

What a day! All of this is very exciting though very humbling as well. I do want you to know that I am very grateful for this opportunity.

The first thing that I would like to do is to thank Sudha for all her hard work over the past number of years, which she has performed with impressive grace and diplomacy. Thank you for everything, Sudha, on behalf of all of us. I am happy that you will continue to work with us as ACFP Past President. Your perspective and experience in that role will be much appreciated.

And now for our own ACFP membership – Alberta’s family physicians. I would like you to feel assured that we are here to work for you, and to represent you. We are very proud of you all for working so selflessly and diligently in such challenging circumstances, particularly in recent times. You have continued, in the face of adversity, to treat your patients, teach, and adapt your practices. We know that many of you are exhausted, though continue to be dedicated, resilient and strong family physicians. You are exactly what Albertans need!

I have worked in rural family practice for over 30 years, and it is a pleasure to meet many ex-residents and students here this weekend.

Family medicine is the foundation for comprehensive primary care in Alberta, and the ACFP is well positioned to advocate for you in this regard. We have a great team on our Board. Terri Potter (our Executive Director) and I can’t say enough about our wonderful ACFP staff led by her.

Together, and with our primary care partners, we are here to listen to you. We know, as you do, that there is a lot of work to be done. Please feel free to approach us now that we are all together in person. It is a pleasure to see you all and I am looking forward to engaging with you as we move forward together.

Thank you.