

**Message from the Department Head  
Dr. John M. Conly  
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The Department of Medicine currently spans three campuses with 277 primary members, 63 cross-appointed members, and almost 100 residents. These past few years have been a period of remarkable growth with the recruitment of over 100 new members across all subspecialties, significantly aided by the implementation of the Alternate Relationship Plan in 2004 and the introduction of a ground breaking program in work-life balance to enhance retention.

From an educational perspective, the Residency Program has now almost doubled its capacity compared to just four years ago and several new subspecialty positions have been created. A series of new awards in recognition of clinical excellence, innovation, professionalism and quality improvement have been recently introduced, with the awards for clinical excellence recognizing and honouring the pioneers of internal medicine within Calgary. The Department has been recognized for its educational endeavours and several members are highlighted on the Great Teachers Website of the University of Calgary. We are very proud of our undergraduate experience and rotations in internal medicine are consistently highly rated.

From a clinical perspective, the Department and its partners received funding from Alberta Health and Wellness and the Calgary Health Region in 2004 for the development of 17 new innovative programs, hiring 55 Alternate Care Providers, which has led to improved access, reduced wait times, and improved safety and quality of clinical care. New inpatient care services have been added and the Department has emerged as a leader in Canada in chronic disease management. The Department has also played a significant role in the introduction of the new inpatient electronic medical record (EMR) in the Calgary Health Region and has also selected an outpatient EMR, working towards having all its members engaged in the EMR environment.

In research, the Department has facilitated the creation of three new Endowed Chairs, recruited Canada Research Chairs in Molecular Medicine and Knowledge Translation, and has enjoyed a success rate of almost 70 per cent for AHFMR and CIHR research salary awards.

The Department is poised for even greater growth and expansion and our future ability to further enhance our mission may be embraced with great excitement, enthusiasm and energy. In the end, it is the patients for whom we care that will ultimately benefit, reminding us of the words of one of the greatest of all internists, Sir William Osler "...to prevent disease, to relieve suffering and to heal the sick - this is our work."