



## 2010 AGM in Ottawa

Please mark tentative dates of Sept 30 - Oct 1, 2010 in your calendars. You will receive a complete notice of the meeting early in the new year.

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dr. Jacques de Champlain, one of our founding members. Jacques was a strong advocate of health research and contributed enormously to our public efforts to increase awareness about the importance of health research to society as a whole. Jacques was also a founding member of the Alumni and Friends of MRC and the Canadian Institute of Academic Medicine. See <http://www.ircm.qc.ca/en/recherche/statique/unite60.html>

Also with great sadness we announce the sudden passing of Dr. James Lund, a member of the CAHS Board. He was truly a remarkable leader and great friend whom we will miss profoundly. Jim played a leading role in establishing the Centre for Bone and Periodontal Research, the Centre for Biorecognition and Biosensors, and the Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain at McGill. One of his most satisfying accomplishments was the Outreach Program that provides free dental care to vulnerable patients in community centres for which he received a medal from the Carrefour des Communautés du Québec.

We extend our sympathies to the families and friends of these two outstanding individuals.



## President's Message

It is an honour to greet you as the incoming President of CAHS as we continue to build our organization with the purpose of providing scientific advice for a healthy Canada. We are the only Academy of our kind with such a broad spectrum of health, biomedical and related scientific expertise among our fellows. This uniquely positions the CAHS not only nationally, but internationally, to engage in assessing some of the most urgent and relevant issues of our day related to the health of individuals and populations. It is my intent to work diligently with the CAHS Board to develop strategies for more meaningful engagement of all members in our core mission of providing timely, informed and unbiased assessments and advice. Our members have stepped forward to articulate major questions and, with the assistance of the CAHS leadership, successfully obtained funding to support projects that are likely to have significant impact on health in Canada.

The first CAHS assessment, chaired by Cy Frank and entitled Making an Impact - The Return on Investments in Health Research: Defining the Best Metrics, has received wide acclaim across Canada and internationally. Cy has graciously presented the findings and the payback model described in the report to numerous academic and research institutions and organizations in Canada, and in Europe. Importantly, the CIHR Strategic Plan - Health Research Roadmap: Creating innovative research for better health and health care - refers directly to the CAHS Making an Impact report and the framework for measuring health research impacts taking into account health, economic and social outcomes. CIHR intends "to build an impact framework based on the CAHS proposed set of methods to measure the returns on investment, establish benchmarks and gauge progress in realizing the value of health research." Congratulations to Cy and our former President, Paul Armstrong, who both worked tirelessly to support this truly remarkable accomplishment.

Many thanks to our immediate past-President, Martin Schechter who has been instrumental in recruiting stakeholders for our current assessment on Health System Transformation to Meet the Challenge of Chronic Diseases (see page 2). He has also established important relationships with both the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Engineering to plan future collaborative assessments. Over the next few years, it is the intent of all three Academies to participate in providing expert, unbiased advice on issues that are highly relevant to Canadians.

On behalf of the CAHS leadership, I am very pleased to welcome Allison Hardisty as our new part time administrative assistant. Since the launch of CAHS, Allison has provided expert assistance for the fellow nominations and review process. She will now assist the President and the Board in their duties and we are most grateful for her professional support. Please send me your advice on the CAHS and opportunities to fulfill our mission.



Dr. Catharine Whiteside

## Nominations for New Fellows - 2010

As President-Elect, Tom Marrie now chairs the Fellowship Committee and an advertisement for new nominations has been circulated to all our fellows as well as University Presidents and the Deans of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Rehabilitation and Veterinary Medicine. The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 26, 2010. All the materials are located on our website [www.caHS-acss.ca/e/fellowships/](http://www.caHS-acss.ca/e/fellowships/). Please contact Allison Hardisty at [a.hardisty@utoronto.ca](mailto:a.hardisty@utoronto.ca) for any information about the nomination process.

## Membership Dues

Last year, the membership dues to the CAHS were blended with the AGM registration fees. We appreciated your constructive feedback on this approach. The CAHS Board has now approved returning to the former process of separate collection of membership dues and AGM registration fees. You will receive separate notification for each and hope that this will address the concerns raised last year.



#### New CAHS Members 2009

Margaret Andrea Baumann, McMaster University  
Alison Buchan, University of British Columbia  
John Challis, University of British Columbia  
Jean-Louis Denis, Université de Montréal  
Janice Eng, University of British Columbia  
Richard Fedorak, University of Alberta  
Jocelyne Feine, McGill University  
Geoffrey Fernie, University of Toronto  
Gloria Gutman, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre  
Thomas Hadjistavropoulos, University of Regina  
Jean Pierre Julien, Université Laval  
Ian MacDonald, University of Alberta  
Marco Marra, University of British Columbia  
Anita Molzahn, University of Alberta  
Sioban Nelson, University of Toronto  
Richard James Neufeld, University of Western Ontario  
Jennifer O'Loughlin, Université de Montréal  
Helene Polatajko, University of Toronto  
Gregor Reid, University of Western Ontario  
Denis Richard, Université Laval  
Robert Roberts, University of Ottawa  
Jonathan Stoessl, University of British Columbia  
Michael Strong, University of Western Ontario  
Bilkis Vissandjee, Université de Montréal  
Mladen Vranic, University of Toronto  
Paul Walfish, University of Toronto  
Trevor Young, University of British Columbia  
Kue Young, University of Toronto

## Update on Assessments

On behalf of CAHS, I extend a most sincere thanks to the outgoing chair of the Standing Committee on Assessments, Andreas Laupacis, as well as to the Committee members who have volunteered many hours of their time providing outstanding recommendations to the Board. This Committee is responsible for reviewing all of the assessment topics that come forward and to help formulate the most appropriate questions to be addressed through formal review by the assessment panels. They also recommend to the CAHS Board, the appointment of the chair and panel members for the assessment. During the assessment, the Committee appoints a Monitor to review the process that must adhere to the procedures set out by the CAHS, and then to recruit official external reviewers that provide feedback to the Board on the draft report. We now welcome John Cairns, the new chair of the Committee on Assessments who has been working very diligently with the Committee members these past few months on the a number of new assessment initiatives.

Many thanks to Louise Nasmith and Penny Ballem, the co-chairs of the major assessment now in progress – Health System Transformation to Meet the Challenge of Chronic Disease. The key question is – What will it take to improve outcomes for patients with chronic disease in Canada? This expert panel will create a strategy to improve health outcomes for patients with chronic disease through re-orientation of Canadian health services and better utilization of system resources from policy to point-of-care within the next five years. The blue-ribbon panel has been hard at work with much progress to date. They are aiming for completion of the report for review by the CAHS Board in time for official launch of the report in September 2010 at our annual general meeting.

An assessment related to Global Health has emerged under the leadership of Peter Singer and we expect the launch of this project early in the new year. Congratulations Peter for your leadership and commitment to this projects.

Please note that CAHS Board members who assume the role of chair of an assessment, will step off the Board for the duration of assessment. Assessment panel members may stay on the CAHS Board but are not involved in discussion or voting about decisions relevant to their assessment. The Chair of the Committee on Assessments is now invited to join the CAHS Board, ex officio.

## Re-cap – Annual General Meeting 2009

In September 2009, the CAHS hosted its 4th Annual General Meeting in Ottawa with over 100 members in attendance. We inducted and warmly welcomed 28 new fellows (see left side bar) along with the 2009 Distinguished Fellow – the Honourable Michael Kirby. For those of you who attended the induction ceremony, you will undoubtedly agree that our members are truly remarkable individuals who represent the most accomplished and committed health and biomedical science academics in Canada. Michael Kirby, himself a change agent for mental health care, challenged all of us to assume responsibility for critically assessing the health care needs of Canadians and contributing to effective system transformation.

The Global Health theme of the meeting, led by Peter Singer, focused on the question of Canada's Strategic Role in Global Health. Peter is the Foreign Secretary for the CAHS and organized a spectacular group of international experts to address this question. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, who also chairs the Scientific Assessment Committee of the Council of Canadian Academies, chaired the Symposium panel reflecting on the Historical Perspectives of Canada's Role in Global Health and the session addressing the specific question – What can the Government of Canada Contribute to Canada's Strategic Role in Global Health? Prahbat Jha presented the findings of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) assessment report entitled The US Commitment to Global Health. Prahbat was the only Canadian who served on this IOM assessment committee and highlighted the recommendations to: 1) speak out about the importance of global health; 2) to double the US financial investment in global health initiatives; 3) to focus more research efforts on solving major global health problems; and, 4) build better relationships with developing world institutions for sustainable partnerships. To conclude, Bartha Knoppers chaired a report back session following small group discussions on – What Can Universities, Civil Society and Industry Contribute to Canada's Strategic Role in Global Health? Thanks to all who contributed to this timely event. A full report of the outcomes of the Global Health Symposium can be found on our website ([www.caHS-acss.ca/e/publications/proceedings.php](http://www.caHS-acss.ca/e/publications/proceedings.php)).