



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

HEALTH MATTERS Volume 3; Issue 2; November 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as your President for the next two years. The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences has developed a presence and reputation in its first decade that provides a base on which we can build. We are very grateful to the leaders who established the organization and those who led it over its early years. We are poised to expand our impact as the trusted voice for health science in Canada but we need to be visible on issues of importance.

We have a unique perspective across the health sciences from basic science to health services and policy that allows us to bring evidence-informed findings and recommendations to policy-makers. The Board is guided by a Strategic Plan that we will refresh in 2016. My priorities for the next year are to:

1. Extend our communication and dissemination strategies to ensure that our reports and recommendations for actionable options reach a broad audience, including the public.
2. Expand mechanisms for knowledge development, such as an organized system to allow Rapid Response advice on topical issues, including early warning of global health concerns; working groups on issues of importance to Fellows such as under-served populations and refugees; consideration of consensus conferences or round tables.
3. Create a pipeline of Assessment questions and potential Forum topics.
4. Increase our funding base by a formal coordinated campaign that will take our refreshed vision and a portfolio of actions to potential funders. We need funds to allow us to develop an independent capacity to pursue initiatives.
5. Work with key partners to develop joint projects that will increase our capacity to further our objectives, initially with the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine (NAM, formerly the IOM). I am arranging a visit to Washington with Linda Rabeneck, president-elect, in order to review NAM programs and meet with NAM President, Victor Dzau who expressed his enthusiasm when he gave the 10th Anniversary International Lecture at the AGM.
6. Activate our Government Relations Committee to develop a pan-Canadian strategy to deal with health and health policy issues within the Canadian F/P/T reality.
7. Increase engagement of Fellows in Academy activities including a more formal regional organizational approach. We are happy to have more Francophone Fellows and will continue to improve our bilingual capacity. We will also upgrade our database so that we can more readily identify the expertise of our Fellows.
8. Continue to encourage the nomination of outstanding Canadian health scientists for Fellowship.
9. Consider how we might include young scientists in the Academy, as the Royal Society is doing with its Young Scholars program.

SECRETARY'S NOTE



After a brilliantly successful Forum in Ottawa, we are already planning the next one. This is a good time to mark your calendars for **Thursday & Friday, September 15 & 16, 2016** at the Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal.

Our next Forum entitled ***Closing the Health Gap for Aboriginal Canadians*** is a compelling and complex health issue requiring high quality health science to inform effective public policy into the future. You won't want to miss being part of the process of bringing such a wide diversity of science together in dialogue.



Sir
Paul

We will be seeking your opinions and your ideas in a variety of ways, but don't wait to be asked! Send along an e-mail to me, or to any member of the Board, if you have suggestions as to how we can better achieve our goals.

Sincerely,



Carol Herbert, President

SPOTLIGHT – BOARD UPDATES



GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT LINDA RABENECK

I am delighted to serve for the next 2 years as President-Elect of the CAHS. This is an honour, but more importantly, a tremendous responsibility.

Given our 10-year anniversary, we are at an exciting time. I look forward to working with our new President, Carol Herbert, our energetic Board and superbly talented Fellows, as we move forward

together from start-up to the next phase of our evolution.



REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENT JOHN CAIRNS

My 2-year term as President is now complete. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your President from 2013-15. We have just celebrated the 10th Anniversary of CAHS at our Annual Meeting and Forum in Ottawa. Attendance was excellent and the Forum on the *Rising Tide of Dementia* was stimulating and will lead to a major assessment with the potential to influence public policy.

We thought it was important to document to genesis the growth of the Academy, to record our accomplishments and to publish the results. **Paul Armstrong** and I worked on this over the past few months. *"From Concept to Impact – 10 Years of Progress"* is the result. We hope it provides some enjoyable reading. The document was distributed to all who attended the Annual Meeting and is available in English and French on the Academy website <http://cahs-acss.ca>

I am grateful for the hard work and expertise of the 16-member Board of CAHS, and wish especially to recognize **Tom Marrie** (Past President), **Carol Herbert** (President-elect), **Sally Thorne** (Secretary), **Kim Raine** (Treasurer), **Jean Gray** (Chair, Assessments), **Jocelyne Feine** (Chair, Communications) and **Peter Singer** (Foreign Secretary). I also wish to acknowledge the dedicated service of **Allison Hardisty**, our Manager of Operations and Executive Assistant to the President.

I have worked with many of you, to increase the engagement of our Fellows, ensuring that the CAHS continues to grow in depth and stature. The foundations of the Academy were well-laid back in the early 2000's. My goal has been to build upon these, so that we may secure our stature in the minds of governments and the public and enhance our mission in support of the health of Canadians. As we look to the future of our Academy, I hope you will each consider how you might assist in the Academy's mission to provide "scientific advice for a healthy Canada". The first 10 years have been a story of success – but we have not yet hit our full stride. Working together, much more will be possible.

Nurse, recipient of the 2015 Henry G Friesen International Prize in Health Research, will deliver a public lecture, in conjunction with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Prize, at the University of Ottawa on **Monday, December 7th, 2015 from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm** at Roger Guindon Hall, 451 Smyth Road, Amphitheatre B. Professor Nurse, President of the Royal Society of London, is a pioneer scientist, science advocate, policy maker and caring citizen. He has achieved major impact through sustained excellence in research, leadership and communication over a distinguished career. To learn more visit <http://www.fcibr.ca/>

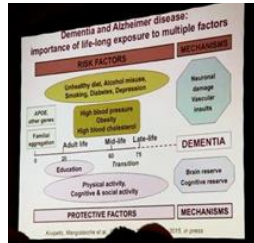
Finally, be on the lookout for regional CAHS Fellows meetings in your area and remember it is not too soon to be thinking about excellent candidates for your 2016 Fellowship nominations. We very much look

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We are delighted to welcome Linda Rabeneck, CAHS President-Elect, as the new Chair of the Fellowship Committee. Start thinking about nominees for 2016, as the call will come early in January, 2016. We particularly ask that you consider nominating highly qualified individuals from Pharmaceutical, Dental, Veterinary, and Rehabilitation Sciences.

NATIONAL FORUM

The Rising Tide of Dementia in Canada: Facing the Critical Challenge by 2025



Forum Co-Chairs Howard Feldman (L) and Carole Estabrooks (R), joined by invited speaker Sube Banerjee, a leader in the development of UK's National Dementia Strategy.

Co-Chaired by **Carole Estabrooks** and **Howard Feldman**, the 2015 CAHS Forum was a stunning success. The stated objectives for the day were to update Fellows on the current science and landscape on the impact of dementia; to explore prevention, care and innovation strategies; and to develop the foundation for a CAHS major assessment that could both address the projected impact of and present solutions related to the dementia challenge.

The CAHS was able to attract an unprecedented level of sponsorship for this topic, which was testament to its timeliness and its diversity of influence across the health science and public policy spectrum. The day was packed with a diverse set of expert speakers, including Fellows **Yves Joannette**, **Howard Chertkow**, **Anne Martin-Matthews**, and **Howard Bergman**, as well as invited guests presenting on such topics as scientific challenges associated with dementia study, advances in dementia treatment and prevention, community-based systems of care, caregiver and workforce implications, quality of end of life care, the built environment, and dementia-friendly community innovations.

Following a day packed with presentations, rapid-fire panels, and lively dialogue, the concluding session brought Forum participants together to brainstorm how an assessment might be shaped to optimize the Academy's opportunity for influence on public policy.

Those present recognized the event was truly groundbreaking – representing the distinctive capacity of the Academy to wrestle with complex and urgent issues from the perspective of leading edge work across the spectrum of disciplines and foci. Whether or not their substantive expertise has anything to do with dementia, the Fellows present recognized that they were part of a community with the intellectual force to tackle complexity with the powerful pairing of scientific rigor and informed social responsibility.

A video interview conducted by **Jocelyne Feine** with the international invited speakers, Sube Banerjee (Brighton & Sussex Medical School, UK) and Mila Kivipelto (Karolinska University, Sweden) is available on the CAHS website at <http://cahs-acss.ca/> We are grateful to both Jocelyne and to Jon

forward to hearing from you!

We are always on the lookout for news and updates for this Newsletter so that it can be as informative and relevant to members as possible. And for all of you attending regional events or the AGM and forum, feel free to send us your best photographs so the moments are recorded for posterity!

Sincerely,

Sally Thorne

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FORUM 2016

Next year's Forum will be held in Montreal on Thursday & Friday, September 15 & 16, 2016 at the Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal. The Forum will be co-chaired by **Jeff Reading** - Director of the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health, based at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health

at the University of Toronto, and former Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute for Aboriginal People's Health - and **Carol Herbert**, President of CAHS and Chair of the Standing Committee on Annual Meeting Planning. The topic will be: "*Closing the Health Gap for Aboriginal Canadians*". Led by experts, we will reflect on what is known worldwide regarding best practices for indigenous health services and what action steps need to be taken to change the historical patterns of disease, illness, and mortality among Aboriginal peoples in Canada. If you have a particular interest in this important topic, please send an e-mail to Carol (carol.herbert@schulich.uwo.ca) with your suggestions for potential topics and speakers. Stay tuned for more detail as the agenda takes shape.

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



The CAHS 10th Anniversary cake was cut by past, present and future Presidents **Tom Marrie** (2011-13), **Carol Herbert** (2015-17), **John Cairns** (2013-15), **Catharine Whiteside** (2009-11), **Linda Rabeneck** (2017-19), and **Paul Armstrong** (2004-07). **Martin Schechter** (2007-09) was there in spirit!

The Paul Armstrong Lecture



L-R David Naylor, Carol Herbert, Davy Cheng

The annual *Paul Armstrong Lecture* was awarded to **David Naylor**, who presented an address at the Induction Ceremony and Dinner on Sept 17th. This award recognizes leadership and commitment to advance academic health sciences through academic service and innovation at local, national and international levels, and achievements that are truly extraordinary. David's timely and dynamic lecture was entitled *How Canada's Healthcare Systems Can Regain Lost Ground*.

As a central feature of that celebratory evening, we inducted 36 new Fellows into the Academy. A complete description of the new Fellows, and the skillsets they will be adding to our community, can be found on our website at <http://cahs-acss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2015-CAHS-Elected-Fellows1.pdf>

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION



L-R **Graham Bell**, **Victor Dzau**, and **Paul Armstrong**

Celebrations continued on Friday morning, September 18th, with a Special Anniversary Presentation on the theme of *Learned Societies: A Real Value or a Pastime for Aging Academics?* To begin, **Paul Armstrong** provided some reflections based on his experience as the founding President of CAHS. Next, **Graham Bell**, current President of the Royal Society of Canada, shared thoughts from the perspective of Canada's oldest academy. Finally, **Victor Dzau**, President of the newly named National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) in the US, delivered the *10th Anniversary International Lecture*, highlighting challenges that organization has faced over its 35 year history and reflecting on the differing political, attitudinal and contextual factors from which CAHS may take comfort and perhaps some strategic lessons.

From Concept to Impact - 10 Years of Progress



In recognition of the impressive accomplishments of the CAHS in its short 10 year history, the Board of Directors commissioned a comprehensive “progress report,” which was compiled and written over recent months by **John Cairns** and **Paul Armstrong**. This remarkable document - available to Forum participants in hard copy and to all (in both languages) on our website - will serve as a permanent record of the people and the projects that have characterized a decade of visionary thinking and strategic progress.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual gathering concluded with our Annual General Meeting, which was as usual packed with information and updates. Meeting materials will soon be posted on the recently renovated CAHS website at <http://cahs-acss.ca/>. Among the highlights were the election of Officers and Board Members, including **Linda Rabeneck** as your new President-Elect and new Board members **Lorne Babiuk**, **Anita Molzahn**, **Barbara Papadopolou**, and **Joanne Tremblay**. Retiring Board members **Greta Cummings**, **Tom Marrie**, and **Alastair Cribb** were thanked for their significant contributions.

In an update from the Fellowship Committee, we learned that our membership now stands at a total of 577, comprised of 331 Fellows, 168 Senior Fellows (65-74 years), 70 Emeritus Fellows (>75) as well as 8 individuals who hold Lifetime, Distinguished or Honorary Fellow status. As CAHS grows and evolves, we are developing in our disciplinary diversity and regional representation.

REGIONAL MEETING UPDATES

Over the past year, we have been formalizing our capacity for engaging our Fellows through local and regional meetings as a way to augment the opportunities available annually at our national Forum and AGM. We know that the needs and circumstances of each region are distinct, and therefore we are greatly appreciative of the leadership and creativity of the Fellows who have stepped up to tackle the challenge of finding appropriate mechanisms for fellow engagement across the country. We will continue to report the activities of the regional meetings, and to encourage Fellows with ideas for additional regional groupings or connections to get involved.

CAHS is not an advocacy organization; its success as a national contributor to health and public policy will depend on its capacity to remain objectively neutral on the political front. However, it also recognizes the value and potential impact of its Fellows (individually and collectively) to shape the conditions upon which evidence-based policy can be advanced across Canada. Regional communities of Fellows can become one mechanism by which synergy is mobilized toward provincial or municipal health policy that is informed by evidence from the health science perspective.

These Fellows have agreed to facilitate the coordination of CAHS activities as “CAHS Regional Representatives.”

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John Cairns John.Cairns@ubc.ca

If your region is not yet involved and you would like to help, please contact Allison Hardisty for contact information for Fellows in your area: a.hardisty@utoronto.ca

ASSESSMENT NEWS

The *Academic Recognition of Team Science* assessment is now fully funded with support from CIHR, CCRA, NSHRF, Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions, the FRSQ, and the Michael Smith Foundation. The panel is chaired by Mr. Peter Mackinnon, former President of the University of Saskatchewan, and includes membership from university administrations, granting agencies, basic and clinical sciences, similar panels in the US and the UK, and national award selection committees. The final report is anticipated by the end of 2016.

Fundraising is now underway for the *Health Professional Practice Education in the Community* assessment and, to date, slightly over one-third of the necessary funding has been raised. Over the next couple of months, the SCA will be interacting with senior health professional groups to solicit further funding and suggestions for panel membership.

MEMBER NEWS



Congratulations to **Gordon Guyatt, David Naylor and Mark Wainberg** who have been selected for induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. They are among the six individuals whose outstanding contributions to health will be recognized as they join the current 113 CMHF Laureates at a gala celebration on April 14, 2016 at The Hamilton Convention Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Laureates are individuals whose outstanding contributions to medicine and the health sciences have led to extraordinary improvements in human health. Their work may be a single meritorious contribution or a lifetime of superior accomplishments. Pioneers in their field, they are role models and an inspiration to young Canadians to pursue careers in the health sciences.



Gordon Guyatt



David Naylor



Mark Wainberg

Feel free to send your news, including any inadvertently missed major recognitions, to Allison Hardisty at: a.hardisty@utoronto.ca

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 15 & 16, 2016: 2016 FORUM AND AGM, HOTEL OMNI MONT-ROYAL, MONTREAL