

The Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry (CAPER) is the central repository for statistical information on postgraduate medical education in Canada. CAPER is incorporated within the bylaws of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada and is funded by a number of national medical organizations as well as provincial/territorial and federal governments. CAPER's individual-level data permit analysis across universities and trainee characteristics, such as school and country of MD graduation, legal status, age, gender and field of training. Data is captured longitudinally from the time of entry to training to practice locations following post-M.D. training.

### **Early history**

CAPER was established in 1986 and incorporated within the by-laws of AFMC in 1988 with the mandate to provide accurate and timely information which may be used for physician resource planning at the national level. Original funders were: ACMC, CAIR, CMA, RCPSC, CFPC and HWC<sup>1</sup>. A CAPER Policy Committee was established and the first annual census published and disseminated by 1988. Ministerial approval of the by-law occurred in 1989.

### **1990 to 1999**

The early part of this decade saw the provincial/territorial governments (excluding Quebec) become funders of CAPER and contribute based on a population formula. Ontario has traditionally been the provincial representative on the Policy Committee. In the mid-90s, CAPER partnered with CMA to track the practice entry cohort into practice. Provincial reports were produced for the first time in 1998. The decade closed out with the Medical Council of Canada becoming a funding member in 1999.

### **2000 to 2009**

By 2001 CAPER was producing discipline specific annual reports. The CAPER Executive Committee is formed and populated with funders of CAPER. The Policy Committee assumes a more advisory role. By mid-point in the decade, the Task Force on IMGs had recommended the development of a national database to help track/recruit IMGs and conduct research. Also at this time, CAPER updated its privacy policy. In 2005, the National IMG Database was established within CAPER with funding by government of Canada's National Credential Recognition Program. The next year saw the launch of the CAPER website ([www.caper.ca](http://www.caper.ca)) and in 2008 the first of three reports based on the IMG database were published and disseminated.

### **2010 to 2016**

In the current decade, CAPER website underwent a complete redesign (2012) and now a refresh. Funding for the National IMG Database ended and CAPER produced the last IMG report in 2012. Last year CAPER adopted a new fiscal year to align with AFMC and also signed a new contribution agreement with Health Canada in order to receive extra funding for dissemination and research activities. In 2015, the Executive Committee became the CAPER Committee and the Policy Committee was renamed to the CAPER Advisory Group. CFMS<sup>2</sup> became members of the latter. CAPER received CIHR funding for research that tracks milestones and retention of IMGs in Canada. Also this year, CAPER terms of reference are being updated and the possibility of revitalizing the National IMG Database is being discussed. In 2016, CAPER celebrates its 30th anniversary.

<sup>1</sup> Association of Canadian Medical Colleges; Canadian Association for Internes and Residents; Canadian Medical Association; Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; College of Family Physicians of Canada; and Health and Welfare Canada.

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Federation of Medical Students