Dalhousie Family Medicine participated in the university’s website renewal project, and on January 27th our new and improved website was launched. Creating the new site allowed us to focus on streamlining information and imagery. We have created two new internal sites; one for faculty and staff and one for residents. Whether you're training learners, need faculty development resources, or information on project presentations, the tools you need as staff, faculty and learners can be found on these sites.

In the coming months, we’ll be continuing to develop our site, focusing on building staff and faculty profiles, creating a learners’ objectives site, implementing a news and events sign up feature and expanding on our teaching sites pages. If you haven’t had a chance to visit the new site, please take a look. If you have comments or suggestions please forward them to Ms. Jacquelyn Bradford at j.berrette@dal.ca

Meet the Staff: John Kyle, distributed education specialist

Splitting his time between the Medical Education Program Office and the Halifax Site, John is responsible for the department’s online learning activities: webinars, flipped lectures, screencasts, and education websites. He coordinates and provides technical support for the weekly undergraduate webinars held online via Blackboard Collaborate. He does the same for postgraduate webinars and meetings held via Adobe Connect. John also produces instructional screencasts and interactive tutorials, as well as pre-recorded lectures. Should you need help adapting your teaching materials for online use, contact him for assistance at john.kyle@dal.ca or 902-473-8042.

John studied broadcasting at Ryerson University. Prior to joining Family Medicine, he worked as an audio editor at the Canadian Press’s national bureau, and as an A/V tech at universities across Canada. He used to have hobbies but now he has children.
Congratulations to all the residents, faculty, and staff who were involved in this year’s CaRMS process. Match day was March 5th and we eagerly awaited to results. All but three residency positions were matched in the first iteration! Our department has 59 spots among the 8 sites and 9 programs: 51 for Canadian Medical Graduates (CMG’s), seven for International Medical Graduates (IMG’s) and one for military candidates.

We received 1295 applications for these positions.

We would like to thank the faculty and residents who interviewed and reviewed files during the CaRMS process. Your attention and involvement in this process is very much appreciated. A special thank you to Dr. Sue Atkinson, chair of the Selection Committee for managing the selection process. As well, we would like to thank all staff in the program office and at the sites for assisting with this ever increasing administrative task. Only with the excellent staff that we have were we able to facilitate the variety of events surrounding this process.

Welcome new residents starting our program on July 1!

Thank you all!

The Results Are In! - CaRMS 2014

By Ms. Nancy McCarther

Allister Barton, Dalhousie Family Medicine’s Education Coordinator, and his wife Martha first met at the Dal Student Union Building in 1999 (just like so many married Dal Alumni couples) as Dal undergrad students. After a long fifteen year journey the couple got married on June 16th, 2013 in Toronto. Congratulations Allister and Martha!

Our Communications Officer, Jacquelyn (Berrette) Bradford and husband Rob Bradford were married on August 24th, 2013. Their two children, Mason and Violet played the important roles of ring bearer and flower girl on their special day. The two were married in on the Northwest Arm in Halifax. Congratulations Jacquelyn & family!

Wedded Bliss!

Allister with his wife, Martha

Jacquelyn with her husband, Rob and their two children, Mason and Violet.
Family Medicine preceptors have a new reference, and it doesn’t take up any space on your bookshelf. An e-manual for teachers was released at the Faculty Development Weekend in September. The manual was created by Dr. Stewart Cameron, Director of Faculty Development. “It was meant to be an introduction to, and a reference for all our teachers” said Dr. Cameron. “We have tried to touch upon all the topics a preceptor might need to know to be a good teacher”.

The manual was written with contributions from several other faculty, including Dr. Tom Laughlin in Moncton and Dr. Kathleen Horrey in Halifax. It is designed to be convenient, with short sections and lots of navigation shortcuts and bookmarks.

“There are also links to external references, like our national college documents and our website” said Dr. Cameron. The e-manual is in Adobe Acrobat format, which can be read by all computers, tablets and smartphones. It will be available in two formats, one for computers and tablets and another formatted for smartphones. It will not be printed so as to allow for regular updates.

“We are happy to include anything our faculty would like to see, so we’re open to suggestions for more topic areas” said Dr. Cameron.

The latest edition of the manuals are available on our website at family.medicine.dal.ca/facultydevelopment. We encourage all of our teachers to download it, review it, and give us feedback.

Preceptor of the Year Awards - 2013

Nominated by undergraduate learners for their contribution to undergrad teaching, each year preceptors from the Maritime provinces are named the Family Medicine Undergraduate Preceptor of the Year. Congratulations to the 2013 recipients!

New Brunswick:  
Dr. Suzanne Hall-Losier

Nova Scotia:  
Dr. Craig St. Peters

Prince Edward Island:  
Dr. Shannon Curtis

Dr. Kathleen Horrey (left) presenting the Preceptor of the Year Award to Dr. Suzanne Hall-Losier
The Faculty Development Weekend for 2014 has been booked! Make plans to join us September 12-13th at Pier 21 in Halifax. Once again, we are partnering with the Nova Scotia College of Family Physicians to make a two-day event. On Friday September 12, the NSCFP will hold their Annual Scientific Assembly, and you can earn 6 hours of CME credits. You can also join us for an awards banquet that evening as we celebrate the achievements of some of our family physician colleagues. On Saturday the 13th, we will hold our faculty development day and you can earn more credits for professional development.

Pier 21 is the home of the Immigration Museum, one of the country’s top rated national historic sites. The venue is on the beautiful Halifax waterfront and is within walking distance of the Farmer’s Market, the boardwalk, and numerous downtown attractions.

New South West Nova Teaching Site

Dalhousie Family Medicine is excited to announce the opening of our eighth site in Southwest Nova Scotia. The South West Nova site encompasses six communities in Digby, Yarmouth, and Shelburne Counties with the major academic site in Yarmouth. The first group of five residents will start their placements, throughout the district, on July 1st, 2014. This integrated program incorporates the Triple-C Competency Based Curriculum in a longitudinal format, rather than the traditional block or rotational format. The majority of learning and clinical experiences in the program are centered with the family medicine preceptors who practice comprehensive family medicine in a variety of settings. “Research shows that physicians who train in rural areas are more likely to practice there. We anticipate that this new site will substantially improve the number, mix, and distribution of family physicians in Southwest Nova Scotia and other Maritime sites like it,” said Dr. Gerry Johnston, associate dean Dalhousie medical school.

“Training physicians in Southwest Nova Scotia will expose them to the lifestyle benefits and rewards of practicing in rural Nova Scotia. We hope as a result, more physicians will choose to practice medicine in rural communities,” said Dr. Mike Flemming, president, Doctors Nova Scotia.

Be sure to check out the new South West Nova site: family.medicine.dal.ca/southwestnova
Primary Healthcare (PHC) is both the first point of contact with the health system as well as the cornerstone to improving the health of populations as a whole through community-based strategies. Primary healthcare is person-focused rather than ‘disease-centric.’ It is comprehensive in nature, following patients from preconception planning, through the life course to death and bereavement care.

The enduring relationships that develop between healthcare providers and patients, the care that is delivered in the community, and the provision of care that considers the context of families and community are the foundation of healthcare. In Nova Scotia, as in the rest of Canada, the health system is waking up to the reality of how little investment there has been in this foundation.

In July 2013, Dalhousie’s Strategic Research Initiatives Fund (SRIF) granted funds to bring together existing cross-faculty researchers already conducting primary healthcare research into a new primary healthcare research collaborative.

The objectives of this group are to:

• Focus the strategic directions of these researchers on the needs of decision makers
• Create new and synthesize existing knowledge about the effectiveness of these new approaches to PHC
• Build research capacity
• Capture national funding targeted at PHC research and improvement
• Build new collaborations to leverage the skills and potential for PHC research

The first meeting of the Collaborative took place in October with representation from government, regional health authority, multiple faculties, and departments. A lively discussion took place and tangible goals were mapped out for the near future, as well as initial conversations for long-term broader objectives.

The timeliness of this initiative could not be better as the growing global focus on primary healthcare improvement and innovation has attained new importance. Stay tuned for future developments from this unique group.

Recent Publications


