



SOGC News

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

June 2003

New Partnership to Drive CAP's Message Home

Lisa Spencer, Contraception Awareness Project Coordinator

The SOGC is proud to announce that the Contraception Awareness Project has recently partnered with a young, up and coming athlete to better promote its site among young adults and teens.

Christopher Guerrieri is a 19-year-old race car driver who races in the Formula Ford series. Guerrieri, who claimed last year's Rookie of the Year title and finished third overall in the Canadian Formula Ford Championship, will also be thinking and talking about safe sex and sex education as he becomes a national spokesman for the Contraception Awareness Project and its www.sexualityandu.ca Web site. The Pickering, Ontario native will drive the [sexualityandu.ca](http://www.sexualityandu.ca) entry and carry the Web site URL on his driver suit throughout the 2003 Canadian Formula Ford season.

"The SOGC was searching for a young male who was able to convey the safe sex message to teens and young adults aged 17 to 20," says Guerrieri. "Since I fit right into the age group it was a perfect match. I'm excited to be part of their 2003 campaign and I'm looking forward to telling the SOGC's story."



In addition to his racing commitments, Guerrieri will travel across Canada for the SOGC and will make media stops and personal appearances at special events and trade shows promoting the www.sexualityandu.ca site. While the racer will cross the nation on our behalf, the SOGC will also transport its operations into race markets and bring its trailer and information materials to select events on the Formula Ford schedule including the Molson Indy in Toronto and the Grand Prix in Montreal. The SOGC will also have front page prominence on the MedBroadcast web site (www.medbroadcast.com) who will assist in the transmission of the SOGC and Guerrieri's safe sex messages. Medbroadcast.com receives close to 500,000 hits monthly and will disseminate the SOGC's message through the use of streamed audio and video as well as Guerrieri's own video messages.

For more information on Christopher, check out www.chrisguerrieri.com.

June is Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month

Update on Prevention and Treatment of Myelomeningocele (Neural Tube Defects)

Dr. R. Douglas Wilson, Chair, Genetics Committee

Myelomeningocele (MMC) is the most common type of neural tube defect (NTD) and is defined by: 1. protrusion of neural elements and meninges through open vertebral arches and 2. associated neurological defects. This defect results from failure of the vertebral arches to close prior to the sixth week of pregnancy due to failure of the normal neural ectodermal development. This is most often in the lumbosacral area and is associated with secondary hydrocephalus due to an Arnold Chiari malformation in 90% of patients. MMC are usually isolated abnormalities but MMC is present in more than 25 genetic, sporadic, and chromosomal multiple malformations syndromes. The risk of chromosomal abnormalities with MMC is estimated at 1-2%. Two percent of embryo/fetuses exposed to valproic acid will have a MMC defect. Folic acid antagonists (methotrexate and aminopterin) vitamin A, thalidomide, maternal preconception diabetes, hyperthermia and folate deficiency are associated with an increased risk for neural tube defects. The incidence of NTDs varies among ethnic populations ranging from 1 in 500 - 2,000 births.

Primary prevention and recurrence of NTDs can be improved with the use of preconception supplementation by folic acid. The usual recommendation for primary prevention is folic acid supplementation of 1 mg per day starting 4-6 weeks prior to conception. In families who have previously had a fetus or newborn with a neural tube defect, the recurrence risk is estimated at 3% and can be reduced to 1% by taking 4-5 mg of folic acid daily starting 4-6 weeks prior to

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Dr. Shiro Nozawa, Dr. Ben Harer and Dr. Zoltan Papp, with Dr. Donna Fedorkow, SOGC President, at the ACOG Convocation ceremony in New Orleans, April 30, 2003.

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	Dr. Vyta Senikas Royal Victoria Hospital Montreal, QC

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From the EVP's Desk

New Associate EVP, Dr. Vyta Senikas

*Dr. André B. Lalonde,
SOGC Executive Vice-President*

The SOGC is pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Vyta Senikas as an additional Associate Executive Vice-President of SOGC. Dr. Senikas is an obstetrician/gynaecologist on faculty at McGill University and will be moving to Ottawa to assume a full time position at the National Office. Her responsibilities will include director of CPD division, committee activities, clinical practice guidelines development, JOGC Journal, regional programmes, ACM and some intra-office activities. Dr. Senikas brings a wide range of experience in management and association responsibilities to the SOGC. She has been President of the Association of Obstetricians/Gynaecologists of Quebec (AOGQ) and has

participated in a number of SOGC, AOGQ and ACOG (American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology) Committees in the last few years. She is also on the Board of the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) and has had other responsibilities with various associations.

Dr. Ken Milne will continue as Associate Executive Vice-President as Director of Patient Safety/Risk Management and concentrating his activities as the Director of the MORE, SCOPE Programmes, other educational e-learning programmes and provide leadership in CME and risk management. The SOGC has opened a satellite office for the MORE Program in London (Ontario) and the employees will be shared between the London and the Ottawa offices.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Senikas to the SOGC!

Western Canadian Centre for High Risk Pregnancies Now Open in Calgary

A Canadian centre of excellence, offering world-class care to pregnant women with potential or actual health concerns, is now open in Calgary. The community-based centre, centrally located at 1402 8th Ave. N.W., has been set up by one of the city's major radiology groups and southern Alberta's four perinatologists. It focuses on high quality and timely patient care, a full range of perinatal services, as well as research and education within the public health system.

Dr. Greg Connors, division head of maternal fetal medicine for the Calgary Health Region and one of the perinatologists involved, says the new Southern Alberta Centre for Maternal Fetal Medicine will enable women to get faster, more comprehensive care. In the past, women have often had to make repeated trips between their doctor's office and other medical facilities. "We now provide seamless coordination with everything under one roof," says Corinna McMahon, nurse supervisor at the centre.

Now, the 7,000-8,000 women a year referred will often be seen within a few days. Tests are performed and analyzed by medical specialists on site, and their doctor often gets a report the same day.

Patients say they enjoy the ground floor location and ample parking at the centre, situated in part of the former Salvation Army Grace Hospital, says Dr. Ian Lange, head of ob/gyn for the Calgary Health Region and one of the perinatologists involved. And having a centre in a community setting rather than a big hospital is a unique step in Canada, he says. What also makes it unique, says Dr. Wiseman, is that peri-

natologists have come together at the hub of a larger network of 13 radiology clinics, each of which can now easily refer more complicated cases to the sub-specialists at the centre of the network.

No patient fees are involved. MFM Centre physicians bill Medicare like any other family doctor or specialist physician in Alberta. Their services are provided as consultants with the patient remaining under the care of the referring physician. Patients must have a referral from their primary physician or midwife to be seen at the centre.

The centre was set up after doctors involved and the Calgary Health Authority became increasingly concerned about growing pressures on space and time. This limited the number of women seen when similar services were offered at Foothills Hospital. It is a hub for educating medical residents and students studying MFM and for technical staff from SAIT who are learning the latest ultrasound skills and is a referral center for pregnant women from as far afield as southwest Saskatchewan and southeastern B.C., and Red Deer to the north.

Looking to the near future, EFW is exploring the possibility of other services moving into the centre to create "a campus" of allied specialists for the pregnant woman and her unborn baby like clinical genetics from Alberta Children's Hospital, internal medicine specialists (diabetes in pregnancy), pre-term labour prevention clinics and multiple births clinics.

For more information, members can contact Dr. David Wiseman at EFW Radiology www.efwrad.com.

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conception.

Pregnancy screening for neural tube defects utilizes maternal serum alphafetoprotein screening and routine fetal ultrasound at 16-20 weeks of pregnancy. This screening approach will identify 95% of fetuses with neural tube defects (anencephaly, myelomeningocele). Amniocentesis would be recommended for diagnostic testing of chromosomes, amniotic fluid alphafetoprotein and acetylcholinesterase levels. Some fetuses may have absence of cranial ultrasound findings (lemon and banana sign) and absence of elevated serum or amniotic fluid alphafetoprotein if a thick skin covers the spinal defect (myelocystocele). Anencephaly will be identified in 100% of fetuses undergoing this screening protocol.

Pregnancies affected by MMC have two treatment options at present: 1. postnatal myelomeningocele repair and 2. termination of pregnancy. Postnatal repair of MMC carries significant medical expense in addition to the family psychological and social issues. Even with aggressive postnatal intervention, 14% of MMC neonates do not survive past age 5 with the mortality rising to 35% with symptoms of brain stem dysfunction secondary to the Arnold Chiari malformation. Sixty-eight percent of children have an IQ above 80% but many have significant learning disabilities and only half are able to live independently as adults even with adaptive living combinations. The functional outcome of children born with MMC is related to the size and level of the defect. The large and higher lesions are associated with paralysis or

paraplegic, sphincter dysfunction and a greater risk of spinal deformity. Careful monitoring for signs of lower cranial nerve or brain stem dysfunction can identify those children who may develop symptomatic Chiari II malformation requiring surgical decompression. Children with MMC require careful long-term follow-up for neurosurgical, orthopedic, urologic and pediatric issues.

Recent research protocols have evaluated *in utero* repair of fetuses with MMC in an attempt to minimize the long-term morbidity and mortality for these neonates and children. A recent pilot study has shown a decrease or delayed requirement of ventriculoperitoneal shunting and better than predicted leg function for thoracic and lumbar lesions. Ventriculoperitoneal shunting may be secondary to the consistent resolution of the hindbrain in those fetuses undergoing *in utero* repair. The improved leg function may be secondary to preventing further neurological damage to the exposed spinal cord following *in utero* fetal repair.

At present, there is a randomized trial funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development comparing prenatal and postnatal closure of myelomeningocele in fetuses diagnosed prenatally with this spinal defect. This is an unblinded randomized trial designed to compare the efficacy and safety of *in utero* repair with standard postnatal repair. Two hundred women will be enrolled in the study with 100 in each study arm. Inclusion criteria are MMC defect between T1 and S1 inclusive, hindbrain herniation/Chiari II malformation by MRI evaluation, maternal age 18 or older, normal fetal karyotype, gestational age

at randomization 19 weeks and 0 days to 25 weeks and 6 days, and informed consent. There are a number of exclusion criteria, which would eliminate mothers and fetuses from participating in this study. The primary outcome measures for the study are death or the need for ventricular decompressive shunting by 1 year of age and a composite measure combining the child's score on the Bailey Scale of Infant Mental Development Index with an assessment of their functional motor and sensory levels. Infant follow-up for both groups will be at 12 months and 30 months and detailed maternal follow-up is included.

In summary, neural tube defects are common and are preventable. Folic acid supplementation prior to conception can eliminate or minimize neural tube defects. Continued research is being undertaken to look at the genetic basis of neural tube defects and whether *in utero* surgery therapy can be shown to improve neonatal morbidity with minimal maternal morbidity.

References:

1. The use of folic acid for prevention of neural tube defects and other congenital anomalies. SOGC Guideline 2003 (in press).
2. SOGC Genetics Committee. Recommendations on the use of folic acid for the prevention of neural tube defects. JOGC 1993 March supplement p 41-6.
3. Sanders RC, Blackmon LR, Hogge WA, Spevak P, Wulfsberg EA. Spinal dysraphism. Structural Fetal Abnormalities, The Total Picture, Second Addition, Structural Fetal Abnormalities 2002 Mosby, St. Louis pp 67-71.
4. Johnson MP, Sutton LN, Rintoul N, et al. Fetal myelomeningocele repair: short-term clinical outcome. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2003;188 (in press)
5. MOMS management of myelomeningocele study. www.spinabifidamoms.com

ALARM International in Yemen

Dr. Jean Chamberlain

The ALARM International Programme (Advances in Labour and Reducing Mortality) held another successful training and educational programme in the country of Yemen on April 5-7, 2003. Yemen has one of the highest rates of mothers dying from pregnancy complications in the world with 1 in 9 women dying from pregnancy complications sometime during their lives. The ALARM Programme is an important catalyst to reduce the number of mothers who die tragically in Yemen from preventable causes.

Over sixty (60) people attended the ALARM Programme which was held at the El-Thora Hospital, Sana'a Yemen. The basic ALARM course was then followed by a training of trainers (or instructors course). Fifteen potential instructors participated in the training of trainers. The ALARM Programme is one of the activities organized by the newly formed Association of Obstetricians and Midwives of Yemen.

The course coordinators were: Dr. Arwa El-Rabee (Director of the Mother-Child A'Sabeen

Hospital) and Dr. Jean Chamberlain (working with International Community Services and McMaster University, Hamilton). Three international instructors came to Yemen to teach in the course along with Dr. Jean

Chamberlain (who lives part-time in Yemen): Dr. John Smith (originally from Hamilton, currently working in UAE), Dr. Ahmed Ezzat (University of Saskatoon) and Dr. Shamsaa Al-Awar (from UAE, a graduate of the McGill postgraduate Obstetrics and Gynecology Programme).

Comments from the participants include:

"The course was excellent and very useful. It resolved many questions."

"The instructors were very active and effective. They gave good lectures so that we can



Dr. A. Ezzat (2nd from left), Dr. J. Chamberlain (3rd from left) and Dr. J. Smith (far right) accompanied by Yemeni health professionals

learn and practice."

The international ALARM course is a combination of lectures and hands-on workshops. Participants are encouraged to demonstrate life-saving skills which will decrease maternal mortality. The ALARM Programme coordinates its activities with the Ministry of Health of Yemen. The instructors met with the Minister of Health, Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al-Munibari to report on the course's success.

Future direction:

The ALARM Programme will continue to hold similar training programmes both in the capital of Sana'a and in other Yemeni cities with the ultimate goal of reducing the rate of mothers dying from pregnancy related causes. The International ALARM Yemen team is grateful to the SOGC for its logistic support for the course and its sponsorship of one faculty member.

The 16th Quebec CME Programme

in collaboration with the AOGQ

September 25-27, 2003
at the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu
La Malbaie, Quebec

Your Preliminary Programme is coming by mail soon! Emphasis will be on the outstanding scientific programme, which has been developed by the Planning Committee to suit your educational interests.

An exceptional event in the programme is the traditional Golf Tournament on September 26, which will promote relaxation and the opportunity to mingle with your colleagues. Following the golf will be a dinner accompanied by dancing to enjoyable music.

The conference hotel chosen for this event is the **Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu**. Nestled majestically between the sea and the mountains, Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu is a vision of historical splendor. Rich in tradition, this exquisite paragon of hospitality blends the quiet charm of the countryside with the sophistication of a world-class resort.

For hotel reservations, please call: (418) 665-3703 or 1-800-441-1414
Quote SOGC Group code: OBSTE

Rates are:

- \$160 single or double occupancy: Fairmont Room with a view of the nearby gardens
- \$180 single or double occupancy: Deluxe Fairmont Room with a view of the St-Lawrence River

Hotel cut-off date: August 19, 2003

Hotel cancellation policy:

- Cancellation of individual reservations up to 72 hours prior to arrival is accepted.

Visit the SOGC website at:
www.sogc.org/conferences/quebec/index_e.shtml

We are waiting for you!



The Meliá Caribe Tropical is the newest resort of Punta Cana, with two hotels Meliá Caribe & Meliá Tropical, offering a total of 1,044 rooms. The complex spans 500,000 m² on the shore of the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic, with only 145,000 m² built. Surrounded by palm trees and lush vegetation, the resort is ideal for families, golfers, weddings, as well as meetings and conventions. The Meliá Caribe Tropical is located right on Bávaro beach, one of the most beautiful beaches of the island, 500 m of which are exclusively reserved for the hotels' guests: about 40 km of white, fine sand, uncountable palm trees and crystal clear water. Punta Cana International Airport is 20 minutes away, Higuey 40 km, La Romana 90 km, and the capital, Santo Domingo, is 195 km away from the hotel.

Newcomers!

Chantale Wall, Director, Events Management

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Division welcomes Chantal Goulet with open arms as the new Executive Assistant to the Associate Executive Vice-President (AEVP). Chantal (spelled without an "e") has blended well with the SOGC team environment since April 2nd. She is not only bilingual, but multi-tasked, has extensive experience in administration and project management, is well-educated, mild mannered, and most of all, her quick wit and professionalism are definite assets to the Division, particularly to the AEVP.

Our mascot, Gianna Aprile (affectionately nicknamed "little G") has joined the CPD Division as the summer student for a second year. Gianna has recently completed her studies at the University of Ottawa in the field of Physiotherapy and fortunately for us, has graciously agreed to return to SOGC to work (part-time) with the CPD Division from April to August. Her tasks, a multitude of them, are always completed on time and skillfully. Gianna is a team player and a smile never leaves her face, nor does her pleasant mannerism which are both conducive to the harmony of our division and to the entire national office.

The Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM) 2003 in Charlottetown, PEI warmly welcomes its delegates, presenters, sponsors and exhibitors. For those who were unable to attend this year's top annual event, please mark your calendars for the next ACM to be held in Edmonton, from June 24-29, 2004.

FIGO World Congress

Santiago, Chile - November 2-7
Info: Secretariat c/o Events International Meeting Planners
759 Victoria Square - Suite 300
Montreal, QC, Canada, H2Y 2J7
Tel: (514) 286-0855
Fax: (514) 286-6066
E-mail: figo2003@eventsintl.com

17th International CME

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
March 1-5, 2004**

**Dominican
Republic**

See you at the 2003 ACM!

The ACM 2003 Registration Desk is located at the Lobby of the Delta Prince Edward (18 Queen Street)

Tuesday, June 24	15:30 – 19:00
Wednesday, June 25	07:00 – 17:30
Thursday, June 26	07:00 – 18:00
Friday, June 27	07:00 – 17:00
Saturday, June 28	07:00 – 12:30
Sunday, June 29	07:00 – 17:00
Monday, June 30	07:00 – 12:30

For more information on the ACM 2003, please visit our website at www.sogc.org/acm/index_e.shtml

SOGC News

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Fax: (613) 730-4314
E-mail: lbray-levac@sogc.com

PROGRAMMES

59th Annual Clinical Meeting

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
June 25-30, 2003

16th Quebec CME (offered in French)

Fairmont Manoir Richelieu
La Malbaie, Québec
September 25-27, 2003

22nd Ontario CME

Marriott Eaton Centre
Toronto, Ontario
December 4-6, 2003

17th International CME

Maliá Caribe Tropical, Punta Cana
Dominican Republic
March 1-5, 2004

14th West/Central CME

The Rimrock Resort Hotel
Banff, Alberta
April 1-3, 2004

60th Annual Clinical Meeting

Edmonton, Alberta
June 24-29, 2004

COURSES

SCOPE - 2003

Toronto, Ont. - September 25-26
Mount Sinai Hospital
Surgical Skills Centre

Vancouver, B.C. - October 24-25
University of BC, Centre of
Excellence for Surgical Education

Toronto, Ont. - November 14-15
Mount Sinai Hospital
Surgical Skills Centre

ALARM - 2003

Charlottetown, P.E.I. - June 23-24

Woodstock, N.B. - September 12-13

Ottawa, Ont. - October 24-25

Victoria, B.C. - November 21-22

Toronto, Ont. - December 7-8

NOTICE OF SUMMER HOURS

As the ACM comes to an end, the SOGC would like to notify you that the National office will once again implement its summer schedule by closing at noon (EST) on Fridays starting July 4th. Our regular business hours will resume following Labour Day.

Reminder:

Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 17:00 EST
Friday 8:00 – 12:00 EST

Have a great summer!

The SOGC gratefully acknowledges the ACM 2003 Sponsors and Exhibitors (confirmed at time of print)

Diamond Sponsors

- Berlex Canada Inc.
- Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Platinum Sponsors

- Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
- Janssen-Ortho Inc.
- Organon Canada Ltd.

Gold Sponsors

- Duchesnay Inc.
- Pharmacia Canada Inc./Pfizer Canada Inc.

Bronze Sponsor

- Paladin Labs Inc.

Friends

- Avant-Garde Video Inc.
- Diane A. Gagné Services financiers / Financial Services
- Digene Corporation
- Karl Storz Endoscopy Canada Ltd.

Exhibitors

- Abbott Laboratories Ltd
- Adeza Biomedical Corporation
- American Medical Systems Canada Inc.
- Aventis Behring Canada
- Berry Technologies Inc.
- Boston Scientific

- Canadian Medical Association/MD Management Ltd.
- Carsen Group Inc.
- Cook (Canada) Inc.
- Ferring Inc.
- Gynecare, a Johnson & Johnson Company
- Health Canada - Reproductive & Child Health Division
- ICN Canada Ltd
- Infectio Diagnostic (I.D.I) Inc.
- Infertility Awareness Association of Canada
- Laborie Medical Technologies Inc.
- LMS Medical Systems Ltd
- Luna Fertility Indicator Inc.
- MDMI Technologies Inc.
- Mentor Medical Systems (Canada) Inc.
- Microsulis (Canada) Inc.
- National Abortion Federation (NAF)
- Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.
- Novogen (Canada) Ltd
- Pharmacia Canada Inc.
- Philips Medical Systems Canada
- Schering Canada Inc.
- Somagen Diagnostics Inc.
- Talott / Nasco
- Ultramed Inc.
- Vichy Laboratoires

The Fellowship programme celebrates its ten years!

This article first appeared in Le journal du centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal.

CHUM's Oncological Gynaecology Department held a day and a half of celebrations in honour of the tenth anniversary of its one and only Fellowship programme. During the "half-day" of celebrations on Thursday, February 27, we treated our guests to a hockey game at "Centre Bell"... Unfortunately, the Montreal Canadien lost the game to the Minnesota Wild. But we did not let that incident dampen the joy of being reunited with five of our eight fellows who travelled from various parts of the world to share their progress since the end of their studies here in Montréal.



Dr. Paul Bessette (1993-95) is teaching and involved in research in Sherbrooke; Dr. Stéphane Laframboise (1995-97) is in Toronto and was recruited by Dr. Denny DePetrillo's famous team;

Dr. Réjean Savoie (1995-97) is the only oncologist-gynaecologist in Moncton and is trying to implement a provincial cervical cancer screening programme; Dr. Philippe Sauthier (1996-98), the first European to participate in the programme, went back to Switzerland (Lausanne) where oncological gynaecology has recently been recognized as a specialty; Dr. Marie-Claude Renaud (1997-99), who now works at the "Hôtel-Dieu de Québec", left quite a legacy: a pipe that evacuates nitrous oxide fumes (which are toxic to the nursing personnel) during cryotherapy treatments; Dr. Anne Fadin (1998-2000) who sadly couldn't join us for the occasion; Dr. Faisal AlSafi (1999-2002) who is the second Royal College of Canada certified gynaecologist-
oncologist to settle in Saudi Arabia; Dr. Suzie Lau (2000-03), now at McGill University, is a Chinese woman (she insists on mentioning this!) who grew up in Toronto and somehow managed to learn French and be pregnant during her fellowship, and who is now pregnant once again and studying to get a master's degree in epidemiology while continu-

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Celebrating Achievements!

Fetal & Neonatal Physiological Society 30th Annual Meeting

Banff Conference Centre
Banff, AB - July 4-8
Info: (519) 646-6106
Fax: (519) 646-6213
E-mail: bricharl@uwo.ca
Web site: www.lhriionhealth.ca/fnps03

Changing Management of Cervical Dysplasia and Early Endometrial Cancer: Achieving a Consensus

The Old Mill
Toronto, Ont. - September 26
Tel: (416) 978-2719
Fax: (416) 971-2200
Toll-free: (888) 512-8173
E-mail: ce.med@utoronto.ca
Web Site: www.cme.utoronto.ca

Cervical Neoplasia: Evolving Concepts in Diagnosis and Management

Ramada Hotel & Convention Centre
Regina, SK - September 26-27
Info: (306) 766-4016
E-mail: sherry.roberts@rqhealth.ca

Canadian Association of Midwives - 3rd Annual Meeting & Convention

Montreal, QC - October 1-3
E-mail: admin@canadianmidwives.org
Web Site: www.canadianmidwives.org

AWHONN 14th National Conference Building Brighter Futures

Delta Meadowvale
Mississauga, Ont. - October 16-18
Info: 905-521-2100 x 75969;
dore@hhsc.ca
Registration: 519-685-8500 x 52142;
nancy.watts@lhsc.on.ca

Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society 49th Annual Meeting

Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria, BC
Correction: November 5-8
Info: (514) 524-9009
Fax: (514) 524-2163
E-mail: info@cfas.ca
Web site: www.cfas.ca

MIRU Conference - Pregnancy and Birth: What Is Best for Mothers and Babies?

Centre for Research in Women's Health,
Toronto, Ont. - November 28
Info: Judy Cardwell, 416-323-6501,
ext.3781
E-mail: miru@sw.ca
Web site: www.utoronto.ca/miru

Daniel Morier, Public Education Coordinator

This monthly section, new to the SOGC News will enable members to recognize the effort and work of their fellow colleagues. Should you wish to be mentioned in our upcoming newsletter, or know someone that should be acknowledged for an award, grant or appointment, please e-mail dmorier@sogc.com.

Dr. Roger Turnell of Alberta was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal to honour his significant contribution and involvement in the community as well as his medical service as it relates to furthering women's healthcare in Saskatchewan. Among other lifetime achievements, Dr. Turnell was also recognized in 1977 with the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal while a medical student at McGill.

Dr. Jon Barrett, Head of Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Sunnybrook and Women's College Hospital and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto has been awarded a \$9 million CIHR Grant for his 8-year study on twin births. This is a multicenter randomized controlled trial comparing planned vaginal birth



of twins over 32 weeks gestation vs. delivery by lower segment C-section. Centers wishing to enroll may contact Dr. Barrett at TBS@sw.ca. Dr. Barrett is also Chair of the SOGC Sub-Committee on Multiple Births.

Dr. Maureen Heaman, Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Nursing, has been awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award for her project on "Prenatal care utilization in Manitoba: Determinants and association with preterm birth". This award provides salary support of \$50,000 per annum for five years. Dr. Heaman is also a Nursing Representative on the SOGC Council.

Dr. Bill Fraser of Ste-Justine Hospital at the Université de Montréal, along with investigators from 15 centres across Canada, have been awarded a CIHR Clinical Trial Grant for their study on International Trial of Antioxidants in the Prevention of Preeclampsia. This award provides \$4.9 million to the team, allowing them to assess the effectiveness of Vitamin C and E prophylaxis in the prevention of preeclampsia. Dr. Fraser is President of the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (APOG) and Chair of the Society of Investigators in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SIOGC), a research committee of the SOGC.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA Fellowship in Gynaecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

The University of Ottawa Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Division of Gynaecologic Reproductive Medicine invites applicants for fellowship training in Gynaecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. This is a fully funded Royal College Accredited two-year program. Applicants must have completed five years of training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with certification from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Applications should include a cover letter, CV, and 3 letters of reference. Interviews will take place in October and November 2003. Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2003 to:

Dr. Delani Kotarba

Program Director, Gynaecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Program
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
University of Ottawa
530-737 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1Y 1J8

(Continued from page 6)

ing to work. Everyone had the opportunity to meet the current fellowship candidates: Dr. Frédéric Goffin (Belgium) and Dr. Abdulaziz Alobaid (Saudi Arabia).

Dr. Diane Provencher organized that celebration day, during which Dr. Denis R. Roy spoke with a lot of passion and conviction about managing the programme. Dr. Joseph Ayoub, Director of Education, also took the opportunity to praise Dr. Pierre Drouin and his colleagues (Dr. Diane Provencher, Dr. Josée Dubuc-Lissoir and Dr. Philippe Gauthier). These four went on to explain the reasons why they keep ploughing ahead even though resources are always scarce, and also honoured Mrs. Jeannine Fortin for her contribution to their efforts. Two conferences were held by Dr. Pierre Drouin on the clinical impact of the surgical approach in the treatment of vulvar cancer, and by Dr. Charles Levenback, guest speaker from MD Anderson in Texas, on the identification of the sentinel lymph node. That eventful day was concluded with a visit of the "École des HEC" (complete with a scientific programme) and a dinner at the restaurant. Congratulations are well deserved for the ten years of the Fellowship programme, whose notoriety reflects on each and every one of us.

The Junior Member News section of SOGC News is funded by a grant from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

The Future of Ob/Gyn

Dr. Sony S. Singh, Vice-Chair JM Committee,
University of Western Ontario

The practice of Ob/Gyn in Canada has many challenges ahead including issues surrounding professional liability and human resources. The future of our speciality will depend on solid leadership and members who are willing to tackle the difficult issues to make way for the enjoyable and rewarding career we have chosen.

It is the Junior Members who will lead us into the future. It is the Medical Students, Residents

and Subspecialty Fellows today who will be our academic, research and community leaders of tomorrow. The upcoming ACM in PEI represents an exciting time for SOGC Junior Members. With more visibility than ever before, it is time to show the country that we are ready to take part in shaping the future of Women's Health Care in Canada.

I challenge the Junior Members to become involved, in order to have influence which will impact the way we practice and train tomorrow. This will empower us to make change and improvement where it is needed. We can no longer afford to remain idle as our training and practices change... we need to voice our opinions!

The SOGC Junior Member Committee is your representation at the national level. Get active by becoming a representative for your university or by participating on one of the many SOGC clinical/policy committees. Find out more by speaking with your current JM representative or by emailing us (ddesautels@sogc.com).

Lastly, we hope to see many of you at the ACM in P.E.I. Our annual Junior Member's programme includes the very successful Medical Student Forum and the Resident Fun Night hosted by Dalhousie this year. Until then, a special good luck to our colleagues writing their exams. And remember... we are the future of Ob/Gyn in Canada!

Call for Nominations!

The SOGC Junior Member Committee requests nominations for the Vice-Chair position. This involves a two year commitment during which time one takes the role of Chair of this pro-active and exciting committee focused on resident issues in ob/gyn across Canada.

Nominations are to be forwarded to

Denise Desautels (d-desautels@sogc.com).

Any resident may be nominated across the country but must be present at the ACM this year as a resident representative for his/her respective university.

For more information please contact Jean-Pierre Gennaoui (Chair) or Sony Singh (Vice Chair) via Denise Desautels.

Resident Activities at the ACM

Denise Desautels, Coordinator, Junior Members & Special Projects

The ACM is a great opportunity for residents to take part in educational and scientific sessions as well as socialize with residents from across our country. A number of events have been organized with residents in mind. These include:

- Stress Management Workshop on Saturday, June 28th at 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Member Committee meeting on Sunday June 29th at noon
- Resident Fun Night on Sunday, June 29th at 8:00 p.m.
- Resident Reporter breakfasts and dinners
- Don't forget the Student Symposium on Sunday, June 29th at 4:00 p.m.
- Stump the Professor, Monday, June 30th at 10:30 a.m.

Dalhousie University Update

Brian Harrington, PGY-2

It has been an exciting and busy time since our last update for the residents and staff of the IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University. It has also been a cold and snowy winter for us in the East with record snowfalls which could translate into busier times on the obstetrics ward in 9 months, give or take a few weeks.

The last 6 months have been highlighted by the departure of our program director and the appointment of a new one. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Dr. Glenn Gill who left in January of this year for the interior of British Columbia. Dr. Gill left for Williams Lake, B.C. where he will be joining another OB/Gyn in private practice there. Our loss will be the West's gain. We said goodbye to Glenn with a toast and roast at our Christmas rounds where a good time was had by all. He will be sorely missed but a number of residents from Dal have already signed up for electives so that he does not go into resident withdrawal.

On the flipside, Dr. Gill's departure has left a vacancy for Dr. Joan Wenning to fill. She has done an excellent job since teaming up with Dr. Gill for the transition in the latter half of 2002 and now officially taking over. Dr. Gill has large

shoes to fill (literally and figuratively) and Dr. Wenning is already doing an admirable job.

In other news, Dr. Wenning and Dr. Fiona Matattall (resident) staged a very successful career night for the Dalhousie medical students at the end of last year. Candy rewards were given out for correct guesses from the "Guess what this instrument is for" box. The eye-catching display included posters, videos and various different instruments that generated much discussion among the passing students. We hope that all of the interest shown will translate into continued success in the match for OB/Gyn.

Along those lines, we were ecstatic about the results of the recent CaRMS match and look forward to meeting our new set of residents in July. There were quite a few Dalhousie students interested in OB/Gyn this year and we would like to wish good luck to those who will be departing from Halifax for their training.

Finally, we look forward to playing host at the upcoming ACM in Charlottetown in June. Preparations are in the works for all of the events including our resident fun night at Jake's Bar and Grill on the Sunday night. We look forward to seeing you there and invite all of you to come join us for a night of fun and good times.

**Fully Funded Fellowship
Training in Gynaecologic
Reproductive
Endocrinology and
Infertility – see details
on page 6**



CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Women Artists for Women's Health

Robyn Harris, Executive Director



Jill Segal

Thanks to the generosity of five Canadian women artists, the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health is pleased to announce a new funding-development program, Women Artists for Women's Health. Five artists from British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec have donated paintings that will be featured on greeting cards to be sold by the Foundation to raise funds for women's health research.

The artists — Caprice, Jean Harris, Sharlene McLearn, Pauline Paquin and Jill Segal — all say they are supporting the program because women's health is so important to them and research in Canada is so in need of assistance.

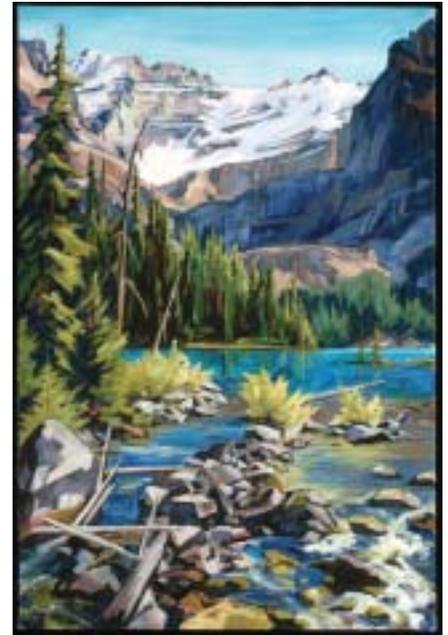
"Women's health research in Canada is important to me," says Caprice of Kimberley,

B.C., "because information is vital to eradicating chronic disease, which so many women are dealing with."

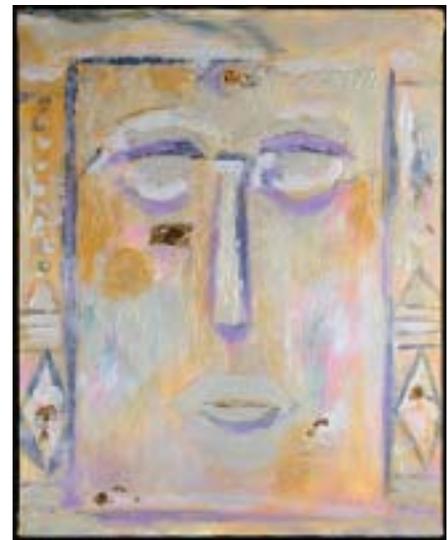
"I witnessed the long suffering of my mother and others with scleroderma," says Sharlene McLearn of London, Ont. "Four times as many women than men are afflicted with this disease which has no cure, as yet. The incidence of breast cancer has increased over the years. We must find a cure through research and promote preventive measures. Insulin was discovered in Canada, why not a breakthrough for other diseases?"

Jill Segal attributes her donation to her feeling that "women's health research in Canada is of utmost importance. I have many colleagues and friends who have succumbed to female specific illnesses, and others who have recovered and really benefitted from the research that has been done."

The donated paintings are to be sold at a silent auction during the Foundation's fundraising dinner in Charlottetown in June. Don't miss this opportunity to add an exquisite piece of artwork to your collection. Please consider supporting these artists who, like you, recognize the need to support women's health research in Canada. View their artwork at the following websites or contact the Foundation for additional information.



Caprice



Sharlene McLearn



Jean Harris



Pauline T. Paquin

The artists:

Caprice

www.capriceartstudio.com

Jean Harris

http://collections.ic.gc.ca/waic/jehart/jeharr_e.htm

Sharlene McLearn

www.asharlene.com

Pauline Paquin

www.paulinepaquin.com

Jill Segal

www.jillsegal.com