We have developed this *CPD Accreditation Bulletin* to provide Royal College Accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Providers with important and informative accreditation updates.

Please distribute this Bulletin to anyone in your organization who may be interested in continuing professional development.

### 4th National CPD accreditation conference

The 4th National CPD Accreditation Conference, jointly organized and hosted by the Royal College and the College of Family Physicians of Canada, was held on September 20-21 in Toronto.

142 delegates gathered to share ideas and engage in dialogue on a wide range of topics including CPD related insights from the 2010 National Physician Survey, trends in CPD and CPD in an information age– to name a few! To view the slides from most presentations, click [here](#). Each of the 2012 Royal College Accredited CPD Provider Innovation Award recipients presented their award-winning CPD innovations. Congratulations once again to the following award recipients on their outstanding accomplishments:

- the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology
- the Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development Office, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary and
- the UBC Division of Continuing Professional Development, Faculty of Medicine

To view photos of the Awards presentation, please click [here](#).

### Renewed accreditation agreement: UEMS

The renewed agreement between the Royal College and the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) is active from May 1st, 2012 through to April 30th, 2015.

This agreement allows European Union (EU) physicians who participate in accredited live educational activities held in Canada to convert Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Section 1 – Accredited Group Learning credits to European Continuing Medical Education Credits (ECMECs), and Canadian physicians who participate in similar activities in the EU to convert ECMECs to MOC Section 1 - Accredited Group Learning credits.

The following statement may be included on programs and certificates of participation given to physicians for participation in live educational events within Canada accredited by Royal College accredited CPD providers:

"Live educational activities, occurring in Canada, recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) are deemed by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) eligible for ECMEC®."

We are currently working towards renewed agreements with the American Medical Association and the Accreditation Council of Continuing Medical Education. Further information will follow when available.
Sample accreditation statements

To ensure consistency, please ensure you are using the most up-to-date, accurate accreditation statements. More information is available on our [website](#). These statements must be included on final programs/brochures and certificates of participation.

**Section 1: Group Learning**
"This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by [accredited CPD provider's name]."

**Section 3: Self-Assessment**
"This activity is an Accredited Self-Assessment Program (Section 3) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, and approved by [Accredited Providers' Name] on dd/mm/yy and expires mm/yy. Remember to visit [MAINPORT](#) to record your learning and outcomes. You may claim a maximum of # hours (credits are automatically calculated)."

**Section 3: Simulation**
"This activity is an Accredited Simulation Activity (Section 3) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, and approved by [Accredited Providers' Name] on dd/mm/yy and expires mm/yy. Remember to visit [MAINPORT](#) to record your learning and outcomes. You may claim a maximum of # hours (credits are automatically calculated)."

**Co-Development**
"This [program, workshop or seminar] was co-developed with (name of organization) and was planned to achieve scientific integrity, objectivity and balance."

**AMA PRA Category 1**
"Through an agreement between the American Medical Association and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada the [name of the accredited CPD provider] designated this live educational activity [title of activity] for a maximum of [number of credits] AMA PRA category 1 credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity."

**UEMS**
"Live educational activities, occurring in Canada, recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) are deemed by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) eligible for ECMEC®."

**Reminder: Tagging policy—Effective July 1, 2012**

This is a reminder that the deadline for eliminating the practice of tagging came into effect on July 1, 2012. Tagging is defined as "The linking or alignment of a sponsor’s name to a specific educational session within an accredited group learning activity". All MOC Program-accredited activities must adhere to the no-tagging policy.

Please note that the tagging policy applies to all sponsors, regardless of whether the sponsor is a physician organization or a non-physician organization.

Sponsors providing an educational grant for an activity approved for MOC credits may be acknowledged on a general sponsorship page in the syllabus or program of the activity. The sponsorship page(s) should be located on a page separate from the educational program (for example, on the back page of the program). Sponsors may be recognized according to sponsorship level and logos may be used in addition to company/organizational names.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to comply with this policy and we are happy to answer your questions or provide further clarification.

**FYG: Self-approved group learning activity assessment underway**

The Office of Professional Affairs has assembled a working group to assess the self-approval process for group learning activities (including rounds, journal clubs and small group learning). The working group is tasked with assessing current adherence levels to the administrative, educational and ethical standards established for these activities. The working group will also make recommendations on any changes or enhancements to our current processes. If you receive any questions regarding this initiative or other questions related to the self-approval process, please feel free to direct these questions to [rounds@royalcollege.ca](mailto:rounds@royalcollege.ca)
What is your experience with evaluations?

At the 4th National CPD Accreditation Conference we conducted a completely paperless evaluation process for the first time. At the end of each day, delegates received an email with web links to electronic evaluation forms for individual sessions. To reduce costs and to use technology already available to us, we used our in-house survey tool as opposed to licensing an evaluation tool.

At the end of the final day of the conference, we held an evaluation session using audience response technology to evaluate other aspects of the conference.

Finally, we circulated an overall conference evaluation to all delegates three weeks after the meeting evaluating the overall conference experience.

We received many questions about this process from Conference delegates so we thought that we would share some of our experiences:

**Response Rates:** Our session-specific evaluation response rate remained unchanged from paper evaluations (54%) but the number of comments received significantly increased in the electronic evaluations.

**Time Saved:** By moving to an electronic evaluation system, we saved significant administrative time by not manually entering the survey data into a summary report.

**Lessons Learned:** Our evaluation approach included emailing links to session evaluation forms at the end of each day. The feedback we received from our participants indicated that they would have preferred to receive the email at the beginning of each day so that they could complete the evaluations immediately following the sessions. Because participants provided more comments/more text in the electronic evaluations, we learned that we should increase the character limit for all text boxes in the survey template.

**We want to know!** How have you attempted to increase response rates to your session-specific and overall activity evaluations? Email us and let us know what efforts you have made to resolve this common challenge! We will compile a list of ideas and share them in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Website Updates: Are your links accurate?

The Royal College has launched a redesigned website. This means that you will most likely need to update any links on your website/materials which point to the Royal College website. We have provided links to what we expect to be the most frequently accessed pages from your materials:

- MOC Program Information
- CPD Accreditation Landing Page
- CPD Accreditation Toolkit
- CPD Accreditation Application Forms
- Self-assessment program toolkit
- List of approved activities: Section 1
- List of approved activities: Section 3
- Bioethics Modules

New MAINPORT iPhone app now available

MAINPORT has gone mobile! A new, free iPhone and iPad app is now available at the App Store.

The new iPhone app complements the redesigned MAINPORT ePortfolio web application and revitalized Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program launched by the Royal College in 2011.

Please find attached an article that you can publish in your organization’s newsletter, website or journal to promote the app and point MOC Program participants to the App Store where they can download it for free.

Blackberry and Android users can access MAINPORT via our mobile site at https://m-mainport.royalcollege.ca.