

## First BCMJ cruise conference goes swimmingly



Left to right: Drs Romashnee Moodliar and Paresh Narothum.

**T**he *BC Medical Journal* hosted its first CME cruise conference in February, and by all accounts the event was a success. The primary goal of the conference was to raise money for the *BCMJ*; other goals were to provide a top-notch general practice update, raise the profile of the *Journal*, and to provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about medical publishing. The money raised will go directly back into the productions costs of the *Journal*.

The 7-day cruise, which departed from Miami, sailed the western Caribbean, with ports of call in Belize City (Belize), Costa Maya (Mexico), Cozumel (Mexico), and Georgetown (Grand



Left to right: Drs David and Lindsay Lawson, Mrs Susan Rowe, Dr Timothy Rowe.

Cayman). We sold all of our 67 available conference spaces, and our group, family and friends included, totaled 170—which may seem like a lot, but we blended in rather quickly with the other 3300 passengers on the cruise. The 12.5 hours of accredited CME was provided by the *Journal's* talented Editorial Board: Drs Susan Haigh, Lindsay Lawson, Heidi Oetter, Dave Richardson, Tim Rowe, Tony Salvian, and Jim Wilson (Dr Brian Day was

unable to attend). Topics of this Family Practice Refresher included continuous oral contraception, chronic opiate therapy, COPD, patients flying with disease, aneurysms and peripheral vascular disease, diabetes, venous disease and thoracic outlet syndrome, humor in the medical office, menopause, osteoporosis, electronic medical records, patients in safety-critical jobs, and asthma.

*Continued on page 161*

Continued from page 162

Conference participants, who came from all over Canada and the United States, were asked to evaluate, on a 5-point scale (with 5 being excellent), all sessions. The lowest-rated session received a 3.75, the highest a 4.5, with the average being 4.17. Naturally comments varied, but overall participants seemed satisfied, and when asked how they would rate the conference as a whole, they gave it a 4.22 on the same 5-point scale. In particular, participants noted that presenters provided truly family practice-oriented content—a broad range of information they could apply directly to their daily practice.

Many conference participants told us that they enjoyed the combination of CME and a holiday. Fortunately the weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed sunny skies, warm weather, and the gorgeous blue Caribbean Sea on their days off.

The *BCMJ* would like to thank Sea Courses Cruises, particularly Dr Martin Gerretsen, for the efficient coordination of many of the hundreds of details that go into such an endeavor.



Conference participants enjoying Dr David Richardson's presentation on humor in the medical office.

We would also like to thank sponsors Cambie Surgery Centre, Canada Diagnostics, Specialist Referral Clinic, and Ultima Medical Services for their support. Finally, *BCMJ* staff give special thanks to the *BCMJ* Editorial Board, who not only waived their speakers' fees, but paid their own way entirely. The financial and educational success

of the cruise conference rests on the foundation of their generosity and dedication to your *Journal*.

And in case you're wondering, yes, we might do it again—watch these pages for details.

—Jay Draper  
*BCMJ* Managing Editor



Dr Susan Haigh speaks to a full house during her presentation on diabetes.



Mexican ceramics.



Clockwise from left: Drs Margaret MacDiarmid, Anne Sorensen, Kim Morrison, Karen Schultz, and guest.