



## President's Message

Dr. Lee Donohue  
leedonohue@rogers.com



I'm writing this on Mother's Day, a day for flowers, chocolate, cherished hand-made cards and special breakfasts (who cares if the the kitchen is still a mess!). For some of us it is a day to recall memories of our own mother with a wish to once again hear her wise advice.

I'm reminded today that many physicians are not comfortable with self-promotion. It's tough for us to highlight our excellent work and detail

our skills, knowledge and contributions. Though I'm here to write as President of the Academy of Medicine Ottawa (AMO) and not as a mother, I should forewarn you that my motherly instinct to enthusiastically praise Ottawa physicians will frequently surface this year.

Each year the AMO Executive identifies a primary theme to help focus our ideas and plan activities. This year's theme is "Hearing Voices;" the voices of Ottawa physicians and their patients. The AMO Executive will be listening to your concerns as we try to influence local and provincial policies so that Ottawa can be a healthy workplace for physicians. Mayor Larry O'Brien is unabashedly promotional as he wants to create "a culture of excellence" to make Ottawa the best city in the world. To create this environment he'll need creative, healthy, respected physicians with access to the necessary resources to do our best work.

With your help the AMO will continue with activities that build a healthy environment for our members. Leadership development, member outreach, public relations, education, and advocacy are our core areas of activity.

As part of skills development for the AMO Executive, in March we participated in an excellent seminar on health policy assessment given by Owen Adams of the Canadian Medical Association. On June 2nd the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) is hosting a conference in Ottawa on leadership and media relations. If you are interested to attend please contact Erin Long at the OMA for further details.

This year we have welcomed medical students as Academy members and are pleased that resident and student observers attend our Executive meetings. Carla Trail, a family medicine

resident, is a 'trailblazer' for resident participation in her role as an Ottawa delegate to OMA Council.

We expect volunteer membership in the AMO will increase as non-members see the value that AMO membership provides. The AMO recently negotiated a marketing agreement for billing services with two companies (Healthscreen and Practice Solutions). Further information about this will be mailed to you soon.

The Ottawa Physician's Professional Directory and the AMO Psychiatric Referral Service continue to assist physicians in their clinical work. These projects have also helped with our policy and advocacy initiatives to highlight problems in access to physicians and to assist in creating a future coordinated referral system in Ottawa. Conversations with the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) continue. As the LHIN implements its health services plan AMO members will ensure that proposals for community engagement move into action.

Volunteer time and funding are required for AMO to successfully do all these activities. Branch society funding remains problematic but we have begun a dialogue with the OMA to look at funding for operational expenses for the branch society work we do. Our staff works very hard to ensure that members have access to the information and services that they need and to ensure that the Ottawa community knows of our activities.

AMO members have creative and important ideas so please call and share these with Dawna Ramsay, Executive Director. She's a great listener! Your stories of health care disasters and successes are important as it is from this feedback that your Executive can provide information, discuss solutions and develop programs and services to assist you.

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# DocToc

The newsletter for AMO members

Editor Dr. Merrilee Fullerton  
Dr. Eoghan O'Shea  
Managing Editor Dawna Ramsay  
Production Manager Debbie Rupert



2007-2008

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Dr. Geraint Lewis 613 761-4169

### District 8 Chair

Dr. Derek Puddester 613 737-7600 x2703

## AMO Secretariat

Executive Director Dawna Ramsay  
Executive Assistant Monica Lunzmann

Mailing address 1867 Alta Vista Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1G 3Y6

Telephone 613 733-2604

Fax 613 733-9083

Email academy.medicine@on.aibn.com

ISSN 1708-8690

## Editorial: Health of the medical profession

Dr. Merrilee Fullerton  
smkaminski@rogers.com

Hectic professional lives often pull physicians in many different directions. Occasionally, we need to step back and ask ourselves what is important individually and collectively. Despite a multitude of differing perspectives it is fairly accurate to say that solidarity, renewal and representation are keystones to the health of the medical profession.

During this time of transformation of the health care system in Ontario, the need for solidarity amongst physicians is increasing. For example, we have seen the changes within the field of family medicine over the past few years resulting in numerous models, each with their own separate needs and structures. We have seen the formation of LHINs, selective introduction of information technology programs and the formation of settings for nurse anaesthetists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Although diversity can be good, we should not forget to balance these changes with the needs of all fellow physicians.

For solidarity, the medical profession needs to be inclusive. There should be no group of physicians seen to be at the fringe either geographically or by their chosen area or method of practice. Communication plays a role in this formally and informally, helping to maintain two-way dialogue and collegiality. Listening to physicians' needs and concerns and enabling appropriate action is one of the AMO's goals which has been achieved in the past and which it continues to try to improve.

Solidarity does not mean the stifling of different views or the melting of many different views into one amorphous mass. It means tolerance for the perspectives of fellow physicians, for their chosen method of practice and for their choice of career/family balance.

As physicians move through their careers there will be phases that require more flexibility and a change to practice patterns either briefly or prolonged.

With changing demographics both within medicine and of the population as a whole, it will become increasingly important to permit flexibility for medical practitioners. Solidarity can be maintained through respect for each physician's specific needs.

Renewal is an area that requires continual attention as our physician population ages and as many younger medical graduates come on stream. Renewal is a dynamic process that is never completed. A healthy medical profession requires new physicians to join colleagues in the processes within their profession and beyond that allow their voices and concerns to be heard and to which they can bring new enthusiasm.

Renewal of relationships with currently practicing and long time physicians is equally important. Retaining physicians, particularly as they approach retirement, will be needed to address medical human resource issues in the future and more flexible professional arrangements will become a necessity.

Representation of physicians must be seen as requiring ongoing improvement. As our profession comes under more scrutiny in the coming years, strong and accessible leadership is likely to become increasingly important. Leaders must fully understand what is happening both inside and outside their organizations. That requires leaders to step outside of their comfort zones to consult widely across the organization, to see the big picture and to ensure that the governance structures and appropriate democratic representative processes takes place.

Physicians need to engage in the decision-making involving their profession. It is too important to leave to others. Developing new ideas, new approaches and challenging the status quo should be seen to be part of ongoing, progressive change within the medical profession.

## Not just tourists: supporting the world's health — one suitcase at a time

Dr. Atul Kapur

Imagine not being able to get antibiotics for cellulitis. Not finding acetaminophen on the store shelves. Or having diabetes but not having access to glucose strips.

That's reality in Cuba, a country with excellent doctors but few drugs and medical supplies.

Not Just Tourists (NJT) works to change that, by sending medical supplies to Cuba and countries in similar situations (eg, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and South Africa). They send suitcases of medicine and medical supplies with travelling Canadians, who deliver them at clinics and hospitals, directly to local doctors who can make immediate use of them.

It started in 1995 when St. Catharines GP Ken Taylor and his wife Denise, seeing the lack of supplies, started taking medicine to remote areas of Cuba. Soon other travellers offered to take medicines, too. They formed the not-for-profit group "Not Just Tourists". There are now NJT groups in Calgary, Edmonton, Kingston, Toronto and here in Ottawa-Gatineau — with new groups forming elsewhere.

NJT sends prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, medical supplies (such as bandages, antiseptics and exam gloves), eye glasses and dental supplies. They do not send narcotics or other controlled substances. Their Web site details what they do and do not accept.

### Yes it's legal

A letter signed by a Canadian doctor is included in each suitcase advising that the traveller is transporting the medicine to a medical practitioner in the country of destination. This conforms to customs regulations for medical aid.

The Web site explains the procedures taken so that donations reach their intended destination without problems.

### How you can help

NJT's biggest need is a steady supply of medicines and medical supplies.

You can donate surplus samples, medicines up to three months past their expiry date and other medical and dental supplies.

To forestall liability concerns, inventory records are not maintained by source.

If you want to take a suitcase on your trip, or donate money, the Web site details how to do so and how to get a charitable tax receipt.

For more information:

Web site [www.njt-pqt.org](http://www.njt-pqt.org)

Email [NJT.Ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:NJT.Ottawa@gmail.com)

Phone 866 426-3695

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## Have you ordered the 2007 edition of the Ottawa Physician's Professional Directory?

This comprehensive Directory assists physicians with their work and is available on CD ROM and in print format to physicians only. The directory is updated annually and the 2007 edition is available. As a member of the AMO, you pay half the price of non-members for the directory.

**Order now!** Payment must be received with order. Please make payment (by cheque only) to the Academy of Medicine Ottawa. Orders will be processed within two weeks of receipt.

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## Simplifying the selection and usage of CMS/EMR solutions

Wing-Si Luk, Director, Product Management, OntarioMD Inc.

The adoption of Clinical Management Systems (CMS) and Electronic Medical Records (EMR) continues to be a hot topic in health care, with more physicians joining the conversation every day. The following highlights some of the ways that OntarioMD is helping physicians simplify the selection, adoption and usage of CMS/EMR solutions.

### **EMR Advisor**

EMR Advisor is an online community available through [www.ontariomd.ca](http://www.ontariomd.ca), designed to facilitate communication between physicians, their peers and qualified subject matter experts about information technology change management, EMR implementation and optimization. This online community offers links to news and resources, discussion forums, and access to Web logs written by physicians currently integrating CMS/EMR solutions into their practice. Looking ahead, EMR Advisor plans to provide CMS/EMR product comparisons and ratings authored by physician-users.

### **CMS/EMR Certification and Demo Lab**

To help physicians make an informed decision about a CMS/EMR that meets their practice needs, the OntarioMD CMS/EMR Demo Lab provides physicians with a place to “test drive” a short-list of different CMS/EMR product offerings. This environment allows for the comparison of products in a real-world setting, using physician-scripted patient data and workflows to simulate their particular clinical and practice conditions.

### **CMS specification version 2.0**

OntarioMD has recently released CMS specification version

2.0, which focuses on data portability between CMS/EMR systems and establishes a core data set framework based on a cumulative patient profile.

Data portability helps to protect the physician’s investment in their medical practice technology by giving them the ability to migrate their data to another certified CMS/EMR system. All CMS systems who wish to be certified against this new specification will be required to undergo the certification process by 31 March 2008.

### **Transition and adoption support**

OntarioMD also supports physicians beyond the initial CMS/EMR selection process. Once a system has been chosen, physicians funded through OntarioMD’s Transition Support Program (TSP) are eligible to receive on-site assistance to successfully implement the system into their practice environment. This program offers physicians IT project management support to implement their CMS/EMR by providing access to operations-support staff to assist in the many connectivity, set-up and testing activities necessary for a successful adoption.

### **Provide your input into the next CMS Specification**

OntarioMD is currently recruiting physicians to join working groups to provide input into the requirements for the next version of the CMS Specification. The next specification is planned for spring 2008 and will focus on improved EMR functionality and practice workflow. To join, please send an email to: [info@ontariomd.com](mailto:info@ontariomd.com)

### **This August at the Mill of Kintail**

The Mill of Kintail museum will be featuring a display of art by local physicians for the month of August — don’t miss it! Maybe you will feel inspired to try your hand at art yourself!

The Mill of Kintail conservation area, located just outside of Almonte, Ontario, was the summer estate and art studio of Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie (1867–1938), internationally renowned for his work as both a physician and a sculptor. Information: 613 256-3610

### **Upcoming CMPA election**

AMO member, **Dr. Bryan Callaghan** is seeking the support of Ottawa area physicians in the CMPA Election of Council. Ballots were mailed on May 23 and must be returned before June 27. Dr. Callaghan is committed to the responsible representation of Ottawa area physicians at the governance level of the CMPA.

## Dr. Dennis Pitt honoured at OMA reception

At a reception held during OMA Council on April 26, **Dr. Dennis Pitt** was honoured by his colleagues and peers. Dennis has served for the last six years as District 8 Director at the OMA, and was on the Negotiations Committee during the last round. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of physicians in Ottawa as well as Ontario.

Dennis is Vice President of the Medical Staff Association of The Ottawa Hospital. He has practiced General Surgery in Ottawa since 1980 and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery of the University of Ottawa. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Medical Association, Chair of the Committee on Professionalism of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons and a past president of the AMO.

The AMO thanked Dennis at the reception on behalf of our medical community and presented him with a signed copy of Dr. Vincent Lam's book, *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures*. The AMO also made a donation in Dennis' name to the *Dr Christina Hill Medical Student Bursary*.

## OMA honours and awards 2007

The AMO's nominations of members **Drs. Chris Fleming** and **Ian Warrack** for **OMA Life Membership** was accepted by the OMA Board of Directors. The awards were presented at a ceremony held during OMA Council on April 28.

Life membership is awarded to OMA members who have made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Association or to medicine in Ontario.

Dr. Fleming is a family physician and Assistant Professor (VPT), Department of Family Medicine, University of Ottawa.

Dr. Ian Warrack, a former OMA president, lectures for the Department of Family Medicine, University of Ottawa. He is a Rotarian and is Chair of the CMA Holdings Board of Directors. Drs. Fleming and Warrack are both past presidents of the AMO.

## AMO member among hall of fame inductees

**Dr. Wilbert Keon**, founder of the University of Ottawa's Heart Institute, is among the 2007 inductees into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. In addition to his numerous awards, Dr. Keon is an Officer of the Order of Canada (1984). Dr. Keon, along with other inductees entering the hall of fame this year, will be formally inducted at an October ceremony in London, Ontario, where the hall of fame is based.

## Dr. John Fletcher, 1950-2007

Dr. John Fletcher passed away peacefully in his home on 9 April 2007, age 56 years. Dr. Fletcher leaves his long-time friend and partner of many years, Shalagh Davies-Lyons (Edmond); daughter Shari Kazen and son Christopher Kazen. Dr. Fletcher's many friends and acquaintances will deeply miss spending time with him, discussing everything from the state of the world to the Sens. "Doc's" patients and co-workers at McArthur Family Medicine know that they have lost a skilled, compassionate doctor who authentically cared for their well-being.

Dr. Fletcher was a member of the AMO. A donation by the AMO was made to the Canadian Wildlife Federation in his memory. — ed.

### Code 99 Doctors for Doctors

In the next month you will receive a brief survey on physician health. Please take a few minutes to complete it as this will help us to improve the Code 99 program.

Do you need a doctor or would you like to provide care to your colleagues? Call Code 99 at 613 562-5800 x8507.

## OMA Central Registry

The Ontario Medical Association's Central Registry maintains lists of physicians seeking practice opportunities and openings available in a variety of practice settings. This service is offered at no charge to OMA members. In 2006, 660 users registered, with 60 physicians seeking practice opportunities and 600 physicians offering openings in practice. Enhancements are planned in 2007 to include physicians looking for work to be listed on the OMA Web site: [www.oma.org](http://www.oma.org)





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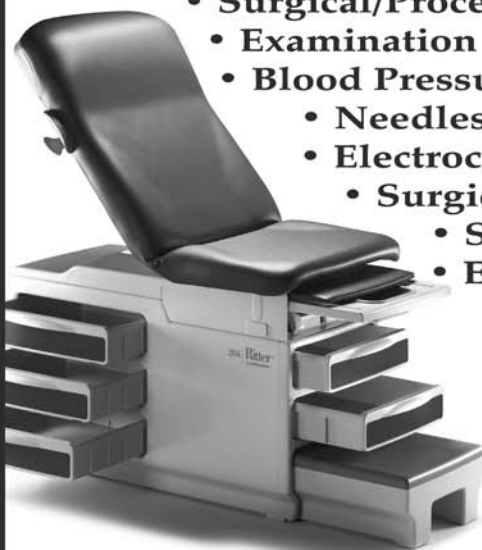
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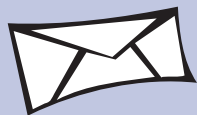
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**The deadline for the next issue is 9 October 2007.**

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Chair, OMA Section on General and Family Practice

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