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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New President to lead Alberta's resident physicians and marks a major milestone

Celebrating 50 years of resident physicians playing a critical role in Alberta's health system

[July 8, 2025] – The Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA) marks a significant milestone as it **celebrates its 50th Anniversary** this July. As part of this celebration, PARA is also pleased to introduce its **new President, Dr. Siavash Zare-Zadeh**, who takes on the leadership role at a time when the contributions of resident physicians have never been more important to Alberta's healthcare system.

"I am honoured to serve as PARA's new President at this pivotal moment in our association's history," says Dr. Siavash Zare-Zadeh. "As we celebrate 50 years of advocating for resident physicians, we recognize the immense value that these future leaders bring to our health care system. By ensuring resident physicians are well-supported, PARA helps equip them to deliver the best possible care - care that ultimately benefits all Albertans."

PARA's 50th Anniversary marks half a century of advocacy and support for resident physicians, who play an essential role in the delivery of patient care across the province. As Alberta's health care landscape continues to evolve, **PARA remains committed to ensuring that resident physicians are supported and equipped to provide the best possible care to patients.**

This July, PARA also welcomes its newest cohort of resident physicians, who have begun their posts across Alberta's hospitals and clinics. With the start of their residencies coinciding with PARA's 50th Anniversary, the occasion offers a powerful opportunity to highlight **the critical role resident physicians play in Alberta's health system.**

As PARA moves forward into its next chapter, it remains committed to advancing the interests of resident physicians across Alberta by promoting wellness, advocating for fair compensation, enhancing the training and support structures that allow these physicians to succeed, and ensuring that the quality of patient care remains at the forefront of all efforts.

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What is a resident physician?

- Resident physicians are licensed doctors who have completed medical school and are now undergoing additional training in a specialized field of medicine.
- Residency training typically lasts between two to seven years, depending on the specialty.
- Residents deliver direct patient care while continuing their education.
- In Alberta, residency training is conducted through the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary.

Who is PARA?

- The Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA) represents Alberta's 1700+ resident physicians.
- As the official voice of resident physicians, PARA advocates for their rights and well-being, while ensuring they have the support needed to become the next generation of healthcare leaders.
- PARA works to ensure that resident physicians are supported throughout their training so they can focus on delivering exceptional care to patients.