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General News

Wildfire evacuation information

We are thinking of our colleagues who are under evacuation orders due to wildfires in Jasper and northern parts of our province. If you are a physician, resident physician or medical student who has been evacuated from your home or practice and require support, contact us at amamail@albertadoctors.org and type “Fire Help” in the subject line. AMA staff are actively monitoring and will be in touch right away.

Resources:

- AMA Physician and Family Support Program, confidential 24/7 support line: **1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)**
- TD Insurance: **1-877-855-3767**
- The Government of Alberta Disaster Recovery Program.
<https://www.alberta.ca/disaster-recovery-programs>
- Alberta Health Wildfire Resources: ahs.ca/wildfire
- Air Quality Map: airquality.alberta.ca/map
- Alberta Highway Closures: **Call 511**
- Municipality of Jasper site: jasper-alberta.ca
- Evacuee Information (including financial supports): alberta.ca/emergency

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the AMA for assistance. We’re here for you.

Additional diagnostic reports for patients available through My Personal Records

As of June 18, 2024, Albertans can view additional diagnostic reports in MyHealth Records. The recent release includes electrodiagnostic reports such as ECGs, EEGs and EMGs as well as stress tests and Holter monitor reports that were not previously available. These reports are viewable as soon as they become available through the My Personal Records application.

More information found [here](#).

Interim fax routing – Changing Connect Care provider communication method

An interim routing solution is now available that may be beneficial for community providers who also have a Connect Care In Basket (mixed-context providers) who have limited, intermittent work in a Connect Care context and do not want all their results and documentation sent to Connect Care In Basket. Mixed-context

providers can request their default communication method for results and documentation be changed from Connect Care In Basket to fax, either for all information currently sent to their Connect Care In Basket that can be faxed, or for diagnostic cardiology results only.

Read the [summary](#) or dive into details with this [FAQ](#)

Changes to AHS DI appointment notifications sent to ordering providers

As of June 10, 2024, the AHS diagnostic imaging (DI) notification of appointment letters sent to community providers by AHS DI no longer include the patient notification letter. Prior to this change, provider notifications included a copy of the notification letter that is sent to the patient. Provider notifications continue to include the appointment details and process instructions. This will shorten the provider notifications sent by one to three pages. The AHS DI team will continue to contact the patient directly with preparation instructions prior to their appointment.

[Read about the changes](#)

Thank a colleague! JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program

The JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program gives physicians the opportunity to thank their colleagues for their acts of kindness, big and small. The process is as quick and easy as sending an email.

Complete the [submission form](#) and we will make sure the message gets to the person you want to express your appreciation to.

AMA in the news

View [ongoing media coverage](#) of AMA President Dr. Paul Parks and other physician leaders who have been actively speaking to the media and providing interviews and insight about our health care system.

No time to keep up with health care news? Every day, the [News for Docs](#) team scours local, national and international news sources to find articles and leading opinions relevant to Alberta physicians. This curated media clipping service is available to all members at no charge. [Subscribe today!](#)

Section of Emergency Medicine

Save the date – 24th International Conference on Emergency Medicine

Date: May 24 - 28, 2025

Location: Palais des Congr s, Montreal

Further information: may be [found here](#).

To reach the Section of Emergency Medicine President, Dr. Arun Abbi, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Family Medicine

Section of Family Medicine Elections

Members of the Section of Family Medicine are encouraged to have their say and help guide the work of the section by casting a vote in the 2024 elections for the positions of SFM President and Member-at-Large.

The successful candidate for SFM President will begin their two-year term on September 19, 2024, and will serve as the Past President for an additional year following their presidency. The successful Member-at-Large candidate will be in the position for a three-year term beginning September 19, 2024.

Voting opened on Wednesday, July 24 and will close at **4 p.m. on Friday, August 23, 2024**.

To learn more about the candidates and the election process, please visit the [Section of Family Medicine Election page](#) (member login required). If you experience any issues with the e-vote, or have questions about the election, please contact FamilyMedicine@albertadoctors.org.

Save the date – Section of Family Medicine Annual General Meeting

Date: September 19, 2024

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary

Time: 6 p.m.

To reach the Section of Family Medicine President, Dr. Sarah Bates, please email familymedicine@albertadoctors.org.

Section of General Surgery

Registration now open – AAGS Review in the Rockies 2024

Please register for the annual Alberta Association of General Surgeons Conference which is again at the beautiful Banff Springs Hotel. Please visit the registration link below for further details and advantageously-priced accommodations.

The agenda will be updated soon, but topics should be of interest to the broad array of general surgeons in Alberta.

Date: October 25 – 27, 2024

Location: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

[Register here](#)

Why are we worried about general surgery?

The growing crisis in general surgery has been in the news over the past few weeks as part of the AMA's Acute Care Concerns advocacy campaign. We have been speaking out on many issues, including the chronic shortage of Tier 1 supports that are leading to diversions in major hospitals and impacting patient care. Read the [President's Letter](#) to learn more.

To reach the Section of General Surgery President, Dr. Lloyd Mack, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Laboratory Physicians

Save the date – Banff Pathology Course

The main topic this year is Endocrine Pathology.

Date: October 9-12

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

[Registration](#) now open.

Save the date – ASLP Annual General Meeting (hybrid)

Date: Friday, October 11

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and virtual via Zoom

Time: 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

The ASLP's next annual general meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual Banff Pathology Course. The ASLP executive committee is seeking the following:

- President-Elect for 1-year term (Calgary zone)
- Secretary-Treasurer for 1-year term
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Edmonton zone)
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Calgary zone)
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Rural)
- Member-at-Large for 1-year term (Medical Microbiology)

The ASLP executive committee is an active committee that advocates for laboratory physicians and promotes the Practice of Laboratory medicine in Alberta. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, or need more

information, please contact Dr. Humaira Khanam, Dr. Todd Chaba or Dr. Chris Naugler at [AMA Section Services](#).

To reach the Section of Laboratory Physicians President, Dr. Humaira Khanam, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Registration now open – Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium

Dates: September 6-7

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

The Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology is pleased to invite you to the Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium (AGES). This 1.5-day symposium serves as a vital platform for medical professionals to exchange knowledge, and discuss best practices and advancements in our field. The event creates opportunities for networking, socializing and exploring career prospects. [Registration is now open](#).

Registration costs are \$200.00 for trainees and \$350.00 for residents.

For detailed information, please visit our conference website: [AGES Conference Website](#).

We encourage you to share this invitation with any colleagues or trainees who might be interested in partaking.

To reach the Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology President, Dr. Cameron Sklar, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Palliative Care

Registration now open – Palliative Care Education & Research Conference

Date: Monday, October 21

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Virtual Event

Covenant Health is proud to continually support and provide delegates with the opportunity to gather, share experiences and exchange ideas about Palliative Care. Join us on our online platform this October to connect with colleagues representing many disciplines from all over Alberta, nationally and internationally.

Conference information and registration link [available here](#).

To reach the Section of Palliative Care President, Dr. Marisa Dharmawardene, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Rural Medicine

New AMA award celebrates rural/remote medicine

Rural and remote medicine is a unique specialty within the profession. Rural generalist physicians are integral to the care of rural Albertans. Across our beautiful province, these physicians are essential to – and deeply ingrained in – their home communities.

The AMA Board of Directors has established the **Medal for Excellence and Achievement in Rural/Remote Medicine**. This honour will recognize a physician(s) who has made an outstanding personal contribution to patients of rural/remote Alberta and to the rural/remote community(ies) in which they live.

Our hope is to bestow the inaugural medal at the Fall 2024 Representative Forum. We invite members to recognize rural colleagues with this award, or to spread the word in your communities so friends and neighbours around them may make worthy nominations.

To nominate an outstanding rural or remote physician, visit the [AMA website](#) to view the criteria and learn more about submitting a nomination.

The deadline for nominations is **August 16**.

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Rithesh Ram, please email ruralmedicine@albertadoctors.org.



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12230 106 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5N 3Z1
Canada*

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