



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

HEALTH MATTERS Volume 3; Issue 1; May 2015

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

Visit us on the web at <http://cahs-acss.ca>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,
The success of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences will be determined by the degree of engagement of its Fellows. Over the past two years, the Board has taken concrete steps to increase engagement of all 550 Fellows of CAHS. Among the initiatives have been an extensive survey of the Fellows followed by actions in response to many constructive suggestions, a more extensive and appealing newsletter and its French translation, regular eBlasts from the President, more ambitious and participatory Annual Forums, regional meetings in most provinces, more extensive and higher quality French translation of our website and the increased membership of Fellows on committees of the Board (Standing Committees on Assessment, Communications, Governance/Nominations, Annual Meeting Planning, Government Relations and Fellow Selection). There is considerable evidence of sustained and increasing engagement of our Fellows.

The impact of service on behalf of colleagues was brought home to me as I reflected on the recent deaths of John Evans and Cy Frank, both giants of Canadian health sciences with strong connections to CAHS.

John Evans, a Distinguished Fellow of CAHS, died on February 13, 2015. He was the embodiment of all that we admire in an academic physician, health scientist and leader. He was sought out again and again to be the inaugural head of audacious new enterprises, always succeeding in complex and innovative undertakings. Throughout, he was warm, gracious and personable with everyone he worked with and led.

Cy Frank, well-known to many Fellows of the CAHS, died suddenly in early March. We will sorely miss his ebullient personality, optimism and wise counsel. Cy chaired the CAHS assessment of *The Return on Investment in Health Research*, was a key Board member from 2011-14 and co-chaired our 2014 Forum *Commercialization of Health Research*. His skills stretched across the spectrum from clinical orthopedics to research to systems to leadership at the highest levels.

I wish to recognize a number of individuals, working in the traditions of John Evans and Cy Frank, whose service to the CAHS has been essential to forwarding our mission. These include all of our past Presidents: **Paul Armstrong**, our founding President; **Martin Schechter**, who took us forward from uncertain beginnings; **Catharine Whiteside**, who strengthened our relationships with the Council of Canadian Academies and encouraged us to address weaknesses in our organizational framework and **Tom Marrie**, who has reached out to engage our Fellows and to make our annual meeting a showcase for our Fellows' achievements.

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SECRETARY'S NOTE



As we head into our tenth anniversary AGM and Forum, it is exciting to think about what has been accomplished over that decade. We are now strong, vibrant and well established. We represent the diversity of disciplines and substantive expertise that is needed to inform health science policy in Canada. Our membership has demonstrated that it can mobilize into action on interpreting the evidence and contextual dynamics associated with society's most wicked challenges. Fellows across the country are organizing regionally and stepping up to take leadership in shaping our agenda for future assessments. It is an exciting time. You won't want to miss the action in September!

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!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sally Thorne

Sally.Thorne@ubc.ca

Our current Board of Directors is comprised of 16 hard-working Fellows and includes, in addition to the President and past-President, **Carol Herbert** (President-elect), **Kim Raine** (Treasurer), **Sally Thorne** (Secretary), **Jean Gray** (Chair Standing Committee on Assessments), **Peter Singer** (Foreign Secretary), **Jane Green**, **Linda Rabinek**, **Louise Potvin**, **Greta Cummings**, **Paul Allison**, **Dina Brooks**, **Alastair Cribb**, **Wayne Hindmarsh** and **Jon Meddings**. **Jocelyn Feine** chairs our Communications Committee. Very large contributions have been made by the Fellows on the Standing Committees on Assessments, Fellowship Selection, Communications and Annual Meeting Planning.

I wish also to remind you of those Fellows who have chaired our assessments, including **Judith Hall** (Interdisciplinary Research), **Cy Frank** (Return on Investment in Health Research), **David Goltzman** (Vitamin D and Calcium), **Jeff Turnbull/Sioban Nelson** (Scopes of Practice), **Clyde Hertzman** (Early Childhood Development), **Paul Allison** (Oral Health), **Louise Nasmith/Penny Ballem** (Chronic Disease Management) and **Peter Singer** (Global Health). They were supported by many additional CAHS Fellows who were members of the expert panels which conducted these assessments.

Our annual forums have been chaired by **Paul Armstrong/Dot Pringle** (2006), **Louise Nasmith/Penny Ballem** (2008), **Peter Singer** (2009), **Catharine Whiteside** (2010), **Carol Herbert** (2011), **Deborah Cook** (2012), **Martin Schechter/Anthony Phillips** (2013), **Rick Riopelle/Cy Frank** (2014), and **Howard Feldman/Carole Estabrooks** (2015), with assistance from many additional Fellows as speakers and planning committees.

On behalf of all Fellows of CAHS, I wish to recognize the service on our behalf, given with such willingness and expertise by a large cadre of our colleagues, some of them acknowledged above by name and many in addition who have contributed in so many ways.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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

SPOTLIGHT – BOARD UPDATES

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FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We had a great response to the call for nominations under the new system whereby the primary nominator is a current Fellow of the Academy. 59 new nominations and 16 updated files (of the 52 files carried forward from 2014) resulted in 75 files for adjudication by the Fellowship Committee. The Academy is extremely grateful for the work of the nominators, the nominees, and the Fellowship Committee members. The adjudication process is very difficult, given the great achievements of all nominees.

The Fellowship Committee members are broadly representative of the health sciences, and equipped to deal with nominations of scholars from the full array of Canadian health scientists. Files are randomly assigned to two reviewers, one of whom comes from the same discipline as the nominee. Assignment is adjusted so that reviewers are not from the institution of the nominee and wherever possible, not from the same province. Carried forward files are assigned to different reviewers from those who reviewed them previously. Once files are assigned, further adjustments are made to deal with conflicts of interest and any difficulty with

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reviewing files prepared in French. Scores are averaged, and in the few instances where there is a discrepancy, a third reviewer is consulted. The whole Committee meets together electronically to discuss and decide on final scores, very much like a peer-review grants panel. Scores are assigned for the categories of creativity, leadership, recognition, and commitment to advance the health sciences and the work of the Academy. Each category is defined in the nomination form which is available on the CAHS website.

The Fellowship Committee met on an all-day conference call on April 18 to land on final scores which went to the Board on May 1. The CAHS Board makes the decision as to selection score cut-off each year, and this year it approved 36 nominees for admission from a pool of 75 (48%). We encourage all newly elected Fellows to attend the 2015 Forum and AGM where they will be honoured at the dinner on Thursday evening and oriented to the CAHS on Friday morning. *Note - the public announcement of new Fellows is embargoed until induction on the evening of September 17th.* Please think about nominating a worthy health scientist for Fellowship in the CAHS when the 2016 call comes.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Past-president **Tom Marrie** reports that he has had correspondence with The Honourable Rona Ambrose to ensure she is fully familiar with the role and function of the CAHS, and to request ongoing opportunities to exchange ideas. As a result of this correspondence, President **John Cairns** met with Laird Roe, Executive Director, Science Policy Directorate in Ottawa on March 31, and ongoing arrangements have been made for regular annual meetings with the Deputy Minister of Health.

COUNCIL OF CANADIAN ACADEMIES

We are very pleased to report that the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) received a 5-year, \$15-million renewal of its funding in the April Federal budget. CAHS is a founding member Academy of the CCA, along with the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Engineering. Each of the member Academies has two members on the CCA Board. The Council received its initial funding for the period 2005-2015. During that time it has been highly successful in producing over 30 major assessments on topics of importance to the formulation of public policy, including a number of health-related topics. The CAHS enjoys an excellent relationship with CCA, with whom we have cooperated on two assessments (Conducted Energy Weapons and also Global Health). The CCA has been very helpful to the CAHS in managing a number of aspects of our administrative and financial functions. Renewed funding for the CCA represents a wise investment by the Federal Government in access to assessments of great value to the formulation of policy.

CALL FOR TOPICS AND CHAMPIONS: FORUM 2016 TO BE HELD IN MONTREAL

The *Standing Committee on Annual Meeting Planning* will be presenting potential topics to the Board at its June 19 meeting so that we can have a chosen topic by the September 2015 AGM. All Fellows are welcome to submit their ideas, along with thoughts about potential Chairs for the Forum. To date, some of the ideas that have been suggested for 2016 include: antibiotic-resistance; health innovations; aboriginal health. Topics should ideally appeal to the broad membership as well as the overall aims of the Academy. Feel free to send your ideas directly to Carol Herbert at Carol.Herbert@schulich.uwo.ca



THE HENRY G. FRIESEN INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IN HEALTH RESEARCH

The 2015 Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research has been awarded to SIR PAUL NURSE, a geneticist and cell biologist and President of The Royal Society of London. A brilliant scientist, research advocate and policy leader at a global level, he has contributed to the discourse of Science as an engine of social, intellectual and creative prosperity.

The CAHS has partnered with the Friends of CIHR for several years and participated in the annual presentations held in Ottawa, including a noon talk from the awardee during the Annual Forum. Unfortunately, the schedule of the awardee does not permit a September visit to Canada. The award will be presented during a visit to Ottawa December 7-8, 2015. It is expected that CAHS Fellows, particularly those located in Ottawa, will have an opportunity to engage with him as he is likely to travel to other Canadian centres as have prior awardees. For more information, and details of his December schedule as they become available, please visit the Friends of CIHR website at: <http://www.fcibr.ca/prize/prizewinners/sir-paul-nurse-2015-friesen-prizewinner>

FORUM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 17 & 18, 2015

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The 2015 Forum and Annual Meeting being held in Ottawa on **THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AND 18, 2015** is shaping up to be an excellent event this year – one worthy of marking our 10th Anniversary and certainly one not to be missed! In addition to an exciting Forum program (below), we have invited talks from this year's *Paul Armstrong Lecture* awardee, **David Naylor**, and our *Distinguished Fellow* for 2015, Jean Rochon. We will enjoy a networking reception and a new Fellow induction ceremony as part of the dinner event on September 17th. In honour of this being our 10th Anniversary, a very special program has been developed for Friday morning to bring perspectives on learned societies from CAHS founding President **Paul Armstrong** and Graham Bell, President of the Royal Society of Canada and Canada's earliest Academy. We will also have a special 10th Anniversary International Lecture by Victor Dzau, President of the Institute of Medicine. In our business meeting we will elect new members to the Board, approve the budget, and receive reports on CAHS activities past, present and future.

This year's forum is entitled ***The Rising Tide of Dementia in Canada: Facing the Critical Challenge by 2025***. Canada, along with other countries, is facing an unprecedented demographic shift to populations over age 65. This shift is projected to bring with it a rising tide of dementia that will reshape our landscape, socially, economically, medically and politically. It will tax our delivery of care, our environment and the sustainability of our current health care system. While much hope is pinned on finding an effective treatment for Alzheimer's disease by 2020-2025 as a major anchor piece of the public agenda, many additional approaches will need to be developed and supported to address the challenge – prevention, adaptation of systems of care, and innovative practices and technologies among them.

In this forum we will cover the state of science directed at effective treatment, at prevention and at systems of care. The *prevention* of dementia, through modification of risk factors, holds the potential to remarkably reduce the disease prevalence. There an increased emphasis on the public health aspect of this disorder; a focus on successful brain health promotion and the modification of risk factors in mid-life is urgently needed, as are strategies to promote quality of life for those affected as well as education and awareness for them and their families. Our *systems of care* will need to adapt, both at the community and institutional level, addressing the workforce, delivery systems, long standing quality of care issues and integrated systems. Rapidly evolving innovative technologies, including robotics, driverless cars, sensors and built environments, all hold the potential to help address unmet needs, although they require significant development, testing, and investment to support their advancement to point of care.

We look forward to this exciting symposium which will bring together a wide range of the different strategies that need to be put in place over the next decade to address this widespread challenge. As we engage together on these issues, informed by an excellent team of diverse presenters, we will be helping to set the groundwork for a proposed assessment by the Academy. Sincere thanks to Forum Co-Chairs **Carole Estabrooks** and **Howard Feldman**, who have worked closely with the CAHS Standing Committee on Annual Meeting Planning to bring this idea to fruition.

EVENT REGISTRATION

Event registration is \$325.00 plus \$125.00 for the Banquet. A late registration fee of \$375.00 will be applicable effective August 31, 2015. Online registration for this event is now open and may be accessed via the link provided or our website at <http://www.cahs-acss.ca/e/home/>

To REGISTER NOW CLICK HERE

Cancellations are subject to a non-refundable \$60.00 administrative fee.

ACCOMMODATION

Fairmont Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa, ON. A block of rooms in the Fairmont category are being held on Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17, 2015. To make your reservation now click here: [CHATEAU LAURIER RESERVATIONS](#) (note, credit card information is required to confirm the reservation but no charge will be made to your account in advance of the meeting). You may also telephone 1-800-441-1414 and quote the **Canadian Academy of Health Sciences** group rate. This block of rooms will be available until it sells out or August 17, 2015 whichever comes first. *Book early to avoid disappointment!*

REGIONAL MEETING UPDATES

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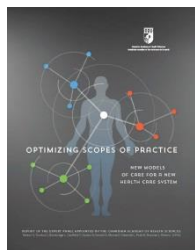
Coordinating a gathering need not involve much by way of time or resources - since getting together with fascinating colleagues is a reward in itself! We welcome the opportunity to feature reports from local meetings in our communications. If you are interested in helping to build a regional meeting please contact Allison Hardisty in the CAHS Secretariat for contact information for Fellows in your area:

a.hardisty@utoronto.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA: The British Columbia contingent of Fellows held a successful regional meeting on February 16, 2015 in Vancouver. Hosted by Gavin Stuart, the meeting attracted 24 participants, and created the opportunity for lively discussion. Following an update on CAHS by John Cairns, the group discussed the new upcoming CAHS assessment on *Team Science* as well as the proposed assessment on *Professional Education in the Health Care System*. Beyond CAHS issues, the regional group was updated on the development of an Academic Health Sciences Network in BC, and discussed implications for the health research community. The gathering also created an opportunity for a free flowing discussion about the many possibilities inherent in having ongoing regional meetings in the province. A long list of topics and priorities was generated as an outcome of the discussion, and there was strong interest in having at least two regional meetings per year.

ASSESSMENT NEWS

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Scopes of Practice

We are delighted to report that the long-awaited report on scopes of practice, entitled *Optimizing Scopes of Practice: New Models of Care for a New Health Care System* has been officially launched! Following a webinar on May 8th for sponsors, the formal release took place on May 15th at the Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) Conference in Toronto. Both French and English versions of the Executive Summary are now available on the CAHS website at <http://www.cahs-acss.ca/>. The full report will be available in June.

Fellows may recall that this assessment had its origins in our 2011 Forum focusing on *The Future of Canada's Health Care System*. Deliberations during and following that Forum led to a realization that the Canadian health care system is underperforming relative to investment. Current systems in place for determining and regulating health professional scopes of practice

were clearly identified as barriers to the kind of transformative change that will be required to optimize the collaborative care approaches Canada requires to ensure that the right professional provides the highest quality of care in the right setting and at the right time based upon the needs of the individual patient. CAHS therefore commissioned a report towards the end of 2012 to identify the scopes of practice that will be most effective to support innovative models of care for a transformed health care system to serve all Canadians. The report calls for new approaches to determining scopes of practice. These should be based on community needs that empower the collaborative practice team to determine the relative responsibilities of the various practitioners, such that the team is held accountable through an accreditation process within a professional regulatory environment. It offers specific recommendations to those key stakeholders who will need to be part of the wider conversation required to make this new transformative vision a reality.

Kudos to the Expert Panel Co-Chairs **Jeff Turnbull** and **Sioban Nelson**, who led an expert team in carefully reviewing available evidence and arriving at innovative recommendations, and to the sponsors whose contributions to this assessment made it all possible.

Oral Health

Under the leadership of **Paul Allison**, the Oral Health Assessment Report is now in the final stages of layout and printing and is anticipated for release very soon. Once that occurs, we hope that all Fellows will participate in the dissemination process so that it obtains the audience it deserves. The Communications Committee, under the leadership of **Jocelyne Feine** (jocelyne.feine@mcgill.ca) has developed a communication strategy, and will continue to welcome suggestions and recommendation from all Fellows.

MEMBER NEWS

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Seán Brosnan was awarded the **2014 John Lewis Paton Distinguished University Professorship**, Memorial's most prestigious award for faculty. Dr. Brosnan's expertise in metabolism and the biochemistry of vitamins led to his being one of the first Memorial professors to be elected into the Royal Society of Canada.



Greta Cummings, of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Nursing, will become a rare Canadian inductee into the **International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame**. The induction ceremony will take place in Puerto Rico in July 2015.



Stephen Hwang, Chair of Homelessness, Housing and Health at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto was recently appointed to an **Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness** as part of the Ontario government's new Poverty Reduction Strategy. The panel will provide practical advice on how to define and measure homelessness and break the cycle of poverty for Ontarians.



Nano-material delivery researcher **Molly Shoichet** – who happens to be the only person ever elected to all three of Canada's science academies – has recently been announced as the **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science North American laureate for 2015**



Stanley Zlotkin, Chief of Global Child Health, the Hospital for Sick Children, was recently awarded the inaugural ***Mining4Life Chair in Mineral Nutrition*** to continue his work with UNICEF improving the health of children around the world. His innovations in reducing mineral deficiencies such as anemia through the distribution of micronutrient “sprinkles” were recently profiled across the country in the Canadian Press.



Ellen Hodnett, appointed ***University Ombudsperson at the University of Toronto*** for a three-year term effective July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2018.

IN MEMORIAM



John Evans *Contributed by David Naylor*

John Robert Evans died at age 85 on February 13, 2015 after a long battle with a mixed neurodegenerative disorder. Few Canadians of any generation have had a larger positive impact on this nation and the wider world. Fewer still have done so much with such abiding humility, personal grace, and generosity of spirit.

Silver medalist in his University of Toronto [U of T] medical class, Evans did graduate work at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship and post-graduate training in cardiology in Boston and London. He returned to Toronto in 1961, joining the Department of Medicine and the staff of the Toronto General Hospital. By 1965, Evans and a group of Toronto colleagues had articulated an alternative vision for medical education that led to his appointment as founding dean of a new medical school. Under Evans, the McMaster MD program pioneered problem-based and self-directed learning, early clinical exposure, and wider admission criteria. These strategies, radical at the time, have since been emulated across Canada and around the world.

From 1972 to 1978 Evans took a tour of duty as the 9th president of U of T. After an unsuccessful foray into domestic politics, Evans turned his attention to the international sphere. In 1979, he headed a Rockefeller-funded commission on the future of schools of public health. This resulting report was widely influential. It was also the start of a relationship with the Rockefeller Foundation culminating in Evans' appointment in 1987 as its first Canadian board chair.

Evans was next invited to create a Population, Health and Nutrition Department for the World Bank. Evans' new unit strongly promoted the then-novel concept of social determinants of health, highlighting the special relevance of those factors to populations in the developing world.

In 1983 Evans returned home to serve as founding chair and CEO for Allelix Biopharmaceuticals Inc. of Mississauga, Ontario. Allelix was arguably Canada's first biotechnology company – placing Evans again in a pioneering role.

Still leading Allelix and chairing the Rockefeller Foundation board, Evans somehow found time to spearhead a new global 'Commission on Health Research for Development' funded by more than a dozen major national and multi-lateral agencies. The Commission's landmark report, [Health Research: Essential Link to Equity in Development](#), drew world-wide attention to the woeful underfunding of research into health priorities for low-income countries, and continues to shape thinking and action some 25 years after its release.

Upon leaving Allelix and the global commission in 1990, Evans became a champion of excellence and innovation in Canadian public and private sector governance. To name a few roles, Evans was chair of Torstar (1993-2005) and Alcan Aluminium Ltd. (1996-2002). He was also founding chair of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (1991-98), the Canada Foundation for Innovation

(1997-2006); and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (2005-2009). Evans' final tour of duty was with the MaRS Discovery District, where he was the moving spirit and served as founding chair from 2000 to 2011.

A Companion of the Order of Canada, Evans received numerous honours including a Gairdner Wightman award (1992), the Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research (2007), and honorary doctorates from 15 universities in three countries, including Yale and Johns Hopkins. He is thus far unique in having been inducted into both the Canadian Medical (2000) and Business (2005) Halls of Fame.

Down the decades, John Evans will be remembered with admiration for his staggering range of accomplishments and innovations in the health sphere, his dauntless idealism, and his peerless vision. Today, those who knew him keenly miss John's boundless curiosity about the world, optimism about our nation and our species, irrepressible sense of humour, and great personal warmth.

Cy Frank *Contributed by Jon Meddings*

The Canadian health and research community is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Cy Frank on March 5, 2015. Cy joined the University of Calgary's, Cumming School of Medicine in 1984 as an assistant professor and became a full professor in 1992. He served as Division Chief in Orthopaedics from 1997 through 2007 and was the McCaig Professor in Joint Injury and Arthritis Research. He was most recently appointed president and chief executive officer of Alberta Innovates-Health Solutions on April 1, 2013.



Cy was the first scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute for Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis. He was also a highly active member of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Leader of one of CAHS's earliest and most influential multi-partnered assessments, *Making an Impact: A Preferred Framework and Indicators to Measure Returns on Investment in Health Research*, he also co-facilitated the Academy's 2014 Forum on *Commercialization of Health Research for Health, Social and Economic Benefit: Towards an Evidence-Informed Approach*.

As a clinician scientist and leader, he was highly acclaimed and honoured throughout his career. He received the Killam Interdisciplinary Research Prize in 2010, and the Killam Research Leader Award in 2012 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to research and his leadership role internationally. Having received the University of Calgary's distinguished alumni award in 2002, he was awarded the Order of the University of Calgary in 2013 for his history of distinguished service to the university. In July of last year, Cy was honoured with an Order of Canada in recognition of his contributions to advancing orthopedic health care services in Alberta, and for his scientific contributions to bone and joint repair research.

A renowned orthopedic surgeon, a champion for patient care, and a true leader in every sense of the word, Dr. Cy Frank dedicated his career to improving health outcomes for Canadians living with orthopedic injuries and illness. However, what is remembered first by all who knew him was that Cy was one of the kindest people they knew. He always had a warm word for people he met and was a dearly loved mentor by his students.

Cy was a truly great person. His numerous contributions to medicine as a surgeon, teacher, researcher and advocate have had a profound impact on the people of Canada. He will be deeply missed and well-remembered by all who knew him.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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- September 17 & 18, 2015: [CAHS FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING, OTTAWA](#)
- September 15 & 16, 2016: [2016 FORUM AND AGM, HOTEL OMNI MONT-ROYAL, MONTREAL](#)