

March 13, 2020

Dear EZMSA members:

We face challenging times of the Government of Alberta attacking our profession as the COVID-19 pandemic takes hold. Thank you to everyone who has been side-by-side with us to step up and speak out for our patients. I appreciate your courage and leadership. You are brave in the face of adversity. I am proud of our dedicated stand-up colleagues.

My thoughts are with you as you wonder how you can sustain your practice after March 31st and cope with COVID-19 workload. I have also been frustrated. Don Wilson and I have been vocal about this government's lack of preparing physicians on the front line. However, it seems that they are starting to listen.

The EZMSA has taken a more vocal advocacy role by researching issues, writing letters to the Government and Alberta Health Services, issuing press releases, interviewing with media and actively posting on social media. We have deliberately evolved the EZMSA to actively advocate for our patients' care and resolve health system issues.

Please note that until the COVID-19 directive has changed for people to gather again, we will be changing our planned events. The awards event scheduled for March 19 is postponed to a later date. The town halls will be available online rather than in-person. The council meeting will be cancelled.

We must continue to organize, gather the facts and be strong. Please contact us to support your advocacy. Take care of yourself and each other.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ernst Schuster
EZMSA President