

Canadian Comprehensive Review Course

Preparation for the Specialty examination in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation for certification with the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada is an arduous task on residents. This is further compounded by the diverse nature of our specialty. A comprehensive but condensed review course plays an important role in this exhaustive task of preparation. The lack of such a review course in Canada forced our residents to attend courses outside the country, which unfortunately does not come cheap, especially with the escalating travel costs. This has been the impetus to turn to our own resources with a course that is tailored to our needs.



At the turn of the millennium in the year 2000 the University of Alberta and the University of Toronto came together to make this a reality. The First Canadian Comprehensive Review Course (CCRC) was held between April 29 2000 and May 6 2000. The Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the University of Alberta hosted the course. The venue was the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, in Edmonton, Alberta. There were 17 registrants, including both residents in training and practicing physiatrists. In total there were 24 attendees. Presentations were done by 34 teaching faculty, which included 10 guest speakers. The individual presentations were of a high quality and were well received.

The uniqueness of this review course was the opportunity to spend the first two days in the anatomy dissecting room, demonstration of clinical skills and the practice exam held on the last day of the course.



Flexibility was built in to make room for interaction and wherever possible hands on demonstrations were offered.

The course was intense, comprehensive and was accompanied by a very detailed course manual. The course manual was provided in two volumes and had over nine hundred pages, many in colour. It was highly valued by the participants.



This course was built upon numerous 'needs assessment' surveys of residents, program directors and practicing physiatrists. The information gathered was vital in directing the organizers to customize this review course to meet our needs. Feedback after the First CCRC was phenomenal and constructive. This was the driving force for the organization of the 2nd CCRC, which was hosted by the Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton between April 06



and April 13, 2002. The 2nd CCRC was proud to note the average speaker rating by participants was 4.5 out of 5.0, indicating the high calibre of speakers.

The CCRC will be held once every two years. The organizers are committed to pushing the already high standards even higher. There is an immense commitment on the part of the organizers and their support staff in making this non-profit event a thorough success. We are always open to suggestions and your comments. Please check this web site for dates and venue of the 3rd CCRC to be held in 2004.

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