



## **Bridging the gap: medical education conference aims to systemically improve quality of patient care in Canada**

Sept 29, 2016 - Niagara Falls, Ont. – Today, more than 1,600 medical educators, researchers and policy makers from Canada and around the world gather in Niagara Falls to discuss how the latest healthcare systems changes and advancements in physician training will ultimately enhance outcomes for Canadian patients.

An annual medical education forum put on by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the International Conference on Residency Education (ICRE) is the world's largest conference devoted exclusively to advancing residency education - the intensive time period after medical school during which doctors complete their medical and surgical training.

This year's theme is *Advancing Quality: Aligning Residency Education and Patient Care*. Numerous multinational healthcare studies suggest that a quality and safety chasm persists in clinical settings – and our education system for training medical professionals hasn't evolved to bridge the gap. Through interactive workshops, plenary lectures and other educational sessions, ICRE 2016 will confront the current challenges and opportunities that exist around teaching and training quality within residency education; with a primary focus on improving the quality of care for today's – and tomorrow's – patients.

"As patients and their families become aware of some of the adverse events that can occur in healthcare systems, they are increasingly asking health professionals to respond," said Dr. Jason Frank, chair of ICRE and director of specialty education at the Royal College.

"What we're trying to do at ICRE is to enhance residency education so that doctors have the skills and tools necessary to address the systemic gaps that can exist in healthcare systems, and better respond to 21<sup>st</sup> century patient needs."

Conference highlights include:

- Keynote lectures from international experts involved in the quality improvement (QI) and patient safety (PI) movement, including Dr. Kaveh G. Shojania (University of Toronto) and Dr. Paul B. Batalden (Dartmouth College; Institute for Healthcare Improvement)
- The launch of the Royal College's new Medical Workforce Knowledgebase (MWK), detailing statistics and long term trends of 31 specialties in Canada;
- Convocation address by Dr. James Orbinski, a founding member of both Médecins sans frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and Dignitas International;
- Presentation of three national awards to: Dr. James Orbinski ([Royal College Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award](#)), Dr. Nadine Caron ([Dr. Thomas Dignan Indigenous Health Award](#)) and Allan S. MacDonald (James H. Graham Award of Merit)

The complete ICRE program is available at <http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/events/icre/icre-program-information-e>.

*The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is the national, not-for-profit organization that oversees the medical education of specialists in Canada by setting high standards for postgraduate medical education and continuing professional development. In collaboration with health organizations and government agencies, the Royal College also plays a role in developing sound health policy in Canada.*

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