

EDITORIAL

Canadian Investigators in Reproduction Works to Expand Research Activities Within the SOGC

By Dr. William D. Fraser, Chair - Canadian Researcher in Reproduction Committee, SOGC

Major changes are taking place in the research environment in Canada. These include the establishment of the new *Canadian Institutes of Health Research*, the creation of *Research Chairs* by the Government of Canada and, the increases in investment in research funding from other government agencies. There is also an increased commitment from the private sector towards the development of research in Canada. The SOGC is taking a proactive role in ensuring that members of our discipline can take full advantage of these new research opportunities.

For this reason, the members of the Canadian Investigators in Reproduction (CIR), a research committee within the SOGC, have brought forward certain measures to promote research within our organization and in our discipline as a whole. These measures include the creation of a new "Scientific Research Day" featuring a renewed "Abstract Program" and four plenary sessions on clinical trial research in Canada to be held on Tuesday, June 20th during the 56th Annual Clinical Meeting. The activities will include a plenary session pertaining to the potential impact of the creation of the *Canadian Institutes of Health Research*, an update on four multicentre clinical trials, parallel sessions for oral presentations in obstetrics and gynaecology, poster presentations and an annual meeting of the CIR will end the day. The goal is to make the "Scientific Research Day" a forum for interaction between clinicians and researchers.

The CIR Committee is eager to broaden its mandate in order to bring together the main stakeholders in research within the SOGC. The CIR has developed a new mission statement which was approved by the Executive and Council of SOGC in March 2000.

With the approval of this mandate, there is a proposal to have CIR change its name to the Society of Investigators in Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada (SIOGC). This issue will be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting of June 20th.

Mandate of the SIOGC

The SIOGC is a scientific body within the SOGC, established to facilitate communication between basic and clinical investigators in obstetrics and gynaecology, clinical practitioners in the field and women and their families.

The SIOGC also serves to promote both original and collaborative research and opportunities for training in research methodology in obstetrics and gynaecology across Canada.

The CIR members are convinced the SOGC should continue to take a leadership role in promoting the involvement of residents in research. With this goal in mind, The CIR has worked with the Executive of the SOGC to ensure funding to two annual major regional research organizations: the Western Perinatal Research Meeting and the Ontario/Québec Perinatal Research Meeting.

The funds are used to support the travel of residents to attend these meetings.

All SOGC members are extended a special invitation to participate in the "Scientific Research Day" and the Annual Business Meeting of the CIR in Montréal on Tuesday, June 20th.

Important note: The SOGC and the CIR Committee wish to update the list of investigators in research in the country. We call upon all SOGC members to come forward and identify their area of interest. Kindly send the information as soon as possible to Danielle Bown, CIR Coordinator at SOGC by E-mail: dbown@sogc.com or by fax (613) 730-4314. Many thanks for your collaboration. &

SOGC Disagrees with CMPA Decision

The SOGC joins other medical organizations in expressing shock, disappointment and concern regarding the recent CMPA decision to move towards a regional rating. As with other organizations, the SOGC was not consulted and it seems that neither were provincial medical associations and the Canadian Medical Association.

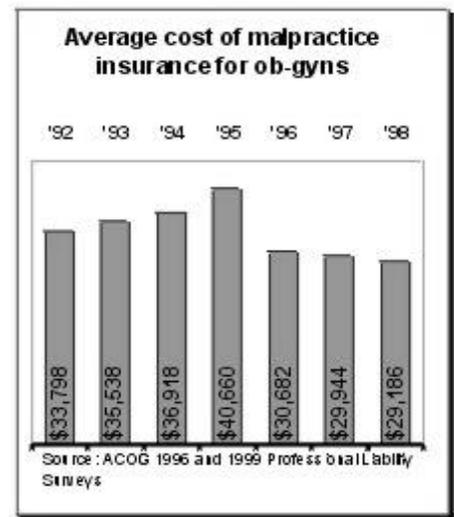
The CMPA fee scale differentiated by type of work has been divisive for the profession in the past and will continue to do so. Regional ratings will exacerbate this situation amongst physicians and will be a direct threat to the specialties who have small numbers and to regions who have small numbers of specialists.

The SOGC is concerned and wonders where this will stop. Will physicians in different cities of the same province ask to be rated differently as with car insurance? What will happen in a region with a small number of specialists who would experience one or two costly lawsuits? All of these concerns ought to be addressed prior to the CMPA decision. Members across Canada would like to know how regional representatives at the CMPA Council were presented with this issue.

The SOGC is in complete disagreement with Dr. W.D.S. Thomas, President of CMPA, when he states that "a regional fee structure will permit the medical community, governments and CMPA to identify effective ways to address and reduce the financial burden for all concerned". Even if a given province appears to benefit from lower rates, there is nothing to say that an individual specialty in that province may not see its fees raised as a result of increasing lawsuits.

Preliminary discussion has led us to believe that reducing a risk pool is never very good for those who are in outlying regions and those who have small numbers of members. Just as we received the letter from Dr. Thomas, we also received the ACOG newsletter which stated that the average cost of malpractice insurance for ob/gyns has decreased substantially in the USA from a level of \$40,660 in 1995 to \$29,186 in 1998 (see grid below). In the USA, risk management is aggressive and all physicians need to participate. All insurance contracts in the USA have limits, thus preventing inflationary costs as we experience in Canada.

A vote of non-confidence in the CMPA Council was approved unanimously at the SOGC March 6th meeting. The vote states that CMPA Council has failed to consult members on this issue, neglected to listen to members who have been requesting risk management for a number of years and made a unilateral decision without speaking to the provincial medical organizations and specialty groups. &



ACM 2000: What's new? What's important?

By Liette Philippe, CME Conference Coordinator, SOGC



ALERT . . . May 1, 2000 is an important deadline! May 1, 2000 is the cut-off date for reserving your room at The

Queen Elizabeth Hotel. The cut-off date is especially important to remember this year because it will be virtually impossible to get a room at The Queen Elizabeth Hotel after this date. In fact, it will be very difficult for you to find a room in downtown Montreal. Have you heard? The Canadian Formula 1 Grand-Prix will be held the very same weekend as our conference and Montreal will be an extremely busy city. To avoid disappointment, make your accommodation arrangements NOW - don't wait for the May 1, 2000 deadline!

In addition to our block of rooms at The Queen Elizabeth Hotel, the SOGC has rooms at the two McGill University Residences: The Royal Victoria College is about a five minute walk from The Queen Elizabeth Hotel and Bishop Mountain Hall Residences is approximately 12 minutes away. The rate for a single room, single bed (doubles are not available), is \$34-43 per night, including taxes. Please note: there are only communal bathrooms available. For those who are interested in these economical accommodations, please call the SOGC for more details or check our website at www.sogc.org. The deadline is May 1, 2000.

Accommodation information for The Queen Elizabeth hotel can also be obtained through our website, or in the ACM Preliminary Program.

Scientific Program

The ACM Scientific Program will include 11 International Symposia, 7 Post Graduate Courses, 18 Best Practice Sessions, 2 luncheon symposia, Stump the Professor, MD Management Sessions, Cannell Lecture, and much more.

In addition to the extensive program listed above, a new "Scientific Research Day - Abstract Program" will be highlighted at this year's ACM. The day will begin with an International Symposium entitled "The Future of Research in Ob/Gyn in Canada" with paper and poster presentations plus four plenary sessions featured throughout the day. The four plenary sessions are entitled "Term Breech Trial", "Canadian Pre-Term Nitroglycerin Trial", "Providine Study" and "Clinical Trials Oncology Network."

Social Events

We are very excited about this year's ACM Social Events. Delegates and their families will have an opportunity to enjoy fabulous entertainment and fun-filled evenings. Below is a brief description. Please note the minor scheduling changes. Pre-registration is required for all events, refer to our website or the ACM Preliminary Program for complete details.

Saturday, June 17

17:00 to 19:00 - The Opening Reception will take place at The Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

19:30 to 22:30 - Private viewing of the blockbuster exhibition "From Renoir to Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée de l'Orangerie" at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts/Musée des beaux-arts.

21:15 - Dining Out Experience at one of the nearby gourmet restaurants.

Sunday, June 18

21:00 to 22:45 - NEW TIME - Isabelle Boulay is an award winning Québec songstress. This exclusive performance is part of a Gala Fundraising Evening for the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health. After the show, meet Isabelle Boulay at the wine and cheese reception.

Monday, June 19

18:00 to 19:30 - The President's Reception in the Exhibit Hall, where lots of scrumptious finger foods will be served, is the perfect place to mingle and enjoy a light meal before proceeding to the Angele Dubeau concert.

20:00 to 21:00 - An amazing classical concert with Angèle Dubeau and her all-female musicians at the Notre-Dame Basilica.

Tuesday, June 20

20:00 - We are still working out the details for the 3rd Resident Fun Night. You can be sure it will be a fun-filled evening. Watch for more information in the next few weeks.

It is important to note that the registration deadline for these evening events is May 19th, 2000.

SOGC / Air Canada Draw

Participate and you'll have a chance to win two airline tickets to any destination in North America that Air Canada flies or one SOGC Meeting Registration for the 57th ACM in St. John's, Newfoundland in the year 2001. For complete details, please refer to your ACM Preliminary Program.

ACM Preliminary Program

A comprehensive ACM Preliminary Program, including registration and accommodation request forms, was distributed in mid February. If you have not received a copy, please contact SOGC and we will immediately mail one to you. &

PROGRAMS

56th Annual Clinical Meeting
Montréal, Québec
June 17 to 21, 2000

13th Québec CME Program
Magog-Orford, Québec
September 28 to 30, 2000

18th Ontario CME Program
Toronto, Ontario
November 30 to December 2, 2000

COURSES

ALARM Course
April 28 and 29, 2000
Toronto, Ontario

ALARM Course
May 6 and 7, 2000
Richmond, British Columbia

ALARM Course
May 26 and 27, 2000
Medicine Hat, Alberta

ALARM Course
June 15 and 16, 2000
Montréal, Québec

ALARM Course
September 23 and 24, 2000
London, Ontario

GESTA Course
October 1st and 2, 2000
Magog-Orford, Québec

ALARM/GESTA Courses Dates for 2000

By Carole Brault, ALARM/GESTA Course Coordinator, SOGC

Our 2000 ALARM courses are well under way. Places are still available for the dates below but don't delay, they are disappearing rapidly. Register today!

Toronto, Ont. - April 28-29

Richmond, B.C. - May 6-7 (in conjunction with the BC Perinatal Conference)

Medicine Hat, Alta. - May 26-27

Montreal, Que.- June 15-16 (given in English in conjunction with the SOGC's Annual Clinical Meeting)

London, Ont. - September 23-24

Magog-Orford, Que. - October 1-2 (course given in French)

Throughout the years the ALARM program has changed considerably. Comments for improvements from the evaluation forms have been taken into consideration and we are now in our 7th edition of the course syllabus. We invite our past participants, especially those of you who took the course in 1995 and 1996, to consider taking the course again to benefit from new material on guidelines and evidence-based medicine.

Residents can now take advantage of a special registration rate of \$400 that came into effect last November. However, The Executive and Council has limited access to five resident registrations per regularly scheduled courses at this reduced rate.

The ALARM course participants can still purchase the 3rd edition of the book entitled "Essential Management of Obstetric Emergencies" by Dr. Thomas F. Baskett, directly on-site at a special price of \$30. Furthermore, each course now provides participants with a re-edited video on Operative Vaginal Delivery, sponsored by Janssen-Ortho.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the ALARM committee members gratefully acknowledges the generous support of 3M Canada, Duchesnay Inc., Ferring Pharmaceuticals Inc., Janssen-Ortho Inc., Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc. and Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.

For more information on the ALARM course program, please contact Carole Brault at the SOGC National Office at 1-800-561-2416 extension 247, by e-mail at cbrault@sogc.com or visit our web site at www.sogc.org

By Robyn Harris, Executive Director, Canadian Foundation for

G **Grants Competition 1999**
The Canadian Foundation for Women's Health is pleased to announce the remaining four recipients of the 1999 grants competition. They are Erica Eason from the Ottawa Hospital who will research *Transportation and preservation techniques for laboratory diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis*; Riaz Farookhi from McGill University who will research *Cadherins in ovarian cancer*; Stephanie Fisher from Queen's University who will research *Letrozole versus clomiphene for controlled ovarian hyperstimulation in normal ovulatory women*; John Jarrell from the University of Calgary who will perform *A feasibility study to determine the relationship of reproductive tissue chemical contamination and adverse human reproductive outcomes*. Congratulations to all of you! These four grant recipients combined with the recipients of the Duchesnay Award and the Fournier Pharma Award complete the Fall 1999 competition round. The grant recipient of the 2000 Duchesnay Fund will be announced in the June issue of SOGC News.

Are you up for the Challenge?

Put your knowledge of HRT to good use at the Novo Nordisk Booth in Montréal on June 19 and 20, 2000 and help raise funds for women's health research. Form a combined partnership with another SOGC delegate and spin the *Wheel of HRT*. Answer questions about HRT and your winning total will benefit the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health. Novo Nordisk challenges you to help raise \$10,000 for women's health research. All funds will be donated by Novo Nordisk, all you have to do is come up with the correct answers. Look for the Novo Nordisk booth at the SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting and see if you are up for the challenge!

The talented Isabelle Boulay in concert

Montréal, June 18, 2000 is the place to be to be dazzled by one of Canada's rising stars at *An Intimate Evening with Isabelle Boulay*. This fundraising gala event is a rare treat of incredible musical talent in an elegant historical Montréal theatre.

The Foundation is grateful to Ms. Boulay for taking the time from her busy touring schedule to perform for an exclusive audience of ACM delegates. After the performance meet Isabelle Boulay at a cocktail reception hosted by AOGQ.

You may order your tickets through the SOGC ACM registration form or by calling 1-800-561-2416 or (613) 730-4192 ext 238. Visa, MasterCard and personal cheque are accepted to purchase your tickets.

The Canadian Foundation for Women's Health is a national charitable organization dedicated to raising funds for research in all aspects of women's health. Our funds come from individuals and corporations, including the generous support of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Our goal is to ensure that women's interests and concerns are represented in medical research and in the search of scientific knowledge.

For further information please contact:

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Fax: (613) 730-4314
E-mail: rharris@sogc.com
Website: www.cfwf.org

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Symposium on Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

April 14 to 16, 2000
Richmond, British Columbia
Information:
BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre
Maria Fiel de Sousa
Program Co-ordinator
Phone: (604) 875-3100
Fax: (604) 875-3013
E-mail: mfiel@cw.bc.ca

7th Biennial World Congress of Endometriosis

May 14 to 17, 2000
London, UK
Caroline Roney
Medical Conference Organisers
Phone: +44 181 661 0877
Fax: +44 181 661 9036
E-mail: MedConfOrg@aol.com

1st Canadian Conference on Literacy and Health

Canadian Public Health Association
May 28 to 30, 2000
Ottawa, Ontario
Canadian Public Health Association
Phone: (613) 725-3769
Fax: (613) 725-9826
E-mail: conferences@cpha.ca
Web Site: www.nlhp.cpha.ca

VIII European Congress on Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologic

June 7 to 10, 2000
Prague, Czech Republic
Information:
Czech Medical Association JEP
Fax: +420 2 294 610
E-mail: senderova@cls.cz
Website:
www.congress.cls.cz/pediatricgynecology

V European Congress on Menopause

July 1st to 5, 2000
Copenhagen, Denmark
Information:
International Congress Services
Phone: +45 39 460 500
Fax: +45 39 460 515
E-mail: emas2000@ics.dk
Website: www.emas2000.ics.dk

Lamaze Internationale 2000 Annual Conference

September 22-24, 2000
Memphis, Tennessee, USA
Phone: (202) 857-1128 / (800) 368-4404
E-mail: lamaze@dc.sba.com
Web Site: www.lamaze-childbirth.com

"When Pregnancy Becomes Complicated"

September 28, 2000
Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario
Information:
Denise Avery
Maternal Infant and Reproductive Health Research Unit
University of Toronto

So Many Stories to Tell!

By Dr. Josée Hébert and Dr. François Loiselle, *Centre hospitalier Anna-Laberge*, Châteauguay, Québec

The FIGO *Save the Mothers* Uganda-Canada project is celebrating its first anniversary. So much has been accomplished; so much remains to be accomplished. This is medicine unlike any we have been taught—medicine without technology, and also medicine from the heart. It was quite a shock for us who have grown up with the help of the laboratory and of radiology. Rule number one: develop your clinical skills and judgment. Over time, we have stopped thinking about what we would do if we were back home, because we aren't back home! The first question on Monday morning is "How did the weekend go?" Translation: "Were there any fetal or maternal deaths?" The answer is always "Yes." This is the reality we must come to grips with, because it exists here. But anything we do to alleviate their suffering, however simple it may be, brings great happiness. The gratefulness they show teaches us that we can receive as much as we are able to give. We may have material wealth, but we believe they have a human wealth that is at times enviable.

The following are two brief stories we will long remember.

"Her name will be Naomi"

Any Caesarian section is risky here; given the high rate of septicemia, the decision must be well considered. But there are situations, whether in Uganda or in Canada, where the indication is non-negotiable. This was to be a third Caesarian, the second having been difficult owing to the presence of numerous adhesions. She was born in the afternoon of February 2, 2000, after an arduous surgical procedure, considerable bleeding and a difficult birth. During a post-operative visit, we asked what her name was, and the patient answered, "She's your daughter, Doctor, you name her." And her name will be Naomi. This gratitude is a memory etched in our minds.

"Mrs. Alinaitwe"

While making the rounds of clinics, in the middle of a particularly bumpy road we came across a woman about 40 years of age with four of her children, each of whom was carrying a container of water. Those children with their big

brown eyes and sincere smiles, those children who touch our hearts every time. We stopped and asked if we could take a photograph. She agreed, and began to tell us about her life of poverty: ten children, no money, little to offer them, not even blankets to sleep in. Five days later, we made a side trip to take her four blankets, a gift given from the heart for the mere pleasure of giving. For them, it was incredible good fortune. Think of it! Four simple blankets!

It is because of these and other similar stories that we will never regret our stay here. It has enabled us to see how fortunate we are, in both our professional and personal lives, and to appreciate the things we too often take for granted. &

Bits and Pieces

A Baby Dies... A Dream is Shattered

In North America each year approximately 870,000 families suffer the loss of their child through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or new born death. The losses affect both the emotional and physical health of families. The grief associated with this can last a lifetime. The McGill University Health Centre, Royal Victoria Hospital site, is co-sponsoring a four day counsellor and co-ordinator training program with the RTS to enhance needed skills to respond to families experiencing miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death as part of our continuing education program. RTS, formerly known as Resolve Through Sharing, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide training

to professionals dealing with perinatal loss. The conference is to be held at the Royal Victoria Hospital from May 16 to 19, 2000. In this program, participants learn the skills necessary to implement a multidisciplinary perinatal bereavement program, training staff members and maintaining that perinatal bereavement care is "standard of care" in their facility.

Practice Tip

Here is a clinical tip coming from a SOGC member, Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre. It was brought to her attention that the Ontario Medical Association strongly recommends that all physicians in Ontario retain their patient's medical files for a period of ten years. As obstetrician's files contain information that may be relevant to the

infant, it is therefore recommended that they retain files for a period of twenty years. Since it could pose a storage problem in her busy practice, she was happy to find a company that scans medical files on CD. This is legally acceptable since the files cannot be modified. The software used for viewing and printing files is easy to use. Members throughout the country can probably find such companies in their province. &