New

SPECIAL INTEREST/FOCUSED PRACTICE GROUP (SIFP)

National Faculty members Drs. Lydia Hatcher and Ruth Dubin are members of a newly formed Special Interest/Focused Practice Group (SIFP) in chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP). The College of Family Physicians Canada (CFPC) approved an application created by a number of individuals, some of who are members of the Canadian Pain Society, to form the SIFP Group. Dr. Lydia Hatcher will represent the Maritimes, and Dr. Ruth Dubin will represent Ontario on this group. Other committee members include: Drs. Mary-Louise O'Driscoll (British Columbia/Alberta), Greg Chernish (Manitoba/Saskatchewan), Roman Jovey (Canadian Pain Society) and Pierre Arsenault (Quebec).

The goals of the SIFP are to improve the education of all primary care MD's in Canada, whether they be trainees, teachers or community practitioners. Dr. Dubin informs us that they hope to develop a curriculum in CNCP for trainees, as well as programs for additional training (3rd year) in CNCP. Close contact with colleagues in the Addictions SIFP will be crucial in these endeavours. The SIFP has the support of the College of Family Physicians Canada to undertake a survey of the College membership regarding their barriers to, and learning needs in chronic non-cancer pain and addiction in primary care.

Both the CNCP and Addiction Committees are newly formed and each has had their initial meeting with the CFPC. Drawing upon primary care to be the foundation of both pain and addiction care will require considerable help and National Faculty members will be central to this process. Working together and sharing ideas/initiatives/innovations will lead to safer and more widely available pain and addiction care in Canada. The SIFP will continue to keep us apprised of their progress.