

CHILD HEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THE ROLE OF THE PAEDIATRICIAN IN AN INTER-PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT

AN INVITATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

November 17–18, 2006 • Sheraton Gateway Hotel • Pearson International Airport, Toronto Ontario

Introduction

Canada's children and youth must receive the very best health care possible and therefore it is essential that their care providers have the appropriate education and training to meet future needs. While many providers are involved in the delivery of health care, pediatricians have played and will continue to play a significant and essential role in the provision of health care services to children and youth. It is critical that the skills and competencies, and roles required by pediatricians to optimally deliver health care to Canada's children and youth be well defined and needs-based especially as child health care and the health care system continues to evolve rapidly. These changes include inter-professional practice, collaborative care models, the increasing number of accredited subspecialties and their impact on the role of the pediatrician, hospitalists, more varied communities of practice, and so on. It is necessary to develop a mechanism to effectively determine the future health care service needs of Canada's children and youth and identify the competencies that pediatricians must have to play an appropriate role in the delivery of child health care. Therefore the symposium, *Child Health in the 21st Century: The Role of the Pediatrician in an Inter-Professional Environment* will take place November 17, 18, 2006. This invitational multi-disciplinary symposium will address and define the attributes including the knowledge, skills, competencies and roles that Canada's pediatricians need to deliver health care to Canada's children and youth in the future. This symposium will build on the conclusions of the 1997 Ross Conference *Child and Youth Health Care in the 21st Century*, which did not focus on the competencies required of future pediatricians.

The Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS), the Pediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC), and the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) are the original sponsors of the symposium, which now also include Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

Objectives

- The **primary objective** will be to identify the future roles of the pediatrician in the delivery of health care to Canada's children and youth in the context of the evolving inter-professional environment. This includes identifying the knowledge, skills and competencies that pediatricians must have, and the roles that pediatricians must play as generalists, sub-specialists, community-based practitioners, academic practitioners, investigators acquiring new knowledge pertinent to child and youth health, advocates, and partners with education and public health institutions.
- The **secondary objective** is to review human resources needs, *i.e.* the number of pediatricians, as well as other health professionals, who will be required for the various roles in the context of the evolving inter-professional health care system, while recognizing the necessity to optimize the use of all resources.

In order to address these objectives, input will be required from many stakeholders who are directly or indirectly involved in child health. Delegates participating in the symposium are from a variety of communities and health professions, including the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), educational institutions, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Health Council of Canada, nursing organizations, pediatric surgeons, psychiatrists, and psychologists, governments, and a wide variety of stakeholders. Representatives from many institutions and organizations, from all regions of Canada and from many professions, will be participating in the symposium and contributing their expertise and experiences.



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Symposium Outline...

The two-day invitational symposium will be held November 17–18, 2006 in Toronto to address the above objectives. The symposium planning committee included representatives from the CPS, PCC, CAPHC, the Pediatric Undergraduate Program Directors (PUPDOC), the Association of Canadian Pediatric Program Directors, the Chair of the RCPSC Pediatric Specialty Committee, CFPC, representatives from the Public Health Agency, Health Canada, the Canadian Family Advisory Network, and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA).

Delegates from relevant institutions and organizations involved in child health have been invited to participate in the symposium. Keynote speakers include Dr. Brian Postl, CEO of the Winnipeg Health Authority and National Wait Time Advisor and Dr. Josh Tepper, from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. All delegates will be expected to actively participate in the discussions and share their wisdom and expertise.

Four themes will be discussed including:

- Meeting the Needs of Diverse and/or Vulnerable Populations,
- Meeting the Needs of Children and Youth with Chronic Health Conditions,
- Child and Youth Health Care Human Resources,
- Education and Training: Meeting the Needs of Children and Youth.

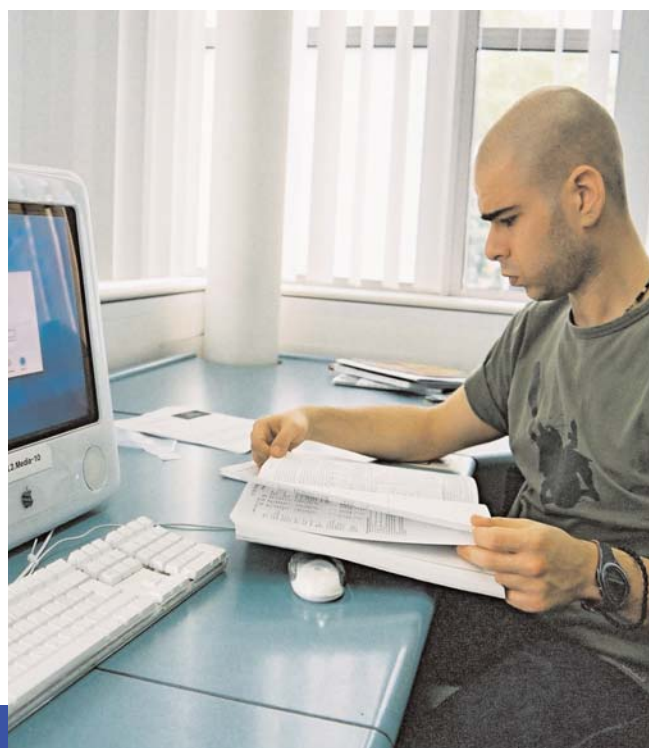
Each Theme will begin with a plenary session delivered by experts from across the country and will be followed by breakout groups which will tackle challenging issues emerging from the plenary. Each breakout group will summarize its deliberations to the entire conference with ample time for formal and informal discussions during the symposium.

Following dinner on the evening of November 17, a multidisciplinary Panel Discussion will address **Inter-Professional Care Models** and all delegates will be encouraged to participate in the discussion.

The panel discussion will be an important component of the symposium, and should provide useful and innovative ideas about the future of child and youth health care models.

The final afternoon of the symposium will be devoted to developing recommendations, and identifying next steps and additional work to be done. All delegates and speakers will be included in the final deliberations and the development of the recommendations and action plan. For the symposium to be a success, the focus will be on developing useful recommendations that can be actioned by those charged with the education and training of pediatricians. A secondary benefit will be valuable discussion about the number of pediatricians required which should be of use to health human resource planners. The discussions of inter-professional models of care should also be informative for both policy development and educational planning.

Following the symposium, the information and recommendations will be collated into a report that will be shared with all the participants. The report will be published in summary form (discussions with the editor of *Pediatrics and Child Health* have occurred with regard to publishing the summary and recommendations). In addition, the report and its recommendations will be distributed to relevant institutions such as the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canadian medical schools, and provincial Ministries of Health.



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