

This is my personal statement on the future of the CDA and dermatology.

The CDA must remain a strong advocate for all Dermatologists in Canada regardless of their particular areas of interest. We must continue to promote our roles as physicians and awareness of skin diseases to the public, other physicians and to government.

In order to stay a vital organization we must continue to play a strong role in promoting our organization to the residents and get them involved early so that they realize that they are an integral part of our association. They will then hopefully maintain this relationship and feel they belong for many years to come. It is vital to have new members in the pipeline so we remain a strong voice for all dermatologists and can incorporate new, fresh ideas into practice.

Along this line we have to be a strong voice to the governments and training programs to ensure the continued training of new dermatologists.

Continuing Medical Education of practicing dermatologists is also a priority to keep us up to date. Certainly the Annual Meeting and partnership with the American Academy of Dermatology does an excellent job of presenting us the most cutting edge, practical information and these meetings must continue.

Promoting research in Canada is also important to our organization. Funding resident research and the independent research not linked to the pharmaceutical companies directly is important.

We must preserve the future of dermatologists. With the general clinical dermatologist becoming in shorter supply but greater demand we must be an advocate for them and help the public understand their very important role and the increased stress placed on them.

We must recognize the increasing role of Dermatology surgery with their ever increasing skin cancer rates, those who specialize in Moh's surgery, and greater cosmetic surgery amongst our members.

Educating the general public on diseases of the hair, skin and nails and prevention is also important. Our Sun Awareness Program and patient brochures is very important and successful. The other campaigns such as the Hyperhidrosis or Winter Skin protection are also invaluable. Hopefully we can gradually increase the scope of disease awareness.

To sum up, the CDA should stay a strong advocate for dermatologist, provide continuing medical education for its members, nurture the development and retention of new graduates, and help with research and educate the public on our role and prevention of disease.

Sincerely,

Karen Edstrom, M.D., F.R.C.P.C (Derm)
Asst. Prof of Medicine, McMaster University