



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

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellows,

First and foremost, I encourage each of you to plan to attend our Annual Forum and AGM in Montreal at the Omni-Mount Royal Hotel on **THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16, 2016**. The Forum is highly topical, entitled "*Solutions to Inequities in Indigenous Health: What Works and Why*". International and national leaders in Indigenous health will provide examples of successful approaches to some of the major health issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada and abroad. As citizens, we will

come away better informed about the complex causes of inequity in health care and health outcomes for Indigenous peoples. As researchers, our work will be informed by a better understanding of what works, for whom, in which circumstances and how scale-up might occur. Government representation from Quebec and the Federal government will enable dialogue with policy-makers as to how the Academy can add value by evidence-based assessment of Indigenous health issues. You can add your voice to the discussion that will lead to one or more assessment questions that will emerge from the Forum.

The AGM also provides a venue for the **ARMSTRONG LECTURE** and the newly inaugurated **CY FRANK LECTURE**; you will not want to miss those addresses. At the Forum reception and dinner we will induct and celebrate our newly selected Fellows and confer **DISTINGUISHED FELLOW** statues on Jean Rochon. I hope to see many of you at our first annual event outside of Ottawa since the original Vancouver meeting. Bienvenue particulièrement à nos collègues francophones.

Second, your Board and Committee leads have been refreshing the Strategic Plan of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. We have identified 5 strategic directions for the coming year:

1. Profile and promote the value proposition of the Academy
2. Build government relations
3. Develop selected partnerships within Canada and internationally
4. Increase Fellow engagement
5. Become financially sustainable

1. PROFILE AND PROMOTE THE VALUE PROPOSITION

We are revising our Mission, Vision and Values to describe better the work of CAHS. The Development Committee, led by Catharine Whiteside, has been extensively engaged in this work and a communications organization is now helping us to produce materials.

2. BUILD GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

We have met with the Directors-General of Health Canada and with two provincial Deputy Ministers of Health, as first steps in a concerted effort to develop a regular flow of questions and funding for assessments. We intend increased activity in evidence assessment through a variety of

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SECRETARY'S NOTE

In this Newsletter you'll find an update on our upcoming Forum *Solutions to Inequities in Indigenous Health: What Works and Why?* as part of our annual gathering on **September 15 & 16, 2016** at the Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal.

On request from a Fellow, we will send out our Newsletters in both email message and pdf attachment format, so as to be as mobile-compatible as possible. We do appreciate these fine-tuning suggestions as our communications mechanisms evolve.

If we have missed out on any key member news, such as **major** awards or transitions of particular note among our Fellows, please let us know. And see you in Montreal!

Sincerely,

Sally Thorne

Sally.Thorne@ubc.ca

mechanisms, including full Assessments, but also Round Tables to discuss contentious issues, and rapid reviews of urgent issues.

3. DEVELOP SELECTED PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN CANADA AND INTERNATIONALLY

Linda Rabeneck, President-elect and I spent two very full days at the National Academy of Medicine in Washington, DC (formally IOM). We brought back many ideas for the development of our Academy as well as some very useful lessons learned about how to maintain 'brand identity' for our relatively new organization (10 years as compared to 45 years for IOM) as we collaborate with others committed to ensuring best evidence is available to policymakers who must decide on investments in health and health care.



Linda Rabeneck, Victor Dzau and Carol Herbert at the National Academy of Medicine, March 2016

Our primary partners are the Council of Canadian Academies and our sister academies – the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Engineering; these relationships continue to evolve. We have appreciated increased infrastructure availability from CCA and anticipate a collaborative approach to our development activities.

We have submitted a proposal on dementia, informed by Forum 2015, as a potential topic for an international statement that would be led by Canada. We are aiming to be present at the international health academies' meeting in Beijing where we hope to showcase a number of our Academy reports.

4. INCREASE FELLOW ENGAGEMENT

Regional activities for Fellows continue to provide opportunities for Fellows to meet, to exchange knowledge and to develop ideas for assessments and for Forums. We will increase opportunities for Fellows to be involved in the review process for our Assessment reports. We are developing a process to work with the *Evidence Network* to produce and publish op-eds by our Fellows to inform the public and policy-makers.

5. BECOME FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

Our Development Committee, led by Cathy Whiteside, is leading a campaign to enable innovation and sustainability beyond funds derived from membership fees. We will be calling upon our Fellows to help open doors so that we can present the case for investment in the work of the Academy.

These are just highlights of our strategic plan to ensure that the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences can contribute to a healthier Canada by engaging the best minds in health sciences to analyze important issues.

Third, I invite you to write to me if you would like to be considered for membership on CAHS Committees. We currently seek a new member for a three year appointment to the SCAMP for September 2016. In addition, while I chaired SCAMP in its initial 2 years as President-elect and then President, we would like to broaden CAHS leadership by appointing one of our Fellows to chair this Committee in its next iteration. SCAMP works directly with the Annual Forum co-leads to develop the Forum program as well as the AGM agenda.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President,

Sincerely,

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Carol Herbert, President

ACADEMY PARTNER NEWS

Our partner organization, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, has been working with the Trottier Family Foundation and the David Suzuki Foundation on a project to comprehensively analyze Canada's future energy systems. The Trottier Energy Futures Project Executive Summary and announcement is now posted on the CAE website, as well as the presentation that was delivered on April 5 at Ecole Polytechnique Montréal. [Click here for the executive summary and full report](#)

SPOTLIGHT – BOARD UPDATES

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FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee was refreshed for the 2016 annual nomination and adjudication processes. Three members stepped down having completed their terms. We are most grateful to **John Fairbrother, Anita Molzahn** and **Richard Riopelle** for their service to this Committee. Alex Clark, Mary Ensom and Allan Ronald were successfully elected by the Board to serve on the Fellowship Committee for renewable terms of three years effective January 2016.

The request for nominations was released on January 1, 2016 with a deadline of Friday, March 11, 2016. The full day review meeting was held on April 16, 2015, supported by Allison Hardisty and file share and real-time voting technologies. The committee reviewed and scored 76 nominations this year. The results of the review will be brought to the Board for a decision. Nominees will be advised of outcomes early in May, but information is embargoed until the Induction in September. The 2016 Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday evening, September 15, 2016 at the Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal.

We are most grateful to members of the 2016 Fellowship Committee: **Paul J. Allison, William (Bill) Avison, Andrea Baumann, Roy Cameron, Alex Clark, James (Jay) Cross, Yves De Koninck, Janice Eng, Mary Ensom, William (Bill) Fraser, Kevin Keough, Louise Potvin, Linda Rabeneck, Allan Ronald, Walter W Rosser, Bilkis Vissandjée, Kishor Wasan.**

Linda Rabeneck, President-Elect and Chair of the Fellowship Committee

FINANCIAL

We are a membership-based organization that depends on active Fellowship to carry out the work of the Academy and contribute to science advice. We ask any of you who may have overlooked your 2015 invoice to pay any outstanding amounts.

Kim Raine, Treasurer

GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

In the most recent eBlast from the President, Fellows were asked to forward their ideas for individuals who would be effective as Board Members and who would be suitable recipients of the annual Paul Armstrong Lectureship and the annual CAHS Lecture. We received many thoughtful suggestions which are now being considered as we prepare our advice to the Board, which will eventually come forward as recommendations at the Annual General Meeting on September 16, 2016.

John Cairns, Past President & Committee Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

A key aspect of effectiveness of the CAHS in carrying forward its intent to provide assessments of questions of importance to the health of Canadians is the establishment and strengthening of relations with both federal and provincial Governments. About two years ago, CAHS created this

committee with a mandate to create a proactive strategy to nurture, build and guide government relations. The current committee is chaired by **John Cairns**, with members **Paul Armstrong, Rejean Hebert, Carol Herbert, Stan Kutchner, Linda Rabeneck**, and **Catharine Whiteside**. The committee has been meeting regularly since the September Board meeting and specific activities have included the coordination of letters of congratulations to the newly elected PM and selected cabinet ministers from the CAHS President; review of the organizational framework of Health Canada; and reference to the mandate letter from the PM to the new Minister of Health, the Hon. Jane Philpott.

On January 29, 2016, **John Cairns** and **Catharine Whiteside** met with the Directors General Science Committee within Health Canada to inform them about CAHS and to seek their inputs as to possible assessment assignment from various Agencies and Branches within Health Canada. Paul Armstrong and Catharine Whiteside have pursued interactions with Deputy Ministers of Health at the provincial level to inform them of CAHS capacity to provide assessments of potential interest to provincial Ministries of Health. A subcommittee of the Board is advising the President on strategies for establishing contacts with Health Canada and developing more regular requests for assessments by CAHS. For the interest of CAHS, we provide here an extract from the mandate letter from the PM to the Hon. Jane Philpott:

- Engage provinces and territories in the development of a new multi-year Health Accord. This accord should include a long term funding agreement. It should also:
 - support the delivery of more and better home care services. This includes more access to high quality in-home caregivers, financial supports for family care, and, when necessary, palliative care;
 - advance pan-Canadian collaboration on health innovation to encourage the adoption of new digital health technology to improve access, increase efficiency and improve outcomes for patients;
 - improve access to necessary prescription medications. This will include joining with provincial and territorial governments to buy drugs in bulk, reducing the cost Canadian governments pay for these drugs, making them more affordable for Canadians, and exploring the need for a national formulary; and
 - make high quality mental health services more available to Canadians who need them.
- Promote public health by: increasing vaccination rates; introducing new restrictions on the commercial marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children, similar to those now in place in Quebec; bringing in tougher regulations to eliminate trans fats and to reduce salt in processed foods, similar to those in the United States; and improving food labels to give more information on added sugars and artificial dyes in processed foods.
- Work with the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities in increasing funding to the Public Health Agency of Canada to support a national strategy to raise awareness for parents, coaches, and athletes on concussion treatment.
- Introduce plain packaging requirements for tobacco products, similar to those in Australia and the United Kingdom.
- Support the Ministers of Justice and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness on efforts that will lead to the legalization and regulation of marijuana.
- Work with the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs to update and expand the Nutrition North program, in consultation with Northern communities.

[Click here to read the mandate letter in full](#)

CAHS is paying close attention to these directions in its interactions with the federal government.

John Cairns, Past President & Committee Chair

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

The Development Committee - **Paul Allison, Paul Armstrong, John Cairns, Carol Herbert, Jon Meddings, Linda Rabeneck, Catharine Whiteside** (chair) - launched in the Fall of 2015 as a new standing committee of the CAHS Board, is committed to establishing the framework and tactics for successful fund-raising. In the context of strategic planning with the Board, we have prepared new Mission, Vision and Values statements aligned with our case for support. Now we are working closely with a professional marketing team, to prepare materials for fund-raising that will also appear on the CAHS website. To provide the appropriate infrastructure for fund-raising we have developed new policies, and both sponsorship and donor template agreements that are under consideration by the CAHS Board. Once approved, we will be ready to engage sponsors and donors

with standardized documents and terms in keeping with our Mission and Vision. Our committee members will immediately assist in fund-raising for new assessments. In addition, we are planning a campaign targeted to secure longer term funding for CAHS activities from public and private stakeholders. We count on support of the CAHS Fellows to assist us in establishing our prospect lists, connecting us with key stakeholders and make their own financial contribution.

Catharine Whiteside, Chair

NATIONAL FORUM

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FORUM 2016

Whereas profound gaps in health and wellbeing for Indigenous Peoples are a global and national concern - and Canada is clearly making Indigenous Health a national priority - a pressing need exists to share knowledge and experiences to address this very complex health question. Responding to this challenge is the focus of CAHS Forum 2016 to be held in Montreal on Thursday, September. 15, 2016 at the Omni Hotel.

Co-chaired by CAHS Fellows **Jeff Reading** and **John O'Neil**, the 2016 Forum theme is "*Solutions to Inequities in Indigenous Health: What Works and Why?*" The planning committee has confirmed a stellar panel of leading edge speakers including PROFESSOR LINDA TUHIWAI SMITH, a Maori expert in health services from the University of Waikato, to present a keynote address on international experience that can inform Canadian policy and practice. PROFESSOR MALCOLM KING, Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Aboriginal People's Health, will present a keynote address regarding Indigenous health and social conditions to elucidate why we are here and the challenges that lie ahead with respect to improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples' health in Canada.

A slate of exceptional panel chairs and speakers has been confirmed, addressing a broad spectrum of innovations including biological/epigenetic issues, self-governance, health services policy and governance; showcasing the work of innovative researchers and thought leaders engaged with their community partners. Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants will be creating a unique opportunity to both educate and learn from CAHS Fellows by opening up a conversation and the need for a formal CAHS assessment to provide a detailed synthesis and reflection of the current situation and future pathways to health and wellbeing.

We hope that as many Fellows as possible will attend the Forum and contribute to this discussion. Traditional Indigenous community knowledge keepers will be there to formally open the Forum by welcoming Fellows to this Territory. We believe this will be an extraordinary gathering and an ideal opportunity to be a part of a very important conversation hosted in the spectacular City of Montreal.

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, 2016. 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/>
Cancellations are subject to a non-refundable \$60.00 administrative fee.

[TO REGISTER NOW CLICK HERE](#)

ACCOMMODATION

A block of deluxe rooms are being held at the Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, 1050 rue Sherbrooke West, Montréal, Quebec on Wednesday, September 14 and Thursday, September 15, 2016 at the rate of \$189/per night plus applicable taxes. Phone: (514) 284-1110 Fax: (514) 284-6614

[TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION NOW CLICK HERE](#)

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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REGIONAL MEETING UPDATES

Regional meetings provide an opportunity to be connected to other Fellows and to the work of the Academy between annual general meetings. The Board is happy to note that there is now a small budget available (up to \$200) to help with refreshments as needed. As a suggestion, regions with an established meeting structure might like to consider inviting “young scholars” as guests. Inviting the participation of graduate students, post-docs and/or younger faculty members will serve to increase their exposure to some of the top scientists in the health sciences in their region. Our regional networks function less as formal chapters of the Academy but rather informal forums intended to rally Fellows together, building relationships, incubating ideas and crafting assessment and forum topics. Regional networks also play an increasingly important role in helping to promote and disseminate the work of the Academy in the provinces and identifying worthy candidates for nomination of Fellowship.

LONDON ON Western University CAHS Fellows met on January 14th in a gathering chaired by **Mike Strong** and **Davy Cheng**. The agenda for this meeting included an update on the events of the CAHS Annual meeting, including the keynote by **David Naylor** on Healthcare Innovation, and a discussion on how the Western group might build upon that report and utilize its contents to propose a future major assessment or forum topic. Among the urgent topics raised in the discussion was the challenge of Indigenous health, with all of its social and contextual dimensions. The group also reflected on what role the Academy might play in the efficient and effective assessment of foreign trained medical professionals, a matter which affects Canada’s health workforce crisis, and the challenge of translational research, about which a small team of Fellows has agreed to further discussion.

MANITOBA A subset of the Manitoba regional network met in Winnipeg in January to discuss ways of facilitating regional engagement in the province. The group recognizes that Manitoba has had an informal and unorganized virtual “academy of medicine” for some decades, comprising individuals who have achieved international recognition in their fields who come together from time to time in small groups or clusters to engage in activities or discuss issues related to the promotion of medical sciences and the advancement of medicine. On this basis, the Manitoba Fellows are well placed to form the core of activities that may demonstrate a wider leadership on matters of health science for the province. Strategizing how best to move this forward is being led by **Arnold Naimark, Allan Ronald** and **Peter Nickerson**. A follow up meeting is planned in May to continue exploring options.

SASKATCHEWAN The Saskatchewan regional network, coordinated by **Jay Kalra** and **Kishor Wasan**, has a meeting scheduled for May 9th in Saskatoon to discuss new public policy activities and future fellowship nominations. The network has put forth several nominees for Fellowship and has provided \$5,000 sponsorship from the VP Research Office and the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for Forum 2016.

EDMONTON Edmonton area Fellows held a reception on January 19, co-hosted by Dean of Nursing **Anita Molzhan** and Dean of Medicine & Dentistry **Richard Fedorak** at the University of Alberta. CAHS Treasurer **Kim Raine** provided a brief update on current Board activities, as well as formally recognizing new Fellows in attendance. Richard Fedoruk led an informal discussion of opportunities for local CAHS Fellows to become more active as a collective. Themes included influencing provincial government health decisions through developing expert groups on issues of importance to the government. Mentoring new scholars and potential future CAHS Fellows was

also identified as a priority. The event proved an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing of ideas.



VANCOUVER BC Region Fellows met on February 11 at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health at UBC in Vancouver, hosted by **Brian MacVicar**, **Jon Stoessl** and **Tony Phillips**. The meeting was a great success, and Fellows enjoyed combining a Fellows gathering with the opportunity to hear state of the science developments in brain health and tour the research centre. Additional discussion items included an update on CAHS affairs by **John Cairns** and an exploration of additional regional initiatives by CAHS Fellows. A spring meeting of BC Fellows, hosted by **Diane Finegood** and **Sally Thorne**, is planned for June 14 at the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research office.

VICTORIA Although there are just a handful of Fellows who list Victoria BC as their home base, we know others are frequent visitors or may have second homes in that beautiful city. **Neena Chappell** nlc@uvic.ca is exploring the possibility of creating a Victoria regional group, so if you are interested in being kept informed, please do let her know you are out there.

If your region does not yet have a group and you'd like help to consider how to set one up, please let us know!

Sally Thorne, CAHS Secretary

ASSESSMENT NEWS

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The Standing Committee on Assessments is currently composed of 9 Board approved members, one member awaiting Board approval (Dr. **David Hart**, University of Calgary) and has approached two additional Fellows to join the committing bringing membership to a total of 12 members plus Ms. Anne Gravel who serves as part-time Program Director.

A panel, chaired by Peter Mackinnon, past-President of the University of Saskatchewan and Interim-President of Athabasca University, is working diligently on the *Academic Recognition of Team Science* report which should be ready for peer review in the summer months. They have been aided in their work by input from similar reports in the US and the UK, both of which have been released in the last few months, and recent project management by the Canadian Council of Academies. Any Fellow interested in serving as a peer reviewer of this report should contact jeangray@eastlink.ca in the next two to three months. At least one volunteer will be included in the group of reviewers invited to assist in this aspect of the report. Sponsors of this report have been notified that public release of the report should take place in late December or early January.

Two new assessments are in the final phase of development and will be ready for fundraising and panel development over the next 6 months. The first of these is *Best Practices in the Prevention and Care of Dementia in Canada* that flows from the CAHS Forum last September. The SCA is grateful to Drs. **Howard Feldman**, **Howard Bergman**, and **Carole Estabrooks** for their assistance in the development of a prospectus on this topic. The second assessment proposal, submitted by Dr. **Keith Sharkey** and entitled *Cannabis Use in Canada: the Risks and the Benefits*, has just been

withdrawn as other national and international organizations are undertaking or have undertaken similar assessments. CAHS is hoping to be a participant in at least one of the Canadian endeavours. Funders for these activities will be approached, with the assistance of the CAHS Development Committee, in the next few months.

Other assessment questions are still in the early discussion phase but reflect the interest of the Fellowship in submitting questions and assisting the SCA in developing proposals that reflect health-related issues in Canada.

Jean Gray, Chair, Standing Committee on Assessments

MEMBER NEWS

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KISHOR WASAN, Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan, received the *Global Health Achievement Award* from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists for the work of the Neglected Global Diseases Initiative he led during his time at UBC.



Gastroenterologist **HERBERT GAISANO** was awarded the Order of Ontario for his work in exploring the complexities of diabetes and advancement of new treatment strategies.



Pediatrician and clinician-nutritionist **STANLEY ZLOTKIN**, was awarded the Order of Ontario for improving the lives of millions of children living in economically disadvantaged parts of the world and suffering from serious nutritional deficiencies.

ANNOUNCING THE DR. CY FRANK INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLING LECTURESHIP



After CAHS founding member and much loved colleague Cy Frank died suddenly in March 2015, colleagues sought an appropriate tribute to honour his legacy. As a result, the *McCaig Institute for Bone & Joint Health* at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, created the ***Dr. Cy Frank International Travelling Lectureship***.

This annual program will be awarded to someone who is an exemplar of Cy's vision, innovation and community engagement in health research and healthcare delivery. The program will include a series of lectures delivered across Canada on topics that speak to musculoskeletal health, innovations in healthcare and/or clinical research.

In order to create an endowment to secure the lasting future of this program, the University of Calgary is inviting contributions from Cy's friends and colleagues. **Donation information is available [here](#)**

INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF THE DR. CY FRANK INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLING LECTURESHIP



The inaugural recipient of this Lectureship is **PROFESSOR ALAN BERNSTEIN**. Commencing September 2016, Dr. Bernstein will give a series of lectures, including “*The Promise of the Health Sciences in the 21st Century – A Revisit*” to CAHS Fellows at the annual meeting in Montreal on Friday, September 16th.

IMPORTANT DATES

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- **SEPTEMBER 15 & 16, 2016** Forum and AGM, Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal