



# CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

DIVISION OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION  
[CMELEARNING.USASK.CA](http://CMELEARNING.USASK.CA)

**Annual Report 2020/21**

**BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS**

# Mission Statements

## University of Saskatchewan

### **MISSION**

The University of Saskatchewan advances the aspirations of the people of the province and beyond through interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to discovering, teaching, sharing, integrating, preserving, and applying knowledge, including the creative arts, to build a rich cultural community. An innovative, accessible, and welcoming place for students, educators, and researchers from around the world, we serve the public good by connecting discovery, teaching, and outreach, by promoting diversity and meaningful change, and by preparing students for enriching careers and fulfilling lives as engaged global citizens.

### **VISION**

We will contribute to a sustainable future by being among the best in the world in areas of special and emerging strengths, through outstanding research, scholarly, and artistic work that addresses the needs and aspirations of our region and the world, and through exceptional teaching and engagement. We will be an outstanding institution of research, learning, knowledge-keeping, reconciliation, and inclusion with and by Indigenous peoples and communities.

## College of Medicine

### **MISSION**

As a socially accountable organization, we improve health through innovative and interdisciplinary research and education, leadership, community engagement, and development of culturally competent, skilled clinicians and scientists. Collaborative and mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous peoples and communities are central to our mission.

### **VISION**

We are leaders in improving the health and well-being of the people of Saskatchewan and the world.

# Messages

## Dr. Preston Smith, Dean College of Medicine



Over the past year and a half, our College of Medicine community has made many adjustments in work and learning approaches as we work together to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been the biggest area of focus for our college and has required finding new ways to deliver on our mission and support each other. Vaccines continue to be the light at the end of the tunnel to help stop the spread of the virus and the variants.

The Division of Continuing Medicine Education (CME) plays an important role to help healthcare professionals build the skills and knowledge that will improve patient care. Throughout this time, the CME team has worked hard to continue providing high-quality learning experiences and resources.

The CME team has also worked closely with our partners at the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and forged stronger relationships that will pay dividends beyond the pandemic. They jointly developed the Physician Skills Enhancement Program for clinicians to gain additional training and support pandemic healthcare needs. The program was swiftly rolled out and helped to upskill doctors who may be redeployed to critical care areas.

I applaud the team's ability to transition rapidly to online-only educational opportunities and develop new programming – both of which required an enormous amount of work. These examples highlight how CME continues to meet the educational needs and increase the competence of our healthcare professionals – wherever they are in the province – truly an example of Saskatchewan's medical school!

I extend my thanks to the CME team for their dedication and hard work to continued medical education in our college. Your work helps support lifelong learning across Saskatchewan.

Dr. Preston Smith  
Dean, College of Medicine

## Dr. Kent Stobart, Vice Dean Education College of Medicine



The Division of Continuing Medical Education (CME) offers excellent, high quality continuing education in the province that is tailored to the needs of our Saskatchewan population. Through CME's conferences, workshops and programs, healthcare professionals are able to fulfill continuing education requirements.

While we continue to be challenged by the pandemic, the CME team has worked hard to develop programming to ensure learners can continue their education online. CME events and resources provide opportunities for healthcare professionals to engage with continued learning in meaningful and innovative ways. Areas of focus include physician and patient wellness, pediatric mental health, Indigenous health and cultural competence.

This past year has highlighted significant successes for the division. The CME team developed and provided free COVID-19 specific resources to inform healthcare professionals, including weekly educational webinars. The resources delivered accurate, current information informed by College of Medicine experts and Saskatchewan healthcare professionals.

One of CME's biggest achievements came in February, when the team received strong results from the Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CACME) report, regarding the fall 2020 accreditation visit. Among the positive items in the report, the accreditors praised the CME team's competency. Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare and make the accreditation review a success. This positive outcome is the direct result of the CME team's commitment and hard work.

Thank you to all those involved in coordinating and supporting continued medical education. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated.

Dr. Kent Stobart  
Vice Dean Education  
College of Medicine

## Dr. James Barton, Associate Dean Continuing Medical Education



2020/2021 was a difficult year for everyone and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the toll it has taken on all our lives, both personally and professionally. As I finish 5 years in this role as your Associate Dean- CME the last year has been one of the most demanding professionally, but also one of the most rewarding in my career. It was I suspect, because I felt part of a larger effort that was purpose built to help.

The pandemic has, and continues, to deliver many lessons and one that resonates with me is the importance of staying connected. The CME Division has done a great many things in 2020/2021 that we've highlighted for you in this brief report but overall, I think what we did best was to stay connected. We stayed connected to you both as an individual but also for your professional and personal learning needs which were at times emergent. We connected to the communities you live and work in and the patients you serve and care for. Maybe you were a patient or a family member who needed information? We connected to you too, this time more than we'd ever had before. We did this often online as big interdisciplinary groups, something that was unprecedented before COVID but that set the stage for our current, and future learning platforms.

A common expression heard throughout this past year was "never let a crisis go to waste". I think CME understood that strange sentence and worked hard to turn the challenge of something truly terrifying into an opportunity to grow and get better not just for tomorrow but for all tomorrows. We executed a complete "virtual pirouette" to enable us to reach you on a virtual platform, to allow you to stay safe in your private spaces but thank you for welcoming us and still allow the educational experiences to flow. It is different but it's working. We recognize it allows many of you to join us for the first time as in person participation has always been a challenge in this huge, beautiful wide-open place where travel distances are large, and your limited time will always be split between your family and your work. As the famous W.O. Mitchell once wrote, "roses are difficult here". Never has a statement about working and learning in health care been so apt. This thought was in my mind often when I was working in the hospital trying to do all the work I did before but also trying to stay current on all the new information, wear all the new PPE, get the isolation and treatment requirements right etc. At times it felt overwhelming.

I could not be prouder of the great team we have here in CME who worked very hard to create this meaningful, working, genuine connection. We understand that this work is far from complete and in many ways, makes clear what our work will be in the next year. We remain committed to making relevant, modern education accessible to you so that you feel supported not only as a health care professional but also as an individual. We recognize and thank you for your hard and difficult work. We ask that you treat yourself to some education where you are the focus, and we acknowledge that it's all right to feel tired because we all are. We remain here, trying in our own way to "be what the world needs" by simply being what you need.

Dr. James W. Barton, MD, FRCP(C)  
*Clinical Professor of Medicine-Nephrology*  
*Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education*  
*Program Director-Adult Nephrology*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Barton". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

# Continuing Medical Education Strategic Plan

## Vision

CME is a leader in enhancing the patient's quality of health through its innovative educational opportunities in lifelong learning

## Mission

CME engages with healthcare professionals to enhance health care outcomes by delivering continuing professional learning that is focused on the needs of the patient and their communities. We are guided by the principles of social accountability, equity, collaboration and excellence

## Values

Respect, Responsiveness, Collaboration, Innovation, Accountability, Passion, Leadership, Scholarship, Quality Improvement

## Strategic Priorities



### Quality Education

To be a provincial leader in continuing professional development. CME designs and delivers programming that successfully promotes educational strategies and methods to improve physician competence and performance. Our objective is to improve the health of patients and their communities.



### Social Accountability

As a reflection of our commitment to respond to the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report. To address the continued challenges of equity and equality of all communities served by the health care system.



### Operations

A strong organizational plan is required to support the achievement of the CME's purpose and allow for achievement of measurable goals within the strategic plan.



### Learner Environment

A modern learning environment is recognized as an important factor required of successful, competitive CPD providers to deliver transformative educational experiences.

# Quality Education

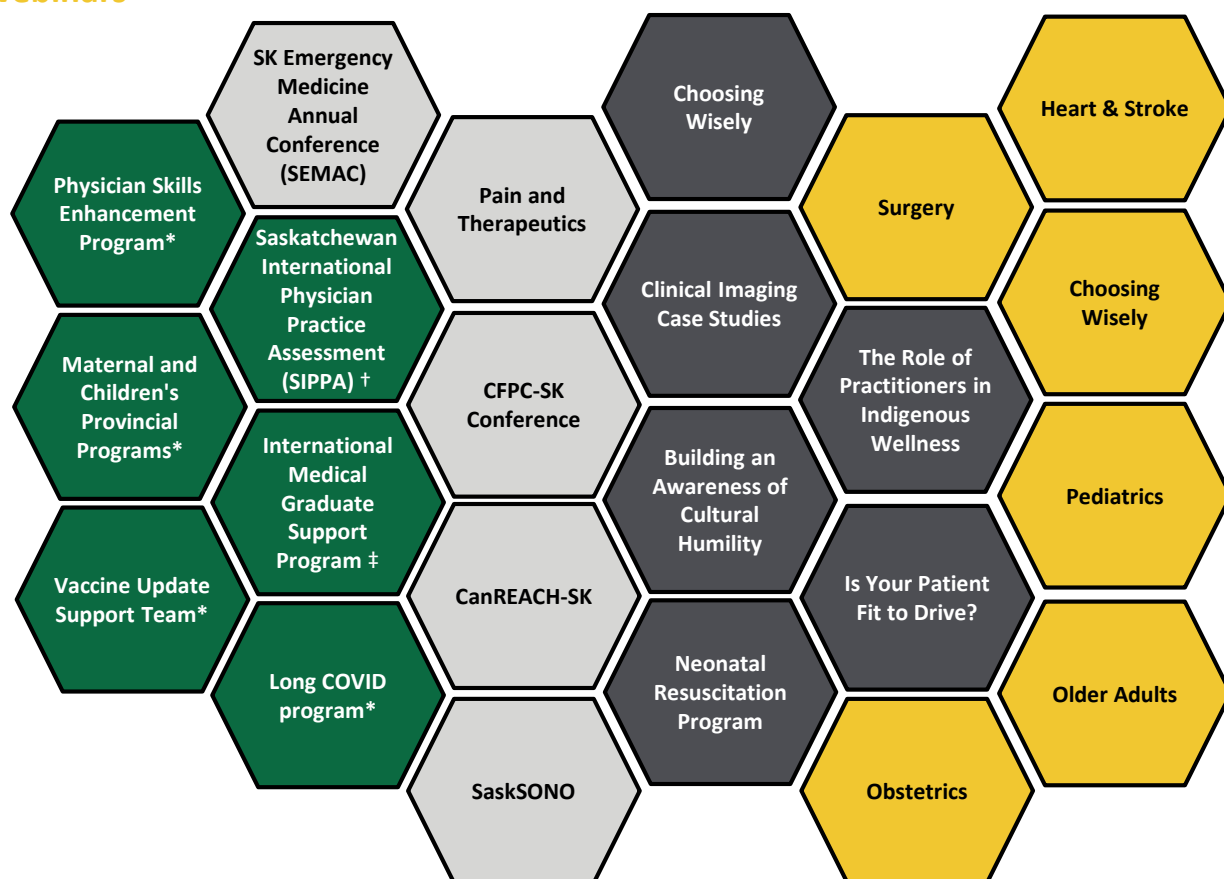
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## Accreditation update

CME is **fully accredited** by the Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CACME) as of November 2021. Out of 12 standards, we have achieved “compliance” on 10, and “partial compliance” on 2.

## Programming

### Provincial Collaborations, Virtual Events, Courses (in person and online), and Webinars



The following CME programs provide learners with a **micro-credential** once the learning experience has been completed:

- Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness
- Building an Awareness of Cultural Humility
- Fitness to Drive
- CanREACH-SK
- Physician Skills Enhancement Program (PSEP)

\* Program in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority

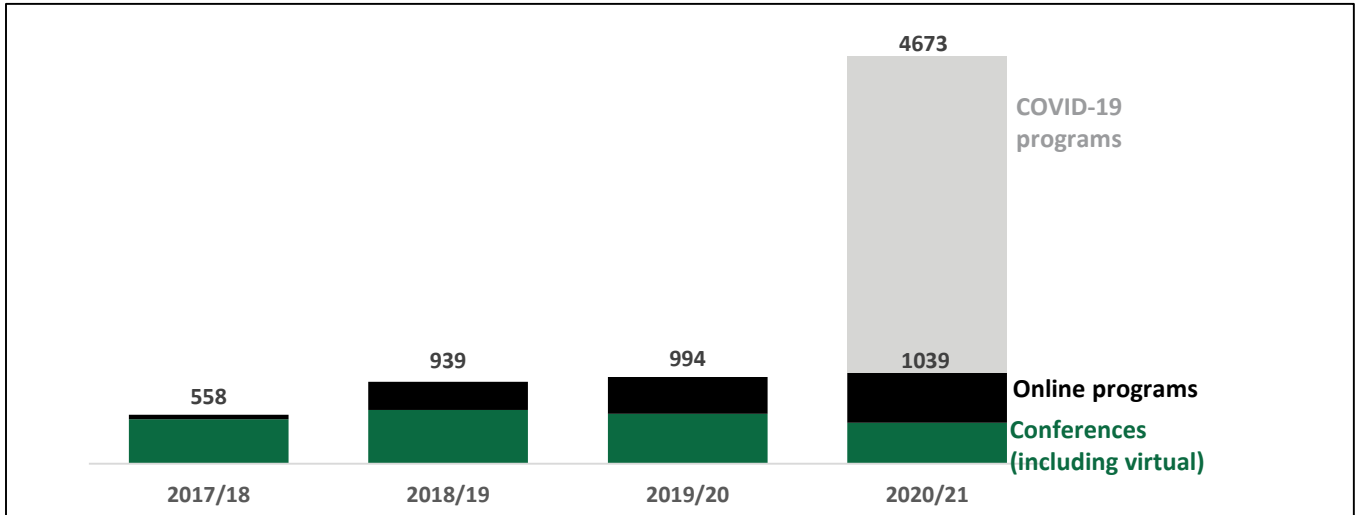
† Program in partnership with the Ministry of Health

‡ Program in partnership with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training

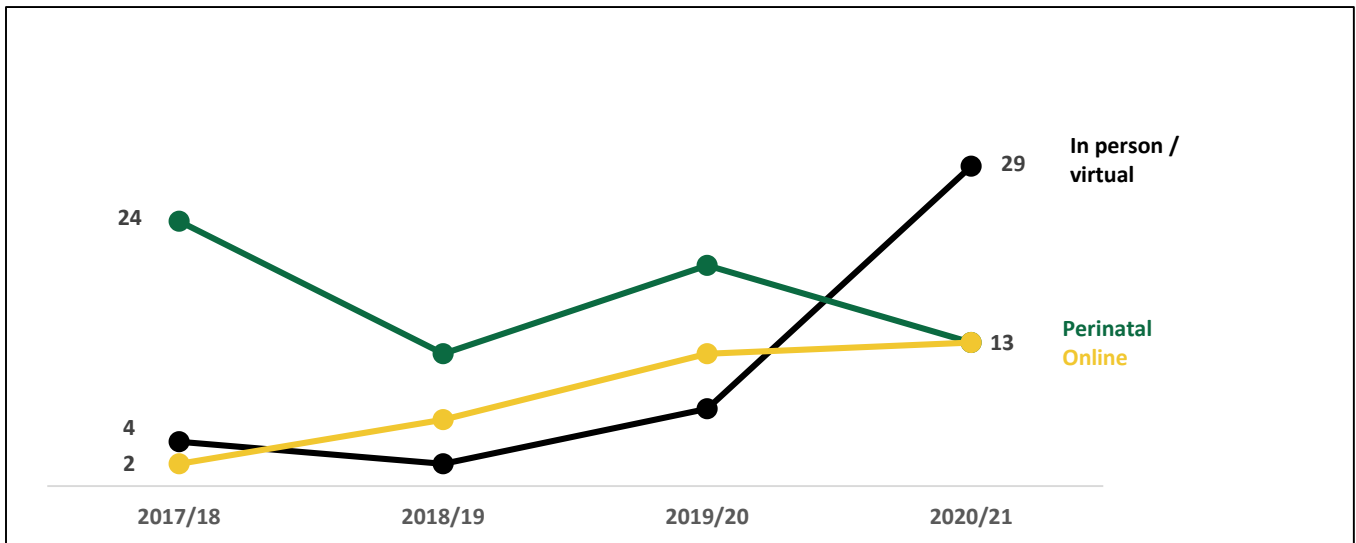
# Quality Education

## Programming (continued)

### Participant numbers



### Activities



## In Development for 2021/22

- Provincial Mentorship Program (in proposal stage)
- Advancing Interprofessional Management of Substance Use Disorders in Saskatchewan (AIMS-SK)
- Association of Canadian Clinical Academic Dept. Administrators Conference (Sept 2021)
- Vaccine Update Support Team (VUST) Content Development, Logistics and Accreditation

# Quality Education

## CanMEDS

CanMEDS is a framework that identifies and describes the abilities physicians require to effectively meet the health care needs of the people they serve. These abilities are grouped thematically under seven roles. A competent physician seamlessly integrates the competencies of all seven CanMEDS Roles.

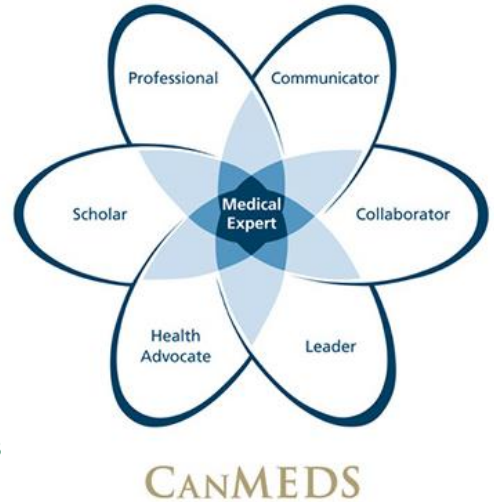
The breadth of CME's offerings cover **all seven CanMEDS roles**, many of them covering multiple roles.

### Examples:

CanREACH-SK - **5 roles**

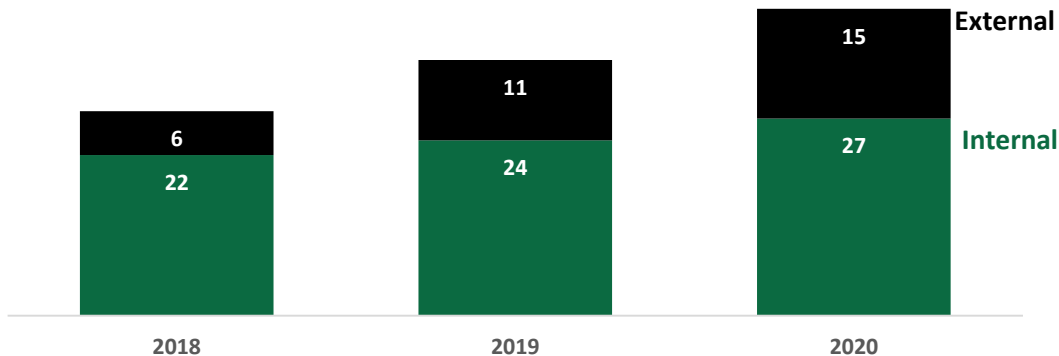
CME Webinar Series - **7 roles**

SaskSONO, SEMAC XII and Pain & Therapeutics Conferences - **6 roles**



## Accreditation applications

The Division of CME is uniquely positioned to accredit both Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and MainPro+ on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Accreditation applications have **increased by 50%** since 2018



## Research

Barton, J.W., S. Lovo Grona, A. Saxena, MD, E. Abdulhadhi. *Transformational Change in Post Graduate Trainees following Cultural Responsiveness Training*

Maclean, C., J. Barton, T. Smith-Windsor, C. Holinaty, M. Gieni, U. Okpalauwaekwe. *Exploring barriers and motivators to physician engagement in Saskatchewan.*

### Dean's research project

Abdulhadi, E., V. McKinney, S. Oosman, J. Barton, S. Lovo. *The Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness – Health Provider Learning with Cultural Responsiveness Training.*

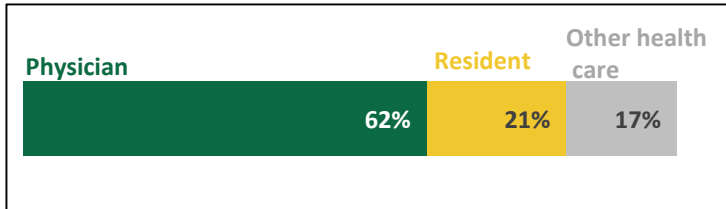
# Social Accountability

As a reflection of our commitment to respond to the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report. To address the continued challenges of equity and equality of all communities served by the health care system.

## Indigenous Wellness Programming

### The Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness

Most (83%) of the attendees this year were **physicians** and **residents**.



CME acknowledges the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) for supporting 4th year medical students to enroll in *The Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness*

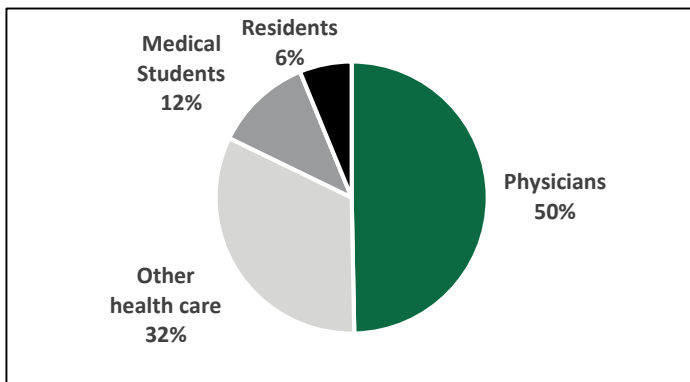
### Building an Awareness of Cultural Humility

This program has instructed **187** College of Medicine staff and non-medically trained participants since its inception.

**36%** of College of Medicine administrative staff have enrolled in this program to date.

## Interprofessional engagement

While our programs are mostly (50%) attended by physicians, we attract many different health professionals including physiotherapists, nurses, social workers, and pharmacists.



**56%** of our program offerings this year were developed interprofessionally with our health sciences colleagues.

## Physician Wellness

In partnership with Dr. Anita Chakravarti, CME has developed a wellness program to support physicians and other health care providers with wellness, resilience, and mental health promotion.

Skills obtained from these education sessions will support individual resilience and will also allow for organizational level support as entire departments attend events and learn together.



Dr. Anita Chakravarti

# Learner Environment

A modern learning environment is recognized as an important factor required of successful, competitive CPD providers to deliver transformative educational experiences.

**100% of our learners engaged with us on virtual platforms in 2020/21.**



## Patient engagement

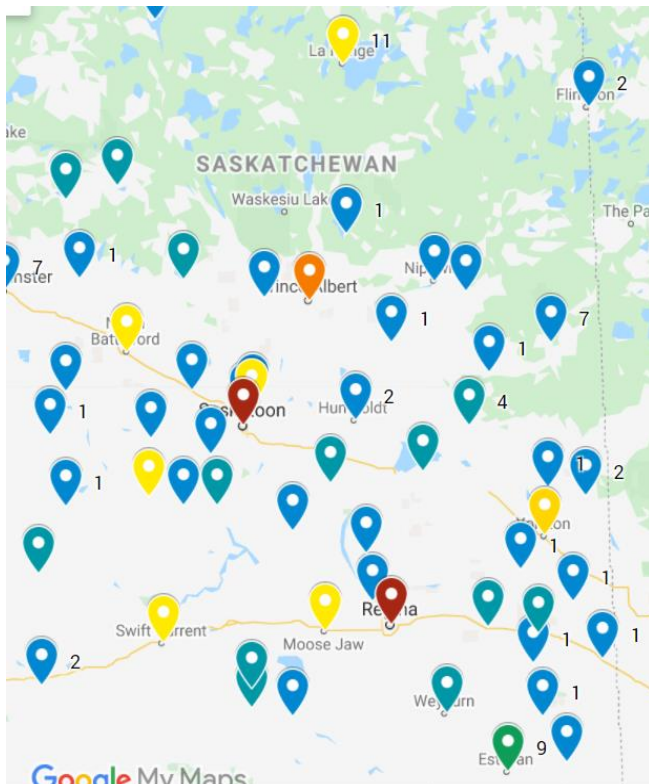
CME is committed to supporting clinicians to deliver educated care. The collaborative approach of engaging patient & family advisors in the planning of educational activities allows for improved patient outcomes. CME is pleased to welcome Janet Barnes, Patient and Family Advisor, to our CME Advisory Committee. Ms. Barnes will help establish patient partners in all our work, developing patient-oriented knowledge, skills and attitudes.

## Asynchronous learning

Asynchronous learning options allow for participants to learn on their own schedule, at their own pace. Our asynchronous learning options have increased from **2 to 6 since 2018/19**, and include the following courses:

- Is your patient fit to drive?
- The Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness
- Building an Awareness of Cultural Humility
- Choosing Wisely
- Pain & Therapeutics
- Clinical Imaging Case Studies

## Participant geography



Participants in CME programming are mainly from Saskatchewan, but there have been participants from across the country and the globe.

Other locations include:

- Edmonton, AB
- Calgary, AB
- Vancouver, BC
- Kelowna, BC
- Winnipeg, MB
- Toronto, ON
- Ottawa, ON
- Montreal, QC
- Halifax, NS
- Saudi Arabia
- Pakistan
- South Africa
- Qatar
- Dubai

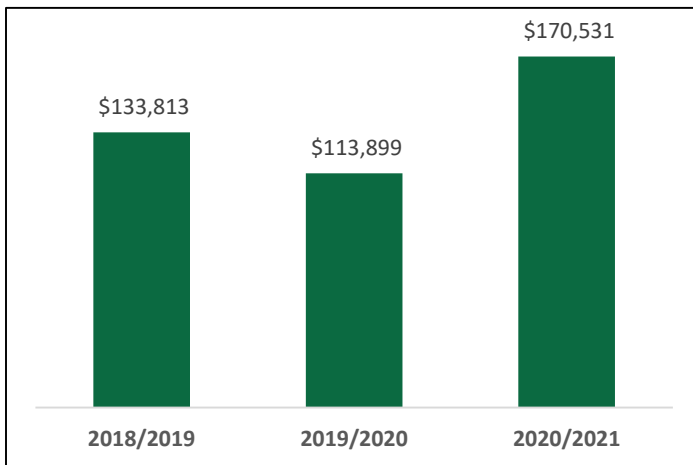
# Operations

A strong organizational plan is required to support the achievement of the CME's purpose and allow for achievement of measurable goals within the strategic plan.

## Continuing Medical Education Office

- **18** staff
- **New positions:** Director of Accreditation, Wellness Lead, and Simulation Lead
- Development of office management support structures:
  - Policy and procedures manual
  - Operational and business plans
  - Sponsorship policies
  - Advisory Committees
  - Formal audit and review process

## Contracted engagements and other funding sources



The division has brought in over **\$170,000** in contracts this year.

Most (approximately 70%) of our funding comes from ministry contracts. Other sources of funding include:

- Operating allocations, other funding and targeted grants
- Online and in-person programming and accreditation applications

CME is grateful to retain and grow our contractual engagements.

## Social Media Engagement

From October 2020 to March 2021, social media followers have increased substantially.



30% ↑



19% ↑



1227% ↑

Our YouTube Channel hosts over **47** of our COVID-19 webinar videos, and has had over **3,000** views since November 2021.



# COVID-19 Support

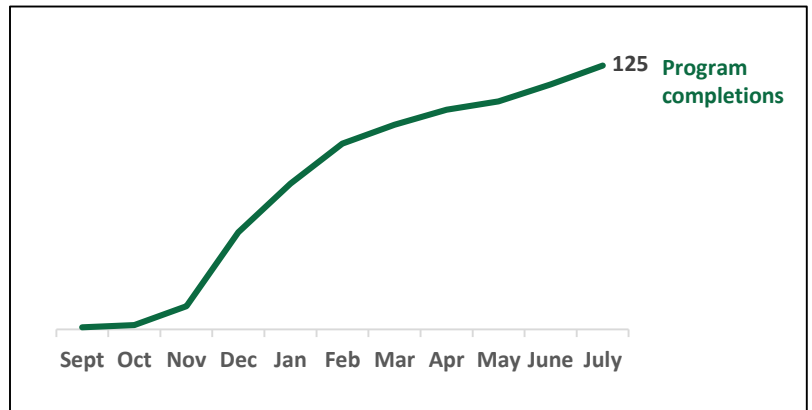
The division pivoted quickly at the beginning of the pandemic to offer COVID-related education to physicians and other health care professionals. Beginning in April 2020, CME organized 2 successful weekly COVID webinar series that over 3200 health care providers participated in over the course of 3 months. CME also had the privilege to participate on a COVID provincial skills enhancement project organized by the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

## Physician Skills Enhancement Program

A partnership between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the College of Medicine, the Physician Skills Enhancement Program aimed to refresh and upgrade skills in the event of physician redeployment due to COVID-19. To date, **125 physicians** have completed the program.

### Courses:

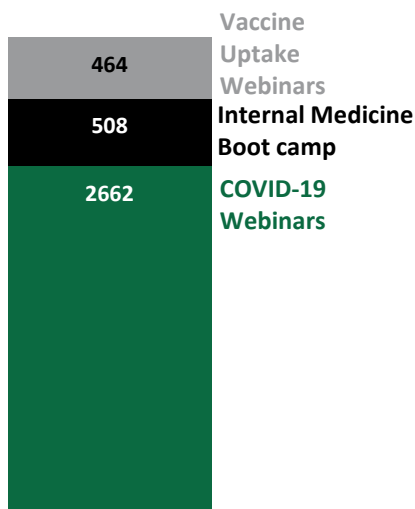
- Foundations (Infection Prevention and Control)
- Field Hospital Skills Enhancement
- ER Skills Enhancement
- ICU Skills Enhancement
- Hospital Skills Enhancement
- Airways and Resuscitation



## Webinars

Our COVID-19 Webinar Series intended to highlight Saskatchewan medical expertise and address common questions regarding COVID-19. This series was well-attended and well-reviewed. Nearly **75 medical experts** presented during this time. Other COVID-19 webinars included a vaccine-uptake webinar, and an internal medicine boot camp to support physician education.

Over **3600** participants attended a total of **24** webinars.



COVID-19 webinar participants were mainly **physicians (53%)**, **nurses (22%)** and **pharmacists (11%)**. Other health professionals that attended included: physiotherapists, social workers, dentists, paramedics, optometrists, chiropractors, midwives, and laboratory technologists.

