



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé e -

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.cahs-acss.ca

HEALTH MATTERS Volume 2; Issue 5; January 2014

Welcome to the redesigned CAHS e-Newsletter, your source for updates on activities of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

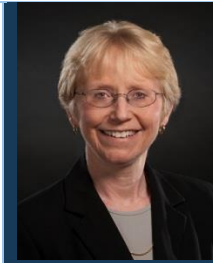


Happy New Year to CAHS Fellows across Canada! I trust you had an opportunity for some rest and enjoyment with family and friends over the holiday season. I wish you the very best for 2014.

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Jean Gray to the position of Chair of the Standing Committee on Assessments. Jean is an accomplished academic who has in the past and continues to fill a wide variety of leadership positions. Many of you will have worked with Jean in one or other of her capacities and will know first-hand of her enormous skills and vision. She is the ideal person for this role which is at the heart of the mission of the CAHS.

I would like to thank Bob Sindelar for the wonderful job he did of editing the newsletter over the past couple of years. He has provided CAHS with an excellent model for communicating effectively and regularly with Fellows. I am delighted that Sally Thorne has taken over the responsibility for editing the newsletter. This issue is the first under her management and it is clear what a great job she will be doing. Thank you also to Allison Hardisty for her ongoing administrative management of the newsletter.

This newsletter touches on many activities of CAHS. We hope the links will facilitate access to more information about them. Watch for more content in French in the coming months. It will be a very full year of activities for CAHS. I will



Secretary's Note

Have a great idea to enhance our Academy and

help us become even more engaged with our Fellows? Do you have news that would be of value to your colleagues? I would love to hear from you.

Sally.Thorne@nursing.ubc.ca

Sincerely,
Sally Thorne

Bridging the Language Barrier

In recognition that we are a nation of two official languages, the Academy Board is working toward the ideal of translation of its future newsletters, and hopes to have a system in place before this year is out. In the meantime, we want to acknowledge the patience of our francophone members and look forward to your ongoing input as to how to optimize inclusion.

Nos efforts concernant la présence du Français

Reconnaissant la dualité linguistique canadienne, le Conseil des directeurs travaille

stay in regular touch with you with monthly e-blasts.

Sincerely,

John Cairns MD, FRCPC, FRCP (Lond), FCAHS, FACC

SPOTLIGHT – BOARD UPDATES



2013 Induction Ceremony (L-R) Kendall Ho, Elizabeth Saewyc and Carolyn Gotay, University of British Columbia

Call for Nominations

The Academy is only as strong as its Fellows, and for 2014 we are again seeking nominations of excellent candidates. The CAHS seeks nominations from the full breadth of the health and biomedical sciences fields, as this diversity is a tremendous asset to our capacity to achieve our vision. The Fellowship nomination review process this year will be chaired by Carol Herbert, President-elect. Her team will be

looking for candidates with established national and international recognition in their scientific fields, demonstrable leadership experience (i.e. beyond their programs of research) and an evident commitment to engagement in advancing academic health science in this country. CAHS Fellows are ideally placed to play an important role in their institutions, disciplines and regions to ensure that top candidates are nominated and their nominations are well developed. Deadline March 21, 2014. Further details on the nomination process are available at <http://www.cahs-acss.ca/nominations/>

Dues Increases

In its ongoing efforts to ensure that the Academy can provide Canadians with timely, informed and unbiased assessments of urgent issues affecting their health, the Board has given careful thought to the issue of operating costs. As a result of that deliberation, it has concluded that an adjustment is needed to our fees to ensure that the core functions of the organization are sustainable. Starting in 2014, the dues for regular Fellows will increase by 5%, and for Senior Fellows, the prior fee reduction will be modified. You will be receiving letters from President John Cairns to explain how your dues will be affected.

In a related matter, the CAHS has had to adjust its fiscal year-end (from Nov 30 to March 31) to accommodate reporting requirements. This will actually simplify and streamline our accounting processes and, combined with our improved membership dues management platform, provide a more reliable tracking system.

ANNUAL MEETING AND FORUM (SEPT 18-19, 2014, OTTAWA)

Showcasing Member Research

At our Annual Meeting, it has become a tradition to showcase scientific

présentement à établir une politique de traduction et de représentation du Français pour son Bulletin et espère avoir un système en place avant la fin de l'année en cours. En attendant, nous tenons à souligner la patience de nos membres francophones et sommes ouverts à leurs suggestions sur la façon de maximiser leur sentiment d'appartenance envers notre organisation.

Headlines

[Spotlight](#)
[Annual Meeting & Forum](#)
[Strategic Directions](#)
[Assessment News](#)
[Member News](#)
[Important Dates](#)

Contact

Canadian Academy of
Health Sciences (CAHS)
180 Elgin Street, Suite 1403
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 2K3

Phone [613-567-2247](tel:613-567-2247)
Fax [613-567-5060](tel:613-567-5060)
info@cahs-acss.ca



presentations from two or three of our CAHS Fellows. These allow us to hear varied and fascinating perspectives we might not learn about in other ways. [No-one present is likely to forget the 2011 presentation by Wayne Martin on "*Badgers, cattle and people: The epidemiologic triad of bovine tuberculosis in Ireland*" for example!] If you have work you think might be intriguing to the Academy, we'd love to hear about it. Please send John Cairns an abstract of the work you would like to present, and/or suggest a colleague whom we should approach.

john.cairns@ubc.ca

Nominations for the Armstrong Lecture

The Armstrong Lecture was established to honor our first CAHS President, Dr. Paul Armstrong, and is now a highlight of the Forum. It is an important award, recognizing leadership and commitment to advancing academic health sciences through academic service and innovation at local, national and international levels. Previous recipients are exemplars of achievements that are truly extraordinary:

2013 Lorne Tyrrell "*A life in discovery, translation, and commercialization of research focused on viral hepatitis.*"

2012 Jean Rouleau "*How best to bring clinical, health systems and population health research forward in Canada over the next 10 years.*"

We are now seeking nominations of outstanding Academy Fellows for the 2014 Armstrong Lecture. Send your thoughts and suggestions to CAHS Past-President Tom Marrie at: tmarrie@Dal.Ca

Forum on Commercialization of Health Research

As part of its annual meeting in September, the CAHS hosts a Forum on a topic of major importance to the health of Canadians. On September 18, 2014, the Forum will focus on the *Commercialization of Health Research in Canada*. There are concerns that even though the research productivity of Canadian public institutions is relatively high by international standards, the translation of intellectual property into commercial enterprise lags behind that in many countries. This issue has been extensively explored in a series of assessments by the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) and summarized in their recent publication "Paradox Lost".

There is general agreement that there are many potential benefits to the Canadian economy from the commercialization of university research and that academic institutions stand to benefit substantially from active efforts to commercialize intellectual property developed by their faculty members. On the other hand some health scientists are concerned about potentially deleterious effects of commercialization of university research on the academic environment and even on the provision of optimal health care.

These and other critical issues of relevance to Canada will be discussed and debated at the Forum with the goal of bringing insights into improving our national performance, while addressing the rational concerns of health scientists and practitioners. The 2014 event is being chaired by Richard Riopelle, a

neuroscientist from McGill University, and is being planned in collaboration with the Conference Board of Canada.

We recognize that the term “commercialization” may be a huge draw for some CAHS members and perhaps much less so or even a negative for others. However, this Forum is very much designed to encompass a full engagement and much critical dialogue on such issues as standards, indicators and implications. The day will be structured to encourage Fellow engagement in a very lively dialogue.

So, whether you see yourself as directly involved in commercialization issues or whether you might more readily align your interests with concepts like innovation, knowledge translation, or impact, your input will be an important asset to the discussions! We expect this Forum to have a high profile with government and industry partners, and see this as an occasion for showing the full potential of an interdisciplinary health science Academy in the broader social context.

So please come, and be prepared to engage!

Addictions Forum 2013

Co-chaired by Martin Schechter and Anthony Phillips, the event presented the latest information and insights into: social and environmental determinants of substance abuse; biologic approaches to understanding addiction and innovations in our approach to addiction. It concluded with a stimulating DEBATE... Be it resolved: “That the use of illicit drugs should be decriminalized.” For, Ethan Nadelmann, US Drug Policy Alliance; Against, Michel Perron, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse; For – Rebuttal, Senator Larry Campbell, Senate Standing Committees on Aboriginal Peoples and Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration ; Against – Rebuttal, Peter Butt, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.



FOR: Be it resolved that use of illicit drugs should be decriminalized...



FOR - REBUTTAL: Be it resolved that use of illicit drugs should be ...



AGAINST: Be it resolved that use of illicit drugs should be decrimin...



AGAINST - REBUTTAL: Be it resolved that use of illicit drugs shoul...

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



Council of Canadian Academies
Conseil des académies canadiennes

CCA Renewal and Funding

The Canadian Council of Academies, of which CAHS is a member, is being considered for federal government funding renewal. We are working in partnership with the Royal Society and the Canadian Academy of Engineering in support of this renewal proposal. We look forward to being able to report a positive outcome in the spring of 2014.

Symposium on Diet and Cardiovascular Health

The CAHS will co-host (with the World Federation of Cardiology) a major international symposium on diet and the cardiovascular system on May 14-16, 2014, at McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences. The CAHS will focus on dietary sodium, which has been the subject of a substantial effort by Health Canada to encourage the public and the food industry to support efforts to lower

the dietary intake of sodium by all Canadians. Over the past two years, considerable controversy has emerged as new evidence has suggested that stringent limitation of dietary sodium may be unnecessary and for some people even harmful. During this 3-day meeting, a range of views and substantial new information will be presented, not only on sodium, but also on a wide range of nutrients. It is anticipated that the proceedings of the symposium will be published in major journals.

ASSESSMENT NEWS

Oral Health

Thanks to the leadership of Paul Allison, the Oral Health Assessment report is now in the final stages of copy editing and translation, with an anticipated release date in January 2014. Paul is working with Jocelyne Feine and Peter Wolter to develop marketing and communications strategies that will ensure the widest impact possible. They would welcome creative input from members about dissemination opportunities that may not have hit their radar. Send your thoughts to Jocelyne Feine, Chair of the CAHS Communications Committee at: jocelyne.feine@mcgill.ca

Scopes of Practice

This assessment, led by Jeff Turnbull and Sioban Nelson, addresses a complex challenge in health system redesign that includes scope of practice for health professionals, appropriate modifications to educational programming, as well as legislative, regulatory and funding frameworks. This assessment is also nearing the final phases towards completion. More detail about the mandate of this assessment can be found at: <http://www.cahs-acss.ca/current-projects/>

MEMBER NEWS

Local Meetings

Since we know that, despite best intentions, it is not always possible for everyone to attend the Annual Meeting and Forum, Fellows in several regions are planning local events to engage with other Fellows in meaningful ways in alignment with the CAHS mandate. The nature and scope of these gatherings will vary. Some may be entirely social, some may celebrate and welcome new Fellows, some may be occasions in which to share expertise and excitement about developments across our various fields, and others may have a strategic focus that brings Academy Fellows together to brainstorm local challenges affecting health and/or health science.

Western University hosted a local event on January 9 coordinated by Davy Cheng and Mike Strong. Seventeen Fellows attended and came up with eight proposals on topics pertinent to the Academy in term of full assessment, Forum or triple C reviews. As well, many suggestions were generated to increase Fellow engagement. A more detailed list of priorities for the eight topics is being summarized and will be provided to the Board for consideration.

The *BC contingent* of CAHS members is resuming an earlier tradition of regional member gatherings. The first such event will take place on January 28, 2014 cosponsored by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and

coordinated by Diane Finegood, John O'Neil, Sally Thorne and Martin Schechter. Discussion is expected to focus on exploring provincial conditions influencing the health science environment, sharing insights around collective strategic engagement to influence health research funding and policy, and reflecting on opportunities for future CAHS assessments.

Wayne Hindmarsh and Linda Rabeneck will engage Fellows at the *University of Toronto* in dialogue strategically engineered to generate differing dimensions of discussion to enhance the mobilization and activation of recommendations of CAHS assessments. The Spring 2014 event will provide a forum for discussion and debate between assessment panel members and intended recipients of reports (lay-public, advocacy groups, policy makers and other key stakeholders). A steering committee comprising Fellow representation from all health sciences disciplines and thought leaders is currently being struck.

And members in Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Montreal & Halifax are at various stages of considering regional events. We hope that Fellows in other regions will also take up the challenge to identify individuals who may step forward to coordinate and organizations that might be prepared to host gatherings, and to take advantage of opportunities for Fellows to come together.

Coordinating a gathering need not involve much by way of time or resources, since getting together with fascinating colleagues is a reward in itself. And we will welcome reports from local meetings in upcoming e-flashes and newsletters. If you are interested in helping build a regional meeting in your area, Allison Hardisty in the CAHS Secretariat, can support you in contacting local members: A.Hardisty@utoronto.ca

Member Updates

We know that our Fellows are somewhat bashful about tooting their own horns, but we would really appreciate an opportunity to showcase important recognitions, new positions, and anything else that Fellows think is of importance. If something great has happened to you or a colleague, or you hear of a major recognition that has come to one of our Fellows, do let us know so that we can include mention in an upcoming e-flash or newsletter. Send your news to Allison Hardisty at: A.Hardisty@utoronto.ca

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 21, 2014 - *Deadline for Nominations for New Fellows* <http://www.cahs-acss.ca/nominations/>
- September 18, 2014 - *Forum on Commercialization of Health Research, Ottawa*
- September 19, 2014 - *Annual Meeting, Ottawa*