The SOGC welcomes 42 new AIP instructors

Notice: Annual Business Meeting

Statement of solidarity for our colleagues in Japan

ACM speaker spotlight: Dr. Danièle Behn Smith
Below is a tentative schedule for upcoming guidelines that will 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.

May
- Ultrasound Cervical Length Assessment in Predicting Preterm Birth in Singleton Pregnancies (clinical practice guideline)
- Magnesium Sulphate for Fetal Neuroprotection (clinical practice guideline)

June
- Ultrasound for Twin Pregnancies (clinical practice guideline)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Realities and Access to Services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis in Canada (joint policy statement)

July
- Maternity Leave in Normal Pregnancy (policy statement)

Did you know that the SOGC offers a series of public education brochures for your patients? These bilingual documents are reviewed by expert members and are based on the SOGC’s clinical practice guidelines. Each one describes the basic information that readers should know about a topic, common considerations and where to go for more information. They are an excellent resource to prepare patients for a medical appointment or to refer to after one.

The SOGC has recently reviewed how we provide and promote our public education materials, in order to ensure that we are able to generate adequate revenue to continue producing these high-quality, evidence-based documents. To this end, we are introducing the following changes for our line of public education brochures. These changes also bring us in line with how other similar organizations provide and promote their public education materials:

- The non-member price will be raised to $30 for a pack of 50. The reduced price for SOGC members will remain at $20 per pack.
- A printable PDF version of each document, which has previously been available from our website, will no longer be offered. **However, the content will still be available free online for the public (in html format) and packs of print brochures can be ordered as usual. This is being done to encourage health-care professionals and clinics to purchase print versions, while still providing free access to this information for patients.**
- We will also be producing ‘sample packs’ of our line of brochures, so that clinics and health-care professionals can order a small number of a variety of brochures, in order to further evaluate how these can address their practices’ needs. More information on these sample packs will be available soon.

Any of our public education brochures can be ordered online by visiting www.sogc.org.

**COMING SOON:**
Aboriginal sexual health website

Mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, aunts: strong, healthy women are the foundation of thriving, connected communities. Yet everyday, Aboriginal women face sexual and reproductive illnesses that can be prevented; Aboriginal mothers and their children experience poor health outcomes that can be eliminated. Since 2006, Aboriginal health has been a key pillar of the SOGC’s strategic directions, and the Aboriginal Health Initiatives Committee has been developing and implementing initiatives to improve health outcomes for our First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations.

One much-anticipated project which is about to see completion and be launched is an Aboriginal sexual health website. This site will have sections for SOGC members and health-care professionals, partners in Aboriginal health, and the public — providing Aboriginal-specific information on health topics, health policies and guidelines, and advocacy. This will be an excellent resource for health-care professionals striving to provide effective, culturally-sensitive care, as well as for members of the public looking for information on what is being done to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Please join us on June 21 — when we celebrate National Aboriginal Day and host the International Indigenous Women’s Health Symposium — for the launch of this site.

**NOTICE:**
SOGC Annual Business Meeting

All voting members (Ob/gyn members and Life members) are invited to attend the SOGC’s Annual Business Meeting. A hot breakfast will be served.

June 24
7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
The Bayshore Westin, Vancouver

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see you in Vancouver.

Notice: SOGC Annual Business Meeting
THE SOGC: As strong as our members

By Dr. André Lalonde, executive vice-president

Once again, our membership renewal phase is complete for another year. Thank you to all members who renewed early and those who used our online system. I encourage any lapsed members who have not yet renewed to consider doing so; the SOGC is only as strong as its membership.

The activities of the SOGC, the publication of the JOGC and the Society’s newsletter, and the production of public education materials such as websites and pamphlets are examples of services that are available to all of our members and also to your patients. Our websites — sexualityandu.ca, menopauseandu.ca, endometriosisinfo.ca and hpvinfo.ca — are well known and very useful for physicians in helping them to communicate evidence-based information to patients.

Guideline development and approval has changed how we practice obstetrics and gynaecology in Canada. Our guidelines, which are peer reviewed by the Executive Committee and Council, have gained national and international prominence and respect.

Recently, the SOGC has engaged in a strong relationship with the First Nations people of Canada. Our Aboriginal Health Initiatives Committee and staff are working to develop projects with concerned communities throughout the country. We are listening to their needs and we hope that we can help to resolve some of the serious health burdens and inequities that affect First Nations communities.

The Society’s Annual Clinical Meeting is one of the largest meetings in Canada of any specialty society; over 900 physicians participate each year. With over 100 faculty speakers, we provide an excellent ratio of faculty to delegates. Those of you attending the meeting will be able to learn about many different topics of interest to you. We aim to address the specific needs of physicians and their practices.

As you can see, this is an exciting time for the Society and we are making excellent progress. I would like to express my thanks to all of our volunteers on committees, including the Executive Committee and Council, for your tremendous contribution to the Society during the past year. I am always very pleased to have the opportunity to work with all of you and to make the SOGC what it is today: a well-respected specialty organization dedicated to improving the health of women, mothers and their families in Canada and around the world.

An opportunity for you to get involved

The Society’s success is a result of the efforts of all of its members — especially those who participate on committees. Approximately 400 to 500 of you contribute to the Society in this way during any given year. If any members are interested in joining any of our committees, please let us know and we will make sure that you receive due consideration.

Executive Committee
- President: Ahmed Ezzat, MD, Saskatoon
- Past President: Michel Fortier, MD, Québec
- President Elect: Mark Heywood, MD, Vancouver
- Executive Vice-President: André Lalonde, MD, Ottawa
- Treasurer: Ian R. Lange, MD, Calgary
- Vice-Presidents: Ward Murdock, MD, Fredericton Douglas Black, MD, Ottawa

Regional chairs, alternate chairs and other representatives
- Western region: Stephen Kaye, MD, North Vancouver Radha Chari, MD, Edmonton
- Central region: Margaret Burnett, MD, Winnipeg George Carson, MD, Regina
- Ontario region: Wendy Lynn Wolfman, MD, Toronto William Mundle, MD, Windsor
- Quebec region: Robert Sabbah, MD, Montréal Corinne Léclercq, MD, Victoriaville
- Atlantic region: Joan Crane, MD, St-John’s Krista Cassell, MD, Charlottetown
- Junior member: Christie Pylypjak, MD, Saskatoon
- Associate member (FP): William J. Ehman, MD, Nanaimo
- Associate member (RN-NP): Janet Walker, RN, Vancouver
- Associate member (RM): Kimberley Campbell, RM, Abbotsford
- APOG representative: Margaret Morris, MD, Winnipeg
- Public representative: Ms. Maureen McTeer, Ottawa
- Corresponding member: Senator Lucie Pépin, Ottawa
**Upcoming meetings**

**SOGC meetings**

67th Annual Clinical Meeting
June 21–25, 2011
Vancouver, BC

Quebec CME Program: Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
September 15–17, 2011
Montréal, QC

Quebec CME Program in Obstetrics
November 10–11, 2011
Montréal, QC

Ontario CME Program: Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
December 1–3, 2011
Toronto, ON

**Program schedule**

**Location** .................................. **Date**

Vancouver, BC ..................... June 19–20, 2011
(inc. Annual Clinical Meeting)

Kingston, ON ..................... August 26–27, 2011

Montréal, QC ...................... November 12–13, 2011
(inc. Quebec CME - offered in French)

Toronto, ON ..................... December 4–5, 2011
(inc. Ontario CME)

**Other meetings**

8th Singapore International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 2011
Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore
August 24 to 27, 2011
www.sicog2011.com

International Society for the Study of Vulvovaginal Disease
XXI World Congress
September 3–8, 2011, in Paris, France
International Postgraduate Course on Vulvar Disease
September 9–10, 2011, in Paris, France
www.issvd.org

RCOG 10th International Scientific Meeting 2012
Borneo Convention Centre, Kuching, Malaysia
June 5 to 8, 2012
www.rcog2012.com
info@rcog2012.com

**Members’ corner**

**Recent studies authored by SOGC members**

Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada survey

It is widely recognized that we need more First Nations, Inuit and Métis physicians in Canada, as evidenced by the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative which was implemented by the Government of Canada in 2004.

In order to effectively evaluate and respond to this need in health human resources, we must first establish an accurate baseline which reflects the current number of Indigenous physicians in Canada. Because the last recalled “counting” of Indigenous physicians occurred in the mid-1990’s, the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) is continuing its work from 2009 in disseminating policies and a survey to large audiences hoping to collect information which will give a more realistic number of Indigenous physicians practicing in Canada.

The SOGC supports this important initiative and encourages Indigenous physicians, residents or medical students to participate in this effort and complete the IPAC survey.

To complete the survey, please visit www.ipac-amic.org.

IPAC is gathering data on Indigenous Physicians, Residents & Medical Students in Canada

Count Yourself In

The SOGC welcomes new partnership with Enterprise and National Car Rental

The SOGC is pleased to announce that we have entered into a new partnership with National Car Rental and Enterprise Rent-A-Car as part of our affinity program. The benefits of this partnership are available to all SOGC members and we encourage you take advantage of this opportunity to receive preferred service and rates. All SOGC partnerships with affinity benefits for members can be viewed at www.sogc.org/about/join-benefits-affinity_e.asp.

To gain the benefits of SOGC membership
• Please join the Emerald Club by visiting www.nationalcar.ca and going to “Emerald Club”
• Sign up using the account name “SOGC” and contract ID number “XVC3113” to receive the following benefits:
  ▶ Line bypass: don’t wait in line – go straight to the counter or straight to your car
  ▶ Choose your own car
  ▶ Get an e-receipt
  ▶ Earn rental credits for free days at an accelerated rate or Frequent Flyer Miles
  ▶ Rent your way to higher levels! Earn Executive and Executive Elite levels through rentals
  ▶ Get preferred rates

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

Junior member: Dr. Christopher Andrew Lusty; Dr. Frederik Peeters

Junior member (FP): Dr. Emily Botting

Associate member (Students in health-care training): Ms. Melissa Ann Aragon; Miss Nathalie Bleau; Ms. Stephanie Burelle; Ms. Nydia Dorfeuille; Miss Lisa Draht; Ms. Laura Kinlin; Ms. Caroline Elizabeth Lee

Associate member (FP): Dr. Patricia Lea Connick; Dr. Kathy Greenberg; Dr. Jennifer Denise Lush; Dr. Kate Meahffey

Associate member (PHD): Dr. Pawel Mieczyslaw Bartlewski

Associate member (RN/NP): Ms. Andrea Curial, RN; Mrs. Carolyn G. Gammel, NP; Ms. Malisa Khongkham, RN; Ms. Suzanne Menard, NPPHC; Dr. Denise Moreau, RN; Ms. Ann Marie O’Rielly

Ob-byn member: Dr. Oleg Soroko
Collaboration and Advocacy in Residency (CARE) project

As defined by the CanMEDS 2005 Physician Competency Framework, the roles of ‘Health advocate’ and ‘Collaborator’ are powerful, rewarding aspects of being a physician, and are important components of becoming a medical expert. However, they often take a back seat to the scholarly and service demands of residency. As physicians, we have a responsibility not only to diagnose and treat our patients with skill and academic competence, but also to serve as community leaders and patient advocates. The Royal College’s CanMEDS framework has been designed to acknowledge this more holistic approach to physician training. Practical applications of how to incorporate these principles into residency training require initiative, guidance and creativity.

Collaboration & Advocacy in Residency (CARE) is an initiative that provides a framework for resident involvement in their communities.

The objectives of CARE
- To provide a service for the patients in your community or abroad
- To support and network with existing community programs
- To facilitate team work and volunteering amongst residents
- To foster opportunities for advocacy and collaboration within your program

All SOGC Junior Member Committee representatives from across the country are invited to organize a CARE project. This could be anything that will further women’s health: examples could include a project at a women’s shelter or on an antepartum ward, diaper drives, Christmas hampers, assistance with local youth programs or schools, or organizing a team for ovarian cancer or breast cancer walks. International women’s health also provides opportunities such as raising donations for sending girls to school, or providing maternity care supplies to a hospital.

The structure of all submissions should follow a template (available on the SOGC website), which includes the objectives, resources required, and results of your proposed CARE project.

Submissions should be sent to the Junior Member Committee by June 1, 2011.

The Junior Member Committee, the SOGC and the Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health will form an ad hoc committee to judge submissions. Successful projects will be awarded and recognized at the Society’s 2011 Annual Clinical Meeting in Vancouver. Feedback about the CARE project will be provided at the Junior Member Committee meeting in Vancouver, with the hope that the program can be improved and expanded next year.

If you have questions concerning the CARE project, please contact Dr. Ardelle Stauffer, Junior Member Committee past-chair, at acs256@mail.usask.ca, or Dr. Caroline Le Jour, Junior Member Committee Social Accountability Committee Chair, at Caroline.LeJour@albertahealthservices.ca.

To help you with your CARE Project, the following documents can be found on the ‘Junior Members’ section of the SOGC website, www.sogc.org:
- CARE project description
- CARE project template
- CARE project examples

The CanMEDS 2005 Physician Competency Framework outlines the roles that a physician plays: medical expert, communicator, collaborator, manager, health advocate, scholar and professional.

As health advocates, physicians responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities, and populations. As collaborators, physicians effectively work within a health-care team to achieve optimal patient care.

SOGC committees looking for resident representatives

A number of SOGC committees are looking for a resident representative. The goal is to provide residents with the opportunity to voice their point of view within these groups. The following committees are welcoming a resident member (PGY1 to PGY5):

Committee
- Ethics Committee
- Diagnostic Imaging Committee
- SOGC Informatics Committee

Committee coordinator
- Lillian Petrusa (lpetrusa@sogc.com)
- Renée Dupuis-Leon (rdupuisleon@sogc.com)
- Nikolas Leblanc (nleblanc@sogc.com)

If you are a resident interested in participating on one of these committees and would like more information, please contact the committee coordinator directly.
Starting in 2011, at the SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM) in Vancouver, the SOGC Junior Member Committee is asking ACM physician delegates to donate gently used clothing. This initiative is part of the Framework of "Essential Physician Competencies" within the CanMEDS Roles.

This charitable project will become a yearly activity and the gently used clothes will be donated to either a local organization, a shelter or an outreach program dedicated to providing health and social support to pregnant women and women of the local community. The donations will remain in the city where the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meeting is taking place.

Collection bins at the SOGC registration desk will be available for you to drop off your gently used item of clothing.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND BRING WITH YOU, AT THE ACM, A GENTLY USED ITEM OF CLOTHING!

What can be donated:

- Women’s clothing of the following categories:
  - Business/Career Attire
  - Every Day Wear
  - Maternity Clothes
  - Plus-Size (size 14 and larger)
  - Accessories (work-place suitable shoes, purses, scarves and belts)

YOUR DONATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Clothing need not be dry cleaned but must be in clean condition.

Please Donate
Menopause forums coming to a meeting room near you!

In April, the SOGC was back out on the road for another round of its very successful Menopause Public Forums. Events were held in Abbotsford, Richmond, Calgary, Winnipeg, Halifax, Ottawa and Laval. We have several forums still to come, with the following locations across the country having been confirmed:

- Brampton, ON – May 17
- London, ON – May 18
- Kingston, ON – May 18
- Ajax, ON – May 19
- Quebec City, QC (in French) – May 26
- Montreal, QC (in English) – May 31

This is the third series of forums sponsored by the SOGC, to provide Canadian women with the information they need about menopause and mid-life wellness, enabling them to make good decisions about their health. Presented by expert SOGC physicians, each presentation looks at all aspects of the menopause transition, its symptoms, diagnosis, and treatments that are safe and effective. It also focuses on what women can do to help themselves to avoid heart disease, breast cancer, osteoporosis, and other conditions that often arise as women age.

For a complete list of forum dates, locations and details, please go to menopauseandu.ca.

New resource

POWER Study: Reproductive and Gynaecological Health chapter released

The POWER Study (Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-based Report) has released the Reproductive and Gynaecological Health chapter of its comprehensive report on health inequities in Ontario. This new chapter provides critical information on patterns of disparities in care for women in Ontario that can be used to target improvement interventions. Care provided for reproductive and gynaecological health issues is deeply imbedded in social and cultural norms and may vary over time, socioeconomic status, across cultures and regionally. Because of the central role that pregnancy and childbirth plays in the lives of many women, a substantial proportion of this chapter deals with indicators related to prenatal care, the processes and consequences of childbirth and postpartum care and outcomes. The remaining sections of the chapter report on abortion, hysterectomy for benign conditions and sexually transmitted infection rates.

The POWER Study is producing a two-volume women's health report that will serve as an evidence-based tool for policy makers, care providers and consumers in their efforts to improve health and reduce health inequities among Ontario women.

This chapter is available for download at www.powerstudy.ca.

Statement of solidarity for Japan

The SOGC and its members would like to express our sadness and concern for the people of Japan following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami which struck on Friday, March 11. With a magnitude of 9.0, this was by far the biggest earthquake to have struck Japan. The catastrophe was exacerbated by at least 50 aftershocks and a massive tsunami which swept away homes, buildings, cars and people. The situation is even more precarious due to damage caused at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, resulting in increased levels of radiation in the surrounding area. These tragic events have left more than 6,500 people dead and another 10,300 missing, not to mention the hundreds of thousands who are now homeless and in despair, with little food, water or heating in near-freezing temperatures.

To our partners and friends at the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG), we extend a statement of solidarity. Our thoughts are with our Japanese colleagues, as they cope with the consequences of the earthquake, tsunami and damage to nuclear reactors. We commend the JSOG’s valiant attempts to address the many urgent health needs of the population.

We congratulate the JSOG’s quick response of providing much-needed information to the public about the location of health clinics around the affected areas, for sending necessary medical supplies, and for dispatching obstetricians and gynaecologists to provide medical support at hospitals in the affected areas, as well as for posting guidelines on the JSOG website concerning the dangers of radiation exposure to pregnant and lactating women.

The SOGC encourages its members, partners and friends to show their support to the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and to affected Japanese citizens by making a donation to the JSOG Earthquake and Tsunami 2011 Fund:

Bank Name: Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
Branch Name & Address: Shinjuku Dori Branch (Branch No. 661)
3-14-5 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022
Bank Account Number: 8214902
(Ordinary Deposit)
Swift Code: SMBCJPJT
Name of Beneficiary: JSOG Earthquake and Tsunami 2011 Fund

This chapter is available for download at www.powerstudy.ca.
ALARM INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN KENYA

The SOGC has been working in collaboration with the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and the Moi University School of Medicine in Kenya, the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda, and the obstetrics department of the University of Toronto, for the implementation of the ALARM International Program (AIP) in Eldoret, Kenya. In order to bring together the various partners working on this project, a Steering Committee for the ALARM International Program in Eldoret (SCAIPE) was formed back in November 2008 to help design, guide, prepare, implement and ultimately take over the initiative.

The goal of this initiative is to contribute to Kenya’s national plan to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity by improving the standard of Emergency Obstetric Care through training and by building the capacity of a group of Eldoret instructors so that they may provide continuing medical education throughout their region.

To date, there has been training coverage in excess of 80 per cent of the obstetrics staff of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, with 120 professionals trained during three courses. In addition, approximately 50 potential Kenyan instructors have been identified, of which a core group of five have had real experience in teaching the AIP alongside Canadian and Ugandan instructors.

The Kenyan members of the SCAIPE have been surprised by the enthusiasm for the course. Collectively, the Kenyan participants have produced some of the highest scores on record so far, and their motivation is apparent to everyone.

Using the same parameters of the pre-intervention data collection, Dr. Rachel Spitzer of the University of Toronto’s obstetrics department plans to reassess the reproductive health unit of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in order to detect changes. The SOGC believes that the implementation of the practices promoted in the AIP will save lives and prevent morbidity.

In an effort to further extend the practices promoted in the AIP throughout the Eldoret region, a second phase of intervention reaching out into the surrounding community has begun.

The SOGC welcomes 42 newly trained AIP instructors

From April 8 to 10, the SOGC’s International Women’s Health Program hosted an ALARM International Program (AIP) instructor course in Gatineau, Quebec. With the last course offered in 2007, this opportunity had long been anticipated by many. The SOGC is delighted to have had so many members express interest in becoming volunteers of the AIP and we welcome the new addition of 42 instructors.

Participants of the AIP instructor course included 23 ob/gyns, 11 medical doctors, five registered midwives and three registered nurses. Also present were two ob/gyn AIP instructors from Haiti and Guatemala, who helped to shed light on the realities of delivering the AIP in countries like their own.

During the course, participants reviewed the main topics covered in the 4th edition of the AIP, including management of labour, newborn care and resuscitation, the sexual and reproductive rights framework and maternal death audits. Through plenary sessions, practical workshops and role-play, participants reviewed their own skills and knowledge and also learned new ways for transferring this knowledge to health professionals working in low-resource settings.

Overall, participants felt that they received valuable training and are eager to apply their new knowledge in the field. The course also allowed for networking opportunities and participants were able to learn more about each other’s work during a “5 à 7” on Saturday afternoon.

In addition, 18 members, plus one international partner and one IWHP staff, participated in an additional training session for emergency c-sections, the Structured Operative Obstetrics (SOO) course offered by the Canadian Network for International Surgery on April 11th, following the AIP Instructor course.

The SOGC would like to thank all those who participated in the ALARM International Program Instructor course and we look forward to working closely with our new volunteers in the near future.
LadySystem® Vaginal Cones: a Fast-Acting, Easy and Discreet Solution to Treat or Prevent Urinary Stress Incontinence

- Indicated for women with a weakened pelvic floor, which may cause for example:
  - Urinary stress incontinence (USI)
  - Moderate prolapse
- Effective reeducation combining active and passive (biofeedback) pelvic floor muscle contractions

- LadySystem® therapy performed discreetly at home
- Noticeable improvement in pelvic muscle tone after 6 weeks
- Increased motivation to comply with pelvic floor exercise
- Progressive and sustainable resolving of USI symptoms

How Women Using LadySystem® Vaginal Cones Describe their Benefits

- Fast-acting
- Easy to use at home and require hardly no effort
- Discreet, light and gentle

It is recommended to perform the LadySystem® therapy 15 minutes, twice a day, for 3 months.

LadySystem® is available at the pharmacy counter with or without prescription.

For Medical Information: 1 888 666-0611
medicalinfo@duchesnay.com
Clinical guidelines and studies available on: www.ladysystem.ca
You may be thinking to yourself: “It's only May. Why are they talking about this now? October is a long way away.” This is actually very similar to the challenges we face with the National Pap Test Campaign. Because cervical cancer develops over time, many women think that this is a problem they need only worry about later and that a Pap test can wait. To help fight cervical cancer, we are asking you to register to hold a Pap test clinic in your community today. In October, we will be asking Canadian women to drop by your clinic to get their Pap test.

In partnership with the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC), the SOGC is once again reaching out to you to take a stand against cervical cancer by hosting public Pap test clinics in your community during National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week (October 23 – 29, 2011).

The overall purpose of the campaign is to increase awareness of cervical cancer and the importance of prevention. Knowledge, screening and vaccination are key to help reduce the number of women dying needlessly from this largely preventable cancer.

With millions of women in Canada who still do not get regular Pap tests and/or their HPV vaccination, this campaign seeks to make it as compelling and as convenient as possible for women to get tested. In addition, the clinics provide an opportune moment and setting to engage patients in a conversation about vaccination.

By participating in this campaign, you will help improve access to Pap testing for women, improve the follow-up on and access to the treatment they may require, and increase the uptake of vaccination against HPV – one of the most common reasons for abnormal Pap test results.

Last year, we had 153 clinics across the country with representation in 10 provinces, 1 territory and 91 cities. This was an amazing increase over approximately 40 clinics organized in 2009. With the continued support of several other medical associations and provincial partners, we hope to once again increase the reach and impact of our campaign by having clinics in all Canadian provinces and territories, in all major Canadian urban centres and with an increased presence in rural and remote areas where the needs of underserved populations can better be met. But this can only be achieved if you become actively involved in this campaign.

Don't count on luck to save you from cervical cancer.

This is the overall theme for this year’s National Pap Test Campaign. In 2010, our patient questionnaire included a question about which key message they felt would best motivate others to have a Pap test done. The statement selected by a majority of respondents was: “Over 400,000 women have abnormal Pap tests each year.” With this in mind, we concluded that participants were compelled by the numbers and the level of risk associated with cervical cancer. With a continued need to emphasize that cervical cancer is preventable, we also opted for a campaign that allows us to focus on the existence and merits of preventive action: knowledge, screening and vaccination.

In addition to the statistics contained in the poster (refer to image in the text box below), it is important to note that, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC):

- 15% of women have never been screened and 30% have not been screened in the last 3 years.
- Cervical cancer deaths have decreased by 60% over the past 30 years, mainly due to Pap screening programs.
- Pap screening programs are different across each province in Canada and vary according to socioeconomic status and region, with Canada’s aboriginal population having the poorest access.

Last year's patient questionnaire, completed by 729 patients, confirmed some of PHAC’s statistics and provided the following additional insight:

- 38% of patients reported having no family doctor
- 35% had not had a Pap test in over 3 years (under-screened) or were never screened
- 35% of respondents said the Campaign had a high impact on their decision to get a Pap test.

“What are the odds?”

Think getting cervical cancer won’t happen to you?

You need to know that:

- Each year in Canada, 400,000 women receive an abnormal Pap test result
- Of these, 1,300 to 1,500 are diagnosed with cervical cancer
- Of these, almost 400 will die of the disease
- Vaccination is 99% effective at preventing the types of HPV that cause 70% of all cases of cervical cancer.

Because odds are … it might happen to you. Don’t count on luck to save you from cervical cancer.

Get your Pap test today. Pap tests save lives.

Help us improve the odds—register online to hold a Pap test clinic in your community!
International Indigenous Women’s Health Symposium

This year, on National Aboriginal Day, we are pleased to combine the International Women’s Health Symposium with the work of the SOGC’s Aboriginal Health Initiative, as we explore Indigenous women’s health experiences at home and around the world, under the theme “Providing culturally-safe health services – an individual responsibility and a community experience.”

As health professionals, we each have a responsibility to provide quality care to women. Working on health initiatives in low-resource countries often brings a sudden recognition of the need to adapt delivery of services to suit cultural differences. In order to achieve effective results that are safe and accepted by the women receiving the care, health programs must take into account the local and historical contexts and welcome community participation. Similar learning opportunities are presented to us here in Canada, within both urban and rural Aboriginal populations, where patients are seeking high quality medical care while striving to maintain traditional beliefs and customs around health and wellbeing.

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT:
Dr. Danièle Behn Smith

The SOGC is proud to welcome Dr. Danièle Behn Smith, an Eh-Cho-Dene/Metis/French Canadian physician, as a keynote speaker for the first-ever International Indigenous Women’s Health Symposium.

Dr. Behn Smith is an assistant professor in the department of family medicine and director of education for the Indigenous Health Initiatives Program at the University of Alberta, and is also on the board of directors for the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada.

In 2007, she participated in a 13-part documentary series, Medicine Woman, during which she had the opportunity to visit and learn from traditional healers both in Canada and abroad. Her travels started in her native community of Fort Nelson, British Columbia and took her to Ireland, Wales, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Namibia, Australia, and Fort Qu’apelle, Saskatchewan, among other places.

“Traveling around the world to meet healers and medicine people was a sacred gift,” says Dr. Behn Smith. “I was deeply affected both personally and professionally by the teachings I received and the ceremonies in which I participated. I came to better understand myself as an Indigenous woman and an Indigenous physician. The experience inspired me to work at the interface of Western and Indigenous medicines; sharing the stories that were gifted to me with the intention of supporting culturally-safe health-care provision for Indigenous individuals, families and communities.”

Dr. Behn Smith will be speaking to the roles and responsibilities of medical practitioners and medical educators in the delivery of culturally-safe care and to the need to work with Indigenous communities to actively support decolonization and overall improvements in health outcomes.

“There’s a momentum to work together. I think it goes back to the fact that we have such different perspectives. Our professions are rooted in such fundamental concepts and principles that we probably have a lot to share and benefit from each other.”

Join us at the International Indigenous Women’s Health Symposium to learn more about Dr. Danièle Behn Smith and her experiences, and to hear from a variety of other exciting and innovative speakers.
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22**

**Wednesday at a Glance**

07:00 – 07:30 Breakfast (exhibit area)
07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast Symposium 1: Reproductive Aging and Delayed Child Bearing Risk
08:30 – 15:30 Post-Graduate (PG) Full-Day Sessions
PG 1: Society of Canadian Colposcopists - SCC
PG 2: Canadian Society of Pelvic Medicine - CSPM
PG 3: Minimally Invasive Gynaecology: Essentials and Innovations (AM: Hysteroscopy, PM: Laparoscopy)
PG 4: Risk Management in Gynaecologic Surgery
08:30 – 12:00 Post-Graduate (PG) Morning Sessions
PG 5: CANPAGO - Adolescent Reproductive Health Care
PG 6: Breech Delivery: Theory to Simulation (limited space)
PG 7: Mental Health Issues in Pregnancy
PG 8: 2nd Stage Management: How Far Should We Push the Second Stage?
PG 9: Prevention of Preterm Birth
PG 10: Hypertension in Pregnancy
PG 11: Obstetrical Emergencies
10:00 – 10:30 Health Break (exhibit area)
12:15 – 13:15 Luncheon Symposium 1: Common Errors and Remedies in Managing Postpartum Hemorrhage
13:30 – 17:00 Post-Graduate (PG) Afternoon Sessions
PG 12: CANPAGO - Dooms of Moans and Groans: Acute Pelvic Pain in the Adolescent
PG 13: Breech Delivery: Theory to Simulation (limited space)
PG 14: Ultrasound in the Delivery Suite
PG 15: REI: Update In Gynaecology Practice
PG 16: Management of the 1st Trimester Issues
PG 17: Improving the Perinatal Health of Aboriginal Women
PG 18: Midwifery Course
PG 19: Update: Common Problems in Gynaecology
13:30 – 17:00 Video Presentation
15:00 – 15:30 Health Break (exhibit area)

**Social Events**

18:00 – 19:30 Opening Reception
19:30 Council Dinner (by invitation only)

**Join us for the Opening Reception**

Join us for the Opening Reception at the beautiful Vancouver Aquarium, an excellent networking opportunity where you can meet new and old colleagues from across the country. This year’s event will be held at one of Canada’s best-loved attractions. Families and participants are invited to attend this complimentary event as part of their registration package, and shuttle buses will be available from the Westin Bayshore.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23**

**Your social highlight of ACM 2011**

The Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health will host a special evening of dinner, celebration and music. Please join us as we recognize our supporters, thank our sponsors and congratulate the winners of our awards, fellowships and grants.

Tickets, which include dinner and the show, are $150 per person. Corporate tables and sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more details and to purchase tickets, visit the “Events” section at www.cfwh.org, where you can find the registration form. Contact Ms. Denyse Campeau at dcampeau@cfwh.org or 613-730-4192, ext. 238, for sponsorship opportunities. We hope to see you there!

**Memorable music to your ears…**

The Foundation is proud to share this intimate evening with Stephan Moccio, a pianist, composer, producer, conductor and recording artist who has been recognized internationally during the past 15 years. Mr. Moccio has over 30 Platinum and Gold awards for his work with some of the world’s top artists, including Josh Groban, Sarah Brightman, Olivia Newton-John and Celine Dion. He recently wrote and produced the theme song “I Believe” for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics.

**Thursday at a Glance**

07:00 – 07:30 Breakfast (exhibit area)
07:30 – 09:00 International Symposium 1
09:00 – 10:30 International Symposium 2: Diversity across Cultures - Counseling for Contraceptive Success
10:30 – 11:00 Health Break (exhibit area)
11:00 – 12:15 Best Practice Sessions A (BPS)
BPS 1: Predicting Pre-eclampsia
BPS 2: Endometriosis
BPS 3: Pharmacology of Lower Tract Symptoms
BPS 4: Transfer & Transport in Obstetrics
BPS 5: Medico-Legal Cases: Obstetrics - Guided by the Guidelines
BPS 6: Surviving the Student in Your Office
BPS 7: Gestational Diabetes
BPS 8: Management of Labour
BPS 9: STI - 2011 Update
BPS 10: Virtual Patient Case Based Learning System
BPS 11: Upcoming MOC Program Changes
BPS 12: Building Bridges and Managing Conflicts
13:30 – 15:00 International Symposium 3: Expected and Observed Impact of HPV Vaccination
15:00 – 15:10 Health Break (exhibit area)
15:00 – 18:00 Oral Abstract Presentations

**Social Event**

18:30 CFWH Social Evening

**You are invited to the Healthy Women, Healthy Future Gala and Research Awards Ceremony**

An intimate evening featuring Stephan Moccio

**Canadian Foundation for Women's Health**

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Annual Awards Ceremony and Presidential Installation

The spotlight shines on achievement and appreciation at this year’s annual Awards Ceremony and Presidential Installation… achievement in scientific innovation and appreciation for a job well done. Honours are first-up on the agenda, with prizes being awarded for Regional Achievement, Best Abstract in oral and poster categories, as well as the prestigious President’s Award and Distinguished Service Award for excellence in obstetrics and gynaecology. Colleagues will be recognized for advancing the practice of ob/gyn, and in doing so, advancing health care for women at home and abroad.

The installation of the SOGC’s new President follows, but not before we take this special opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to outgoing President Dr. Ahmed Ezzat for his tenure as President of the SOGC. With another successful year on the books, we will hear from the SOGC’s new President, Dr. Mark Heywood who will share his vision and priorities for the year ahead. You are cordially invited to the Awards Reception immediately following the ceremony, where you can offer your personal congratulations to those being recognized.

Resident Fun Night

Participants of the Resident Professional Development Program, Junior members and medication students are invited to take part in the complimentary Resident Fun Night — an opportunity to have some fun at one of the most popular social events of the meeting.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Saturday at a Glance

07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast Symposium 2:
SOGC / CIHR – Maternal Health Issues
09:00 – 10:30 International Symposium 8:
SOGC / AHRC – The Quest for Pregnancy: Educating Patients on Lifestyle Factors Affecting Fertility
10:30 – 11:30 International Symposium 9:
SOGC / GOC – Preventing Ovarian Cancer: The Role of the Obstetrician-Gynaecologist
11:30 – 12:30 Stump the Professor
12:30 End of ACM

Residents are invited to participate in the ‘Dress for success’ charitable challenge. Please see page 7 of this newsletter for more information.

STUMP THE PROFESSOR

The Junior Member Committee will host this ever-popular session, providing two residents with the opportunity to present case studies in the hopes of stumpng our expert panel of professors. The case presentations will test the clinical knowledge and expertise of the professors “single-out” for this unique session, which is always entertaining and draws a large crowd.
Advances in Labour and Risk Management
Sunday, June 19 & Monday, June 20

The two-day ALARM program examines all aspects of intrapartum and immediate postpartum practice in Canada, reviewing and maintaining professional competencies. ALARM’s main focus is to improve the care provided to women during labour, their fetuses and newborns, as well as their families. This two-day course offers case-based plenary sessions, hands-on workshops and a comprehensive examination process.

The course is limited to 40 participants with a faculty ratio of approximately five participants to one faculty member—this ensures a highly interactive and educational course. For this reason, we recommend you register early.

For further information, please visit our website at www.sogc.org or contact Nathalie Martel (ALARM Program Coordinator) at 1-800-561-2416, ext. 326 or ALARM@sogc.com.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Duchesnay Inc. and Ferring Pharmaceuticals (confirmed at time of print).

Post-Graduate Course 1 –
Colposcopy Update
Wednesday, June 22

The SCC invites you to join us in Vancouver

The Society of Canadian Colposcopists (SCC) has organized an exciting Post-Graduate Course 1 – Colposcopy Update, to be delivered on June 22 at the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meeting in Vancouver.

This year, we have two guest speakers. The first is Dr. Diane Harper, a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, of biomedical and health informatics, and of community and family medicine at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Dr. Harper has assumed a prominent role in the prevention of cancers associated with HPV, and will be speaking about HPV vaccines—shared decision making implementation options for cervical cancer protection and a review of data supporting cervical cancer screening.

Our second guest speaker is Dr. Walter Prendiville. Dr. Prendiville is chairman of the department of gynaecology at AMNCH (Tallaght Hospital) and director of the colposcopy services there. As well, Prof. Prendiville is the secretary general of the International Federation of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology and is president elect of the Irish Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology. Dr. Prendiville will be speaking about the evolution of colposcopy and optimizing treatment of CIN.

At the end of the session, you will be able to:

- Outline a decision approach for the two types of HPV vaccinations.
- Better understand the controversies of cervical screening.
- Understand how to best follow patients who have had fertility sparing treatment for cervical cancer.
- Understand the changing role of colposcopy and optimal treatment of CIN.
- Better recognize vulvar dermatosis.
- Recognize common colposcopic patterns of dysplasia.

We hope to see you there!
Patti Power, MD, SCC Program Director

Laparoscopic Hysterectomy Program
Saturday, June 25 & Sunday, June 26

The Society of Minimally Invasive Gynaecology (SMIG) will offer a two-day Intensive Laparoscopic Hysterectomy Program following the SOGC’s 2011 Annual Clinical Meeting. World-renowned faculty will host this educational event, developed based on feedback from members and including valuable hands-on training, from June 25th to 26th at False Creek Healthcare Centre in Vancouver.

Choose 1 or 2 Days...

SOGC members will have the opportunity to choose between one-day or two-day programs filled with lectures, videos, hands-on laparoscopic suturing and, for the first time, cadaveric models for laparoscopy!

Learn more about this opportunity, including the course objectives and schedule for each day, by visiting www.smig.ca.

NOTE: Space is limited and first priority is allocated to SOGC Ob/Gyn members. Residents, fellows and non-members must contact Sylvie Paquette at spaquette@sogc.com or 1-800-561-2416, ext. 266, to check availability and fees.
Prevegyne™ controlled-release vaginal tablets:

+ Effectively release ascorbic acid to the vaginal pH level
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Treatment cycle: 1 vaginal tablet q.h.s. for 6 days.
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