Annual Clinical Meeting scientific program  
New mentorship program for Junior members  
Send us your international photos!
SOGC staff service anniversaries

The SOGC would like to recognize the following staff members who achieved significant service milestones over the past year:

10 Years

**Martin Pothier, head translator**
Martin translates technical English documents, such as the SOGC’s clinical practice guidelines and abstracts for the JOGC, into French.

8 Years

**Chantal Capistran, translator**
Another member of our translation team, Chantal helps to ensure that nearly everything the SOGC publishes is bilingual.

**Nikolas Leblanc, web developer**
Nik helps build, maintain and update the SOGC’s many electronic resources.

**Judy Scrivener, project officer**
Judy coordinates many initiatives within the SOGC’s communications division, and is also national coordinator for the Society of Canadian Colposcopists.

**Jackie Öman, senior administrative assistant**
Jackie helps facilitate the work of the SOGC’s International Women’s Health Program.

**Sylvie Cadrin, director**
Sylvie oversees the SOGC’s corporate division, working in close collaboration with SOGC staff, the Council and Executive Committee.

**Jane Fairbanks, assistant editor**
Jane oversees the monthly publication of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*.

8 Reminders:

**All members to receive SOGC News by email in April**

The majority of SOGC members already choose to receive our monthly membership newsletter by email in PDF format. As of April 2013, we will produce only an electronic version of this product — all members will receive the *SOGC News* by email.

Members who choose a print subscription for the JOGC will continue to receive that publication in the mail.

As part of this process, we will be adapting the format of the electronic version to better suit the content that is found in the newsletter. Leading up to this transition, we will keep you updated with our plans.

If you would like to update your email address on file with the Society, please contact Linda Kollesh at lkollesh@sogc.com or 1-800-561-2416, ext. 233.

5 Years

**Moya Crangle, project manager**
Moya oversees projects of the International Women’s Health Program, including our Cervical Cancer Prevention Project.

**Dominique Pelletier, finance officer**
Dominique oversees the daily financial transactions (payables and receivables) for the SOGC.

**Gina Nardone, graphic designer**
Nearly everything the SOGC produces has Gina’s artistic touch on it, from newsletters to preliminary programs and advertisements.

**Astrid Bucio, director**
Astrid leads the Society’s International Women’s Health Program, which administers many projects in low-resource settings throughout the world.

**Suzanne Kearney, administrative assistant**
For in-person visitors, members on the phone and SOGC staff alike, Suzanne helps you find the resources you need.

3 Years

**Renée Dupuis-Leon, clinical publications officer**
Renée supports the SOGC’s many committees in the publication of clinical practice guidelines, committee opinions, policy statements and technical updates.

**Alisha Apale, coordinator**
Alisha coordinates programs of the SOGC’s Aboriginal Health Initiative, including the upcoming publication of a new guideline for health-care professionals.

**Heather Bell, writer**
Heather is editor of the *SOGC News* and produces public education material and member communication documents.
We want to hear from you
By Dr. Jennifer Blake, chief executive officer

The SOGC has come a long way since 1944, when less than 100 founding members looked forward to ‘organizing a successful and closely knit Society’ to support their practices and improve the health of women in Canada.

While those overarching goals remain the same, our mandate to fulfill them has become more complex and our activities have expanded greatly — with many far-reaching and long-running programs operating not just across the country but throughout the world — and our membership has grown.

What hasn’t changed is that we exist to serve you, our members; whether one of our programs directly supports your work or it aims to improve the health of your patients, helping our members achieve their goals is our raison d’être. I hope that every member understands this, and recognizes the value of being part of the SOGC.

We need your help to continue our work. In addition to renewing your membership for 2013 if you haven’t already (yes, it’s that time of year), we also ask for your feedback. It is truly important for us to hear from our members: are our guidelines helpful for your practice? Are our programs helping your patients? How would you like to get involved with the Society? Please contact us and let us know how we can better meet your needs in 2013.

How are you marking February 12?
Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Day is a good reminder for each of us to (re)educate ourselves and others on how to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections and promote healthy sexuality.

Take this opportunity to be proactive in asking patients about their sexual health — many have questions for you, but are too shy to broach the topic. For an update on female sexual health, from sexual health across the lifespan to assessment and management of concerns, check out our recently published guideline on the topic at www.sogc.org/guidelines.

Upcoming clinical practice guidelines

Below is a tentative schedule for upcoming guidelines to be published by the SOGC. Please note that the publication dates listed are subject to change. All guidelines are published in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada* (JOGC) and are available on the Society’s website, www.sogc.org.

**February**
- Current status in non-invasive prenatal detection of Down syndrome, Trisomy 18, and Trisomy 13 using cell-free DNA in maternal plasma

**March**
- Cancer chemotherapy and pregnancy

**April**
- Epidemiology and investigations for suspected endometrial cancer
- The role of adjuvant therapy in endometrial cancer
- The role of surgery in endometrial cancer
- Guide for health professionals working with Aboriginal peoples

Executive Committee
- **President:** Douglas M. Black, MD, Ottawa
- **Past president:** Mark Heywood, MD, Vancouver
- **President-elect:** Ward Murdock, MD, Fredericton
- **Chief executive officer:** Jennifer Blake, MD, Ottawa
- **Treasurer:** Ian R. Lange, MD, Calgary
- **Vice-presidents:** Diane Francoeur, MD, Montréal
  - Margaret Burnett, MD, Winnipeg

Regional chairs, alternate chairs and other representatives
- **Western region:**
  - Stephen Kaye, MD, North Vancouver
  - Radha Chari, MD, Edmonton
- **Central region:**
  - George D. Carson, MD, Regina
  - Hussam M. Azzam, MD, Thompson
- **Ontario region:**
  - Wendy Lynn Wolfman, MD, Toronto
  - William Mundie, MD, Windsor
- **Quebec region:**
  - Isabelle Girard, MD, Montréal
  - Robert Sabbah, MD, Montréal
- **Atlantic region:**
  - Joan Crane, MD, St-John’s
  - Krista Cassell, MD, Charlottetown
- **Junior member representative:**
  - Stéphane Foulem, MD, St. John’s
- **Public representative:**
  - Micheline Bouchard
- **Associate member (FP):**
  - Andrée Gagnon, MD, Blainville
- **Associate member (RN-NP):**
  - Janet Walker, RN, Vancouver
- **Associate member (RM):**
  - Kimberly Campbell, RM, Abbotsford
- **APOG representative:**
  - Lucie Morin, MD, Montréal
West/Central CME Program
Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
March 21–23, 2013
Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta

Please visit our website at www.sogc.org for updated information and to register.

Conference Site: The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, 405 Spray Avenue, Banff, Alberta

- Rates are based on availability: Fairmont Room: $169/night (single/double occupancy)
  Deluxe Room: $209/night (single/double occupancy)
- Telephone: 1-800-441-1414 (Group code: GSOG)
- Benefit from the discounted rate at the Willow Stream Spa: A 10% discount on spa services is offered to CME participants who booked directly with the spa office. We strongly recommend that you book your spa treatments well in advance to avoid disappointment by calling 403-762-1772

This CME program is offered in English. 
The West/Central CME is an accredited Continuing Medical Education (CME) program by the SOGC.
Preliminary program now available

21 POST-GRADUATE SESSIONS

Wednesday, June 12 – Full-day
PG 1: Society of Canadian Colposcopists (SCC)

Wednesday, June 12 – Morning
PG 2: Tips and Tricks for Minimally Invasive Hysterectomy
PG 3: Young Women with Medical Disorders: Considerations for Reproductive Health Care - CANPAGO
PG 4: An Approach to Conservative Management of the Pelvic Floor – CSPM
PG 5: Collaborating to Keep Low-Risk Women, Low Risk: The Team Approach
PG 6: Medical Complications of Pregnancy
PG 7: Diabetes in pregnancy: from diagnosis to delivery and beyond
PG 8: Prenatal Molecular Genetics: Screening and Diagnostics
PG 9: Chronic Pelvic Pain
PG 10: Point Of Care Ultrasound
PG 11: All You Want To Know About The Vulva

Wednesday, June 12 – Afternoon
PG 12: Introduction to Laparoscopic Suturing for TLH
PG 13: The Bread and Butter of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology Care - CANPAGO
PG 14: Anal Sphincter Repair Workshop – CSPM
PG 15: Common REI Problems
PG 16: Obstetrical Emergencies Operative Team Approach
PG 17: Obesity - Womb to Tomb
PG 18: Obesity – Surgical Aspects
PG 19: Breech – The A to Z
PG 20: The Marginalized Population
PG 21: Psychiatry in Women’s Health

24 BEST PRACTICE SESSIONS

Thursday, June 13
BPS 1: Ambulatory Gynaecological Procedures
BPS 2: Medical Legal: Gynaecology
BPS 3: Test your Contraception IQ
BPS 4: Immunizations in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
BPS 5: Breaking Bad News: Communication
BPS 6: Shoulder Dystocia: An Update
BPS 7: Sexual Reproductive Rights in Women’s Health Care in Canada
BPS 8: Pelvis Mesh: Should She or Shouldn’t She
BPS 9: Practice Relations: A Model of Obstetrician-Midwife Collaboration for Improved Aboriginal Maternal Health
BPS 10: Sexual Dysfunction
BPS 11: Overcoming Poor Pregnancy Outcome
BPS 12: Preterm Birth: The Role of Cerclage/Progesterone/Pessary

Friday, June 14
BPS 13: Medico Legal: Obstetrics
BPS 14: The Young Woman with Endometrial Cancer
BPS 15: Vulvodynia
BPS 16: Electronic Medical Records Journey
BPS 17: There is an “APP” for That!
BPS 18: Abnormal Uterine Bleeding
BPS 19: From Fetus to Neonate – Care in the Golden Hour
BPS 20: Induction of Labour
BPS 21: Placental Issues in Obstetrics
BPS 22: Delivery of Multiples
BPS 23: Aboriginal Issues
BPS 24: Strategies to be a Women’s Health Advocate
Recent studies authored by SOGC members


OBITUARY:
Dr. H.R. Morgan
1919 – 2012

SOGC Life member Dr. H. Robert Morgan passed away on December 25, 2012. In 1947, Bob began his practice of obstetrics and gynaecology in Hamilton and in 1976 was appointed associate professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at McMaster University. He was co-founder of both the Urodynamics Clinic and the Colposcopy Clinic at the Henderson Hospital. In his retirement, Bob was an avid amateur radio operator. He also enjoyed golf, sailing, skiing, music and the time which he spent in his art studio. Over the years, many cherished pets were his devoted companions. Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Dr. Marion W. Morgan, and his four children, Dr. Jane, Bob, Jim and John, and their families.

Dr. Morgan had been a member of the SOGC since 1954.

Winners of the “Pay your dues online” draw

We would like to thank all our members who took advantage of our online services in order to renew their membership dues for 2013.

The winners for this year’s draws were:
- Dr. Véronique Bussière won a free conference registration to the ACM in 2013
- Dr. Lianne Belland won a free conference registration to a regional CME in 2013

Congratulations to our winners!
As part of our green initiative, we hope that you will continue to use our online membership services for the years to come.

WELCOME, new members

The SOGC is pleased to welcome some of the newest members to our society:

Ob/gyn member: Dr. Marie-Chantal Lemonnier
Junior member: Dr. Nika Alavi-Tabari; Dr. Haydeh Samiee; Dr. Parvin Talbiyanfar
Junior member (family practice): Dr. Richard B. Johnson; Dr. Dean Matthew Vlahaki
Associate member (family practice): Dr. Haneen Abu-Remaileh; Dr. Meera Chopra; Dr. Louise Dessureault; Dr. Tasnim Gafoor; Dr. Olena Kravchenko; Dr. Angela Logan; Dr. Naseeba Moosa
Associate member (registered midwife): Ms. Lyanne Quirt, RM
Associate member (students in health-care training): Ms. Zoe Broersma; Ms. Stevi Golden-Plotnik; Ms. Christina Ly; Ms. Amanda Noelle Webb

Have you paid your SOGC membership dues for 2013?

This is just a friendly reminder that as of March 1, 2013, any memberships which have not been renewed will have lapsed. This means that membership privileges will be revoked, and anyone who has not renewed will have to pay non-member prices for SOGC continuous professional learning events such as our Annual Clinical Meeting, regional CMEs, ALARM courses, etc.

In addition, members whose memberships have lapsed will no longer receive the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada (JOGC) or the SOGC News, and will no longer have access to the members-only features offered on www.sogc.org.

For your convenience, you may pay your 2013 membership dues online on or before February 28, 2013. Just log in at www.sogc.org and select “pay your dues online” under “Member Services”.

Should you have any questions, you may contact Linda Kollesh at lkollesh@sogc.com or 613-730-4192, ext 233.
Everyone enjoys the Holidays! The first snowfall, Christmas songs on the radio and a little something in the air that gives you the feeling of Holidays approaching. Every year, the residents of our program are invited to the fabulous events held by the three hospital centres of the University of Montreal. The CHUM organized a disco where staff and nurses danced all night under the disco ball; the Sainte-Justine hospital had a well-dressed black and white party; on the other hand, the Maisonneuve-Rosemont hospital planned a really surprising night at Dr. Di Zazzo’s home with a gift exchange under the Christmas tree - there was a wine and cheese tasting, and a pair of earrings made by Dr. Desjardins presented to each resident!

Of course, we also had to work during this period. We have to admit that the new call schedule made working over the holidays a little bit more interesting. As we are working the same 24-hour call abolished) is not as great as we thought it would be. As we are working the same amount of time but spread over more days, it feels like we spend most of our evenings and weekends in the hospital. The balance between work, studying and personal life seems harder.

There is also a lot of construction going on at our hospitals. The Sainte-Justine hospital is working on a new mother and child building with, finally, the Maisonneuve-Rosemont hospital planned a dressed black and white party; on the other hand, the Sainte-Justine hospital had a well-themed gala; the Sainte-Justine hospital had a well-dressed black and white party; on the other hand, the Maisonneuve-Rosemont hospital planned a really surprising night at Dr. Di Zazzo’s home with a gift exchange under the Christmas tree - there was a wine and cheese tasting, and a pair of earrings made by Dr. Desjardins presented to each resident!

That’s the news from UdeM! We hope you had a great time with your dearest ones during the Holidays.

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Newsmark member news

Having fun at the Université de Montréal!!

by Dr. Mélissa Cyr and Dr. Radomir Jarcevic

(24 hours call abolished) is not as great as we thought it would be. As we are working the same amount of time but spread over more days, it feels like we spend most of our evenings and weekends in the hospital. The balance between work, studying and personal life seems harder.

News from Memorial University

By Dr. Sara Hulliger

As we enter the New Year, it seems timely to reflect on the activities and accomplishments of our program this academic year. We said goodbye to our three graduating residents, Drs. Sean Murphy, Jennifer Salata and Karen Splinter, who were all successful at the RCPSC exam. Jen and Karen entered general practice and Sean is continuing with fellowship training in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. We welcomed three new residents to our program, who come to us from across the country: Crystal Blanchard from Memorial, Niala Ramji from McGill, and Sarah Wozney from the University of Alberta. We also welcomed back Dr. Deanna Murphy, a graduate of our program in 2010, in her new position within the REI division.

An area of focus within the program is further development of surgical skills training for residents. All residents partake in a biannual laparoscopy wet lab and have 24-hour access to a laparoscopic dry lab. This year, our surgical skills labs have been expanded to include sessions with obstetric simulation mannequins and access to virtual reality laparoscopic simulation.

A new community rotation in Corner Brook was implemented in 2011 and continues to be very popular among residents. The surgical experience is excellent, as is the change to explore the beautiful west coast of Newfoundland.

This will be the third year that PGY-2s write the surgical foundations exam, together with our colleagues in general and orthopedic surgery. Residents are also participating in a teaching skills course. Notably, Robin Ryan (PGY-4) was selected among all residents at Memorial University as the recipient of the Outstanding Intern/Resident Award. Congratulations, Robin!

Several of our residents presented at the SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting in June 2012. We also claimed the prestigious, Program Promotion by Residents in Obstetrics for Medical Students (PPROM) award, selected by participants in the medical student track at the ACM. Memorial University was also the recipient of the 2010 PPROM award at the ACM in Montréal.

Of course, we are also making time for resident wellness on the rock! We celebrated Sarah Kean’s (PGY-3) wedding to husband Shawn. Stephanie Coady (PGY-3) and husband Brad welcomed baby Grace in September. We have many chances to relax outside of work including our annual resident retreat, BBQs, and holiday get-togethers, which add to the great camaraderie we have at Memorial.

As we head into 2013, we are looking forward to meeting the CARMS applicants and wishing our hard-working chiefs, Carrie, Laura, Mike and Paula, best of luck with their studies for the upcoming exams.
Can you “Stump the Professor” in 2013?

Since its inception, this event has become one of the most popular at the Society’s Annual Clinical Meeting. All residents are invited to submit a detailed summary of an interesting case, and the winning entries will be selected by a committee. The individuals whose entries are selected will be invited to present their case in the hopes of stumping our panel of ob/gyn experts at the meeting in June. A $1,000 prize is awarded to both the best obstetrical case and best gynaecological case.

Cases should include:
1. Patient profile
2. Reason for admission
3. Symptoms/problem list
4. Past medical history
5. Family and social history
6. History of present illness/progress
7. Lab work
8. Medications
9. Follow up

Deadline for submissions: April 1, 2013
Please send your draft power point presentation to Janie Poirier at jpoirier@sogc.com

Chair-elect of the SOGC Junior Member Committee

The objective of the SOGC Junior Member Committee is to provide a forum in which ob/gyns in training can express opinions and recommendations pertaining to issues directly impacting ob/gyn residents. The committee develops programs for residents and facilitates communication among the resident communities of each university. The committee enables a national voice for residents.

If you are interested in this position, please visit the Junior Members’ section of the SOGC website, www.sogc.org, to find out what this position entails. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2013.

Medical student on the SOGC Junior Member Committee

The SOGC Junior Member Committee is looking for a medical student representative for the term from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. The Junior Members Committee consists of residents from across the country who are involved with various SOGC events and activities, including the Annual Clinical Meeting and the Resident Professional Development Program. The committee also works in collaboration with various organizations and other committees, including the SOGC Council, APOG and the SOGC Promotion of the Specialty Committee.

The medical student representative who sits on the committee will represent medical student members from across the country and be their active voice within the Junior Member Committee.

If you are interested in this position, please visit the Junior Members’ section of the SOGC website, www.sogc.org, to find out what this position entails. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2013.

Invitation to attend the 2013 SOGC Medical Student Program

The Medical Student Program (MSP) is a unique one-day program that will take place on June 10, before the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM) being held in Calgary from June 11 to 14.

Program objective
The program is designed to benefit medical students by exposing them to scientific programs, hands-on workshops and seminars that enhance their awareness and understanding of the profession of obstetrics and gynaecology. In addition, students are able to meet with ob/gyn residents and staff physicians from across the country. The SOGC

Medical Student Program will select 50 applicants from sixteen Canadian universities to attend our program and the Annual Clinical Meeting.

The deadline to apply for the 2013 Medical Student Program is Friday, March 29, 2013. Visit our 2013 ACM website at www.sogc.org and look for ‘Conjoint meetings’ for information concerning the MSP and the application process.

If you have any further questions about this program, please do not hesitate to contact Janie Poirier at jpoirier@sogc.com.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Stump the Professor 2012
AHI mentorship initiative for Junior members

Are you interested in learning more about providing culturally-safe care to Aboriginal women in Canada?

Given the need to improve the quality and safety of care delivered to Aboriginal women, the SOGC’s Aboriginal Health Initiative is developing a mentorship program to connect SOGC Junior members with established, successful Aboriginal health practitioners.

Improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal women in Canada requires improved access to quality, culturally-safe care. In order to achieve this, health practitioners must develop the capacity to deliver such care through specific training and learning opportunities.

There are Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal OB/gyns, family doctors, nurses and midwives across the country who have demonstrated success in providing quality, culturally-safe care to their Aboriginal female patients and families. Many of these practitioners possess a wealth of socio-cultural knowledge and clinical experience needed to facilitate delivery of quality, culturally-safe care for Aboriginal women. As future providers and leaders of women’s health care in Canada, many of the SOGC’s Junior members would strongly benefit from opportunities to build knowledge and capacity in this area.

This mentorship program will provide enthusiastic Junior members with an opportunity to spend two to four weeks with an assigned mentor in order to build awareness, skills and capacity in the provision of care for Aboriginal women and families. Successful applicants will work in and interact with, the mentor’s practice community, whether that is a First Nations reserve, a rural or remote practice or an urban Aboriginal health centre. The successful applicant will be required to return to their program and report on this experience in addition to participating in the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meeting.

Successful applicants to the AH1 mentorship program will receive a grant to support travel and accommodation expenses incurred during the mentorship. In addition, through supplementation by a private donation, the grant will also cover travel and accommodation to the SOGC’s ACM, in order to provide the recipients with an opportunity to showcase the skills and knowledge acquired during this unique experience.

Are you a Junior member of the SOGC interested in learning more about providing culturally-safe care to Aboriginal women in Canada? Applications are due May 1st, 2013. Contact the Aboriginal Health Initiative coordinator for more information about this exciting opportunity: Nicole Robinson at nrobinson@sogc.com.

SRHA DAY: What do you know about Aboriginal women’s sexual and reproductive health?

On February 12, Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Day, the SOGC encourages women’s health professionals working with First Nations, Inuit and Metis to be committed and confident in their ability to be a positive and beneficial resource.

Whether delivering a baby, providing well-woman care, offering contraception counseling or supporting research and developing policies, every day, members of the SOGC’s Aboriginal Health Initiative Committee (AHIC) engage with First Nations, Inuit and Metis women in their journeys to achieve sexual and reproductive wellness. Through their work, what have our committee members learned about reproductive health and culturally-safe care?

Dr. Don Wilson: “Aboriginal peoples have long histories of their own cultural teachings and knowledge around sexual and reproductive health. Unfortunately, many Aboriginal peoples may feel a disconnect between their cultural heritage and modern realities, especially in urban settings. Exploring issues around sexual and reproductive health is a way to assist people to reconnect with their traditional teachings, by encouraging them to learn more about them.”

Dr. Sandra de la Ronde: “Culture is treatment. For many Aboriginal women, engaging in cultural practices and ceremonies brings spiritual wellness, a sense of pride and strength. Pregnancy is not experienced in isolation. Partners and family should be encouraged to come to prenatal visits and educational sessions. Following the teachings of the grandmothers about having and raising a child in health is among the most important things a woman can do.”

Ms. Gisela Becker, RM: “Birth has always been a family and community event; giving birth in your home community renews the life of family and community. It allows for healing and empowerment.”

Annie Anningmniq: “The birth of a child is an important event in a woman’s life. Reaching out and accepting help can bring people closer together.”

Dr. Pierre Lessard and Ms. Paula Lessard, RN: “Aboriginal women need equitable access to safe and compassionate abortion care: we cannot feel what others feel until we walk in their shoes/moccasins.”

Our evolving understanding of human reproduction, pregnancy, epigenetics, genetics, fetal development, infant development and women’s health provide themes for engaging patients in a pursuit of better sexual and reproductive health. Positive outcomes to aim for should include reduced rates of unexpected or unplanned pregnancy, obesity, gestational diabetes, gestational hypertension, and operative delivery. These goals are worthwhile, especially in the Aboriginal population which bears a disproportionate burden of these sexual and reproductive concerns. Some of these conditions may have lifelong implications for individuals, families, and entire communities.
Registration now open
Are you interested in sharing your skills and knowledge in obstetrics with health professionals working in low-resource countries? Would you like to contribute to global efforts to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality? The SOGC’s International Women’s Health Program is now recruiting SOGC members to participate in an upcoming ALARM International Program Instructor Course, the first step to becoming an AIP volunteer instructor.

The ALARM International Program is a training tool designed to upgrade the skills of health professionals who provide obstetrical care in low-resource countries. It is a five-day course delivered by a multidisciplinary team of AIP volunteer instructors, alongside local AIP instructors. The SOGC delivers approximately 10 to 15 AIP courses each year in such countries as Haiti, Mali, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Venezuela.

In order to become an AIP volunteer instructor, you must be a member of the SOGC and be currently practicing or have recently practiced obstetrics as one of the following professions: obstetrician-gynaecologist, family doctor, registered midwife or registered obstetric nurse. It is also important to have completed the AIP instructor training course.

Registration is now open for an AIP Instructor Course, to be held from April 26 to 28 at the Marriott Château Champlain Hotel in Montréal. Please note that this course will be offered in French.

Since much emphasis is placed on ensuring a multidisciplinary team on each AIP mission, the SOGC is strongly encouraging midwives and obstetric nurses to participate in the training course and to become AIP volunteer instructors, as these positions are often the most difficult to fill.

For full details and to register for the ALARM International Program Instructor Course, please visit http://iwhp.sogc.org.

Registration rules and details.

Please visit our website at http://iwhp.sogc.org for full contest rules and details.

We look forward to receiving your photo submissions!

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

International Women’s Health Program

It’s that time of year again! The International Women’s Health Program invites SOGC members to participate in our annual photo contest by submitting photos of your travel and work abroad. Photos will be judged on artistic merit, representation of positive and empowering images, and relation to the field of international women’s health. Submissions will be received until April 5, 2013, and the winning entries will be displayed at the International Women’s Health Symposium during the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meeting in Calgary.

Please visit our website at http://iwhp.sogc.org for full contest rules and details.

We look forward to receiving your photo submissions!

Spotlight on AIP instructor Sinclair Harris

I am a practising midwife in Quebec, but recently retired from my permanent position in order to be more available for travelling and teaching. I have been an AIP instructor since 2011 and I have also been a midwifery emergency skills instructor for 10 years. I recently had the opportunity to travel to Haiti and Zimbabwe to deliver the ALARM International Program.

I consider myself very much an “experiential” learner. I have enjoyed the opportunity to visit developing countries, to learn from both my Canadian colleagues and the health professionals in the countries we visit. I enjoy the opportunities to share and exchange our personal experiences, but more particularly, I have appreciated, and have felt privileged to be able to experience a little, first-hand, the realities of life and work in the developing world – albeit in a rather protected way.

As a midwife, I have also welcomed the opportunity to work with health professionals from other disciplines in a collaborative way.

I have only participated in two courses so far, and both went very well. Something that stands out from my first visit, to Haiti, was the opportunity to participate as an observer in a workshop that was given to obstetricians and midwives on post-traumatic stress syndrome. The post-course evaluations indicated how much the participants appreciated this workshop. I was humbled by my visit to the little hospital at Croix-des-Bouquets and felt very privileged to meet the midwives there who accomplish so much with so little.

The AIP is a great example of a program supported by CIDA that is not tied to any specific national interests and is contributing in no small way to Canada’s commitment towards the Millennium Development Goal 5.

Sinclair Harris, RM
YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK:
CFWH funded research gets published

In June 2003, David Knoppert from Western University was awarded a $14,800 grant from the Duchesnay Fund for Better Use of Drugs During Pregnancy and Lactation to research “The Effect of Two Different Domperidone Dosages on Maternal Milk Production”. This study was published in the Journal of Human Lactation on May 3, 2012. Congratulations to Mr. Knoppert and his team of experts.

A sneak peek at the entertainment for our annual Gala at the ACM

Join us on Wednesday evening, June 12, at the Fairmont Palliser’s Crystal Ballroom for the CFWH “Healthy Women, Healthy Future Gala and Research Awards Ceremony”. It’s a night of glamour, glitz, fun and celebration: you can’t miss it . . . It’s an SOGC tradition!

You know her for her Céline Dion impression, and you’ve seen her on the Royal Canadian Air Farce, but did you know she has a passion for women’s health too? Join our host, Canadian comedic entertainer Jessica Holmes and come support your SOGC colleagues who will be competing their way to the top in this year’s ‘Calgary's got talent’ competition! Generating some healthy rivalry while fundraising through our “pay-to-vote” system, this will be a fun way to support our cause and help us select a talented winner. You will also be treated to a special performance by international star Sophie Serafino, violinist and CFWH volunteer.

This year’s CFWH original “Calgary’s Got Talent” competition is sure to impress! Cost per person: $200* each, medical students/ residents pay $100 each. (*Includes $50 charitable tax receipt)

For sponsorship opportunities and to purchase corporate tables and all other inquiries, please contact Chantal Sarkisian at csarkisian@cfwh.org. Limited space is available; please reserve your tickets in advance.

The CFWH acknowledges with gratitude the support of our returning Entertainment Sponsor, PharmaCare Laboratories, manufacturer of Promensil, Trinovin and Sambucol.

Thank you for supporting our Holiday Postcard Campaign

A total of $6,500 was raised through our annual Holiday Postcard Campaign by your generous donations and spirit of giving. The CFWH would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who made this possible.

We are still accepting competitors. Singing, dancing, strumming, juggling or poetry - we want it all! Please contact us if you have talent you’d like to share.