



May 4, 2011

Dear Colleague:

The new zonal medical staff association bylaws are complete and we are in the final stages of acquiring society status for our new-look association: the Calgary and Area Medical Staff Society (CAMSS). In this regard, you may have noticed that the last time CAPA sent out a dues request was in December 2009 for the period which ended March 2011. Well, the time has come with our new association and we are now embarking on our membership drive.

As I wrote about in the April edition of Vital Signs, the medical staff association does not put a cheque into your pocket, the association enables physicians and practitioners to have an effective and influential voice. Moreover, the ability to speak with one voice. An issue at one hospital or clinic becomes an issue for all of us. If there are issues or concerns to medical staff members and CAPA (CAMSS) wades into it, the decision makers will hear our voices loud and clear.

CAPA (CAMSS) represents members with respect to bylaws issues and privileging to ensure processes are fair and evenhanded. We represent the Calgary and area medical staff locally and provincially and put pen and thoughts to paper writing articles for Vital Signs. Vital Signs is received by many levels of government as well as the AMA, CMA and CPSA to say nothing about the topics that are picked up by local and provincial media. We have a seat on the highest committees in the province and the ear of the highest executives.

What a statement it would be, if on a voluntary basis we had close to 100% membership. The statement would be that physicians, dentists and oral surgeons are engaged and demand to be heard.

To all of our current CAPA members we thank you for your continued support particularly as CAPA morphs into CAMSS over the next couple of months. We encourage all physicians and practitioners to become members and to encourage each other to become members.

Giving the professions a free voice, presence on committees and in the media and an advocacy arm that breaks free of bureaucratic constraints and other intimidation represent intangibles - priceless intangible benefits. I would argue, intangibles worth much more than the price of membership.

Please send in your dues this year so that together we can ensure that we have an effective voice to continue to **advocate for each other, caring for patients.**

Sincerely,

Lloyd E. Maybaum MSc MD, FRCPC  
President, CAPA