquired.

Since July 1997, trainees are required to have a return-in-service agreement (RiSA) with a rural Regional Health Authority or the Rural Locum Program to access one of 18 Additional Skills Training (AST) positions. The remaining six AST positions (there are 24 in total split between both Faculties) do not require a RiSA. **Please consider recruiting one of these trainees who come equipped with additional training for rural practice.**

For more information on the Additional Skills Training program or Return-in-Service Agreements (RiSAs), check the RPAP website at www.rpap.ab.ca or contact David Kay, RPAP Program Manager at 1-866-423-9911, Fax: (780) 423-9917 or E-mail: Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca.

5. External Evaluation of the Rural Locum Program Begins

The RPAP is funding an external evaluation of the Rural Locum Program (RLP). This evaluation is being conducted with the RLP Steering Committee, and is part of the RPAP's evaluation cycle of its major programs.

As is our practice, an evaluation steering committee is being established to guide the evaluation. The membership will consist of Odell Olson (RPAP Coordinating Committee) and Luxie Trachsel (AMA) as Co-Chairs, B. Brayshaw (Alberta Health and Wellness), a representative of the Council of Medical Directors, and two representatives of the AMA Section of Rural Medicine (a rural physician who uses the RLP and a rural physician who does not use the RLP). David Kay (RPAP Program Manager) and Brenda Gilboe (RLP Manager) will support the evaluation.

One of the RPAP's original proposed initiatives back in December 1990 was the introduction of a "short-term" rural locum program. Alberta Health agreed to fund such an initiative as part of the RPAP and signed an agreement on 31 December 1991 with the AMA to establish the "Rural Locum Physician Program" (RLP). The RLP began operation on 1 January 1992 as a locum service to rural physicians practising in communities with four or fewer physicians for short periods of time.

The "short-term" locum service was expanded beginning in January 1996 to include weekend emergency department coverage on a cost-recovery basis. This expansion was funded from the RLP's annual Alberta Health grant and subscriptions from participating RHAs. Fiscal restraint precluded many RHAs from participating and the RPAP Coordinating Committee (RPAP CC) was asked to fully fund the weekend locum component. The RPAP CC agreed and approved grant funding beginning April 1996. Then again, in September 1999, the RPAP CC approved a senior's enhancement to the weekend locum component so that physicians > 54 years of age may reduce weekend emergency department coverage.

The original short-term component of the RLP was evaluated in March 1995 by the RPAP after two years of operation. Further limited reflections of the RLP were made in February 1996 during the evaluation of the entire RPAP.

We will keep you informed as to the progress of this evaluation. For more information may be obtained by contacting David Kay, RPAP Program Manager, at 1-866-423-9911, Fax: (780) 423-9917 or E-mail: Alberta-RPAP@rpap.ab.ca.

6. 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 Toll Free 1-866-423-9911, Fax (780) 423-9917.

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

