



News

The 2008 CAHS Annual Meetings will be held on September 23-24, 2008 at the Metropolitan Hotel in Toronto. Check the CAHS website for additional information and registration details.

Monday, September 22

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Special Symposium: Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Canadians

Chair: James Lund

Tuesday, September 23

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Major CAHS Forum: Health System Transformation to Meet the Burden of Chronic Disease

Co-Chairs: Penny Ballem, Louise Nasmith

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Annual Induction Ceremony and Dinner (Honourable Monique Bégin, Guest of Honour)

Wednesday, September 24

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

CAHS Annual General Business Meeting

10:45 AM – Noon

Update on 2007 Assessment Return on Investments in Health Research: Defining the Best Metrics - Cy Frank

Noon – 1:30 PM

CAHS Luncheon Lecture Harold Varmus (Winner of the 2008 The Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research)

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Public Forum featuring Harold Varmus (Winner of the 2008 The Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research) MaRS Centre, 101 College St.

Check the CAHS website for additional information.

CAHS to collaborate with the U.S. Institute of Medicine

On March 21, 2008, Dr. Martin Schechter, CAHS President, and Dr. Catharine Whiteside, President-Elect, visited the U.S. Institute of Medicine (IOM) headquarters in Washington, D.C., hosted by Dr. Harvey Fineberg, President of the IOM, and Dr. Judith Salerno, Executive Director. The purpose of the visit was to explore possible collaborations between the two academies. Since the inception of CAHS, senior members of the IOM have been immensely helpful by providing invaluable advice to CAHS as it has moved forward. The meeting provided an opportunity for CAHS to update the IOM on the progress CAHS has made over the past few years.

The bulk of the visit was then spent exploring potential collaborative initiatives. Convening activities such as workshops, forums, and roundtables provide one excellent vehicle for working together. Some specific forum/workshop topics involving issues and challenges facing both countries were discussed and it was agreed that each academy would reflect further on potential subjects and communicate with each other about these over the next several months.

It was also recognized that the CAHS type of assessment known as “Casting in the Canadian Context”, provides another mechanism for collaboration. In such an arrangement, the IOM would conduct a Committee study, as it normally does, with sponsorship from U.S. organizations and governments. CAHS would conduct a separate assessment that evaluates the applicability of the IOM study (and other evidence) to Canada and modifies the information for the Canadian context. There was enthusiasm from both organizations about supporting this kind of collaboration that would respect the independent processes of both parties.

Overall, it was a very productive and successful visit that will be repeated in the future. To further this agenda, CAHS will be establishing an “external affairs” committee to pursue collaboration with the IOM and other international academies. Fellows interested in getting involved should write to <president@cahs-acss.ca>.

Monique Bégin named second Distinguished Fellow of CAHS

At its April 19, 2008 meeting, the CAHS Council unanimously recommended that the Honourable Monique Bégin be named a Distinguished Fellow of the Academy. She becomes the second Distinguished Fellow, joining Dr. John Evans who was honoured with the designation in 2007.

A sociologist, Dr. Bégin served as executive secretary of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and subsequently became the first woman from Québec elected to the House of Commons. Re-elected three times, she was appointed to Cabinet by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau as Minister of National Revenue in 1976, and as Minister of Health and Welfare from 1977 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984. An academic since she left politics, Dr. Bégin taught in Women’s Studies at Ottawa and Carleton Universities, served as Dean of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Health Sciences from 1990-97 and taught at the School of Management at the University of Ottawa.

Monique Bégin co-chaired the Royal Commission on Learning of Ontario and served on the International Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, she received several honorary doctorates in recognition of her contribution to human rights and to public policies. In 1998, she was invested as Officer of the Order of Canada.

Among her many achievements, she remains best known for the Canada Health Act of 1984 that enshrined the five core principles of universality, comprehensiveness, portability, accessibility, and public administration into Canada’s health care system.

CAHS created the category of Distinguished Fellow in 2007 as the highest honor awarded by the Academy. It is limited to individuals whose accomplishments in the health arena are considered of such high distinction that only a select few are deemed worthy of this designation. No more than one Distinguished Fellow may be elected each year. Dr. Bégin will be the guest of honour at the induction ceremony and dinner on September 23, 2008 in Toronto and will provide some remarks to those assembled.



Dr. Monique Bégin





CAHS to assess access to oral health care for Canadians

The Standing Committee on Assessments has approved a new Assessment entitled “Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Canadians”. Enhancing oral health and ensuring timely access to quality dental services of all citizens has become a public health priority in most western countries. In the U.K., health inequalities were highlighted in 1998 by a commission that led the British government to make a commitment toward their reduction; in the U.S., the 2000 Report of the Surgeon General highlighted oral health disparities and called for a national plan of action. CAHS will address this problem in Canada and evaluate the changes to Canadian oral health care delivery systems that are necessary to improve access for under-privileged Canadians. A pre-meeting symposium chaired by Dr. James Lund will be held on this important subject on the afternoon of September 22, 2008. Sponsorship for the assessment is now being sought.

Board-counsel (2007-2008)

President—Président
Martin T. Schechter

Past-President—
Ancien Président
Paul W. Armstrong

President-Elect—
Président désigné
Catharine I. Whiteside

Secretary—Secrétaire
Carlton Gyles

Treasurer—Trésorier
Dorothy Pringle

Directors—Directeurs
Pavel Hamet
Joy Johnson
Kevin Keough
Bartha Knoppers
Mary Law
James Lund
Peter S.L. Tugwell
Jacques Turgeon

Atlantic Canada celebrates local CAHS Fellows

On the evening of Wednesday, February 20, 2008, the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF), in partnership with Dalhousie University, hosted a reception for Nova Scotia Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences at Windows, the penthouse of the Halifax Convention Centre. In attendance were senior administrators from Dalhousie and St. Mary’s Universities, as well as several provincial Ministers, many local federal MPs, and other guests invited by the co-hosts. NSHRF staff prepared a poster and handouts about each of the CAHS Fellows, complete with individual pictures, so that guests would be able to personally congratulate the Fellows during the social portion of the reception. The formal part of the evening was opened by the Honourable Chris d’Entremont, Nova Scotia Minister of Health, who welcomed everyone to the event and expressed the government’s appreciation of the honours bestowed on Nova Scotians by CAHS. Dr. Alan Shaver, VP Academic at Dalhousie University, gave a speech outlining the significance of Fellowship in CAHS, followed by a brief presentation by Krista Connell, Executive Director of NSHRF. Each Fellow received a small token of recognition from NSHRF. All Nova Scotia Fellows were able to attend except Dr. Sherry Stewart who was presenting at a conference out of the country.

Ms. Connell conceived the concept of a reception after attending the ROI symposium and the dinner recognizing the new CAHS Fellows in Montreal. Formal planning of the event was undertaken by Ms. Linda Waterhouse (NSHRF staff) with some assistance from Dr. Jean Gray, FCAHS.



Front Row (L to R): Dr. Jean Gray, Dr. Nuala Patricia Kenny, The Honourable Chris d’Entremont, Nova Scotia Minister of Health, Dr. Susan Sherwin, and Dr. Karen V. Mann. Back Row (L to R): Krista Connell, Chief Executive Officer, NSHRF, Dr. Ingrid Sketris, Dr. Patrick J. McGrath, Dr. Alan Shaver, VP Academic at Dalhousie University, Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, and Dr. Donald Weaver.

Ms. Connell conceived the concept of a reception after attending the ROI symposium and the dinner recognizing the new CAHS Fellows in Montreal. Formal planning of the event was undertaken by Ms. Linda Waterhouse (NSHRF staff) with some assistance from Dr. Jean Gray, FCAHS.

Penny Ballem, Louise Nasmith to co-chair the CAHS Chronic Disease Panel

Academy Fellows Drs. Penny Ballem and Louise Nasmith have been named as Co-Chairs of the CAHS Assessment “Health System Transformation to Meet the Burden of Chronic Disease”.



Dr. Penny Ballem

Over the last 22 years, Dr. Penny Ballem has been a health administrator, an advisor to health policy-makers, both provincially and nationally, and a practicing academic hematologist. She served as Deputy Minister of Health of British Columbia from 2001 to 2007 and at the end of her tenure, was the longest serving Deputy Minister of Health in the country. Prior to this, she was previously the Vice-President of the Children’s and Women’s Health Centre of British Columbia, having responsibility for the largest maternity hospital in the country, and held a position of Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia (UBC).



Dr. Louise Nasmith

Dr. Louise Nasmith has been Principal of the College of Health Disciplines at the University of British Columbia since 2007, having previously served as Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto from 2001-2007, and as Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at McGill from 1995-2002. She has been involved in a number of projects that focus on integration of care for chronic illness and on interprofessional care and education, including the National Expert Committee on Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice, a Health Canada initiative.