Upcoming clinical practice guidelines

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.

**January**
- Delayed childbearing risks

**February**
- Genetic considerations for a woman’s annual gynaecological examination

The SOGC at the Assembly of First Nations Health Forum

The SOGC’s Aboriginal Health Initiative is pleased to report on the success of the SOGC booth at the Assembly of First Nations Health Forum, held in Ottawa from November 7 to 9.

As part of our ongoing efforts to increase the SOGC’s presence within the Aboriginal community, this was an excellent opportunity to promote our relevant programs, as well as both AHI and SOGC information websites and public health materials. The forum also allowed us to connect with delegates and other exhibitors to exchange information, resources and ideas about how to better promote and improve First Nations sexual and reproductive health.

The tradeshow was very well attended, with close to 1000 delegates from Aboriginal communities across Canada, including chiefs and council members, and community health care workers.

Read more about recent AHI activities on page 14.

SOGC wins major award at family medicine forum

The SOGC was recently recognized for having the “Most Educational Booth,” as voted by delegates attending the 2011 Family Medicine Forum of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, held in Montreal in early November. A considerable number of the forum’s 3,566 attendees participated in its exhibits passport contest, ranking the exhibitors in three categories: Best Educational Booth, Most Innovative Booth, and Best Booth Representatives.

“We have so many great public education and patient consultation products to offer,” says Linda Kollesh, the SOGC’s membership and subscription services officer, who was present at the forum. “The health-care professionals we meet are usually very excited to learn about the resources we have to help their patients and their practices – from websites to brochures, to guidelines and courses.”

As well, non-ob/gyn physicians, residents and students are sometimes unaware that they can be a member of the SOGC, or what the benefits are. SOGC representatives at events like the Family Medicine Forum let them know that by being a member they profit from a full range of benefits including free subscription to the JOGC and reduced registration fees for continuing medical education. At this year’s event, over 30 new members were recruited to the Society!

Read more about the relationship between the SOGC and family physicians on page 11.

Congratulations to SOGC staff Tamara Malashenko (left), Lillian Petrusa (second from right) and Linda Kollesh (right) for contributing to the success of the booth; they are pictured here receiving a ribbon from a CFPC representative.
In another twist, one of our ALARM courses is being held on a cruise in July – ‘ALARM at Sea’ will take you in luxury to Alaska, combining learning with true relaxation.

In addition to the above, we will also be helping you to navigate the Royal College’s accreditation system by making it easier for you to record and get credit for your activities with us.

And, did you know that the SOGC office is undergoing renovations?

For the past 6 years, the SOGC has occupied the basement, second and third floors of an auxiliary building on the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada’s (RCPSC) property. The first floor has been used by the RCPSC.

When the SOGC’s lease on the third floor came up for renewal recently, the RCPSC decided to repatriate that space for its own use. After reevaluating our own requirements, the SOGC has decided to undertake renovations of the second floor and basement, which the Society has leased until 2019. This will enable us to accommodate the entire organization on these floors. Other possible solutions, including a complete or partial relocation to a different facility, were deemed less desirable for economic and logistic reasons.

By using our space more effectively, we will save money on rent and operating costs, and create a brighter, more modern facility.

Renovations are expected to be completed over the winter, and the office will remain open to members as usual throughout the process. All contact information remains the same.

What’s happening at the SOGC this year?
By Dr. Vyta Senikas,
SOGC acting executive vice-president

Welcome to 2012! There is much to be excited about at the Society this year.

New directions
Two major changes bring a chance for us to ensure that our activities are effectively and efficiently addressing the challenges of our members, as well as women and their babies.

First of all, a new set of strategic directions for 2012 to 2017 will be published shortly, replacing our seven guiding principles which have ‘expired’. This has been an exciting process, involving the consultation of members and stakeholders. There are some subtle but important changes which I believe will help the SOGC and its members effectively prioritize and act in order to improve the health of women in Canada and abroad.

As well, our Executive Committee and Council are proceeding with the selection process for a new executive vice-president. We have been working with a consultant to help define the job description and the search is expected to begin shortly, with the results being announced in the early spring.

Exciting opportunities for continuous professional learning
Based on feedback from members, we have particularly exciting venues for two of our continuing medical education (CME) programs this year. There is still time to register for the International CME event in beautiful, safe and exclusive Aruba, and the format of this year’s program allows for more time off, as well as great flexibility for both food and travel.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
DEADLINE: Monday, January 23, 2012
For full details on the 2012 ACM abstract program, visit our website at www.sogc.org.

Council
2011–2012

Executive Committee
- President:
  Mark Heywood, MD, Vancouver
- Past president:
  Ahmed Ezzat, MD, Saskatoon
- President-elect:
  Douglas Black, MD, Ottawa
- Acting executive vice-president:
  Vyta Senikas, MD, Ottawa
- Treasurer:
  Ian R. Lange, MD, Calgary
- Vice-presidents:
  Ward Murdock, MD, Fredericton
  Diane Francoeur, MD, Montréal

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  Radha Chari, MD, Edmonton
- Central region:
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- Public Representative:
  Ms. Micheline Bouchard
- 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
We’ve listened to you

Based on our latest survey, Aruba was the most recommended destination by you, our member—and we can see why. Aruba has consistently great weather and is safe with residents that are renowned for their warm smiles, friendly demeanor and zest for hospitality. For more information on Aruba, visit its website at www.aruba.com. We will be hosting this event at The Westin, a five star resort that is part of the Starwood Hotels and Resorts program, and have allowed for more flexibility for you to personalize your vacation in terms of booking flights, family entertainment, selecting food, choosing activities, etc.

Let us take care of you

For travel information and reservations, contact Tanya Bellavance at Carlson Wagonlit Travel by telephone at 1-800-465-4040 or 613-238-4040 extension 2236 or by email at tbellavance@carlsonwagonlit.com.

Details coming soon…

Details regarding this continuing medical education program, including online registration for this CME, will soon be posted on our website. Visit www.sogc.org for the most up-to-date information.

SOGC meetings

International CME
Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
February 27 – March 2
Aruba

West/Central CME
Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
March 22–24
Banff, Alberta

68th Annual Clinical Meeting
June 20–24
Ottawa, ON

Quebec CME
Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
September 27–29
Quebec City, QC

Quebec CME in Obstetrics
For family physicians, nurses and midwives
November 15–16
Montréal, QC

Ontario CME
Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
December 6–8
Toronto, ON

ALARM
Program schedule

Location .......................... Date
Regina, SK  .................... February 4–5
Fredericton, NB ............... February 17–18
Banff, AB,  ......................... March 25–26
 (in conjunction with the West/Central CME)
Ottawa, ON  ................. June 18–19
 (in conjunction with the Annual Clinical Meeting)
ALARM at SEA  ............... July 22–29
 (Celebrity Century Alaska Cruise)
Montréal, QC  .............. November 17–18
 (in conjunction with the Quebec CME)
Offered in French

Other meetings

RCOG 10th International Scientific Meeting 2012
Borneo Convention Centre, Kuching, Malaysia
info@rcog2012.com

This CME program is offered in English. The International CME is an accredited Continuing Medical Education (CME) program by the SOGC.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada
730 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7
Tel: 1-800-561-2416 or (613) 730-4192  Fax: (613) 730-4314 events@sogc.com  www.sogc.org
West/Central CME Program

Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

In association with the Alberta Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (ASOG)

March 22–24, 2012

Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff, Alberta

The SOGC presents:

ALARM
AT SEA

Learn in Luxurious Surroundings
Ship: Celebrity Century
July 22–29, 2012
CPD Fee: $995*
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Dr. Togas Tulandi recognized

SOGC member Dr. Togas Tulandi recently received the Distinguished Surgeon Award from the Society of Reproductive Surgeons, presented on October 18 in Florida. Based at McGill University, Dr. Tulandi is a pioneer in advanced endoscopic operations including laparoscopic hysterectomy and tubal anastomosis, and in microwave endometrial ablation.

As a clinical-researcher, Dr. Tulandi has produced over 250 publications, 300 abstracts, 60 book-chapters, and 11 books, and is an editorial board member and regular reviewer of many journals. He is also active in several national and international societies, including the SOGC, where he recently spearheaded the development of a video abstract program for our Annual Clinical Meeting.

WELCOME, new members

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

**Junior member:** Dr. Jan Stefan Eperjesi; Dr. Tara E. Hopper; Dr. Scott McCauley; Dr. Ariel Rachelle Mendlowitz

**Junior member (FP):** Dr. Erin Chan; Dr. Karrin Chan; Dr. Kristen Alyssa Farn; Dr. Joanie Goudreau; Dr. Jane Hofer; Dr. Najlaa Houssaini; Dr. Anna Isbister; Dr. Lesley Kelly; Dr. Jean-Philippe Labelle; Dr. Caroline Massicotte; Dr. Navya Mysore; Dr. Marie-Claire Thomassin; Dr. Margot Wilderdiijk; Dr. Carola Zambiana

**Associate member (Allied health-care professional):** Dr. Fatemeh Parvinnejad

**Associate member (FP):** Dr. Heather Austin; Dr. Jessica Beaton; Dr. Amy Brennan; Dr. Donna Margaret Cameron; Dr. Guyta Carrier; Dr. Jennifer Chad; Dr. Marie-Hélène Clément; Dr. Carlo Di Gregorio; Dr. Norah Duggan; Dr. Kimberly Dykin; Dr. Katie Forfar; Dr. Renelle Gautreau; Dr. Susan Goldstein; Dr. Mahjabeen Hussain; Dr. Jennifer Johnstone; Dr. Nadia Kaced; Dr. Josiah Lowry; Dr. Cleo Mavripi; Dr. Brian Milligan; Dr. Siobhan Muldowney; Dr. Krista Piebiak Patterson; Dr. Louise Quintal; Dr. Effie Savoy

**International member:** Dr. Mohammed Al-Sunaidi; Dr. Amal A. Badi; Dr. Diana Belinda Baxter Aguirre; Dr. Afshaneh Sahraeeian;

**Associate member (RN-NP):** Mrs. Annette J. Elliott Rose; Ms. Stephanie Guindon

**Associate member (RM):** Ms. Stephanie Gingerich, RM

**Associate member (Students in health-care training):** Ms. Kathryn E. Cossar; Ms. Véronique L. Couture; Mrs. Tara E. Dawn; Ms. Riki Dayan; Ms. Katrina De Luna; Ms. Laura Marie Drudi; Mr. George Malcolm Gray; Miss Cassandra Greenberg; Ms. Noura Hassan; Ms. Leanne Hewitson; Miss Marina Ibrahim; Mr. Brent Jim; Mr. Andrei Karpov; Ms. Erin Knight; Ms. Jeanne Laflamme; Mrs. Crystal Ann Marko; Mr. Scott McCoach; Ms. Meghan McKeever; Miss Jennifer Nwabianii Ehiwario; Ms. Jessica Diane Pearsall; Ms. Naida Ramji; Ms. Rebecca Lois Renkass; Ms. Brooke Saunders; Miss Stephanie Sublett; Ms. Nazlee Tanya Tabarsi; Ms. Petra Wildgoose

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**Members’ corner**


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**Dr. Togas Tulandi**

Dr. Togas Tulandi is a pioneer in advanced endoscopic operations including laparoscopic hysterectomy and tubal anastomosis, and in microwave endometrial ablation. As a clinical-researcher, Dr. Tulandi has produced over 250 publications, 300 abstracts, 60 book-chapters, and 11 books, and is an editorial board member and regular reviewer of many journals. He is also active in several national and international societies, including the SOGC, where he recently spearheaded the development of a video abstract program for our Annual Clinical Meeting.
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The SOGC would like to recognize the following staff members who achieved significant service milestones over the past year:

**10 years**

**Geneviève St-Gelais, project coordinator**

Gen is involved in administering several SOGC programs, including our endometriosis and menopause public education initiatives.

Besides travelling around the country for open forums on important health topics, she is currently coordinating the creation of a public education website focused on pregnancy, expected to launch this spring.

“What I like the most about my job is that after 10 years I’m still learning,” says Gen. “The tasks and projects I work on constantly change and evolve which makes my work very interesting. I’ve also met a lot of amazing people here at the SOGC and have made friendships that will last forever.”

**8 years**

**Joanne Brown, database officer**

Have you signed up for an SOGC event recently? Ordered an SOGC product? Subscribed to one of the Society’s publications? It’s Joanne who oversees the SOGC’s large and diverse database of members, event registrations and publication subscriptions.

“I like that my job allows me to deal with many aspects of the SOGC,” says Joanne. “My daily interaction with both the staff and members is always a pleasure.”

**Jean-Sébastien Lalonde, IT support coordinator**

J.S. is part of the team responsible for procuring and maintaining the computers, printers, phones, servers and technologies that facilitate the SOGC’s daily activities. Always ready to help, J.S. is an invaluable resource to both staff and members.

“I enjoy working with my peers and especially the IT department — we have the SOGC renovation coming up, which should keep us very busy,” says J.S. “I am proud of what the SOGC does for women’s health — our growth and exposure is unbelievable!”

**Janie Poirier, junior member committee officer**

Janie coordinates the SOGC’s largest working group - the Junior Member Committee, which meets once a month - as well as all SOGC initiatives relating to ob/gyn residents, which includes the Resident Professional Development Program and charitable projects like the Dress for Success campaign. She is also officer for the Promotion of the Specialty Committee, which oversees the SOGC’s Medical Student Program.

“What I enjoy most about working at the SOGC are my co-workers, because we form a friendly group of dedicated employees,” says Janie.

**Dr. Vyta Senikas, acting executive vice-president**

Since she came to the SOGC, Dr. Senikas has been overseeing the production of the JOGC and our highly-respected clinical practice guidelines, as well as the provision of the Society’s continuing medical education events and courses. In her current role as acting executive vice-president, Dr. Senikas’s responsibilities have expanded to include leadership of the organization as a whole.

“How time flies,” says Dr. Senikas. “So much has changed since I started here, and there is so much ahead of us.”

**5 years**

**Nancy Bickford, project manager**

As part of the communications division, Nancy leads several SOGC programs, including our endometriosis and menopause public education initiatives. She also provides writing and business development support for the organization.

**Kimberley Keoughan-Slowey, senior corporate coordinator**

Kim supports the activities of the executive vice-president, as well as members of the Executive Committee and Council, through coordination of scheduling, correspondence, and research and presentation preparation. Kim also facilitates the SOGC’s participation in several partner programs, such as the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the National Wait-Time Alliance, and coordinates several SOGC committees.

**Becky Skidmore, medical research analyst**

Becky’s main responsibility is to support the research needs of the SOGC’s Obstetrical Content Review (OCR) Committee, which updates evidence-based content for the ALARM, ALARM International and MORE® programs. She frequently assists other committees in the development of new clinical practice guidelines, and also contributes to various education programs and partnerships.

You may know her best as the person behind the SOGC’s Scientific Review, a monthly member benefit that highlights recently-published literature.

Becky feels well-rewarded when she sees how the OCR Committee has matured during her time here. “Last year I gave an oral presentation on the OCR methods and accomplishments at the Cochrane Symposium in Vancouver,” says Becky. “It was really rewarding to showcase what the SOGC has done for evidence-informed obstetrics practice in Canada and elsewhere.”

**3 years**

**Christine Butt, communications/promotions and special projects officer**

Christine promotes the work of the International Women’s Health program through development of various communications documents, maintenance

*(continued on page 10)*
(continued from page 9)

of the IWHP website, creation of advocacy initiatives and coordination of special events.

“I love the fact that my position offers so much variety,” says Christine. “It never gets repetitive and allows me to continuously learn and challenge myself. Contributing to the important work of the IWHP is very rewarding.”

Jean Richard Dortonne, project manager
Jean Richard Dortonne was the manager of the SOGC’s QUARITE program, which measures the impact of our ALARM International Program in developing countries. He is currently transitioning to leading the SOGC’s Haiti reconstruction program; Jean Richard is now stationed in that country and is organizing 13 modified ALARM International Program courses for medical students, as well as supporting the implementation of SOGC initiatives.

Marion Lapham, order clerk and archivist
An archivist by training, Marion spent her first years with the SOGC building, maintaining and updating the Society’s archival database, as well as working closely with the Museum of Healthcare Kingston on ob/gyn-related projects. With a recent reduction in the SOGC’s archival activities, Marion has also assumed responsibility for managing client requests for the Society’s education materials.

“One of the highlights of working to preserve the history of the SOGC has been the opportunity to work with some of the history-makers themselves,” says Marion.

Hélène Langlois, project manager
Hélène manages the Society’s QUARISMA program, which assesses the impact of professional training on the reduction of C-section rates in 16 Quebec hospitals. Hélène is also involved in the delivery of AIP courses around the world.

Tamara Malashenko, program and marketing manager
Tamara coordinates the SOGC’s Contraceptive Awareness Program, which includes administration and promotion of the popular sexualityandu.ca public education website, and also provides marketing support for other communications programs.

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With 224 acute beds and an average of 1,200 deliveries per year, Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) serves an immediate population of 125,000 and a secondary referral population of over 300,000. The department enjoys state-of-art operating rooms, a new perinatal unit with single room maternity care, and a Level II Special Care Nursery. The department trains UBC R4/5 Obstetrician/Gynecology residents, and NRGH is a UBC Postgraduate Family Practice Residency Program site.

Nanaimo is a growing, vibrant and family-oriented community with proximity to Victoria and Vancouver. With one of the best climates in Canada, Nanaimo provides year-round access to a wide array of recreational activities including downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, kite boarding, windsurfing, mountain biking, hiking, running and golfing. Nanaimo is the ideal location to strike the perfect balance between your personal and professional life!

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Brenda Warren, Manager Physician Recruitment
Vancouver Island Health Authority
Email: physicians@viha.ca • Fax: 250.716.7747
Focus on: Family physicians and the SOGC

“I enjoy working in the public education and communications division,” says Tamara. “Everybody really wants to help and have an impact on women’s health — it’s a great place to be.”

Chantal Sarkisian, CFWH development coordinator

Chantal originally joined the SOGC as a senior administrative assistant in the Society’s communications division. There, she honed her project management and production skills before transitioning last year to apply her entrepreneurial skills in the role of development coordinator with the Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health. She is responsible for donation processing, fundraising, social media, communications, event planning and the research awards, fellowships and grants.

“What I like most about my job is the SOGC philosophy — flexibility, creativity and innovation is highly encouraged amongst staff,” says Chantal. “At the CFWH, fundraising demands a lot of hours and man power, and we’re just a small team of two. However at the end of each day, I know I have made a difference to someone and I know that I have contributed to an important cause: women’s health. You had better get used to me, because I am here to stay!”

Natalie Wright, director of communications and public education

Natalie leads the SOGC’s seven-person communications division, which administers several public education programs and initiatives, and is responsible for management of ongoing member communications. Another important part of her role is coordinating media and public relations for the Society.

“At the SOGC, not only do I get to indulge my love for communication, but I’ve been able to become very personally invested in the subject matter,” says Natalie. “My division gets to highlight all the great work that is being done by the organization and its members. And . . . there is so much left to be said.”

The SOGC has over 600 family physician members; while this may be a relatively small portion of Canada’s general practitioners, it nevertheless accounts for 16 per cent of our Society’s membership — and is the basis for an active and mutually-beneficial relationship that exists between the SOGC and family physicians.

“I haven’t been involved in another specialty society that has been so interested in the general practitioner’s voice,” says Dr. William Ehman, the representative for family physician members on the Society’s Council. “There is a demonstrated respect for the value of multidisciplinary involvement at the Council and committees levels.”

Dr. Ehman’s role is to represent the interests of member — and non-member — family physicians in Canada. An important aspect of developing any of the Society’s programs or products, including our clinical practice guidelines, is incorporating the general practitioner’s experience and considering what tools or information would be valuable to him or her.

Alternatively, family physician members and the SOGC itself also have a role in communicating in the other direction, sharing information about the SOGC and its programs with other family physicians.

“The SOGC offers its members fantastic opportunities to remain knowledgeable about what’s happening in obstetrics and gynaecology,” says Dr. Ehman. “This helps us to better understand the obstetrical and gynaecologic issues faced by our patients, as well as assisting us all in working collaboratively.”

The ALARM program and MORE™ have been very highly valued, both by family physician residents and practicing family physicians, and the same for the JOGC, monthly literature reviews and news article compilations available to members, and patient education websites and material.

Where do we go from here?

“Care for women in Canada has been and will continue to be enhanced by active and knowledgeable contributions by family physicians in the work of the SOGC,” says Dr. Ehman, who considers general practitioners the medical stem cells of the health-care system, present throughout the country in rural, urban and remote areas, ready to differentiate where needed.

Family practitioners in Canada face several challenges in relation to obstetrics and gynaecology, from keeping up-to-date on the latest recommendations for care to overcoming the perception that the risks of performing obstetrics outweigh the benefits, to developing and managing appropriate systems for obstetric backup.

“That’s one particular area where a well-integrated system amongst family physicians, obstetricians, midwives and nurse practitioners could help,” says Dr. Ehman. Many general practitioners, particularly new grads, aren’t necessarily prepared to undertake the same kind of on-call time demands that previous generations were.

“Of course, we deliver babies! That’s what we’ve always done. One thing that we’re working to do is to try to promote different models of delivery of care — clinics, or shared call, or even hard call — which will enable more of us to participate in this valuable aspect of health-care provision.”

In the ideal world, says Dr. Ehman, all health-care practitioners should be working together without silos of practice.

Are you a family physician that wants to get involved?

The SOGC welcomes participation of family physicians on committees and for other activities. Please contact an SOGC staff member to discuss ways you can play a part.

Dr. William Ehman has practiced as a family physician in Nanaimo, B.C., for over thirty years, after receiving his medical degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He is a clinical assistant professor in the department of family practice at the University of British Columbia, and a member of the maternity and newborn care committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada. At the SOGC, he sits on the Obstetrical Content Review and Western Regional committees, as well as representing family physicians on Council and as the chair of the Family Physicians Advisory Committee. He is a consultant and trainer for the MORE™ Program, has taught and contributed to the ALARM program and is a consultant for Perinatal Services BC.
Looking back at 5 years of partnership in Burkina Faso

With the SOGC’s CIDA-funded Partnership Program coming to an end, the International Women’s Health Program fondly looks back at the memories, the accomplishments, and the friendships gained along the way. This is the last in a series of four articles which will examine the capacity-building program’s impact in partner countries.

Burkina Faso is a francophone country located in West Africa; despite being one of the least developed countries in the world, its leadership has taken strong positions on the status of women and is working hard to improve health care access and quality. The country has also taken a staunch stand against female genital mutilation and is working to eradicate the practice.

The Société des Gynécologues et Obstétriciens du Burkina (SOGOB) was the most recent professional association to be added to the SOGC’s Partnership Program. The formal launch of the Partnership Program in Burkina Faso occurred in September 2007 with the first visit by an SOGC delegation led by Dr. Michel Fortier and Dr. Céline Bouchard. As with the SOGC’s other partner associations, our goal was to strengthen the SOGOB’s organizational capacity, ultimately in order to improve women’s sexual and reproductive health and reduce maternal and newborn mortality in the country.

Since then, the SOGOB has transformed from an association whose focus was primarily on programs that would benefit its members to one that manages a larger portfolio of interventions which aim to benefit adolescents and women in Burkina Faso. Although the SOGC has only been working with the SOGOB for five years, the association has achieved many notable successes during this time:

- Formation of a national secretariat
- Provision of technical support to the Ministry of Health for the development and implementation of national strategies and programs related to reproductive health
- Support for the organization of a regional conference for the professional health associations of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)
- After the PMNCH conference, assumption of the coordination for regrouping the professional health associations of Burkina Faso in 2009
- Becoming a member association of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)

A presentation by Dr. Michel Akotionga, president of the SOGOB, at the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meeting in 2010, with Dr. Dorothy Shaw in the foreground.
The SOGC has been very impressed by the progress made by the SOGOB in such a short time frame, especially in regards to its leadership in the area of cervical cancer prevention,” says Liette Perron, the SOGC’s Partnership Program manager.

The SOGOB will continue to receive support for its efforts to strengthen organizational capacity and to promote better practices in maternal and newborn health, as they participate in the FIGO-LOGIC Initiative for Maternal and Newborn Health. The SOGC is also pleased to continue working closely with the members of SOGOB by supporting their efforts to implement a project for the prevention of cervical cancer in Burkina Faso.

The knowledge exchange and mentorship of the Partnership Program has led to an increased credibility and recognition for the SOGOB’s technical expertise within the field of sexual and reproductive health, and it is well on its way to becoming a champion of women’s health for its country.

One of the advantages of joining the SOGC’s Partnership Program later than the previous partner countries is that the SOGOB was able to benefit from learning about the past successes and challenges of other associations that experienced a similar transition. Delegates from the SOGOB were present at the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meetings, where they were able to exchange ideas with other partner countries and also share the particular situation and challenges of their country with SOGC members during the International Women’s Health Symposia.

The SOGOB is also currently leading the development of an AIP module which will address the management of potential complications related to birth and pregnancy.

Formation of a team of certified instructors for delivery of the ALARM International Program (AIP) throughout Burkina Faso

Support for national cervical cancer prevention campaigns in the country

Initiation of work in the area of maternal mortality audits, through the FIGO-LOGIC Initiative for Maternal and Newborn Health

More recently, establishment of a partnership with the SOGC, JhPIEGO and the SEMAFO Foundation for an intervention that aims to increase access to screening of cervical cancer and treatment of precancerous lesions in Burkina Faso

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• Initiation of work in the area of maternal mortality audits, through the FIGO-LOGIC Initiative for Maternal and Newborn Health
• More recently, establishment of a partnership with the SOGC, JhPIEGO and the SEMAFO Foundation for an intervention that aims to increase access to screening of cervical cancer and treatment of precancerous lesions in Burkina Faso

One of the advantages of joining the SOGC’s Partnership Program later than the previous partner countries is that the SOGOB was able to benefit from learning about the past successes and challenges of other associations that experienced a similar transition. Delegates from the SOGOB were present at the SOGC’s Annual Clinical Meetings, where they were able to exchange ideas with other partner countries and also share the particular situation and challenges of their country with SOGC members during the International Women’s Health Symposia.

The SOGOB is also currently leading the development of an AIP module which will address the management of potential complications related to birth and pregnancy.

The knowledge exchange and mentorship of the Partnership Program has led to an increased credibility and recognition for the SOGOB’s technical expertise within the field of sexual and reproductive health, and it is well on its way to becoming a champion of women’s health for its country.

“The SOGC has been very impressed by the progress made by the SOGOB in such a short time frame, especially in regards to its leadership in the area of cervical cancer prevention,” says Liette Perron, the SOGC’s Partnership Program manager.

The SOGOB will continue to receive support for its efforts to strengthen organizational capacity and to promote better practices in maternal and newborn health, as they participate in the FIGO-LOGIC Initiative for Maternal and Newborn Health. The SOGC is also pleased to continue working closely with the members of SOGOB by supporting their efforts to implement a project for the prevention of cervical cancer in Burkina Faso.

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Aboriginal Health Initiative presents at the 2011 Canadian Conference on Global Health

In June 2011, the SOGC published a Joint Policy Statement affirming the sexual and reproductive health rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and youth, which was endorsed by 13 national Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations. The SOGC’s Aboriginal Health Initiative (AHI) has since taken hold of a number of opportunities to further promote the messages of this statement, including presenting its message at the 2011 Canadian Conference on Global Health, held in Montreal in November.

Being one of the only presentations at the conference dedicated to Aboriginal women’s health, the session was very well attended and prompted discussion about the lack of focus on Aboriginal health, particularly as delegates engaged with one another about how to advance health equity in the 21st century, the conference theme.

Speaking to the issue of culturally-safe care, Ms. Alisha Nicole Apale, the SOGC’s AHI coordinator, highlighted some of the steps being taken by members of the AHI Committee and asked delegates - many of whom were health professionals, researchers and policy-makers - to consider our contribution to culturally-safe care and women’s equity here in Canada, as well as internationally. The SOGC looks forward to continued engagement throughout 2012 on the recommendations of the statement, as we continue to focus on building awareness, strengthening our partnerships, and promoting equity in the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and youth.

Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week 2011

On December 1, World AIDS Day, the SOGC’s Aboriginal Health Initiative joined national Aboriginal organizations, government partners, health-care providers, and community leaders in the official launch of Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week. Hosted by the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN), the launch focused on community-based responses to the circumstances that underlie HIV infection rates, including intolerance and discrimination.

In support of the National Aboriginal Youth Council on HIV and AIDS (NAYCHA), the SOGC was very pleased to offer financial support for two youth who attended an HIV training workshop during AIDS Awareness Week.

“Over-representation of Aboriginal youth in HIV test reports and AIDS diagnoses strongly suggest a need to lower HIV and AIDS levels among Aboriginal youth in Canada,” said Jessica Yee, executive director of the National Youth Sexual Health Network, a partner organization of the SOGC.

At the SOGC, we see an important role for women’s health professionals in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care among Aboriginal youth, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. Over the past few months, the SOGC’s AHI has been working with CAAN to discuss the development of an HIV/AIDS project that would explore and promote the delivery of culturally-safe care for HIV positive Aboriginal women, particularly during pregnancy.

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Promensil (80 mg) Decreases Hot Flash Frequency by Almost 75%

(Promensil Double Strength 80 mg of standardized isoflavones extracted from red clover hay - NPN 80016071)

Prospective Randomized Double-Blind, Placebo Controlled Trial (with crossover of trial and placebo groups)

Trial Group Results Mean Decreases

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<th>Hot flash frequency</th>
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<th>Kupperman Index</th>
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<td>Group A received 80 mg of Promensil daily for the first 3 months, followed by a 7 day washout and 3 months of placebo.</td>
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For a copy of the full study, please contact: jamie.hanna@pharmacarecanada.ca or go to www.promensil.ca.
The Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health recently hosted its first annual walk to celebrate pregnant women and support research addressing the challenges of childbearing. On the clear, cool and crisp morning of Sunday, October 23, the CFWH and Ottawa-area businesses came together to raise funds for this great cause, with all proceeds from this event going towards the CFWH’s research award, fellowships and grants program.

The nine-kilometre walk – one kilometre for each month of pregnancy – started and ended at the CFWH office in Old Ottawa South, taking in the scenic Rideau Canal along the way.

“We were very pleased with the success of this inaugural walk,” says Denyse Campeau, executive director of the CFWH. “In total, over $4350 was raised through event sponsorship, corporate donations, participant pledges, registration fees and an auction that took place over Facebook. Though this was still less than our original goal, we look forward to seeing the walk grow over the years to come – maybe even expanding to other Canadian cities!”

Thank you to event supporters boom99.7, Hair Republic Salon, Stella Luna Gelato Café, Lululemon Athletic, Church and Dwight, Bridgehead, Culligan, Jerome Photography, Keenan Health Centre, Shoppers Drug Mart, Metro Glebe, The Clothes Secret, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the SOGC.

The CFWH is looking for volunteers to help launch the first satellite ‘Bumps on the Road’ walk in Toronto as well as next year’s walk in Ottawa in October 2012! Contact csarkisian@cfwh.org for details.

Congratulations Dr. Jennifer Blake

Dr. Jennifer Blake, chair of the Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health and chief of obstetrics and gynaecology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, was recently named named one of Canada’s ‘Top 25 Women of Influence’.

The inaugural ranking by Women of Influence Magazine aims to provide national recognition to Canada’s top female influencers of the year. By shedding light on leading women, the award strives to inspire future growth and success from generations to come.

In addition to her roles with the CFWH and at Sunnybrook, Dr. Blake is a professor and associate chair of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Toronto and vice chair of the Genesis Research Foundation.

The Women of Influence award recognizes Dr. Blake for her leadership in the field of health sciences. The award also honours women in business, non-governmental organizations, professional services and the public sector.

Candidates were ranked by quantifiable and measureable data on their influence in their current roles, industry and beyond. The official ranking of the Top 25 will be released in the Winter Issue of the Women of Influence Magazine.

See the Top 25 list at womenofinfluenceinc.ca.

Call for research proposals: 2012 CFWH awards, fellowships and grants

A message to all SOGC members:
The Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health and its partners are pleased to promote and support research initiatives in the field of women’s health. We are calling for your proposals for the following awards, fellowships and grants that will be available in 2012. Please note that the submission deadline is February 15, 2012.

**The CFWH General Research Grants**
**The Duchesnay International Elective Fellowships for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Residents**
**The Dawn Walker Grant** (new)
**The GSK Educational Grant** (new)
**The W. Garfield Weston Foundation Awards**

For more information on these programs, including the application process, please visit the “Research and Funding” page at www.cfwh.org or email Chantal Sarkisian at csarkisian@cfwh.org.
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