



## ***THE RESEARCH ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE***

In 1996, the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) decided to establish a Research Ethics Board. This decision was based on the concern that many physicians without academic appointments undertake research involving human participants. These physicians did not have reasonable access to the Province's academic research ethics boards for review of the scientific and ethical validity of their research projects.

Council recognized the necessity for timely, quality research ethics review and established a policy for the development of the College's Research Ethics Review Committee.

Effective January 1, 1998 Alberta physicians wishing to pursue research involving human participants must submit their research protocol for research ethics review. Depending on the individual circumstances of the research, protocols must be reviewed by the Alberta Cancer Board, the University of Alberta Health Research Ethics Board (Bio-Medical), the Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, or the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta Research Ethics Review Committee (RERC).

### **Committee Membership**

The Research Ethics Review Committee of the CPSA is constituted following the Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans and the Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Guidelines of the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH). These documents outline requirements for review of proposals for research by physicians, to assure that scholarly standards, scientific validity and ethical integrity are achieved.

The membership of the Committee complies with the requirements defined in Division 5 of the Food and Drug Regulations of Health Canada and includes both male and female members.

If a member of the RERC is named as investigator or co-investigator in a research study, they do not participate in discussion related to, nor vote on, such studies presented to the RERC.

It is not our policy to release the names of the Committee members, but rather only the makeup of the Committee. Following is the RERC composition:

### **2012 MEMBERSHIP** (Effective January 1, 2012)

**Chair:** Dermatologist  
**Vice Chair:** Pediatric Hematologist

#### **Members:**

- Lawyer
- Public Member (3)
- Clinical Ethicist (2)
- Ophthalmologist
- General/Family Practitioner (3)
- Psychologist/Public Member
- Methodologist/Psychiatrist