

Thank you, Terri! And thank you all for providing me with a few moments to reflect on my time as president.

First and foremost, thank you for allowing me to serve you in this capacity. It has been a true privilege to be able to address all of you as proud family physicians in this province where our roles and our ability to influence the overall health care system is at a critical tipping point.

Despite having recent environmental stresses, both politically and pandemic related, I truly feel that the ACFP has been present at all of the tables where our collective voice as Alberta's family physicians were needed and where we weren't, we enthusiastically expressed our need to be included. We have taken up more space than just a seat at the table. In every conversation, the ACFP has been an active collaborator and participant. Through independent and collective efforts in advocacy and stakeholder relations, I sincerely believe that our organization, our community, and our partners are stronger for it.

On a personal note, I wish I could have done more as your president and met with more of you in person to hear your stories and experiences. That is what I enjoy most about my various roles as a family physician. Despite a pandemic delaying many member-facing events, many of which I had hoped to do more of throughout my presidency, I am delighted to be in your presence.

I had the recent pleasure of driving to a rural Alberta destination and stopped along the way at clinics and health care facilities giving greetings and a few gifts of thanks from the ACFP. I look forward to fulfilling more of these community-building activities in the past-president role and as a Board member.

Speaking of community, I would be remiss if I did not thank all of you for your support and compassion. You may recall, in 2021 my father became acutely ill and passed shortly thereafter. I don't think my mom and I could have made it through such a challenging time without the support of all of you and the ACFP as an organization.

For those of you who don't know, I am an only child and many responsibilities fell to me. The ACFP staff, Board, and committee members physically came to help me, and my mom and I can never repay them all for taking the time to be so tremendously helpful at my greatest time of need to date. In particular our Executive Director Terri and her staff team checked in and pitched in to help me wherever they could.

I feel the need to express this today in particular as today is my Dad's birthday. He was always very appreciative of ACFP and the opportunities that I have had with this organization. During his short hospital stay, he would introduce me to his care team members as "my daughter Sudha, President of Alberta College of Family Physicians".

Based on my experience, I think it's safe to say that our new president, Dr. Noel DaCunha, will be in good hands.

Noel, an established family physician in Westlock, has all the attributes required to continue and elevate the work of the ACFP at this crucial time. Dr. Noel DaCunha and I have known each other for over 20 years. I first met Noel when I drove my little car as a University of Alberta medical student up to Westlock to start my rural rotations. I could not have imagined a warmer welcome from Noel, his family, and the community. Noel taught me to deliver babies, coordinate patient care among a health care team, and he showed me how well a properly supported community could take care of patients, learners, and each other.

I have no doubt that this is how Noel will approach his new role as the ACFP president. As my last action as your president, it gives me great pride to introduce you all to Dr. Noel DaCunha as I hand over the reins to him. He is the right president at the right time. And here he is.