

Report on the Banff Summit on Rural Surgery and Operative Delivery

On January 23rd, 2016, 75 registrants attended a Summit on Rural Surgery and Operative Delivery convened by the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada. This followed the publication of the Joint Position Paper on Rural Surgery and Operative Delivery by the Canadian Association of General Surgeons, the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada, and the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada(1). This winter it is appearing, along with editorials and commentaries, on the websites and in the professional journals of these organizations (2-6).

The goals of the Summit were

1. To convene, and to broaden, the coalition that issued the Joint Position Paper to plan the building of Networked surgical and maternity care in rural Canada;
2. To reset the work plan going forward, around a new consensus to be forged in four Workshops (Networks of Care, Credentialing/Privileging, C-section Training, and Organization for Action); and
3. To consider the location, membership, mandate, and resources of a national home to sustain rural surgical and maternity services.

Attending were senior perspectives from: the CFPC, RCPSC, SOGC, CAGS, SRPC, CMA, Ministries of Health (BC, AB, MB), Universities (UBC, UofA, UofS, UofM), HAs (Interior Health BC, North Zone AB), ESS faculty from Prince Albert, rural health researchers, ESS physicians, Patient Voices, Union of BC Municipalities, Nursing, students, RPAP, RCCbc, CORRP (SK), ORNH (MB).

Through a series of background papers (7) registrants were invited to consider four priority issues related to the Summit's goals: Networks of Surgical and Maternity Care, Credentialing and Privileging these Networks, Training Programs for Operative Delivery, and an Organizational Plan to Support These Networks. The Summit and its Working Groups committed to the following:

1. An undertaking from the two licensing bodies (CFPC, RCPSC) to collaborate on national training standards and accreditation for Enhanced Surgical Skills programs
2. Elaboration of a "toolkit" for the development, implementation, and evaluation of generic Networks of surgical and operative delivery care
3. Elaboration of a "toolkit" to assist Credentialing and Privileging processes at the regional/institutional levels

4. A standardized curriculum to teach Caesarean Section to rural Family Physicians, under a national accreditation framework.
5. A Canadian Initiative for Rural Surgery and Operative Delivery that would include CAGS, CFPC, RCPSC, SOGC, SRPC, and subsequently an expanded engagement of a range of stakeholders. These organizations committed to convene within 6 weeks to collaborate on this initiative:
 - SRPC to initiate the first meetings of this multi-organizational effort
 - Additional administrative support from RCCbc and RPAP
 - To engage perspectives from First Nations in the work of the working groups and the national initiative
 - To continue the development and animation of the strategies outlined in the JPP

We expect that a significant body of collaborative work, initiated from within these workshops, will follow the Summit. It is our expectation that this work will happen under the umbrella of a new multi organization collaboration that will be the successor to the coalition that prepared the way for the Banff Summit.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr S Iglesias and Dr R Woollard

References

1. Joint Position Paper on Rural Surgery and Operative Delivery. Can J Rur Med 2015 18(4) www.srpc.ca/pdf/jpprursurg.pdf accessed Feb 7, 2016
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3. Kornelsen J, Iglesias S, Woollard R. Rural perinatal surgical services: time for an alliance between providers. JOGC (in press)
4. Caron N, Iglesias S, et al. A proposal for the curriculum and evaluation for training rural family physicians in enhanced surgical skills. Can J Surg 58(6) December 2015 <http://canjsurg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/58-6-419.pdf> accessed Feb 7, 2016
5. Vinden C, Ott M. GPs with enhanced surgical skills: a questionable solution for remote surgical services. Can J Surg 58(6) December 2015 <http://canjsurg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/58-6-369.pdf> accessed Feb 7, 2016
6. Warnock G, Miles P. Why Canada needs networks to provide rural surgical care, including family doctors with enhanced surgical skills. Can J Surg 58(6)

December 2015 <http://canjsurg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/58-6-369.pdf>
accessed Feb 7, 2016

7. All the background papers are accessible at the Summit website
<http://www.srpc.ca/ess2016/summit/> accessed Feb 7, 2016