



SOGC News

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

WINTER 2001-2002

EDITORIAL

PRESENTATION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Draft Legislation on Assisted Reproductive Technologies

Dr. André Lalonde, SOGC Executive Vice-President

On October 23, 2001, I had the pleasure of addressing the Standing Committee on Health on the subject of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs). I briefly highlighted the SOGC's membership profile, mission, values and its international reputation before delving into the presentation, a summary of which follows.

The SOGC submitted a detailed brief on the draft legislation and we limited our oral presentation to three areas: our support for the establishment of a regulatory body and our recommendation for a shared model of governance; our expertise in the establishment of standards of practice and the development of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines; social justice issues, including access to new reproductive technologies.

The proposed regulatory body

New reproductive technologies are continually arising and evolving and their benefits, ethics, and safety will require ongoing evaluation. The establishment of a regulatory body is therefore essential to monitor and analyze the evaluation of these techniques, the collection of data, the dissemination of information and to determine future research requirements.

The SOGC thus commends the government of Canada for proposing the establishment of a regulatory body to oversee the implementation of the proposed legislation. As recommended by the *Working Group on Reproductive and Genetic Technologies* in its recent report, the Society also strongly endorses a shared model of governance that would include representatives from government, medical colleges, professional associations, service providers and researchers.

These stakeholders would be in a unique position to oversee and administer the legislative and regulatory framework with

regards to assisted human reproduction while ensuring the coexistence of guidelines and standards of practice established by medical and professional associations. A shared model of governance would ensure an equilibrium between government guidelines that provide broad direction and requirements, and medical guidelines and standards of practice that provide more specific direction and details to service providers.

We do recognize that the shared model will result in a slower pace of decision making and implementation of policies, guidelines, etc. due to the multiple participants involved. However, we believe that this will be outweighed by the benefits of involving all relevant stakeholders.

The establishment of standards of practice and development of guidelines

The SOGC clinical committees have developed, over the years, more than 100 clinical practice guidelines, policy statements and committee opinions on a diverse range of topics. Organizations such as the SOGC have a key role to play in the establishment of standards of practice and the development of guidelines which are considered "state of the art" guidelines for excellence in patient care.

We recommend that the development of guidelines and standards of practice in the field of assisted reproductive technology remain the responsibility of the SOGC and the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS), two professional associations who have well-established reputations in this area of expertise, and that funding be available for their development and distribution.

Social justice issues

While today's technologies may well open

Medical treatment should be accessible regardless of geography or economic status.

the door to new possibilities, we emphasize that a great deal more can be done to prevent infertility through education, information sharing and dialogue. One need only look at the statistics to be convinced: at least 20% of female infertility is caused by sexually transmitted diseases, and this may rise in the future due to a known increase in chlamydial disease in our current teen and early 20's population in Canada.

The SOGC will soon launch a national initiative to promote sexual and reproductive well-being. One of its goals is to provide

continues on page 2

December is Thyroid Awareness Month, and December 10th is Human Rights Day.

See related articles on pages 2 and 3.

IN THIS ISSUE

ALARM Courses 2002	4
Endoscopic Courses 2002	5
ICME 2002 Scientific Programme	5
New Look for SOGCNet	7
Contraception Awareness Project	7
Junior Member News	8-9
Canadian Foundation for Women's Health	10

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FROM THE EVP'S DESK

Women's Rights

Dr. André Lalonde

The SOGC has been actively developing its Website to address issues on sexual coercion and sexual well-being. The SOGC is promoting sexual reproductive rights both nationally and internationally.

All physicians should ensure that we respect women's sexual and reproductive rights in our offices, in our hospitals, and amongst friends and family. The single and most important tragedy in Canada is not the international terrorists or chemical warfare but the violence directed towards women in their workplace, in their every day life and in their families. Every week, a woman's life is threatened or one woman is killed by a close friend or partner.

How can we help reduce the level of verbal, psychological, and physical violence? Can we make changes so that aggressive behavior can be channeled into positive action? We must look at our own values and behavior and

then participate with the larger community to help address these issues, to promote dialogue and self-help groups for people who have a tendency to be violent. As physicians, obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, nurses and health care workers, we must include in our medical questionnaire, questions about relationships and violence. We may not be able to or have the training to deal with these issues but by being open and showing women that we are willing to listen to their problems, this will allow for a strong partnership with women to reduce violence.

The SOGC welcomes your suggestions on how we can best ensure our workplaces and offices are more woman friendly, and how we can begin to address violence against women during pregnancy and in their everyday life.

Draft Legislation on Assisted Reproductive Technologies

continued from page 1

men and women with the tools to adopt safer sex practices thus preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. We therefore recommend that funding be available for the implementation of national educational initiatives on the prevention and treatment of infertility.

Currently, the provision of treatment for infertility is not equitable across the country and women in one province have greater access to treatment options than women in other provinces. In Canadian society, infertile couples suffer medical and psychological consequences if infertility is not treated. Even if the treatment is unsuccessful, it allows the couple to cope better and resolve their infertility issues. Therefore, medical treatment, if desired, should be accessible regardless of geography or economic status. While we acknowledge that not all infertility treatment options can be publicly funded, the adoption of national standards would at least provide equitable access for all Canadians. As such, we recommend a wide consultation process that will include the public to discuss which

health investigations and technologies should be covered by public insurance.

We also recommend the development of an annual report card to monitor the progress of prevention and treatment of infertility.

In closing, I would like to state that the SOGC upholds, above all else, that it is the right of every single Canadian to have universality, equality of access, efficiency, and effectiveness in reproductive health care.

The Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada wishes to thank the following companies for their generous support in the Endoscopic Skills Workshop: A Risk Management Program.

Karl Storz Endoscopy

Microsulis Canada Ltd.

Tyco (Valley Labs)

Laborie Medical Technologies Inc.

Ultramed Inc.

Circon Corporation

SOGC News is produced and published by the SOGC through an educational grant from Berlex Canada Inc.

Familial Gestational Hyperthyroidism

Dr. Carolyn Lane, Chair, MD Advisory Committee

It was thought that in recognition of thyroid awareness month, our readership would be interested in a unique case history on thyroid function or malfunction as it relates to our patient population. A brief description of familial gestational hyperthyroidism follows.

The symptoms of hyperthyroidism in pregnancy may be missed due to the similarity to symptoms common in many pregnancies; amenorrhea, sweating, increased heart rate, dyspnea, skin and hair changes, insomnia and mood changes. Thyrotoxicosis should be considered when the symptoms are significant, there is an associated cardiac arrhythmia or weight loss occurs, with or without nausea and vomiting in pregnancy. When uncontrolled, the condition is associated with a greater risk of low birth weight and prematurity in the infant and may be associated with an increased rate of stillbirth and congenital anomalies. Mothers with uncontrolled hyperthyroidism in pregnancy are at greater risk of gestational hypertension and cardiac failure.

Due to its similarity in sequence and structure to the TSH molecule, HCG has long been implicated in hyperthyroidism of pregnancy. Since it is a weak stimulus of the TSH receptor, high levels of HCG such as those found in trophoblastic disease, may result in hyperthyroidism.

In 1998, Rodien et al. published a report on familial gestational hyperthyroidism. A young woman and her mother were repeatedly hyperthyroid while pregnant with normal HCG levels. Unlike most cases of hyperthyroidism in pregnancy, there was no autoimmune component to the disease process and no issues of lack of compliance with prescribed thyroid regimes. Both women were euthyroid when not pregnant.

The culprit was found to be a gene mutation that resulted in an abnormal TSH receptor. HCG found at normal physiological levels in pregnancy were permitted to bind very effectively to the receptor, resulting in stimulation of thyroid hormone release and hyperthyroidism. Antithyroid drugs were used for treatment

and dosage decreased later in pregnancy as HCG levels decreased. Unlike other causes of hyperthyroidism in pregnancy, this unusual situation was associated with hyperthyroidism exclusively while pregnant and did not require any therapy postpartum.

References:

Mandel S., Cooper D. Antithyroid Drug (ATD) Therapy of Hyperthyroidism in Pregnancy. *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* Volume 86, Number 6, June 2001.

Rodien P, Bremont C, Sanson ML, Parma J, Van Sande J, Costagliola S, Luton JP, Vassart G, Duprez L. Familial gestational hyperthyroidism caused by a mutant thyrotropin receptor hypersensitive to human chorionic gonadotropin. *N Engl J Med*; 339:1823-6, 1998.

Ipp E., Westhoff T. Hyperthyroidism in Pregnancy. *Cyberounds, MD Consult*, October 2001.

Season's Greetings from the Staff at SOGC

The SOGC National Office Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season, and all the best in 2002.

By the same token, you can now put a face to a name, especially where new employees are concerned.

Left to right are, sitting: Denise Massey, *Clinical Practice Guideline Coordinator*; Debra Leduc, *Webmaster*; Lisa Spencer, *Public Education Coordinator*; Kathleen McGovern, *Research & Policy Analyst*; Sylvie Paquette, *Director, Events Management & Q.A.*; Karen MacGowan, *Executive Assistant (Canadian Foundation for Women's Health)*; Marla Landers, *Administrative Assistant to the CPD*; Liette Perron, *Program Officer for International Women's Health (SIWH)*.

Standing: Dr. André Lalonde, *Executive Vice-President*; Linda Desjardins, *Chief Financial Officer*; Louise Sutherland, *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist*; Geneviève St. Gelais, *Administrative Assistant to Corporate Division*; Lyne Chrétiën, *Executive Assistant to the A EVP*; Victoria Howe, *Program Assistant to SIWH*; Debra Knecht, *Finance Assistant*; Michael Hopkinson, *Information Systems Manager*; Louise Tremblay, *Public Education and Communications Coordinator*; Carole



Brault, *Program Officer for CME*; Linda Kollesh, *ALARM Course Coordinator*; Mary Anne McCormick, *Administrative Assistant to the CPD*; Sylvie Séguin, *Project Assistant for Communications Division*; Dr. Ken Milne, *Associate Executive Vice-President*; Danielle Bélanger, *Membership Coordinator*; Eugénie Doré, *Director of Corporate Division*; Lynn Bray-Levac, *Translator/Communications Specialist*; Christiane Ménard, *Director, Communications and Government Relations*.

Absent: Isabelle Denis, *Meeting Coordinator*; Renée Dupuis-Léon, *Q.A. Coordinator*; Nataly Rondeau, *Executive Assistant to the EVP*; Hélène Séguin, *Finance Administrative Assistant*.

12th West/Central CME

Rimrock Resort Hotel
Banff, Alberta
February 7-9, 2002

It's not too late!

BOOK NOW

15th International CME

Grand & Club Marival Nuevo Vallarta
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico
March 3 - 7, 2002

Check out our Website for programme updates and watch for the Preliminary Programme in the mail soon.

Carlson Wagonlit Travel (Verdun)
Montreal, QC

ICME line: (514) 287-1144

Toll Free: 1-800-280-9967

Fax: (514) 843-5680

Toll Free: 1-877-426-1100

e-mail: ICME@carlson-vv.com

Website: www.carlson-vv.com/sogc

West/Central CME 2002 – Banff

Isabelle Denis, Meeting Coordinator and Carole Brault, CME Programme Officer

Rendez-vous in the Canadian Rockies and Banff National Park from February 7 to 9 for the West/Central CME 2002 at the Rimrock Resort Hotel. Banff is a wonderful place to combine business with pleasure. It offers plenty of boutiques and restaurants, relax in a hot spring or spa, ski, observe nature, poke through museums and heritage sites, etc. You will be charmed by this location!

Preterm PROM, HIV in Pregnancy, Thromboembolic Disease in Pregnancy, Pediatric Gynaecology: Straddle Injuries, Cystoscopy for the Gynaecologist, Prediction of Shoulder Dystocia, Herpes in Pregnancy: Management Issues, Contraception Counselling Skills Workshop, Stem C Research, Changing Trends in Obstetrical Delivery: From Epidemiology to Ethics are just some of the topics that will be presented in February. Since the preliminary programme was mailed last month, many speakers have been confirmed and topics were added to the already interesting programme. Please visit our Website at www.sogc.org for updates on the scientific program. Don't miss it!

The hotel reservations deadline is earlier this year!

Don't forget to book your reservations before the Christmas Holidays (**Dec. 21, 2001**). Superior: \$155 (single), \$160 (double), Deluxe: \$177 (single), \$182 (double) Alberta: 1-800-372-9270, Canada and USA: 1-800-661-1587

New hotel cancellation policy

Please note that guests cancelling their own reservation, in whole or in part, after the cancellation date (December 21, 2001) will not receive a refund of their advance deposit for one night. Guests cancelling before December 21, 2001 will not be penalized.

58th ACM 2002 - Winnipeg from June 20-25

Isabelle Denis, Meeting Coordinator

The members of the ACM Planning Committee, the Host Committee and the SOGC staff are working hard to prepare a memorable experience in Winnipeg! Look for the ACM Preliminary

Programme and the Winnipeg Tourism Brochure in January. Check your mail for detailed information and visit our Website for updates.



Advances in Labour and Risk Management



All year round, there is a lot to see in Regina! Museums and historical sites are delightful, interesting and fun.

For more information, visit www.tourismregina.com.

Vancouver has much to offer such as museums, parks, views, architecture and shopping just to name a few.

For more information, visit www.vancouvertourist.com.



Get to know the *joie de vivre* of Montreal. This cosmopolitan city offers legendary dining, museums, performing arts, and fashionable shops just to name a few.

For more information, visit www.tourism-montreal.org.

2002 COURSES

REGINA, SK - February 9-10

VANCOUVER, BC - April 5-6
+ INSTRUCTORS' COURSE
April 7

MONTREAL, QC - April 20-21

TORONTO, ON - May 3-4

WINNIPEG, MB - June 19-20

EDMONTON, AB - September 28-29

TORONTO, ON - November 17-18

TORONTO, ON - December 8-9



ICME Scientific Programme-Educational and Informative

Sylvie Paquette, Director, Events Management & Q.A.

The SOGC ICME Planning Committee has met several times to plan an informative and valuable scientific programme. Highlights are posted on the Web at www.sogc.org.

With members' needs in mind, the comments from last year's ICME were evaluated and discussed during the planning committee meetings for this programme. Please note the programme now begins on **Sunday, March 3, 2002.**

As in the past, the programme will be presented over five (5) days with a combination of various subject matters presented in different formats. Sunday, March 3 will highlight topics such as Sex at Menopause, HRT in the Older Woman, Fetal Health Surveillance and Preterm PROM. Corresponding interactive breakout sessions will also be available. Monday, March 4 will feature subjects such as the Overactive Bladder, VBAC and Our President's presentation on "Changing Trends in Obstetrical Delivery: From Epidemiology to Ethics". Monday is also the day for the three concurrent sessions: Advanced Gynaecology, Obstetrics and

Office Gynaecology. Always popular, these sessions offer a smaller environment so as to foster interactive discussion among participants. These same concurrent sessions repeat on Wednesday, March 6 to offer you the benefit of selecting two separate areas of interest and need. Tuesday, March 5 is a shorter day and the programme will focus on smaller interactive breakouts with topics such as Medico-legal Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and the Contraceptive Counselling Skills Workshop. Wednesday's plenaries will cover topics such as Menorrhagia, Intrauterine Growth Restriction and The Place of Low Dose HRT, along with the repeat concurrent sessions from Monday's programme.

Thursday, March 7 will feature topics on Osteoporosis, Hyperprolactinemia and SERMS. The breakout sessions will offer URO-TVT, Osteoporosis, Diabetes and the Contraceptive Counselling Skills Workshop. Many hours of planning went into this programme to ensure that members' needs are met!

The Grand Marival is the perfect venue for this event, with great meeting rooms as well as options available for family members such as the Kids Club. There truly is everything and anything available here. Direct flights are available from major cities in Canada so contact Carlson Wagonlit today to book your package. Don't lose out - there's not much time left!

Endoscopic Skills Workshop: A Risk Management Program

Programs for 2002

Program designed for specialists who want to improve their surgical knowledge and risk management skills

Upcoming program dates:

Toronto, April 19 & 20

Vancouver, May 24 & 25

Montreal, October 25 & 26
(french)

Toronto, December 6 & 7

Benefits of the Program

- ✓ A two-day hands-on course structured on adult learning principles
- ✓ Basic and complex procedures with surgical approaches
- ✓ A pre-course and post-session test
- ✓ Clinical skill-testing demonstration stations
- ✓ 1 faculty per 2 participants
- ✓ A maximum of 12 participants per course
- ✓ Eligible for CME credits under Sections 1, 3 and 4 of the Continuing Professional Development Framework, under The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Maintenance of Certification Program

For more information, please contact Lyne Chrétien at SOGC at (613) 730-4192, or 1-800-561-2416 ext. 248, or visit our Website at www.sogc.org



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Notice Regarding ALARM Evaluation

Dr. André Lalonde, EVP

In the spirit of collaboration and working together to reduce medico-legal risks and costs, SOGC and CMPA have entered into an agreement to evaluate our programmes. SOGC will provide CMPA with the names of ALARM Program participants in the last 5 years and CMPA will evaluate whether they have different medico-legal experiences than non-participants.

This on-going activity over the next 10 years or more will help determine the impact of our educational programmes. CMPA will only report on the aggregate numbers to SOGC and not on any individual experience which will remain confidential information only available to CMPA.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Dr. Ken Milne, Associate Executive Vice-President, or myself at the SOGC National Office.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

WOMEN'S IMAGING

Advances in Gynaecological Imaging and Transvaginal Ultrasound

Colony Hotel, Toronto
February 22-24, 2002

Study Credits

RCPC: AMA Category I

ACOG SDMS CSDMS

Info: Continuing Ed. Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto

Tel.: 416-978-2719

Fax.: 416-971-2200

E-mail: g.jani@utoronto.ca

10th Annual Symposium:

New Developments in Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics

May 15, 2002

Mount Sinai Hospital

600 University Ave., Toronto, Ontario

Credits: MAINPRO-M1 credits, CFPC

Maintenance of Certification Program,

RCPC Cat. I credits, AMA + CSDMS

Information and Registration:

Continuing Education, Faculty of

Medicine, University of Toronto

500 University Ave., Suite 270

Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V7

Tel.: 416-978-2719/1-888-512-8173

Fax: 416-971-2200

E-mail: ce.med@utoronto.ca

Website: www.cme.utoronto.ca

13th World Congress: International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy

June 2-5, 2002

Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto

For Information and Call for Papers:

Telephone: 416-978-2719

Fax: 416-971-2200

e-mail: kristin.parsonson@utoronto.ca

Web page: www.cme.utoronto.ca/PDF/ISSHP.pdf

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Employed position in OB/Gyn Clinic at Mercy Medical Center in Canton, Ohio, United States. 476 beds, Level II + NICU, 11 LDRP's, 5 high risk LDR's, approximately 2,000 births annually. Servicing an area of 420,000. Canton population around 100,000. Will assist with obtaining H-I B Visa.

E-Mail:

barbara.horton@hcahealthcare.com

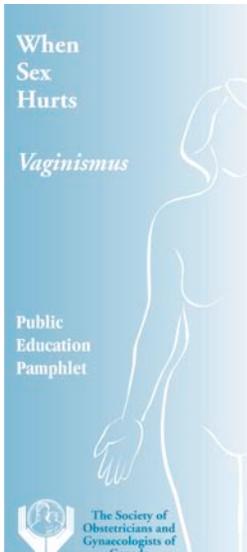
Tel.: 1-800-999-8662, ext. 1182

Fax: 1-330-430-6960

MEMBERS' CORNER:

When Sex Hurts - Vaginismus

Dr. Terry O'Grady, Chair, Public Education Committee



The Public Education Committee endeavors to provide our members with complete, concise, understandable material for their patients. We aim to help provide information about conditions affecting them or proposed forms of therapy.

Sexual dysfunctions often received little attention by caregivers and patients themselves. Recently, these problems have been coming out of the bedrooms and into our offices. Unfortunately, many women continue to be reluctant to confide that they have problems which prevent them from enjoying sexual activity.

Enclosed you will find our new brochure on vaginismus. We believe you will find it a useful tool to facilitate initial discussion as well to provide information.

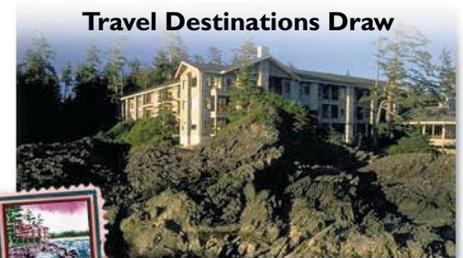
This brochure can be purchased directly from the SOGC Website at www.sogc.org, or through our toll-free publication line at 1-877-519-7999. Order your brochures today!

Welcome to the Wickaninnish Inn

submitted by Dr. André Lalonde

The Wickaninnish Inn is a great Canadian resort featuring fantastic vistas, a long walking beach and endless waves which allow you to communicate with nature. It is situated on a rocky promontory at Chesterman Beach, near Tofino, British Columbia. Each of the 46 spacious guest rooms features an awe inspiring ocean view revealed by floor to ceiling picture windows as well as a private balcony.

The Wickaninnish Inn offers several distinctive packages, ensuring a perfect trip for all tastes. Choose among their West Coast Romance, Winter Storm, Gourmet



Travel Destinations Draw



On a rocky point...

Trail or Nature Lover's packages. Among the many activities at Wickaninnish Inn, there is whale watching, beachcombing, rain forest walks, sea kayaking, Hot Springs Cove, birdwatching, fishing, golfing, surfing and scuba diving.

For more information and a sneak peek of this most romantic destination, visit www.wickinn.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Lynn Bray-Levac, Translator/Communications Specialist

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the SOGC News in the past year. We have made changes to the content, layout and format, and feel that the News has greatly improved as a result. In fact, we have received many positive comments to that effect.

However, the quality of your newsletter is contingent upon the timely submission of informative, pertinent and interesting articles. To all SOGC members, Committee Chairs and staff of the National Office who have contributed items for publication in 2001, a sincere and heartfelt thank you. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and always most welcome!

A happy and prosperous New Year to one and all!

A New Look for the SOGCNet

Debra Leduc, Webmaster

The SOGC Website has recently been reorganized and made easier to navigate. Two new areas have been added – Conferences/Seminars and Continuing Professional Development. Under Conferences/Seminars, you will find the CME Events, the Annual Clinical Meeting, ALARM courses as well as the Endoscopic Workshop. By clicking on an event, the user will be able to access conference, speaker and CME credit information.

In the Continuing Professional Development area, users will be able to find information on such items as how to calculate and track CME credits. A link has

been established to the SOGC's first self-directed educational module on reproductive care for women living with Hepatitis C.

The SOGC has also added a new menopause site under Consumer Information. Users can interact with the site by taking quizzes on the many subjects related to menopause. FAQ sections are available to address those unanswered questions.

A search engine is now in place to assist the user in finding information related to obstetrical/gynaecological areas as well as SOGC activities. This tool will make it easier

www.sogc.org

to find a particular guideline, among other things. A site map will soon be available enabling easier navigation. The SOGC is committed to making the SOGCNet a reliable, useful and relevant Website. Come visit us at www.sogc.org today!

The SOGC changed the way users access the members' side. The three leading zeros (and in some cases the letters ACT) have been dropped. Members are to use their SOGC number as the user name and their last name as the password.

Contraception Awareness Project Launched

Dr. Robert Reid, Chair, Contraception Awareness Project

On November 8th, 2001 the SOGC launched a key component of its Contraception Awareness Project – *Sexualityandu.ca* – what we hope will soon be recognized as Canada's most innovative and comprehensive on-line source of information about sexual health and well-being. www.sexualityandu.ca takes a real life approach to the questions and issues that Canadians of all ages experience, including how to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual coercion.

Sexualityandu.ca targets teens, adults, educators, parents and healthcare professionals with a broad range of tips and information. A teen considering whether or not to have intercourse for the first time, a mature adult experiencing sexual dysfunction, a physician counselling a victim of sexual abuse, a high school teacher looking for lesson plans and a parent who's not sure when to bring up the subject of sex will all find useful guidance at [sexualityandu.ca](http://www.sexualityandu.ca).

Sexualityandu.ca gets at what people do through a broad variety of features, including quizzes and polls. It is designed to be thought provoking, especially for young people. Questions such as: How do I know if it's love? What are my sexual values? and, Am I gay? are featured. Teachers will find lesson plans to help students tackle whether or not they are ready to have sex, how to overcome a partner's objections to using a condom, and other common issues.

This Website is also designed to be frank and empowering, particularly for young people in their teens and twenties who are at high risk of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

Sexualityandu.ca gives people advice on what to say and do, so they can feel more comfortable and confident about taking appropriate actions. It's about more than information. Most Canadians know the answers – the problem is they're not acting on their knowledge.

Basically, this Website is based on three key "pillars": that all Canadians should be free from 1) unintended pregnancy, 2) sexually transmitted infection, and 3) coercive sex. Also Canadians should feel good about their own sexuality. Sexual relationships are one of the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of being human – hence, recognition and management of male and female sexual dysfunction share the forefront as pillars of the professional module. *Sexualityandu.ca* is about feeling good about sexual choices, and celebrating each individual's unique sexual self. Look on the "professional" site for the five "pillar papers" written by Canadian experts: 1) Female sexual dysfunction (by Dr. Giselle Bourgeois-Law), 2) Male sexual dysfunction (by Dr. Stephen Holzapfel), 3) Sexually transmitted diseases: prevention and management (by Dr. Gerald Evans), 4) How to choose the right contraceptive method for your patients. (Dr. Sari Kives – C.A.R.E. Fellow 2000-2001), 5) Domestic violence (Dr. Barbara Parish). Search the Contraception FAQ library and review the latest research on sexual and reproductive health published in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality in the "Resources" section of the professional module.

Sexualityandu.ca has been endorsed by the Canadian Pharmacists Association, the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Federation of Medical Women of Canada,

Enclosed with this issue are brochures introducing [sexualityandu.ca](http://www.sexualityandu.ca) as well as a display holder. Additional copies may be obtained free of charge through our publications line at 1-800-519-7999.

and the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada.

The Website is one element of a broad-based awareness campaign that will include advertising, posters, brochures, continuing medical education, and outreach to schools that will roll-out over the coming year. Further information about these initiatives will be communicated to you in future issues of the *SOGC News*.

I have had the pleasure of working with an exceptional group of talented individuals in the planning, development and implementation of the Contraception Awareness Project including Dr. Édith Guilbert (Québec City); Dr. Bill Fisher (University of Western Ontario); Dr. André Lalonde (SOGC Executive Vice-President); Dr. Michael Barnett (Sex Information and Education Council of Canada); Dr. Claude Renaud (CFPC); and Christiane Ménard (SOGC Director of Communications and Government Relations).

Check it out and consider referring your patients to this informative site: www.sexualityandu.ca.

SOGC JUNIOR

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention all Junior Members !!!

In order to better serve you and to ensure your information needs are met, the Junior Member Newsletter will now be integrated into the *SOGC News*. This means you will access news and information 10 times per year!

Information is key, but what good is it if you receive it too late... or not at all? The *SOGC News*' monthly publication schedule ensures you will have access to the news you need when you need it. Look for the **Junior Member News** pages in every issue of the *SOGC News*.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Last day of each month

eg. March 31 for May 2002 issue; Sept. 30 for November/02. Keep in mind that July and August are combined as the Summer issue, and December and January make up the Winter issue. Thus, the **deadline** for submissions to the next issue (**February**) is December 31 (in practical terms : **January 3, 2002**).

Send to: lbray-levac@sogc.com

WHAT TO SUBMIT?

Your submissions are most welcome!

This is your space to use as you see fit. It is meant as a forum for the exchange of news that is relevant to Junior Members. The best submissions are those that contain the type of information you want to read about!

Here are a few suggestions:

- fellowship experiences
- research you are currently involved in
- summary of a recent clinical presentation you attended
- activities of a committee you sit on
- a perplexing clinical case to share
- scientific articles you've written



DO YOU KNOW YOUR JUNIOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

*Louise Tremblay,
Public Education/
Communications Coordinator*

At press time, these were the names of SOGC Junior Committee Members, printed here for your information. An updated list will appear in the next issue of the *SOGC News*.

Last Name	First Name	University	E-mail address
Boily	Karine	Montréal	mmsswagner@hotmail.com
Brunner	Monica	McGill	Brunner_m@hotmail.com
Butler	Blair	Memorial	blairb@morgan.ucs.mun.ca
Crumley	Tracey	Western	tlcrumle@julian.uwo.ca
Donnelly	Jocelyn, Marie	Calgary	jocelyndonnelly@hotmail.com
Farrugia	Michele, M.	Toronto	mm.farrugia@utoronto.ca
Gamache	Nathalie	Ottawa	natgamache@hotmail.ca
Gennaoui	Jean Pierre	Laval	jpgen@videotron.ca
Gravelle	Anne	Ottawa	jleddy@magma.ca
Joa **	Elisabet	Alberta	ejoa@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca
TO BE DETERMINED			McMaster
McConville	Fiona	McGill	adamfi@sympatico.ca
Motan	Tarek	Alberta	tmotan@visto.com
O'Toole	Susan	Queen's	5sao@qlink.queensu.ca
Power	Patti	Memorial	ppower@morgan.ucs.mun.ca
Pressey	Tracy	Alberta	tracy@ualberta.ca
Rajasingham	Melodye, Esther	McMaster	merajasi@hotmail.com
Roggensack	Anne	Queen's	aroggensack@home.com
Silva	Andre	Dalhousie	wsilva@is2.dal.ca
Taylor	Beth	UBC	barrachois@hotmail.com
Wagner	Marie-Soleil	Montréal	mariesoleilwagner@hotmail.com
Wallace-Chau	Dhea	Calgary	dheaw@hotmail.com
Wiebe	Kevin	Saskatchewan	kmwiebe@hotmail.com
Yacoub	Ashraf	Saskatchewan	ashrafyacoub@hotmail.com

** Maternity leave – still active – not attending meetings



Hello from Saskatchewan

Dr. Kevin Wiebe, President Junior Member Committee

As the days get shorter and OR lists get longer, we are reminded that Fall is over. This has been an especially busy and exciting summer for me because I got married. And, married life is... good.

I want to start by welcoming new residents to OB/GYN and to the SOGC. It's a great time to be in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. We want to encourage new residents, and seasoned veterans to take advantage of membership in SOGC by getting involved in committees, reading and contributing to the JOGC, contributing to this newsletter, applying for fellowship and elective grants, and visiting the SOGC Website for practice guidelines and other information. If you know residents or medical students who would like to join SOGC, they can get information on the Website at: www.sogc.org.

In June, we visited "The Rock" for the ACM. Those Newfoundlanders sure know how to have a good time. The Resident Fun Night was one of the best ever, with Celtic music and "Screeching In."

The Junior Member meeting was well attended in Newfoundland and many important issues were discussed including the format of



the Junior Member Newsletter. Although many individuals voiced their preference to retain a stand-alone Junior Member Newsletter, it has been decided that it will be integrated into the SOGC News. We always need articles and invite anyone who can write and wants to contribute, to send their craft to Lynn Bray-Levac at lbray-levac@sogc.com.

We also discussed the CARMS match and strategies for promoting our specialty as well as the Promotion of the Specialty Committee. Residents are becoming more involved in career days and are taking more time to show medical students what we really do and why we enjoy it. The future is looking more promising.

There are many opportunities for residents available. There are Junior Member Elective Grants and Fellowship Grants available. There is also a list of job opportunities and fellowship opportunities available at the SOGC website. Do apply and don't miss out.

I look forward to serving as the Junior Member Chair this year. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at kmwiebe@hotmail.com. We are already beginning to plan for the Ontario Regional CME in Toronto in December and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Committee Vacancies

Lynn Bray-Levac, Translator/Communications Specialist

Junior Members have an opportunity to provide input to various committees of the SOGC through the Junior Member Representative on those committees. Currently, this position is vacant on the:

- Atlantic Regional Committee
- Ontario Regional Committee
- Continuing Professional Development Committee

The main responsibility of the Junior Member Representative is to participate in teleconferences and face to face meetings, and to ensure the concerns of the residents are taken into account.

The Junior Member Committee will review nominations for these positions at its meeting on December 1st at the Ontario CME. Junior Members who have an interest in serving on these or other committees should forward a letter of interest and resume to Louise Tremblay, Coordinator of the Junior Member Committee (ltremblay@sogc.com). Requests for information should also be directed to Ms. Tremblay.

Remember: The voice of Junior Members can only be heard if you are represented on these committees!

Vice-Chair Position Update

Lynn Bray-Levac, Translator/Communications Specialist

As you are aware, the position of Junior Member Committee Vice-Chair is currently vacant. Two individuals had expressed an interest at the Annual Clinical Meeting in St. John's last June, but some difficulties were encountered with the distribution of their bios to all junior members. This resulted in problems with the plan to conduct a vote by e-mail, hence the vacancy.

The current plan is to proceed to a vote during the Ontario CME in Toronto on December 1st. By the time you read this newsletter, a Junior Member Committee Vice-Chair will have been duly elected.

Check out the Junior Member Pages of the February issue of SOGC News to get the latest scoop on the outcome of the vote, as well as other points of interest coming out of the Toronto meeting.

SOGC News

The SOGC News is published on a monthly basis. Comments and contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to:

SOGC News
780 Echo Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5R7

Tel: (613) 730-4192 or
1-800-561-2416
Fax: (613) 730-4314
E-mail: lbray-levac@sogc.com

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION

2002

Robyn Harris, Executive Director

The Canadian Foundation for Women's Health announces the opportunity for research grants totalling more than \$200,000.

Several grants for research in women's health are available, including one \$20,000 grant from the *Duchesnay Fund for a better use of drugs during pregnancy and lactation*.

The application deadline is March 1, 2002. Guidelines for submitting a proposal will be available on the Foundation website at www.cfvh.org at the end of December or by contacting Robyn Harris at the Foundation office. Proposals must be submitted according to the 2002 Research Grant Guidelines. Proposals not adhering to the guidelines will be voided and removed from the competition.

Please relay this information to all colleagues involved in women's health research.

For more information please contact:

Robyn Harris, Executive Director
Canadian Foundation for Women's Health
780 Echo Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7
Tel: (613) 730-4192 or 1-800-561-2416
Fax: (613) 730-4314
E-mail: rharris@sogc.com
Website: www.cfvh.org
Charitable Registration Number: 88688 4089 RR0001



With sincere appreciation to Duchesnay Inc.

The Canadian Foundation for Women's Health is proud to announce the continued support of Duchesnay Inc. During a recent meeting, Éric Gervais, Executive Vice-President of Duchesnay Inc., presented Foundation President Lynn Krepart with a cheque for \$40,000 to support research in women's health.

Since 1998, Duchesnay's commitment to women's health has been the driving force behind the *Duchesnay Fund for a better use of drugs during pregnancy and lactation*. This Fund has enabled the Foundation to award three grants totalling \$69,250, with an additional \$20,000 grant to be awarded in June 2002 during the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

58th Annual Clinical Meeting. In all, Duchesnay has contributed \$178,500 toward women's health research through donations to the Foundation.

It is with the support of charitably-minded corporations, like Duchesnay, that

the Foundation will continue to be an integral part of women's health research in Canada. Please join the Board of Directors of the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health, in expressing our most sincere gratitude to Duchesnay Inc.

*The Canadian Foundation
for Women's Health -
supporting research for
the health of women*

