

Medical Council of Canada and, most importantly, providing culturally sensitive health care for our multicultural population.

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BCMA AGM: 13 June 2009

The BCMA's 2009 Annual General Meeting and Convention will be held in Vancouver on Saturday, 13 June 2009, at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel. Please contact Ms Lorie Janzen with any related questions at ljanzen@bcma.bc.ca or go to the BCMA web site at www.bcma.org for updates.

Autism centre for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment

Monarch House Autism Centre (www.monarchhouse.ca) was created by CBI Health Group to be a centre of excellence offering a multidisciplinary, integrated team approach for programming and intervention for children with ASD and other developmental disabilities. Monarch House has occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, psychologists, and pediatricians all under one roof. The centre's goal is to simplify the journey parents have to take from questions to interventions around ASD and other developmental disabilities. Their intervention services include:

- Applied behavior analysis-based programs.
- Sensory integration.
- Communication-based interventions.

Monarch House is located at 3185 Willingdon Green, in Burnaby, and is now evaluating children for programming, intervention, and support needs. To learn more, schedule a meeting, or request a tour, call Alaric de Souza, director of operations, at 604 205-9204, or e-mail adesouza@cbi.ca.

World Health Day challenge: Donate a day for Africa

This year on World Health Day (7 April), consider "donating a day" for Africa, Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief's (CPAR's) 4th Annual World Health Day Challenge. By donating part or all of 1 day's income, you'll demonstrate your commitment to improving health in Africa.

The World Health Day Challenge is partly inspired by the efforts of Dr Kevin Wade, a Vancouver-based ophthalmologist who donated a day of his medical service payment plans to CPAR in September 2002 and again in September 2005.

"When I saw CPAR's work firsthand and experienced the health conditions in Malawi during a research project, I knew I wanted to contribute to the cause," says Dr Wade.

"My responsibilities in Canada to my patients, staff, and family make working in Africa difficult, so I think that donating a day's office income is another way I can help out."

CPAR's primary health care work focuses on reducing the burden of HIV and AIDS through community-awareness programs, preventing the spread of common diseases by increasing access to clean water and sanitation facilities, promoting healthy pregnancies, and educating communities about sexual and reproductive health issues. Founded in 1984, CPAR works in partnership with vulnerable communities and diverse organizations to overcome poverty and build healthy communities in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi.

Physicians and other supporters can donate at www.donatedaday.ca.