Specialty Committee activities during 2012

Specialty committees continued to play an active role throughout 2012 in advancing professional training and standards of practice in the various medical and surgical disciplines. These committees play a vital role in shaping and advancing specialty medicine in Canada.

Please click the discipline title below to read a high-level summary of each committee’s activities during the past year.

Adolescent Medicine  Medical Biochemistry
Adult Echocardiography  Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Anesthesiology  Medical Genetics
Cardiac Surgery  Medical Microbiology
Cardiology  Medical Oncology
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Clinical Immunology and Allergy  Nephrology
Clinician Investigator Program  Neurology
Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology  Neuropathology
Colorectal Surgery  Neuroradiology
Conjoint Advisory Committee on Palliative Medicine  Neurosurgery
Critical Care Medicine  Obstetrics and Gynecology
Cytopathology  Occupational Medicine
Dermatology  Orthopedic Surgery
Developmental Pediatrics  Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Diagnostic Radiology  Working Group in Pain Medicine
Emergency Medicine  Pediatrics
Endocrinology and Metabolism  Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Forensic Pathology  Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Forensic Psychiatry  Pediatric Radiology
Gastroenterology  Pediatric Surgery
General Internal Medicine Working Group  Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
General Pathology  Plastic Surgery
General Surgery  Psychiatry
General Surgical Oncology  Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Geriatric Medicine  Radiation Oncology
Geriatric Psychiatry  Respirology
Gynecologic Oncology  Rheumatology
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility  Sport and Exercise Medicine
Hematological Pathology  Surgical Foundations
Infectious Diseases  Thoracic Surgery
Internal Medicine  Urology
Medical Biochemistry  Vascular Surgery
Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Medical Genetics
Medical Microbiology
Medical Oncology
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Nephrology
Neurology
Neuropathology
Neuroradiology
Neurosurgery
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Occupational Medicine
Orthopedic Surgery
Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Working Group in Pain Medicine
Pediatrics
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Pediatric Radiology
Pediatric Surgery
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Plastic Surgery
Psychiatry
Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Radiation Oncology
Respirology
Rheumatology
Sport and Exercise Medicine
Surgical Foundations
Thoracic Surgery
Urology
Vascular Surgery
Adolescent Medicine
Chair: Debra K. Katzman, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Sheri M. Findlay, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Eudice Goldberg, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Adolescent Medicine met in April 2012 and revised the Objectives of Training (OTR). The committee will be meeting on January 28, 2013 to finalize the revisions. The OTR will then be presented to the Office of Education. The specialty committee also revised the Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub) and collaborated with the Specialty Committee in Pediatrics with the revision of their OTR, focusing on Adolescent Medicine. Margo Lane, MD, FRCPC liaised with that committee.

This past fall was the third year for the Adolescent Medicine exam. The exam remains a written, short answer exam. The committee introduced the program director’s quarterly teleconference call that was chaired by Giosi DiMeglio, MD, FRCPC, at McGill. The specialty committee now has a designated standing meeting time at the annual Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. The committee is pleased to welcome new program directors at Ste Justine’s (Danielle Taddeo, MD, FRCPC) and BC Children (Dzung Vo, MD).

Adult Echocardiography
Co-chairs: James Tam, MD, FRCPC, and Ian Burwash, MD, FRCPC

The Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) Working Group in Adult Echocardiography had a busy year in 2012. The application for recognition of Adult Echocardiography as an AFC-diploma was accepted by the Committee on Specialties (COS) in April 2012, and a working group met in October to draft the Competency Training Requirements (CTR), Competency Portfolio, and Standards of Accreditation for Adult Echocardiography. The working group is looking forward to final approval from the Specialty Standards Review Committee (SSRC) and hope to be considering applications for an AFC-diploma program in Adult Echocardiography from various universities in 2013. The working group will also be reviewing a Practice Eligibility Route (PER) for physicians currently in practice in the upcoming year. The chair would like to thank the working group members for their hard work over the last year and the working group is indebted to the Royal College staff for their assistance during this process.

Anesthesiology
Chair: Michael Sullivan, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Dan Gray, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chairs: Sandra Katsiris, MD, FRCPC, and Pascal Labrecque, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Anesthesiology is in the process of renewing the specialty specific documents. These documents will support the training and accreditation process.

Anesthesiology’s national curriculum has been accepted by the Royal College and the examination process is now grounded in the curriculum. The entire curriculum will be reviewed over a six year cycle. The Resident Log Book is now mandatory for Canadian trainees. This web-based tool will facilitate reflective practice by individual residents and provide valuable real time information about training at an individual and program level in Canada.

The specialty committee and the examination committee have engaged the Royal College regarding severe fail and multiple fail candidates. The focus of this discussion is to ensure that candidates presenting for the examination can reasonably expect to be successful. A task force has been struck to engage the Anesthesiology simulation community in considering how to integrate a group of common simulation scenarios into the curriculum.
Specialty committee members will participate in a working group regarding family practice anesthesia. The College of Family Physicians of Canada has expressed a desire to develop a Certificate of Added Competence in Family Practice Anesthesia. This will be an opportunity to develop a national competence-based curriculum for Family Practice Anesthesia.

**Cardiac Surgery**
Chair: Mac Quantz, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Fraser Rubens, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chair(s): Richard Novick, MD, FRCSC

The specialty documents were updated to include recent advancements in technology. The revised *Final In-training Evaluation Report* (FITER) now correlates with the *Objectives of Training* (OTR), and the *Specialty Training Requirements* (STR) reflect an evolving curriculum that is moving away from a foundation in General Surgery to one that is based in the cardiac sciences. The OTR, STR and FITER have been submitted to the document review process for approval by the Specialty Standards Review Committee (SSRC) and should be posted to the Royal College website for July 1, 2013.

The Committee on Specialties (COS) reviewed Cardiac Surgery as an entry point into Thoracic Surgery and has determined that this program will remain an option for trainees who wish to pursue a career in Thoracic Surgery and fulfill the prerequisites. Similarly, trainees from Cardiac Surgery with the appropriate prerequisites will be eligible to enter the Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) in Interventional Cardiology.

The COS performed an in-depth review of the specialty that included the revised specialty documents, and the committee structure and functionality. Over the last year the committee has performed as a cohesive body to resolve issues and work together as well as with other committees. The COS has given the specialty committee its “stamp of approval”.

**Cardiology**
Chair: Rodney Zimmermann, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Alison Montgomery, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chairs: Lisa Welikovitch, MD, FRCPC, (Adult) and Jean-Luc Bigras, MD, FRCPC (Pediatric)

The Specialty Committee in Cardiology submitted the complete suite of documents for update and approval, which have included minor changes in the *Specialty Training Requirements* (STR) for both Adult and Pediatric Cardiology. The committee was very pleased this year to have full program approval by the Committee on Specialties (COS) with the next review scheduled as a regular review in 2017.

The committee welcomed the new chairs of the Areas of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) in Interventional Cardiology, Adult Electrophysiology and Echocardiography to the committee. In addition, the committee welcomed Dr. Montgomery of Hamilton, a long-standing program director and vice-chair of the exam committee as the new chair-elect. Finally, the committee welcomed three new voting members representing regions 3, 4, and 5.

The specialty committee has concentrated on involving all the program directors in decisions of the committee and the meetings have emphasized topics that will support them in managing their programs. Next year, the committee will begin to explore the possibility of developing rotation-specific objectives and a national curriculum that can be used by all the programs.
**Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
Chair: John Leverette, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Ruth Russell, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Nathalie Gingras, MD, FRCPC

2012 saw major strides forward in the development of the subspecialty. Thirteen of 16 programs submitted applications and to date six programs have received new approval. The examination committee received its ‘in house’ training and is actively engaged in question banking and exam development. With over 400 psychiatrists in practice devoted to children and adolescents, the Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub) was fully approved in late winter, trialed and then revised in October.

With leadership from the primary specialty, the specialty committee actively participated with Forensic Psychiatry in the review of the Pediatric area of focused competence (AFC-diploma) application concerning child maltreatment. Active engagement led to clarification of the scope of practice in child and adolescent forensic psychiatry, refinements in the application, and full support in August for the AFC-diploma Child Maltreatment Pediatrics.

Business was conducted through email, teleconferences and web conferences with one face-to-face meeting held in conjunction with the National Specialty Society (NSS).

2013 will see new approvals for training programs and reviews of PER-sub applications leading to the first examination in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in September 2013.

**Clinical Immunology and Allergy**
Chair: Susan Waserman, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: D.W. Moote, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Ralph Schellenberg, MD, FRCPC

The specialty committee received final approval by the Royal College for the revised suite of documents for adult and pediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy. The residency training programs continue to show increasing recruitment, reflecting the rising interest across the country by trainees and the hard work and commitment of the faculty.

A number of exciting initiatives were launched at the annual meeting held in October in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, including an inaugural CanMEDS session for Fellows on “Complex Communication Skills for Clinical Immunology and Allergy Trainees”. The National Specialty Society (NSS) and the Royal College have provided exceptional support in making this session a great success. A “CanMEDS on the Fly” session for Faculty was also extremely valuable and well received. The committee plans to continue CanMEDS at future NSS meetings. Ongoing initiatives include a subcommittee to create a bank of documents to share best practices and to bank examination questions. A new initiative will be a national survey of Clinical Immunologists and Allergists to examine current practice patterns, information which the committee expects will inform educational content of the training programs.

This year the specialty committee will be highly involved in ensuring the quality and success of the above activities.
Clinician Investigator Program  
Chair: Norman Rosenblum, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Bernard Têtu, MD, FRCPC  

The Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) focused its efforts on program review and facilitating the linkage of the CIP and its trainees with the larger landscape of clinical investigation in Canada. Much of this work was performed via electronic review and communication within the committee. The committee met twice in person - once at the Royal College and a second time at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Clinical Investigation (CSCI)/Clinician Investigator Trainee Association of Canada (CITAC).

The Specific Standards of Accreditation (SSA) were reviewed and amended such that a resident can enter the Distributive Curriculum Training (DCT) pathway at any year after completion of year one of core residency. In addition, the section on resident safety was updated for content. The committee reviewed the new Pre-survey Questionnaire (PSQ) and made changes to ensure that the PSQ incorporates elements that are unique to CIP. The surveyor checklist was updated ensuring that this document is consistent with the PSQ. The committee continued to work with Canadian Society of Clinical Investigation (CSCI) and CITAC to optimize engagement of trainees with these organizations to further support education and career development. Finally, recognizing the end of her term, the committee expressed great appreciation for the outstanding leadership Cathy Hayward, MD, FRCPC demonstrated as chair of the advisory committee.

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Chair: Shinya Ito, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: George K. Dresser, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Doreen Matsui, MD, FRCPC  

In 2012, the Specialty Committee in Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology worked intensively to revise and update the Objectives of Training (OTR). The process will continue in 2013. This focused effort is critical in order to address recent advances in pharmacological/toxicological sciences and evolving societal needs for our discipline. This includes the field of diagnosing genetic determinants and other key environmental factors for adverse drug reactions and therapeutic responses known as pharmacogenomics-based personalized medicine. This is becoming one of the important clinical tool kits to improve therapeutic outcomes. The Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology discipline is the only subspecialty that systematically studies and teaches this novel field, guiding the medical community toward efficient use of the approach. Second, medical toxicology fields are explicitly emphasized in the revised OTR so that residents who are interested in the clinical toxicology stream can clearly understand their training framework. This is also vital for society, as the discipline is the only training resource in Canada that provides a structured training environment for future medical toxicologists.

Colorectal Surgery  
Chair: Paul Belliveau, MD, FRCSC  
Vice-chair: Carole S. Richard, MD, FRCSC  
Exam committee chair: Terry Phang, MD, FRCSC  

The Specialty Committee in Colorectal Surgery worked on the specialty documents, revising the Specialty Training Requirements (STR) and the Objectives of Training (OTR) to conform to 2012 practice and carefully monitored for duplication in General Surgery or other specialties.

The chair and specialty committee were consulted and have had the opportunity to comment on the national consultations for applications for subspecialties and areas of focused competence (AFC-diploma) as they come forward. This fall Dr. Belliveau attended the two-day Specialty Committee Chairs workshop in Ottawa where specialty committee chairs were
demonstrated the numerous innovations of the Royal College and the importance of the Canadian organization in the rest of the world. The specialty committee chairs discussed the various methods of accessing specialty certification.

The examination committee worked very hard to develop, implement and deliver another exam last September. The process is very rigorous and involves developing new questions and updating some previously used ones. The exam is scrutinized by a central group of educational experts for reliability and relevance. Dr. Phang chairs the exam committee very effectively and with determination for a valuable method of certification.

**Conjoint Advisory Committee on Palliative Medicine**

Co-chairs: (Royal College) Deborah Dudgeon, MD, FRCPC, and (CFPC) Cori Schroder, MD, MEd, CCFP, FCFP

Vice-chairs: (Royal College) Jana Pilkey, MD, FRCPC, and (CFPC) Dori Seccareccia, MD, CCFP, FCFP

The Advisory Committee on Palliative Medicine (ACPM) continues to work conjointly under the auspices of the Royal College and the College of Family Physicians of Canada to address the current and future needs of Canadians. The ACPM had a successful review by the Committee on Specialties (COS) Specialty Review Process March 2012. During the year, the ACPM provided accreditation feedback on two Palliative Medicine training programs and approved one new program.

The application for recognition of Palliative Medicine as a two-year subspecialty was resubmitted to COS with Neurology and Anesthesiology added to Internal Medicine and Pediatrics as base specialties. Following national consultation, the application was approved by COS in September and has subsequently been endorsed by the Education Committee. It now awaits decisions by the Executive Committee Council in January and the Royal College Council in February 2013.

In recognition of the implications associated with the subspecialty application, the ACPM is working closely with the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians to support ongoing collaboration between the two Colleges and the Palliative Medicine community.

**Critical Care Medicine**

Chair: John Drover, MD, FRCSC

Vice-chair: Ron Gottesman, MD, FRCPC

Exam committee chair: Allison Fox-Robichaud, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Critical Care Medicine (CCM) completed review and revision of the document suite. The *Objectives of Training* (OTR) for adult and pediatric CCM have been reformatted, rewritten and updated. The changes to the documents have brought the expected competencies for the discipline in line with current expectations and include defining the intrinsic competencies especially for adult and pediatric trainees. The other major addition has been to add the competencies for bedside ultrasound for the subspecialties.

The *Specialty Training Requirements* (STR) have also been updated and were implemented as of July 1, 2012. The major change has been to eliminate overlap training or double counting of years with other subspecialties. This will require trainees doing another subspecialty along with Critical Care Medicine to do them sequentially but also allows them concentrate fully on the training required for the training period.

Documents have also been completed for the Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub). This will allow practicing intensivists who wish to challenge the certification examination a route to that end.
**Cytopathology**  
Chair: Michele Weir, MD, FRCPC

The Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) in Cytopathology was recognized by the Royal College in Spring 2012, and the associated working group was created in the summer. Members of the working group include Manon Auger, MD, FRCPC, Scott Boerner, MD, FRCPC, Máire Duggan, MD, FRCPC, Shahidul Islam, MD, FRCPC, Golnar Rasty, MD, FRCPC and Allam Shawwa, MD, FRCPC. The working group had its inaugural meeting in September 2012 and developed the competency portfolio and *Competency Training Requirements (CTR)* for Cytopathology, which are pending finalization prior to Royal College approval. The working group’s next steps in 2013 will include development of the program application form and the process for program accreditation. The working group will also be creating guidelines for the Practice Eligibility Route (PER) within the next year.

**Dermatology**  
Chair: Richard Haber, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Victoria Taraska, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chairs: Alain Brassard, MD, FRCPC, and Dominique Friedmann, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Dermatology received approval of a new *Specialty Training Requirements (STR)* and re-approval of the *Objectives of Training (OTR)*. The committee welcomed a new region 5 representative and a new NSS observer from the Canadian Dermatology Association.

The specialty committee faces challenges with the Practice Eligibility Route (PER), which remains an area of contention with the specialty committee unanimously supporting only route A. Another challenge includes the issue of considering approval of a new Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) in Pediatric Dermatology with an entry through Pediatrics. The committee could not approve this new AFC-diploma with entry through Pediatrics and would only consider this AFC-diploma if the entry was through Dermatology. The specialty committee feels that the use of the term “pediatric dermatologist” should be reserved for Dermatologists with fellowship training in pediatric dermatology only.

The Specialty Committee in Dermatology looks forward to another successful year in 2013 with its next committee meeting at the Royal College in Ottawa on January 18, 2013, and its meeting in conjunction with the Canadian Dermatology Association Annual meeting in Quebec City in June 2013.

**Developmental Pediatrics**  
Chair: Golda Milo-Manson, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Jennifer Lynn McLean, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Pamela Frid, MD, FRCPC

It has been an exciting year for the Specialty Committee in Developmental Pediatrics. The full committee met twice; January and June 2012. The Specialty Committee in Developmental Pediatrics has been hard at work revising and finalizing the document suite to more accurately reflect the evolving subspecialty. It is anticipated that the finalized version will be approved and implemented July 1, 2013.

In Canada the discipline has five programs on approval and two new programs approved. The first subspecialty examination occurred in the fall of 2012 with four candidates. Nine candidates have applied to sit the examination in 2013. The specialty committee would like to extend a special thank-you to the hard work of the examination committee under the leadership of Dr. Frid.
The upcoming year will also be a busy one as three programs will undergo Royal College review; McGill University, University of Toronto and University of British Columbia.

**Diagnostic Radiology**
Chair: Grant Stoneham, MD FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Jose Aquino, MD FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Robert Abraham, MD FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Diagnostic Radiology finalized revisions to the *Objectives of Training (OTR)* and *Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER)*. These were submitted to the Royal College for final approval, with adoption planned for July 1, 2013. A working group was created to develop a specialty specific scope of practice document to allow appropriate review of candidates for the Practice Eligibility Route (PER). Finally, the specialty committee discussed and provided support in principle for the application of Interventional Radiology to be recognized as a subspecialty. A joint subcommittee will be set up to ensure that objectives of both Diagnostic Radiology and an Interventional Radiology subspecialty program would be appropriately integrated and fulfilled.

The committee would like to thank Eric Sala, MD, FRCPC (region 5 representative) for his service and welcomed Daria Manos, MD, FRCPC into this role; Ravi Bhargava, MD, FRCPC (chair, Specialty Committee in Pediatric Radiology) for his input to the committee; and welcomed Deepak Kaura, MD, FRCPC to the committee. After appropriate consultations, Dr. Aquino was appointed as the chair-elect for a two year period, and will become chair in July 2014.

**Emergency Medicine**
Chair: Brian Holroyd, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Glen Bandiera, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Eric Clark, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Emergency Medicine is very pleased with the successes of its 14 Royal College Emergency Medicine residencies nation-wide, and congratulates them on maintaining full accreditation status. The committee has updated the *Specific Standards of Accreditation (SSA)*, *Objectives of Training (OTR)*, and the *Specialty Training Requirements (STR)*. Work is currently underway to update the Pre-survey Questionnaire (PSQ).

In 2012, the Royal College released the iOS app version of the successful CanMEDS Teaching Springboards EM teaching tool. The committee encourages Royal College Emergency Medicine fellows to check out the print or the app versions of this excellent teaching tool.

The Specialty Committee in Emergency Medicine participated in and provided input to the "Dual College - Dual Certification" initiative undertaken by Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP). In this process, both the Royal College and the College of Family Physicians of Canada reaffirmed their support for their respective Emergency Medicine residency training programs. It is expected that this process will lead to focused areas of collaboration between all involved organizations, such as human resource planning for Emergency Medicine nationally.

The Specialty Committee in Emergency Medicine is reviewing the implications of Practice Eligible Route (PER) for the discipline of Emergency Medicine.
Endocrinology and Metabolism
Chair: Christopher Symonds, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Elizabeth Sellers, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Elizabeth Cummings, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Endocrinology & Metabolism has been hard at work revising and finalizing the document suite. It is anticipated that the finalized version will be approved and implemented July 1, 2013.

The committee continues to develop, supervise and administer a mock written exam to all the residents in Endocrinology & Metabolism across the country in both Adult and Pediatric streams. This in-training exam is used mostly as a feedback tool to help define areas of need for additional teaching.

In 2013, the specialty committee is interested in having initial discussions about developing a national curriculum guide for the specialty. This would substantially help reduce the burden on individual programs and better guide teachers and learners to the objectives across the country.

Forensic Pathology
Chair: Michael Shkrum, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Simon Avis, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Thambirajah Balachandra, MD, FRCPC

There are three accredited residency training programs in Forensic Pathology. The University of Toronto program continues to successfully train residents. The University of Alberta will have its first resident in 2013.

The Committee on Specialties (COS) review raised no significant concerns and recommended that Forensic Pathology continue through the regular review cycle.

The second round of candidates went through the Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub). The specialty committee has further refined this process based on feedback received.

The initiatives and challenges for 2013 include development of a national model curriculum, accreditation of more training programs, a revisit of the mapping strategy for the Forensic Pathology exam and exploring the development of competency-based autopsy skills by liaison with the Anatomical Pathology and General Pathology specialty committees.

Specialty committee and examination committee members were actively involved in 2012 and look forward to advancing the discipline in 2013.

Forensic Psychiatry
Chair: Gary Chaimowitz, MB, ChB, MBA, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Brad Booth, MD, FRCPC, DABPN (Forensic Psychiatry)
Exam committee chair: John Bradford, MB, ChB, DPM, FFPsych, MRCPsych, DABPN, DABFP, FRCPC, FRCPsych, FACPpsych, FAPA

The Specialty Committee in Forensic Psychiatry developed and finalized the Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub) documents, and these documents are now available on the Royal College website.
The committee anticipates it will be reviewing several training program applications prior to the end of April 2013. As of this time three programs have been approved for training, two of which will be graduating PGY6 residents this year.

The exam committee has been active and is will have the exam ready for the first sitting in September 2013. The liaison activities continue with active communication with Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Geriatric Psychiatry around common issues in training and potential future areas of focused competence (AFC-diplomas). An area of interest has been and will be the committee’s work in the area of scope of practice for Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry.

The specialty committee would like to thank the Royal College and fellows for allowing the committee to serve them and the subspecialty. A special thanks to Carolin St. Denis, administrator, specialty committees, for all her help over the year.

**Gastroenterology**
Chair: Winnie Wong, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Sylvain Codere, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Johane Allard, MD, FRCPC, (Outgoing), Connie Switzer, MD, FRCPC (Incoming)

Dr. Wong succeeds Jamie Gregor, MD, FRCPC, who completed his term as chair of the Specialty Committee in Gastroenterology in 2012 after his stellar seven-year term. The committee also welcomes several new members: Sylvain Codere, MD, FRCPC as vice-chair, Alnoor Ramji, MD, FRCPC (region 1), Christian Turbide, MD, FRCPC (region 5) and Craig Render, MD, FRCPC (National Specialty Society [NSS] observer).

The committee provided letters of support towards the application of the Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) in Hepatology, submitted by the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL), and Solid Organ Transplantation submitted by the Canadian Society of Transplantation submitted by the Canadian Society of Transplantation (CST) in 2012.

The committee would like to thank Johane Allard, MD, FRCPC, who has completed her term as the chair of the Gastroenterology exam committee, and welcome Connie Switzer, MD, FRCPC and Louise D’Aoust, MD, FRCPC as the incoming chair and vice-chair respectively. For all the specialty committee and exam committee members completing their term in 2012, a very heartfelt thank you for the hard work and dedication.

**General Internal Medicine**
Chair: Sharon E. Card, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Narmin Kassam, MD, FRCPC

The General Internal Medicine Working Group has worked very hard this year to finalize the specialty specific documents. These have all been finalized, approved and translated. They are now posted to the Royal College website as of December 2012.

The application form for programs to apply to have an accredited two year General Internal Medicine training program was approved in December and has now been translated and forwarded to all universities. The specialty committee is very grateful for the support of the Royal College to complete this and is looking forward to reviewing applications for General Internal Medicine programs starting in 2013.

The two main initiatives of the General Internal Medicine Working Group for the 2013 year include the formation of an examination committee to develop the subspecialty examination and initiating the Practice Eligibility Route for Subspecialties process for General Internal Medicine.
Medicine. The committee is looking forward to this next phase in the development of the discipline.

A special thank you for all the hard work is extended to the members of the General Internal Medicine Working Group, as well as deep appreciation to the Royal College for all the timely assistance in the completion of our documents.

**General Pathology**
Chair: Allam Shawwa, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Tariq Aziz, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Ann Guzowski, MD, FRCPC

This is a good year for General Pathology. Enrollment from CaRMS continues to increase. The committee met four times in 2012 including two face-to-face meetings. The focus was to update the specialty specific documents, respond to the Committee on Specialties (COS) review, and discuss an alternate pathway for Medical Biochemistry as a subspecialty of General Pathology. The specialty specific documents were approved and published to the Royal College website.

The focus in 2013 will be to continue to develop a General Pathology curriculum, respond to the outcome of the regular review by the COS and continue to work on the proposal for a pathway from General Pathology to a subspecialty in Medical Biochemistry. The specialty committee met with the Anatomical Pathology committee to find common grounds in PGY1 and PGY2. The committee helped in the introduction of a Cytopathology Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma). Committee members are supporting the annual Canadian Association of Pathologists pathology review course.

**General Surgery**
Chair: Eric Webber, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: David Pace, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chair: Brock Vair, MD, FRCSC

As we look forward to 2013 the Specialty Committee in General Surgery is heavily engaged in residency program accreditation activities. More than half of the General Surgery residency programs in Canada will be undergoing accreditation surveys during the coming year. The important specialty committee activities of reviewing Pre-survey Questionnaires (PSQ) and subsequent survey reports will give us a valuable opportunity to assess the composite strengths, weaknesses and general trends in these residency programs.

Coupled with this the committee is working closely with the Royal College and a broad group of stakeholders as they prepare for the Surgical Summit to be hosted at the Royal College in May 2013. This summit will review the scopes of clinical activities of general surgeons practicing across Canada and evaluate whether the current model of General Surgery residency education is optimally preparing the graduating residents to practice General Surgery.

**General Surgical Oncology**
Chair: Ralph George, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Geoffrey Porter, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chair: Jean-François Boileau, MD, FRCSC

General Surgery Oncology is a newer discipline within the Royal College, getting ready for its fourth exam in 2013. There are three programs nationally: Toronto, Montreal, and Calgary. Potential new sites are being considered for Ottawa and Vancouver.
Over the past year the specialty committee has reviewed Calgary, is gearing up for Toronto, and submitted their Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub) criteria document for Royal College review. An initial application from Ottawa University has been returned with successful resubmission anticipated shortly.

As a new discipline, the committee’s early years have focused on fine tuning standards and objectives. Trainees have often further subspecialized into disease site based practices. The challenge for programs is keeping a core body of knowledge while allowing organ and disease site practices to evolve. As academic positions become filled nationally programs are also being required to accommodate trainees planning to practice as more broad based surgical oncologists, affiliated with non-university cancer centres. The bulk of future trainees will likely fill these roles within larger community practices.

**Geriatric Medicine**
Chair: Terumi Izukawa, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Laura Diachun, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Janet Kushner-Kow, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Geriatric Medicine has had a successful year in 2012. The entire document suite was finalized and posted to the Royal College Website on July 1, 2012, bringing the national standards up to date. There are significant changes in the training requirements and competencies. Fellows in Geriatric Medicine are encouraged to view the website to help them plan their Maintenance of Certification activities. The exam committee worked hard to update the blueprint to match the new *Objectives of Training* (OTR) and to create a fair exam under the leadership of Nadine Larente, MD, FRCPC. The specialty committee would like to thank her for her years of hard work and dedication as the chair. The new chair is Janet Kushner-Kow, MD, FRCPC. The new vice-chair (and chair-elect for 2014) for the specialty committee is Laura Diachun, MD, FRCPC. This year the requirements for the Practice Eligibility Route (PER) in Geriatric Medicine will be looked at. The specialty has three major accreditation reviews at the Universities of Toronto, McGill and British Columbia. Work on the 2013 exam is well under way. Special thanks to Susanne Fletcher who supports the specialty committee and keeps all members in line.

**Geriatric Psychiatry**
Chair: Melissa Andrew, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Catherine Shea, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee co-chairs: Susan Lieff, MD, FRCPC and Francois Rousseau, MD, FRCPC

In 2012 three training programs received new approval and the first trainees in each of these programs began training in July. A national exam review course was implemented and held at the September Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry (CAGP) Annual Scientific Meeting with approximately 150 participants. A small-group learning version followed, with approximately 50 learners participating in biweekly, in-depth study sessions online.

Significant time was devoted to the development of documents and criteria for the Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub). A particular challenge was the need to create pathways of access via PER-sub for recent graduates, as not all recent graduates would have completed accredited training. The PER-sub documents can be found on the Royal College website and a link has been provided from the CAGP website.

The first examination will be held in 2013, primarily for PER-sub candidates. Exam development is well underway. The specialty committee is grateful for the dedication and creativity shown by the inaugural examination committee. A substantial bank of examination materials have been developed, using a relatively new process for identification of key test items.
**Gynecologic Oncology**  
Chair: James Bentley, MD, FRCSC  
Vice-chair: Prafull Ghatage, MD, FRCSC  
Exam committee chair: Stéphane Laframboise, MD, FRCSC

In the last year there have been several changes to the specialty committee with Dr. Bentley taking over as chair and Dr. Ghatage assuming the role of vice-chair. The exam board has been active with a new chair, Dr. Laframboise.

Dianne Miller, MD, FRCSC should be acknowledged for her stellar work with the exam, which went well again this year. There consequently has been a major change in membership of both committees. The exam committee met once during the year.

The major work planned for 2013 will be revision of the document suite.

**Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (GREI)**  
Chair: Togas Tulandi, MD, FRCSC  
Vice-chair and exam committee chair: Gillian Ruth Graves, MD, FRCSC

The specialty committee updated its suite of documents and held its first board examination. The committee will continue to maintain the specialty documents to ensure standards are current. The committee continues to work on forming a better collaboration with the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC).

The main scope of GREI remains reproductive endocrinology and infertility. However, assisted reproductive technology (ART) especially in-vitro fertilization (IVF) has become one of the main treatments for infertility. Reproductive Surgery still plays an important role in the treatment of infertility, mainly to enhance IVF live birth rate and for fertility preservation.

**Hematological Pathology**  
Chair: Marciano Reis, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: William Brien, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Irene Sadek, MD, FRCPC

The Hematological Pathology committee updated all of its Royal College training documents at its 2012 meeting. One issue that generated a healthy discussion were the potential areas for areas of focused competence (AFC-diploma) applications as related to the specialty. No applications have been submitted yet, precluding committee members from addressing the impact of AFC-diploma initiatives on the specialty and its committee.

**Infectious Diseases**  
Chair: Andrew Mark Morris, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair or chair-elect: N/A  
Exam committee chair: Geoff Taylor, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty committee in Infectious Diseases, under the steady guidance of Lynn Johnston, MD, FRCPC managed to update its suite of documents that included incorporating the CanMEDS framework, new approaches to residency education mandated by the Royal College, and evolving expectations of the skills and knowledge of Infectious Diseases physicians. The exam committee continued to refine its processes, challenged by the increased number of trainees writing the Infectious Diseases exams (there has been a steady increase over the years, with 30 candidates having written the exams in 2010, and 40 who have applied to sit the 2013 examination).
Ongoing challenges have included committee membership and participation (including meeting attendance). The recent successes and high quality of the National Specialty Society (NSS), Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (AMMI), meetings will hopefully bolster attendance. Looking forward to 2013, developing a national half-day curriculum and identifying the status of Infectious Diseases human resources will be areas of focus for the committee.

**Internal Medicine**  
Chair: Bill Coke, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Jim Nishakawa, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chairs: Rose Hatala, MD, FRCPC, and Daniel Panisko, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Internal Medicine thank Dr. Brian O’Brien, MD, FRCC Sharon Card, MD, FRCPC and the General Internal Medicine Working Group the ongoing support of the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine (CSIM), for the fruition of the proposal to recognize General Internal Medicine as a distinct subspecialty, after more than 20 years of planning.

In July, Dr. Coke succeeded Dr. O’Brian as committee chair, with Dr. Nishikawa agreeing to serve as vice-chair. In addition to its usual responsibilities, the committee expects to face a number of challenges in the coming year including developing a systematic approach to assessing areas of focused competence (AFC-diploma) proposals, while responding to the recommendations from healthcare planners and educators to promote generalism and the training of generalists; acquiring a better understanding of the Canadian healthcare system’s physician resource requirements, and the impact on Internal Medicine residency training requirements; preparations for revising residency training requirements to focus on competencies in preparation for CanMEDs 2015; and, in conjunction with the Internal Medicine examination committee, exploring strategies to improve in-training evaluation methods.

**Medical Biochemistry**  
Chair: Yves Giguère, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Andre Mattman, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: David Blank, MD, FRCPC

The main focus for the Specialty Committee in Medical Biochemistry in 2012 was to finalize the restructuring of the specialty training program and commence the transition phase. As of July 2012, PGY-1 residents in Medical Biochemistry will do three years in Internal Medicine (or Pediatrics) followed by two years of laboratory training (PGY-4 and 5). Thus, the first part of 2012 was centered on finalizing national standard documents (*Objectives of Training* [OTR], *Specialty Training Requirements* [STR] and *Specific Standards of Accreditation* [SSA]) reflecting the new reality of the training program. Candidates will now apply in Medical Biochemistry either through the primary specialty entry route or through the subspecialty pathway (i.e. from PGY-4). The main challenge for the coming years will be to monitor the five-year transition to evaluate the success of the restructuring of the specialty. In 2014, the Committee on Specialties will conduct a focused review of the transition.

The other ongoing initiative in 2012 was the preparation of an eventual submission for an area of focused competence (AFC-diploma) program in molecular diagnostics in collaboration with other laboratory specialties.
Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Chair: Patricia Smith, MD, FRCSC  
Vice-chair: Alain Gagnon, MD, FRCSC  
Exam committee chair: Karen Fung Kee Fung, MD, FRCSC

The Specialty Committee in Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) has continued to be very active in 2012. The committee has reviewed its entire suite of documents and hopes to have that submitted shortly. The committee is also very pleased to have its Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub) process and documents passed by the Credential Committee in 2012. As of yet, no applicants have applied for PER-sub to sit their exams. 2012 once again saw a successful national “match” for new applicants to the training programs across the country. Maternal-Fetal Medicine had seven Canadian medical graduates and nine positions available across the country. Five matched to their first choice program and two were unmatched. This was the fourth year the discipline did a national short answer question (SAQ) practice exam to assist residents in practicing the SAQ format as well as allowing candidates’ and programs to get an idea as to how they are performing against their peers across the country. This has been very well received by residents and program directors. The big task for 2013 is the Committee on Specialties (COS) review which is coming up in April.

Medical Genetics  
Chair: Michael Innes, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Bernard Chodirker, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: François Bernier, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Medical Genetics met prior to the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists (CCMG) meeting in Saskatoon and conducted other business by teleconference and email. The committee thanks Marjan Mahdavi-Nezarat, MD, FRCPC for her many years of service as region 3 representative and vice-chair, and welcomes Gail Graham, MD, FRCPC back as region 3 representative and Dr. Chodirker as vice-chair/chair-elect. This year was the first year where the Royal College Examination in Medical Genetics also served as the examination for clinical CCMG trainees which was a major accomplishment for the exam committee, specialty committee and colleagues at the CCMG. The specialty committee is pleased to report that all of the training programs have full accreditation status and welcomes the active participation of the program directors in specialty committee business. A current significant ongoing initiative is the committee’s work on practice eligibility route (PER) documents for Medical Genetics. The specialty committee also plans to revisit all of the specialty specific documents in detail in the spring of 2013 and is currently active in addressing manpower issues and new training initiatives relevant to genomics, new genetic technologies and individualized medicine.

Medical Microbiology  
Chair: David Haldane, MB, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Marie Louie, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Paul Van Caeseele, MD, FRCPC

The specialty committee revised the Specific Standards of Accreditation (SSA), Objectives of Training (OTR), and Specific Training Requirements (STR) and addressed the Specialty Standards Review Committee (SSRC) feedback. The documents were published on July 1, 2012.

The clinical skills assessment document and the Pre-survey Questionnaire (PSQ) for accreditation were reviewed. The review of the Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER) and discussions on the Practice Eligibility Route (PER) are ongoing.
There are 12 Residency Programs in Medical Microbiology across the country. Eleven have full approval. Three programs are scheduled to complete a regular survey in 2013.

The membership of the committee changed substantially in July 2012, as members completed their terms on the committee and were replaced with five new members.

The committee continues to work with the NSS on the development of a molecular diagnostics diploma program. Areas of concern are the Human Resources for Health and its impact on the specialty. Additionally, it continues to be difficult to recruit volunteers for the examination committee.

**Medical Oncology**
Chair: Scott Berry, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Scott North, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Piotr Czaykowski, MD, FRCPC

The specialty committee was very happy to welcome three new members to its voting committee this year: Alwin Jeyakumar, MD, FRCPC (Halifax), Jean Latreille, MD, FRCPC (Montreal), and Joel Gingerich, MD, FRCPC (Winnipeg). Dr. Jeyakumar replaced Bruce Colwell, MD, FRCPC. The committee would like to commend Dr. Colwell for his many years of outstanding service to the Royal College. New members join the committee’s other committed voting members: Tamara Shenkier, MD, FRCPC (Vancouver), Scott North, MD, FRCPC (Edmonton), Anna Tomiak, MD, FRCPC (Kingston). Piotr Czaykowski, MD, FRCPC replaced Richard Tozer, MD, FRCPC as exam committee chair, and Dr. Tozer should also be commended for his stellar leadership of the exam committee.

In 2013, the specialty committee will continue its efforts to facilitate sharing of best educational practices nationally. This year the committee’s focus will be establishing a framework to more effectively put the Objectives of Training (OTR) into practice. A special national program director’s meeting that will coincide with the spring meeting of the specialty committee to launch this initiative. The specialty committee will continue its work to revise the specialty document suite to more accurately reflect our evolving subspecialty.

**Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine**
Chair:  Aaron Chiu, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Harish Amin, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Brian Simmons, MD, FRCPC

This has been a year of transition and change. Many new members joined the specialty committee and the exam committee. Dr. Amin is the chair-elect and brings his experience as chair for the Specialty Committee in Pediatrics. Many thanks go to those members whose terms have completed. Their leadership and dedication guided our transition from accreditation without certification (AWC) to certification with examination. The specialty committee continues to update its documents with the Specialty Training Requirements (STR) and Specific Standards of Accreditation (SSA) undergoing second revision after initial review by the Royal College. Committee members are revising the intrinsic CanMEDs roles of the Objectives of Training (OTR). This year, Brian Simmons, MD, FRCPC and the exam committee developed and administered the fifth certification examination in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine exam. In addition, members of the specialty committee, exam committee and the program directors are working on the 10th annual neonatal objective structured critical examination (OSCE). It will be held in Toronto on April 23, 2013 and will be the first time the OSCE will be held at a single site and be offered in both English and French.
Nephrology
Chair: Verna Yiu, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Euan Carlisle, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Suneet Singh, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Nephrology, along with the program directors, is working on revamping an updated Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER) to align better with the objectives and standards of training. The examination committee has done extensive work on an examination blueprint with the development of new questions.

Neurology
Chair: Willliam Fletcher, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Chris Watling, MD, MMEd, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Christine De Meulemeester, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Neurology met in February and June 2012. Accomplishments include a national survey of Neurologists, conducted by the Canadian Neurological Society, to help determine Neurology resource needs in Canada, including number and type of Neurologists; creation of a site on Alfresco for sharing and development of teaching and evaluation tools for Neurology residency programs; compilation of a list of Canadian subspecialty fellowship programs in Neurology for use by residents, program directors and the Canadian Neurological Society; and review of five Neurology residency programs for accreditation.

Neuropathology
Chair: Marc Del Bigio, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Roland Auer, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Cynthia Hawkins, MD, FRCPC

The specialty committee in Neuropathology’s main task in 2012 was preparation of documents for the Committee on Specialties (COS) review. The specialty committee is pleased to report that the discipline was judged to be functioning well and that the specialty committee would have the next Regular Review in six years. Looking ahead, the committee has two main tasks for 2013. The committee will work with the Canadian Association of Neuropathologists (CANP) to develop a national online educational course for advanced Neuropathology residents and the examination committee will be working to develop an oral examination component for 2014.

Neuroradiology
Chair: Robert J. Sevick, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: William F. Morrish, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Walter J. Montanera, MD, FRCPC

In the fall of 2012, written/short answer questions (SAQ) examinations were administered at multiple centers leading to the first Royal College certification of Neuroradiologists in Canada. This is a significant milestone that has been many years in the making, supported by many dedicated physicians as well as staff of the Royal College. The subspecialty itself is now over 50 years old and plays a pivotal role in the diagnosis and treatment of neurological disease. Recognition by the Royal College and development of an examination is vital to supporting high quality practice in Canada. There are currently five active training programs. Robust, current program documents are now in place and the specialty committee will be working hard to elevate existing programs to comply with the high standards of the Royal College as well as develop new training programs. Existing programs have recently seen an increase in applications from Canadian-trained diagnostic radiology residents, which bodes well for the future of the sub-specialty.
The Specialty Committee in Neurosurgery has been very active in the past year. All specialty specific documents have been reviewed and updated. There has been dialogue with the Critical Care Medicine committee about access to that subspecialty from a Neurosurgery background, with specific criteria to be developed. A new and innovative Neurosurgery Rookie Boot Camp was launched with curriculum and faculty development under the leadership of David Clarke, MD, FRCSC from Dalhousie University. The inaugural course was very well received and there are plans to make this an annual event. The Canadian Spine Society held a half-day session at their 2012 annual meeting to explore the possibility of developing an area of focused competence (AFC-diploma) submission for Spine Surgery. This would be co-developed with the Orthopedic Surgery and Neurosurgery specialty committees.

Obstetrics and Gynecology
Chair: Amanda Skoll, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Wylam Faught, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chair: Jocelyne Martel, MD, FRCSC

The committee underwent a number of changes in membership this year. Their main focus was the development of a specialty-specific Practice Eligibility Route (PER) document, which was completed in December. The committee is in discussion with the interest group in Urogynecology and Female Pelvic Surgery towards recognition of this field as either a subspecialty or an area of focused competence (AFC-diploma) program, and this work is ongoing.

In 2013, the committee anticipates revisions to the specialty training requirements (STR) document.

The Chair would like to thank all members of the committee for their dedication and hard work.

Occupational Medicine
Chair: Michael Schweigert, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Jalees Razavi, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Stephen Tsekrekos, MD, FRCPC

2012 was a year of reflection for the Specialty Committee in Occupational Medicine. There continues to be deliberation by the committee, supported by the National Specialty Society (NSS) that the two existing routes of entry – Public Health and Preventive Medicine and Internal Medicine – are not optimal training for the residents.

A written proposal was presented to the Committee of Specialties (COS) to provide the case for Occupational Medicine to be considered as a primary route of entry specialty as it was in 2006. The rationale was that Occupational Medicine met the criteria for a primary route of entry, that the residents were attracted to the two training programs that existed at that time and that the prior and current residents felt that the primary route of entry from medical school provided the best path of training.

The COS has asked that more data be gathered to evaluate the current routes of entry and that will be the challenge for the committee in 2013.
Orthopedic Surgery
Chair: Tim Carey, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Joel Werier, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chairs: Karl-Andre Lalonde, MD, FRCSC, and David Parsons, MD, FRCSC

The Specialty Committee in Orthopedic Surgery had a productive year with two well attended meetings in 2012. As well as maintaining and updating the document suite, the committee reviewed early applications for Practice Eligibility Route (PER) candidates, and has struck a subcommittee to further define appropriate scope of practice assessment tools for this route. Discussions amongst the program directors identified manpower issues regarding graduating residents as an ongoing concern and further collaborative work has been undertaken to obtain credible nation-wide data on the issue. This initiative will continue in 2013 in the hope that additional information and discussion may help lead to constructive solutions. Additional initiatives to be worked on include harmonizing academic enrichment and consolidation for final year residents.

Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Chair: Brian D. Westerberg, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Wayne Matthews, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chairs: Marie-Jo Olivier, MD, FRCSC, (French) and Martin Corsten, MD, FRCSC (English)

The Committee on Specialties (COS) performed a regular review of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in March 2012, concluding that the specialty was functioning well and could proceed to the next regular review in six years’ time. An interim report will be submitted in 2014 to address future human health resource needs; legal ramifications of the perceived need for vision requirements as a prerequisite for the specialty; and accreditation status of several programs on less than full Approval, which were rectified to Approval on subsequent program reviews.

The specialty committee continues explore competency-based medical education in improving the training and evaluation of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residents in learning surgical skills necessary to perform tympanomastoidectomy and endoscopic sinus.

Unfortunately, the American Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery remains closed to recognition of Canadian training for Board eligibility, despite multiple attempts to convince them otherwise. As more Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residents are participating in International Electives, and both the specialty committee and the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery recognize the value of such electives, training objectives and principles for such electives are being developed to ensure both educational value as well as Resident safety.

Working Group in Pain Medicine
Chair: Patricia Morley-Forster, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Dan Peter Gray, MD, FRCPC

The Working Group in Pain Medicine continued to work on the Objectives of Training (OTR), the Specialty Training Requirements (STR), the Specific Standards of Accreditation (SSA) and the Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER), and the accreditation application. The working group is working on formulating the committee membership as it continues to transition to a subspecialty.

The working group received confirmation that Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine will be an entry route for Pain Medicine and received confirmation that certification through the College of Family Physicians would not be an entry route for Pain Medicine.
In 2013 the working group will develop a Practice Eligibility Route for subspecialists (PER-sub) scope of practice and related process. They will also finalize the Application for the Residency Program so that teaching centres will be ready to start their Pain Medicine training programs by July 2014. The current timeline is that trainees will be able to apply by September 2013.

**Pediatrics**
Chair: Catherine Farrell, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Adelle Atkinson, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chairs: Mona Jabbour, MD, FRCPC, and Christiane Gagnon, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Pediatrics underwent a significant change in membership as several long-standing members, including the chair and vice-chair, completed their mandates. Their significant contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

The committee discussed and reviewed a number of issues, including strategies for the review of the specialty specific documents; updating the Pre-Survey Questionnaire (PSQ); duration of training and training requirements for general Pediatrics (4-year program), with consultation amongst the Pediatric subspecialty programs with respect to the proposed changes; certification examination in Pediatrics, and particularly the Written before Oral exam pilot, to be launched for the 2013 exams; Practice Eligibility Route (PER) and assessment of candidates; and Royal College areas of focused competence (AFC-diploma) with potential entry from Pediatrics.

In 2013, the committee will continue to focus on current and new initiatives that include: completing the review of the specialty specific documents and the PSQ; presentation to the Committee on Specialties (COS) of the proposition regarding the duration of training in Pediatrics; assessing the impact of the Written before Oral exam pilot following the Spring of 2013 examinations; refining tools for assessment of candidates via PER and review of requests for recognition of Royal College AFC-diplomas with potential entry from Pediatrics.

**Pediatric Emergency Medicine**
Chair: Gina Neto, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Karen Black, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Anna Karwowska, MD, FRCPC

In 2012, Francois Belanger, MD, FRCPC stepped down as chair of the specialty committee and a new chair was appointed. Dr. Black continues in her role as vice-chair. Dr. Karwowska is the new chair of the examination committee, replacing David McGillivray, MD, FRCPC. New members of the specialty committee were appointed for region 1 – Geoffrey Hung, MD, FRCPC, region 2 – Lynne Warda, MD, FRCPC, and region 3 – Roderick Lim, MD, FRCPC.

The document suite was revised and is in the final stages of approval with implementation of the new documents expected for July 2013. The committee provided feedback on the area of focused competence (AFC diploma) programs. All residency training programs across Canada have full approval.

The 2012 exam was held in September and there were 14 candidates to the exam. The exam committee has renewed its membership and continues to expand the questions in the RCeds bank. There are ongoing challenges with the development of the exam that are well addressed under the leadership of the exam chair.

A national Pediatric Emergency Medicine simulation curriculum is being developed. This will increase collaboration between programs and improve the quality of simulation education across the country.
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Chair: David Dix, MBChB, FRCPC, FAAP
Vice-chair: Sheila Weitzman, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Donna Johnston, MD, FRCPC

The specialty committee worked hard to update the national standards documents focusing on the Objectives of Training (OTR), which required significant review and addition of discipline-specific detail. In addition, the committee worked with a number of special-interest groups within the subspecialty to provide support and advice regarding the development of areas of focused competence (AFC-diploma) programs. The “Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology” interest group in Canada has, with the full support of the specialty committee, recently submitted an application for recognition as an AFC-diploma, and this is currently under review.

The specialty committee provided on-going support for the examination committee, which continues to successfully deal with the challenges associated with developing an annual examination for a small subspecialty group. The committee has also provided support for the annual PHOELIX examination, which is a formative examination devised to evaluate laboratory skills in all Pediatric Hematology/Oncology clinical trainees across Canada.

The committee has continued to actively engage program directors across Canada and has made important steps forward in consolidating a relationship with C17 (our National Specialty Society for PHO) and ensuring representation of the committee at the C17 Annual General Meeting.

Pediatric Surgery
Chair: Juan Bass, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Grant Miller, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chairs: David Sigalet, MD, FRCSC

The Specialty Committee in Pediatric Surgery completed the review and implementation of their entire specialty specific document suite. Geoffrey Blair, MD, FRCSC completed his third and final term as chair of the specialty committee on June 30, 2012.

At the face-to-face meeting that took place at the Royal College on September 10, 2012, Jason Frank MD, MA (Ed), FRCPC, Director, Specialty Education, Strategy, and Standards, was present for part of the meeting at the request of the program directors group (CAPSTPD) and was extremely helpful in addressing the concerns they raised. The main topic of discussion was the new accreditation system in the U.S. and the impact on Canadian training programs. Since CanMEDS is due to be revised by 2015, the specialty committee has requested that Pediatric Surgery be one of the specialties to be part of any pilot projects.

In the fall of 2013 there will be a workshop that will include the Canadian program directors, specialty committee members, Mark Walton, MD, FRCSC and several invited American representatives where the aim is to work together in the development of the milestones and a future system of assessment that incorporates the requirements of CanMEDS 2015, as well as the American requisites.
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Chair: Lalith Satkunam, MD, FRCPC
Vice-chair: Jennifer Yao, MD, FRCPC
Exam committee chair: Suzan Dojeiji, MD, FRCPC

Currently the Specialty Committee in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) has 13 fully approved residency training programs. This past year the committee reviewed in detail the Pre-survey Questionnaire (PSQ) and the Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER). All other documents remain current. The committee has begun work on the Practice Eligibility Route (PER) document and hopes to finalize this in 2013.

This year the specialty committee had the opportunity to provide feedback to Accreditation Canada on Acute Spinal Cord Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Services standards in the country. The committee now has PM&R representation in Sports and Exercise Medicine a new area of focused competence (AFC-diploma) program.

At a well-attended program directors meeting there was a discussion on a project lead by the University of Toronto on “Development and assessment of a clinical anatomy program for residents in PM&R training”.

An initiative the specialty committee is pursuing this year is an extensive National Survey of Physiatrists to determine current practice patterns and trends to guide the committee in the delivery of training. The committee also hopes to explore a pilot project on competency-based training.

Plastic Surgery
Chair: Richard J. Warren, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Doug Ross, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chair: Doug Ross, MD, FRCSC

The Specialty Committee in Plastic Surgery met twice in 2012, and the meetings focused on reviewing the new documents governing training. The Specific Standards of Accreditation (SSA), the Specialty Training Requirements (STR) and the Objectives of Training (OTR) were submitted to the Royal College in 2011 and are now in the approval stage.

The Royal College initiative for areas of focused competence (AFC-diploma) was extensively discussed. A cross-Canada survey was completed to assess the opinion of rank and file surgeons. The findings suggest that most surgeons do not want AFC-diplomas to be granted to Plastic Surgery or to specialties which overlap with Plastic Surgery. A letter was written to a small group from Ophthalmology explaining why the committee could not support their application for an AFC-diploma; this question will now enter into the Dispute Resolution Mechanism, administered by the Royal College. The Royal College is committed to ensuring that the AFC-diploma process will not harm existing specialties.

The two year Core Surgery program is now entitled Surgical Foundations and the committee changed the requirements for Plastic Surgery to align with other surgical disciplines, namely that up to 12 months can be spent in the parent specialty. The Surgical Foundations examination will still be written after two years, but residents may now spend four out of their five years in Plastic Surgery.

In addition, the Royal College examination was discussed; it continues to have a high level of validity and is perceived to be difficult but fair. No major changes are planned for the examination.
The Specialty Committee in Psychiatry has been focusing on several issues – supporting the development of subspecialties in Psychiatry (Forensic, Child and Adolescent, and Geriatric Psychiatry), finalizing the Specialty Training Requirements (STR) and Objectives of Training (OTR) documents, and beginning to tackle the challenge of developing a Practice Eligibility Route (PER) that involves an assessment process that is comprehensive, valid, and rigorous. With some editorial changes the committee feels the STR and OTR are manageable for programs. The committee’s next goal is to review the Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER) to ensure they link up appropriately with other documents.

The PER process is one that the committee is working carefully on. The specialty committee completed the scope of practice document and is working on the actual exam process that it will hopefully be able to pilot in the next year, recognizing that major challenges remain. A working group consisting of members of the specialty committee, representatives of the Canadian Psychiatric Association, and program directors are working on this.

There are currently 14 Public Health and Preventive Medicine (PHPM) residency training programs in Canada, five in Ontario and four in Quebec. The Public Health Agency of Canada funded a meeting of all program directors in November 2012 enabling many to attend the PHPM specialty committee meeting the following day. Dr Buxton, the new specialty committee chair thanks Bart Harvey, MD, FRCPC for his enormous contribution over the past six years as chair and welcomes new and returning members to the committee.

Thirty-two candidates took the PHPM exam in 2012. In 2013, the committee, with input from program directors, will complete the revision to the PHPM Objectives of Training (OTR) and will develop the specialty scope of practice document that will be used in the process to determine if a non-Canadian trained physician is qualified to become a PHPM specialist through the Practice Eligibility Route (PER).

Dorianne Rheaume, MD, FRCPC completed her term as committee chair in November 2012 and was succeeded by Dr. Trotter who completed her term as chair of the program directors committee. The specialty committee welcomed Lucie Blondeau, MD, FRCPC (region 4), Jinka Sathya, MD, FRCPC (region 5) and Hannah Carolan, MD, FRCPC (program director chair).

The Universities of Dalhousie and Western Ontario underwent external accreditation reviews. As programs undergo external reviews, program directors submit the Pre-survey Questionnaire (PSQ) and other accreditation documents to the Radiation Oncology program directors document library in Alfresco. This document sharing website improves collaboration between programs. The Royal College provided support to have the PSQ documents from Laval (external review in 2011) translated from French to English.
The specialty committee is committed to enhancing in-training evaluation particularly in the form of direct observation of core tasks/competencies. These are required items in the 2012 iteration of the specialty specific documents. The committee is moving forward with an application for an Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) in brachytherapy. A core team of experts with regional representation is working on this, with a first draft to be discussed at the specialty committee meeting in the spring of 2013.

**Respirology**

Chair: David McCormack, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-Chair: Lori Whitehead, MD, FRCPC  
Exam Board Chair: Paul Hernandez, MD, FRCPC

The Specialty Committee in Respirology held one meeting in 2012 at the Canadian Respiratory Conference in April. The committee updated and revised the Objectives of Training (OTR), the Specific Standards of Accreditation (SSA) and the Specialty Training Requirements (STR) for training programs in pediatric Respirology.

**Rheumatology**

Chair: David Robinson, MD, FRCPC  
Vice-chair: Claire LeBlanc, MD, FRCPC  
Exam committee chair: Eric Grant, MD, FRCPC

Having completed a successful six year term as Rheumatology specialty committee chair, Heather McDonald-Blumer, MD, FRCPC stepped down in 2012. Dr. Robinson from the University of Manitoba assumed the role of chair after several years as vice-chair. Dr. LeBlanc agreed to assume the vice-chair position. Fortunately, the expertise of Dr. McDonald-Blumer will not be lost as she continues to represent Ontario as the region 3 representative on the committee. With the changeover in leadership comes an opportunity to take stock of where the committee is and where the committee is headed. Recruitment of residents to Rheumatology and Royal College recognition of musculoskeletal ultrasound training are just two of the issues to be addressed in the near future.

**Sport and Exercise Medicine**

Chair: Merrilee Zetaruk, MD, FRCPC

A working group for the new Area of Focused Competence (AFC-diploma) in Sport and Exercise Medicine (SEM) was struck in the spring of 2012. Members of the group represent each of the primary specialties that are entry routes for SEM: Orthopedic Surgery (Bob McCormack, MD, FRCSC), Emergency Medicine (Bob Foxford, MD, FRCPC and Anita Pozgay, MD, FRCPC), Rheumatology (Claire LeBlanc, MD, FRCPC), Internal Medicine (Mark Roberts, MD, FRCPC), Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Deirdre McLean, MD, FRCPC), and Pediatrics (Dr. Zetaruk). The group met for the first time in September 2012 for a two-day workshop to refine documents, including the Competency Training Requirements (CTR), evaluation portfolio, and documents for accreditation of individual programs. The documents have been circulated to members of the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine, including fellowship directors and Board members, for review and comments. Once this feedback has been provided, the documents will be finalized. The working group anticipates that programs will be able to submit applications for accreditation of SEM fellowships in the spring, 2013.
**Surgical Foundations**  
Chair: Douglas Hedden, MD, FRCSC  
Vice-chair: Deepak Dath, MD, FRCSC  
Exam committee chair: Ash Singhal, MD, FRCSC

The Surgical Foundations Advisory Committee reviewed the *Objectives of Surgical Foundations Training* (OTR) and *Specialty Training Requirements* (STR). Because of the concerns with the Surgical Foundations Exam a subcommittee spent several days at the Royal College reviewing the OTR and making sure that the objectives represented items that all surgeons should be competent with. The subcommittee then made sure that items in the question bank could be mapped to an objective. This should the resident’s feedback each year.

The committee underwent a review by the Committee on Specialties (COS) and was approved for a regular review but some concerns were noted. These concerns had to deal with the role of Surgical Foundations in the Accreditation process. As a result of that the committee has written *Standards for Surgical Foundation* (SSF). while these are not accreditation standards they are some rules about how Surgical Foundations should be organized within the Universities. The Accreditation Committee has accepted these guidelines in principle. The committee has not advocated for separate accreditation for Surgical Foundations but has suggested that the program be accredited as part of the primary specialties accreditation process. Members still do not support the idea that Surgical Foundations should be an entry-level program with a separate match for the primary specialty.

The specialty committee has an active Assessment Committee and Simulation Committee. The assessment committee will make recommendations on how to evaluate residents in the Surgical Foundations program and will hopefully develop some competency-based tools.

**Thoracic Surgery**  
Chair: Gail Darling, MD, FRCSC  
Vice-chair: Richard Bigsby, MD, FRCSC  
Exam committee chair: Sean Grondin, MD, FRCSC

Donna Maziak, MD, FRCSC completed her third term as chair of the Specialty Committee in Thoracic Surgery on June 30, 2012. Dr. Darling accepted the position of chair of the specialty committee effective July 1, 2012.

The Thoracic Surgery national curriculum developed by Jean Deslauriers, MD, FRCSC and Giles Beauchamp, MD FRCSC has been translated into French thanks to the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgery (CAPS) which provided funding for this project. Dr. Maziak has mapped the national curriculum according to the CanMEDS competencies and it is anticipated that the curriculum will be posted on the Royal College website in early 2013.

As part of the June 2010 revision of the *Specialty Training Requirements* (STR), Cardiac Surgery was removed as an entry route into Thoracic Surgery as the committee believed that Cardiac Surgery trainees no longer had the fundamental skills required for entry into Thoracic Surgery. Although this change was initially approved by the Royal College, the Committee on Specialties (COS) instructed the committee to reverse this change but acknowledged that the Thoracic Surgery program directors were in the best position to mandate the training requirements for entry to Thoracic Surgery from Cardiac Surgery. The Specialty Committee in Thoracic Surgery is currently developing a document specifying the requirements for entry into Thoracic Surgery from Cardiac Surgery. This proposal has been forwarded to Jason Frank MD, MA (Ed), FRCPC, Director, Specialty Education, Strategy, and Standards.
**Urology**
Chair: Andrew MacNeil, MD, FRCSC
Vice-chair: Serge Carrier, MD, FRCSC
Exam committee chair(s): Ron Kodama, MD, FRCSC

The specialty of Urology was found in good health in 2012 with all 12 residency programs on full approval, and a positive review of the specialty by the Committee on Specialties (COS). Current and future challenges will include vetting applications for area of focused competence (AFC-diplomas) in one or more specific areas of Urology and determining what impact these may have upon the specialty. In addition, this committee is working in conjunction with the socioeconomics committee of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA) to obtain current and accurate data on employment opportunities for graduating residents so that we can align the numbers of residency positions with anticipated practice positions.

**Vascular Surgery**
Chair: Thomas Lindsay, MD, FRCSC
Vice-Chair: Randolph Guzman, MD, FRCSC
Exam Committee Chair: Marie-France Guimond, MD, FRCSC

The direct entry program to Vascular Surgery was successfully launched in 2012. At the Royal College all the training requirements and documents were approved. New residency programs were approved in time for CaRMS match. On July 1, 2012, new PGY-1 Vascular trainees started in the five year direct entry program. All of this would not have been accomplished without the foresight, persistence and diligent hard work of David Taylor, MD, FRCSC, out-going chair, and the entire Specialty Committee in Vascular Surgery.

There have been some significant changes in the specialty committee and the examination committee. Dr. Taylor has competed three very active terms as chair. Dr. Lindsay would like to thank Randy Guzman, MD, FRCSC for his years of service as chair of the Vascular Surgery examination board and welcome him now as vice-chair of the specialty committee. Dr. Guzman is completing his term after serving 10 years on the exam board with five years as the chair. I would like to welcome Marie-France Guimond who is the new examination committee chair. Thanks to Thomas Forbes, MD, FRCSC and Paul Petrasek, MD, FRCSC who have competed terms of service to the specialty committee.