



# FAMILY PRACTICE ANESTHESIA: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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# OVERVIEW

- ANESTHESIA SHORTAGES IN CANADA & ROLE OF THE FPA
- FPA PROGRAMS IN CANADA
- FPA EDUCATION
- FUTURE DIRECTIONS



# SHORTAGES IN ANESTHESIA SERVICES & FAMILY PRACTICE ANESTHETISTS

Nova Scotia

## How family practice anesthetists could help Nova Scotia's health system

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [v](#) [i](#)

Health minister awaits results of meetings with officials, says idea worth exploring

 [Michael Gorman](#) · CBC News · Posted: Apr 11, 2019 6:00 AM AT | Last Updated: April 11, 2019



There are increasing calls in the province to use family practice anesthetists (FPAs) to address specialist anesthesiologist shortages. (Shutterstock)

WINNIPEG

## Anesthesiologist shortage leading to cancellations

 [Hegen Benedictson](#) Supervising Digital News Producer  
@CTVWDS | [Contact](#)

Published Friday, August 3, 2018 11:58AM CST  
Last Updated Friday, August 3, 2018 7:31PM CST



**Anesthesiologist shortage in Manitoba**  
The WRHA said it's been operating without a full complement of the specialists for more than a year.

[NOW PLAYING](#)



# IMPACT OF SHORTAGES ON CANADIANS

- 6 million Canadians live in rural communities
- Increasing shortages in anesthesia care services<sup>1</sup> leads to:
  - Urbanization of low-risk maternity care
  - Movement of surgical services to regional centres
  - Temporary disruption of surgical and obstetrical services
- Impact of shortages<sup>2</sup>
  - Barriers to timely, safe and accessible healthcare delivery
  - Poorer health outcomes for rural populations
  - Financial burdens and emotional distress for patients forced to travel to seek healthcare

1. ANGLE CAN J ANESTH 2009  
2. ORSER ET AL. ANES-ANAL 2019

# ACCREDITED FPA PROGRAMS IN CANADA

## 10 Family Medicine Anesthesia Programs

- University of British Columbia
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Manitoba
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- McMaster University
- University of Toronto
- Queen's University
- University of Ottawa



# OVERVIEW OF FPA PROGRAMS



- 1 YEAR ENHANCED SKILLS PROGRAM
- CATEGORY 1 PROGRAM
- COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA CONFERS A CERTIFICATE OF ADDED COMPETENCY (CAC)
- REQUIRED COMPETENCE MAINTENANCE EVERY 5 YEARS
  - COMPLETION OF 75 HOURS OF ACCREDITED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION FOCUSED ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# OBJECTIVES OF FPA PROGRAMS



- TRAIN NEW AND PRACTISING FAMILY PHYSICIANS
  - 14% OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS PRACTICE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES<sup>1</sup>
  - 3.5% OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS INCLUDE ANESTHESIA IN THEIR SCOPE OF PRACTICE<sup>2</sup>
- PROVIDE ANESTHESIA CARE FOR LOW-RISK PATIENTS UNDERGOING MOSTLY UNCOMPLICATED SURGICAL PROCEDURES IN SMALL COMMUNITY HOSPITALS
- PRACTICE IN UNDERSERVICED COMMUNITIES

1. BOSCO CFPC BACKGROUND PAPER 2016  
2. CIHI PHYSICIANS IN CANADA 2016; CMA 2017

# FP-ANESTHESIA @ U OF T – 40 YEARS STRONG

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the University of Toronto Family & Community Medicine website. The header includes the university logo and name, a search icon, and a list of navigation links: Contact, Webmail, POWER, Practice Profiles, Field notes, Curriculum, Quercus, and a red 'Red Button'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for EDUCATION, RESIDENCY, GRAD STUDIES, RESEARCH, PROGRAMS, WHO CENTRE, FACULTY, DONATE, and ABOUT. The main content area features a title 'Enhanced Skills Program: FP-Anesthesia' above a photograph of four people (three men and one woman) smiling in front of a wooden wall.



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



## 52 weeks of clinical training

Adult Anesthesia  
Obstetrical Anesthesia  
Pediatric Anesthesia  
ICU  
Community Rotation



## Additional Curriculum

Bootcamp  
Academic Half Day Back; Morning Didactic Lectures  
Simulator Sessions  
Final Oral Exam

# CURRENT STATUS OF PROGRAMS



- Each program graduates 1-2 FPAs
- Graduates often combine Anesthesia, Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine
- In 2005 39% of Ontario's 128 hospitals that provide anesthesia services employed FPAs & 59% had a least 1 FPA providing anesthesia care services<sup>1</sup>



# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Retention and Support of Existing and Future FPAs
- Collaborative Relationships
- Move towards CBME
- Promote FPAs as one viable solution to current anesthesia shortages in Canada