

# SEAMO NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

2000 September 29

## SEAMO AND MINISTRY PLAN FOR NEGOTIATION

### *Negotiations in October*

SEAMO and the Ministry have agreed to begin to negotiate a new AFP agreement in October. The current agreement expires on Dec. 31.

On 2000 August 31, the SEAMO/ Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Steering Committee met. Assistant Deputy Minister, Mary Catherine Lindberg, and SEAMO CEO, David Walker, agreed to begin negotiation of a new multi-year agreement as soon as possible.

Despite the wish of the parties to begin negotiations, several steps in the Ministry must be taken. First, the OMA/Ministry Physicians Services Committee (PSC) has been given responsibility for overseeing the process by which academic medicine in Ontario will be offered alternative payment/funding arrangements. The PSC has now met and decided that although a framework for such

arrangements is not as yet in place, negotiations with SEAMO and with the Hospital for Sick Children should begin.

The Ministry has not yet determined its negotiators and a meeting schedule is yet to be set.

### **OMA / SEAMO Collaboration**

SEAMO will be working closely with the OMA throughout the negotiations.

On 2000 September 22, Darrel Weinkauff, Director of the OMA Economics Department, met with the SEAMO negotiating team to discuss benchmarking compensation to the external marketplace. The OMA and SEAMO are now working collaboratively to assemble data.

On 2000 October 06, CEO David Walker and the SEAMO negotiators will meet with Bill Orovan and David Pattenden of the OMA to discuss the negotiations. In addition to being co-chair of the PSC, Dr. Orovan was also the lead negotiator for the OMA during the recent negotiations.

### **CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

In the event SEAMO and the Ministry fail to complete

ratification prior to the end of the current contract, 2000 Dec 31, the Ministry has agreed that a new agreement would be backdated to January 01. This is has been common practice between the government and the profession. The new OMA agreement, for example, was concluded after the expiration of the previous agreement and backdated.

### ***Possible return to fee-for-service***

Although we hope to successfully complete negotiations with the Ministry, we must, of course, plan for every eventuality, including a possible return to fee-for-service. The Dean is now discussing with Clinical Heads the terms of a practice plan which would ensure the future of the Medical School in the absence of AFP.

The Dean has written to all clinical teachers informing them that should clinical teachers bill fee-for-service there would be a practice plan.

### **SEAMO names negotiators:**

At its 2000 September 11 meeting, the SEAMO Governing Committee named its negotiating team.

### **Negotiators will be:**

Jim Wilson, John Marshall, John Rudan and Paul Rosenbaum.

### *Questions about upcoming negotiations?*

Please speak with your Department Head or with any of the members of the Negotiating Team.