The profession of medicine is a profession of service. In *The Role of the Physician in 21st Century Healthcare*, Wartman points out our greatest assets remain traditional; first, respecting the rights of patients to make choices according to their values and understanding how these values impact care decisions; and second, having the real and tested ability to provide the uniquely human services that patients need, most notably empathy and compassion.

Physicians need to lead in the delivery of health care to Canadians. To lead we must deliver a system that creates access to our care. We know 5 million Canadians don’t have a family doctor and that the problem is more significant in rural, remote and indigenous communities. We have to think outside the box and engage with new ways of doing things. This may feel uncomfortable and will certainly challenge us to adapt our practice in an innovative way. My intention is to focus on:

**Harnessing technology to better care for patients and physicians**

Caring, empathy and compassion cannot be replicated by technology, but perhaps technology can augment our ability to deliver care based on these fundamentals. I want to consider ways technology can be harnessed to deliver the CMA’s mission and vision. To empower patients we must engage them. Virtual care offers opportunities to change the way health information flows – patients can be at the centre. Through engagement comes empowerment and the potential for better health. Patients want to collaborate in their care and receive care in non-traditional settings – technology can facilitate this. Technology must work for us. Current technology, like existing EMRs, increases the burden on physicians. The CMA must lead in finding and leveraging technology to make our work more efficient and productive. As physicians become increasingly engaged in using technology effectively, we can prevent burnout, improve quality of care (and life) and empower patients.

**Physician wellness and the health care system**

A vibrant profession requires physicians to be healthy themselves. What creates engagement? What are systems barriers to achieving wellness – leadership, compensation models, work models, financial stability and security, retirement planning, student debt? How do we transform our workplaces through effective physician leadership and management to create spaces that optimize patient care by supporting and engaging the physicians who provide it? Traditional views of health care are changing. Our system has prioritized clinical autonomy, relied on volume as a measure of productivity, placed the physician as the holder of health care information and focused on disease specific care. Health care is refocusing on collaboration, value as a measure of productivity, encouraging patient autonomy and self-management and wholistic approaches for increasingly complex problems. CMA can lead these conversations.

**Human Resources for health and indigenous health**

We must consider human resources for health and how they affect access to care. From a northern lens this means consideration of who comes into the profession, where we train people and what we train them in. Increased training opportunities in rural and remote locations is critical to recruitment and retention of physicians to serve and build trust with these populations. Reconciliation is a critical issue of our time. To improve the delivery of health care to our indigenous populations we must also develop physicians knowledgeable and skilled in serving these populations. We need more indigenous physicians. Models of recruitment and training will impact this. We must do more in health to show a true commitment to reconciliation with the First Nations, Inuit and Metis populations of Canada who have the worst health outcomes of all Canadians. We have many influential indigenous leaders in our profession – we must seek and listen to their counsel on how to do better and integrate our care with traditional indigenous frameworks of health and wellness.
Katharine Smart, MD, FRCPC

Current appointments
- President, Yukon Medical Association
- Consultant Pediatrician, Klondyke Pediatrics and Whitehorse General Hospital
- Clinical Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia

Education
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow, Alberta Children’s Hospital, Calgary, Alberta, 2004-2007
- Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Gorgas Course, Cayetano Heredia University, Lima, Peru, 2007
- Pediatric Resident, Alberta Children’s Hospital, Calgary, Alberta, 2001-2004
- Doctor of Medicine (MD), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, 1997-2001

Publications and presentations
- Keynote speaker, “Jordan’s Principle- A Pediatrician’s Perspective”, Council Yukon First Nations Assembly, 2018
- Keynote speaker, “Pediatric Emergency Medicine Pearls- What you need to know”, PEACH Conference Calgary, 2016

Selected activities and positions held
- Clinical Knowledge Lead, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Alberta Health Services, 2016-2018
- Year 4 Director, Southern Medical Program, University of British Columbia, 2013-2017
- Simulation Program Development, Whitehorse General Hospital, 2017-present
- Board of Directors, Learning Disability Association Yukon (LDAY), 2019-present
- Royal College Examiner, Pediatrics, 2016-present

Other training and experience
- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Public Health, University of British Columbia, 2018-present
- CanREACH Patient-Centred Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care Fellowship, 2018
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician- Alberta Children’s Hospital, 2007-2018
- NRP and ACORN Instructor, ASSET KidSim Facilitator, TRIK (Trauma Resuscitation in Kids) Instructor

Awards
- Outstanding Student Award, UBC Alumni Association- for academic achievement, strong leadership skills and active involvement in the university community
- Sherwood Lett Memorial Scholarship, UBC- for excellence in student leadership, community service and academic achievement
- Service Award, American Academy of Pediatrics- for service to the Community Access to Child Health Program

Professional interests
Inspiring passion and encouraging excellence through leadership, advocacy, program development and teaching
Commitment to continuous learning and skill development