



SOGC News

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

MARCH 2002

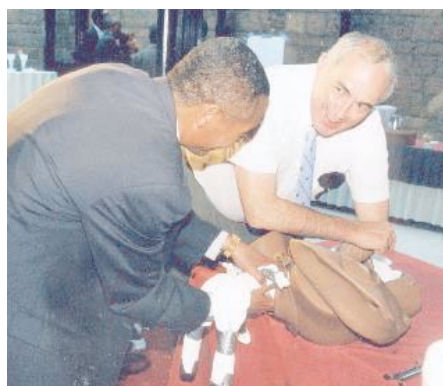
EDITORIAL

Moving Toward an ALARM International Programme

Liette Perron, International Women's Health Program Officer

In the past five years, the SOGC has been working at adapting the content of its ALARM course for developing countries. The international version of the course, known as ALARM International, was developed and piloted, in part, within the Society's Partnership Project 1999-2002, a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and conducted in partnership with the *Asociación de Ginecología y Obstetricia de Guatemala* (AGOG), the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda (AOGU) and *la Société Haïtienne d'Obstétrique-Gynécologie* (SHOG).

Unlike the Canadian ALARM course which focuses on risk management, ALARM International aims to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. It recognizes from the onset, that training - by itself - is not sufficient to impact on the high rates of maternal deaths and injury found in many developing countries and advocates a sexual and reproductive rights approach to addressing the main causes of maternal mortality and morbidity. It is also usually delivered within three days (compared to two days in Canada) to ensure more time for participants to integrate the course material and further, benefit from the practice sessions and interactions between faculty/participants.



Dr. George Carson with an ALARM International Course participant.

Since 1998, 16 ALARM International courses have been delivered to more than 600 health professionals in a number of different countries including Ethiopia, Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The participants included midwives, medical officers, physicians and ob/gyns.

The experience acquired to date leads the SOGC to believe that the course does have the potential to increase the obstetrical skills of health professionals in developing countries and that it is possible, within a four to five-year cycle, to build the capacity of local ob/gyn associations to assume the leadership for the delivery of the course within their respective country. It also indicates that the current course needs to be further modified to meet the specific educational needs of midwives and, that the sexual and reproductive rights approach and the health systems issues related to safe motherhood initiatives need to be strengthened.

Within the next few months, the SOGC will be working, in conjunction with its partners, to expand its current ALARM International Course to an ALARM International Programme, with two new modules added. The first module will focus on the sexual and reproductive rights approach to maternal health and will provide an opportunity for the participants to increase their knowledge and understanding of the goals and lessons learned related to safe motherhood initiatives. Participants will also have an opportunity to discuss and present plans for the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights in their practice/hospital/community.

The second module will specifically address health systems issues related to safe motherhood programs such as quality of care, the use of process indicators in the development and monitoring of such initiatives and the value of maternal mortality audits. Participation and link to the overall government initiatives on safe motherhood will be highlighted. Participants will also be



A group of participants at the ALARM International Course in Ethiopia.

asked to report on the implementation of maternal mortality audits in one year.

It is hoped that by Fall 2002, the SOGC will be in a position to pilot this five-day program within several developing countries.

SOGC members will have an opportunity to get an update on the work related to the ALARM International Program at the Society's International Women's Health Symposium, which will be held during the ACM in Winnipeg, MB on June 20.

International Women's Day is March 8, kicking off International Women's Week. The front page article of this newsletter highlights the SOGC's work in women's health at the international level. March is also Nutrition Month. See related book review on page 3.

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FROM THE EVP'S DESK

Being Aware of Psychological Trauma

André B. Lalonde, MD, FRCSC, FSOGC, FACOG, MSc

I would like to share with you an e-mail I received recently, from a woman who could find herself in your office. Obviously, empathy and compassion are of utmost importance in situations such as these.

“For reasons I won’t delve into here, gynaecological exams are unbearably traumatic for me. I’m in my forties, and I’ve had only 8 or 9 gynaecological exams in my life. I am traumatised at the mere thought of it and will anguish over just making the phone call to the clinic and the eventual appointment for months ahead of time, and sometimes eventually cancel. After an exam, I feel like hiding in a corner and dying. I’ve always done everything I can to avoid it. Using IUDs was one way of getting around the yearly exam since I didn’t need to renew a prescription, and kept the IUD very long. Then, wouldn’t you know, I started having severe menopausal symptoms two years ago, didn’t really know what was going on, and had not seen a doctor in about six years. I was frightened, and knew I had to do something. Blood tests indicate that I am indeed menopausal, and I have started HRT. The GP I saw was not very forthcoming or patient. I never came out and said how I felt about this, but it’s obvious that something’s wrong: I tremble, my teeth chatter, sometimes tears streak down my cheeks, or I become completely withdrawn. She was obviously ill at ease with me, and me with her. She referred me to a women’s clinic for HRT, and I am relieved I don’t have to deal with her again. Now I have met this new gynaecologist. I appreciated her attitude at our first meeting because we spent half an hour just talking. She was calm and soft spoken, serious but also smiled once in a while. She answered my questions, explained

things, and just took time to talk, and we never went over to the examining room. I felt elated when I walked out of her office. But now I should see her again in a couple of months for an exam and I don’t know what to do. Should I tell her how traumatic this is for me, or will it simply make matters worse, making her uncomfortable with me because of this? I’m already anguishing at the thought of it and feel like an animal going to slaughter. I have to find a solution especially if being in early menopause and on HRT means that I will have to have regular medical follow-ups. Or I thought I could call and ask the receptionist if the doctor is willing to deal with patients who have psychological trauma or if she rather avoid these patients? Or just make an appointment with her and try to tell her what an ordeal this is for me and see how she reacts. Or maybe I should leave well enough alone, and since she seems okay, I could just try to bite my lip, clench my fists and try to go through with it. Maybe it’s best to pretend nothing’s wrong rather than risk alienating the MD, because if that happens, where do I go from here? How do medical professionals feel about this, are they aware of this and willing to try and work it out with such patients? Maybe you could offer a perspective from the other side of the fence that could shed light and help me decide on a course of action. Thank you for reading this. D.”

The SOGC’S Public Education Committee is presently finalizing a brochure developed by the Sexual and Social Issues Committee, titled *Your First Gynaecological Exam*. It will surely prove to be a valuable resource, not only to teens, but also to women in these circumstances.

SOGC Staff Breeds Creativity!

Christiane Ménard, Director of Communications and Government Relations

The SOGC is proud of the achievements of all its employees from 9 to 5. But the Society is delighted with the moonlighting activities of one of its staff members, Marla Landers, who stands out for her creative spirit.

Indeed, Marla moonlights as a playwright and one of her most recent creations, a one-act play, was produced by Algonquin College theatre students and presented at the Ottawa National Arts Centre’s Fourth Stage. Most recently, this same play was included at Acadia University’s Minifest of original one-act plays. This play, which was chosen by Acadia University Minifest’s selection committee for its dramatic quality, is entitled “*Here Lies Love*”. The main character is an unemployed fine arts major named Eric who initiates graveyard tours for spiritual singles and who finds love for himself while playing Cupid. A perfect scenario for the Valentine’s Day season! Congratulations Marla!



Emergency Contraception Project: Update

Anna Pancham, Project Coordinator

The goal of the Emergency Contraception Project is to increase access to the emergency contraceptive pill. In the Toronto neighbourhoods of Rexdale, Scarborough and parts of North York, women can obtain the emergency contraceptive pill without seeing a doctor. The program started on June 4, 2001 and will run for one year. This update details the progress of the program in its first three months: June, July and August, 2001.

Highlights:

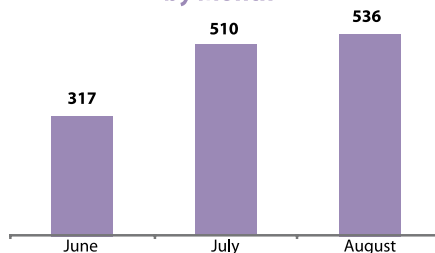
June 4 - August 31, 2001

- Pharmacies participating: 33
- Pharmacists trained: 118
- Prescriptions filled under this protocol: 1,335 (average 445 /month)
- Calls to the hotline: 3,418 (average 1,139 / month)
- Average age of patient: 26

Recruitment & Training:

188 pharmacies were invited to participate and as of August 31, 2001, 33 pharmacies were participating in the project. Additional pharmacies will be participating once they have completed the training process. Training involves attending a half-day workshop that addresses emergency contraception and information specific to the project protocol. By the end of August 2001, 14 training seminars had been

Number of Prescriptions
by Month



conducted and 118 pharmacists had been trained. Pharmacists are partnered with supporting physicians. By the end of the first quarter, 32 physicians had been recruited and trained.

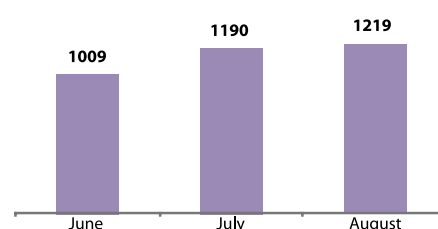
Service Delivery:

A total of 1,335 prescriptions of emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) were dispensed

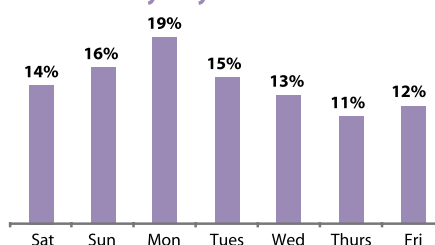
under this project protocol in the first three months of service delivery. The amount of prescriptions increased over the course of the first quarter and averaged 445 prescriptions/month.

This therapy was accessed most often on weekends and Mondays.

Calls to Hotline



Percentage of Patients
By Day of Week



The toll free hotline (1 866 ECP | ECP):

The toll free hotline has also been well used. The hotline received 3,418 calls in the first quarter, averaging 1,139 calls per month. An average of 730 callers a month (or 64%) accessed the list of participating pharmacies. 24.1% of total calls were received after hours (i.e. after 11 :30 pm during the week and after 4 pm on weekends) and 4.8% of callers retrieved the list of pharmacies with extended hours.

www.sogc.org

SOGC
News

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

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Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5R7

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

March: Nutrition Month

BOOK REVIEW

Lynn Bray-Levac, Translator/Communications Specialist

Natural Alternatives to Dieting

Why Diets Don't Work and What You Can Do That Does

by Dr. Marilyn Glenville

Dieting is one of North America's largest obsessions, most profitable industries and the origin of many myths about what "healthy" really is. Often, diets don't work, and when they do, they don't provide real solutions for permanent weight loss. *Natural Alternatives to Dieting* shows the reader how to lose weight naturally and permanently. It offers simple solutions to help conquer bingeing, boost metabolism, control cravings, and relinquish yo-yo diets. Its meal plans, simple exercises and basic nutritional information make it an invaluable guide for all women.

Dr. Marilyn Glenville is a nutritional therapist, psychologist, author and broadcaster with over 20 years' experience in treating women with eating disorders. She obtained her doctorate from Cambridge University in England.

An excellent reference to suggest to your patients whether they are dealing with eating disorders or simply wanting to lose weight.

Available from Whitecap Books, 192 pp., \$19.95 (softcover). ISBN 1-55285-219-9

58th Annual Clinical Meeting
 Delta Hotel
 Winnipeg, Manitoba
 June 20-25, 2002

On the Move

*Sylvie Paquette, Director,
 Events Management and Q.A.*

After two years of dedicated service, Carole Brault, CME Program Officer is on the move. Carole has accepted a position with Prime Strategies, an event management firm.

Carole was a valued member of the CPD Team and her skills as well as personality will be missed.

Goodbye Carole, and good luck!

Welcome Message

Dr. G.V. Krepart and Dr. Lorna Grant, ACM Host Committee Co-Chairs

The Host Committee for the SOGC's Annual Clinical Meeting in Winnipeg has been working hard to make this a memorable meeting through an excellent Scientific Programme, but also an excellent Social and Leisure Programme.

Winnipeg is well known for its warmth (especially in June) and congeniality. Social and Leisure Programme activities are included for all participants, with a separate Spouses Programme, as well as babysitting and daycare facilities.

From the Opening Ceremonies to the Dining Out Experience, riverside walking tours, golfing, train rides with dinner, art galleries, all can enjoy Winnipeg for what it is famous for – hospitality and site seeing.

The Convention Centre venue and hotel will put most attractions within walking



The Forks National Historic Site

distance, whether it be theatre, arts, sports, The Forks (junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers) with its many attractions for fine dining in a city that has more restaurants per capita than any city in North America.

A Residents' Fun Night is included as well as a cultural evening at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. St. Boniface, the largest French speaking community outside of Quebec, is historic and culturally unique to the Prairies. Tours have been arranged as well as museum visits for the Spouses Programme. Fine French dining is also available.

So, please come and join the 680,000 of us in Winnipeg. We will do our best to entertain you as well as offer an excellent and clinically oriented educational and scientific meeting.



The Forks Riverwalk

FIVE ESSENTIALS BEFORE BOOKING YOUR ROOM

- 1- A minimum stay of four nights is required at the Delta Hotel in order to qualify for the SOGC group rate and block.
- 2- To make your hotel reservations, please call the host hotel directly.
- 3- May 13, 2002 is the hotel cut-off date.
- 4- The Scientific Programme will be held at both venues: Winnipeg Convention Centre and the Delta. Host hotels are within walking distance (see map).
- 5- Book your room early to avoid disappointment.

Delta Hotel (#7 on the map)

A minimum stay of four nights is required in order to qualify for the SOGC group rate and block.

- Standard (king or two queen size beds): \$134 single/double occupancy
 - Signature Club (king size beds only): \$164 single/double occupancy
- Tel.: (204) 944-7243 or toll-free (800) 268-1133.

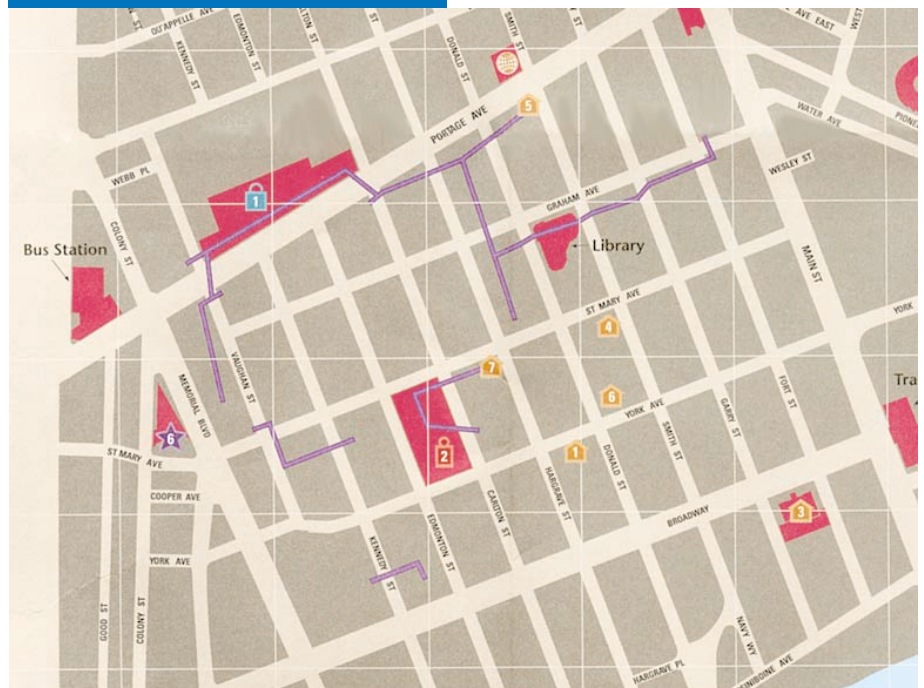
Sheraton Hotel (#6 on the map)

- Standard (queen size beds): \$104.00 single/double occupancy
 - Deluxe (queen or king size beds): \$119.00 single/double occupancy
- Tel.: (204) 942-5300 or toll-free (800) 463-6400.

Place Louis Riel All-Suites Hotel (#4 on the map)

- One-bedroom Suite: \$120 single/double occupancy
- Tel.: (204) 947-6961 or toll-free (800) 665-0569.

See page 7 for details of the Student Symposium to be held during the ACM.



Please consult the Preliminary Programme for more details regarding the host hotels.

Scientific Programme Update

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

You have probably received your copy of the preliminary programme, which was distributed in mid-January. But as you know, nothing remains static for too long here at SOGC. Here are some highlights of changes announced since the preliminary programme was distributed:

Friday, June 21, 2002

NEW Breakfast Symposium from 07:30-08:30 "Managing Menopause Naturally"

NEW Post Graduate Courses will now begin at 08:30

NEW Luncheon Symposium from 12:00-13:00 "HPV Infections: New developments in Diagnosis and Therapy"

REMEMBER

The President's Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall starts at 17:30 - don't be late, you'll be impressed with tastes of Manitoba!

Newly added to the program this year, a Spousal Programme - Join together for a tour of The Forks National Historical Site. With a little shopping, and a lovely lunch at Remington's - where else would you be?

Saturday, June 22, 2002

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Canadian Foundation for Women's Health Annual Fundraising Evening... See page 8 of this newsletter for all the details!

Sunday, June 23, 2002

Poster Presenters are invited to set up their posters early on this day to allow for greater visibility. Please note abstracts will be judged on Abstract Day only.

Join us for a Champagne breakfast as we start off this day.

Don't forget to register for the Social Events planned Sunday afternoon. Everything from train rides to golf are offered to meet the needs of most.

Monday, June 24, 2002

NEW Breakfast Symposium from 07:00-08:00 Title to be announced

Abstract Day will kick off with a presentation from CIHR.

Monday's Spousal Programme will highlight the "French Quarter" of Winnipeg with a tour of St-Boniface, its museum and of course "French Cuisine". Given that this is Saint Jean Baptiste Day - what better way to celebrate a French Heritage!

NOT TO MISS The Art Gallery Cocktails and Tour. The two exhibits outlined will cover historic and aboriginal art.

Following a bit of culture, find your way to the Resident Fun Night at Wise Guys which plans to be a "let loose kind of evening".

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

NEW International Symposium from 08:00-09:00 "Contraceptive Patch Technology"

The Cannell Lecture will be followed the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health Research Grant Awards Presentation. The Foundation will be acknowledging excellence in women's health research. Please come and applaud this year's recipients of more than \$200,000.

The ACM will end with an SOGC Awards Ceremony Luncheon and the Installation of the New President.

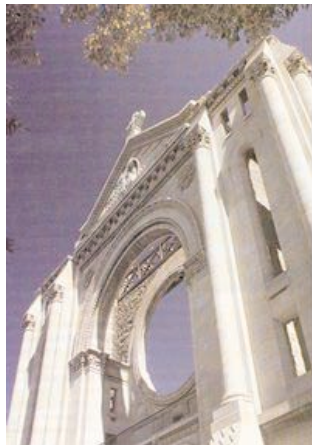
Visit www.sogc.org
for the most up-to-date
ACM information.
Updated daily!

Syllabi are also available
for SOGC members only.

10 Places to Discover in French in Winnipeg!

Isabelle Denis, Meeting Coordinator

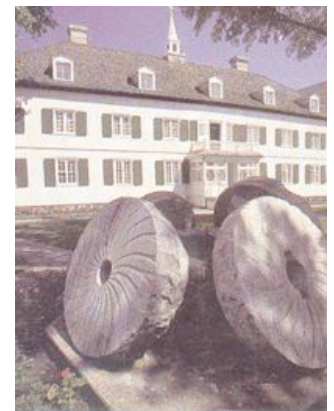
- 1 See the **house** where **Gabrielle Roy**, one of French Canada's most outstanding writers, was born and raised. *Saint-Boniface*
- 2 Visit the **Saint-Boniface Museum**, Winnipeg's oldest building, and North America's oldest oak log structure. Here, you will see permanent themed exhibits pertaining to French Canadian and Metis life in Manitoba. *Saint-Boniface*
- 3 Visit the **Tomb of Louis Riel**, Metis leader during the resistance at the Red River in 1869. *Cathedral Cemetery, Saint-Boniface*
- 4 Discover **Riel House**, a **national historical site**, where you will learn about the Metis lifestyle at the end of the 19th century. *Saint-Vital*
- 5 Visit the **Saint-Boniface Cathedral**. *Saint-Boniface*
- 6 Saunter over to the **Franco-Manitoban Cultural Center (CCFM)**. One of Winnipeg's most beautiful



Saint-Boniface Cathedral

terraces awaits you, not to mention a restaurant (Le Café-Jardin), bar, craft shop, art gallery and entertainment.

- 7 Take a stroll down **Taché Promenade** which runs alongside the Red River, for one of the most beautiful views of Winnipeg and The Forks. Signs along the way recount the history of Saint-Boniface. *Saint-Boniface*
- 8 Go back in time by taking a **guided walking tour of old Saint-Boniface**. You will discover Saint-Boniface's hidden treasures during this 2-hour long tour. Reservations required. *Saint-Boniface*
- 9 **Discover Emeu-Ville**, the place to learn all about emues.
- 10 Explore **Saint-Norbert Provincial Park Heritage Site**. Homes that are typical of colonial times and a native camp show how the site became a Metis colony, and then a French Canadian colony at the beginning of the 20th century. Guides on location.



Saint-Boniface Museum

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

10th Annual Symposium: New Developments in Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics May 15, 2002

Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario
Credits: MAINPRO-MI, CFPC
Maintenance of Certification Program,
RCPC Cat. I credits, AMA + CSDMS
Information and Registration:
Continuing Education, Faculty of
Medicine, University of Toronto
Tel.: 416-978-2719 / 1-888-512-8173
Fax: 416-971-2200
E-mail: ce.med@utoronto.ca
Website: www.cme.utoronto.ca

11th World Congress on Human Reproduction June 1-4, 2002, Montreal

Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel,
19 CME credits
Congress Secretariat:
687 Pine Ave. West, Room F4.29
Montreal, QC H3A 1A1
Tel: 514-843-1729 Fax: 514-843-1673
www.HumanRep2002.com
info@HumanRep2002.com

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:
Tel: 416-978-2719 Fax: 416-971-2200
e-mail: kristin.parsonson@utoronto.ca
www.cme.utoronto.ca/PDF/ISSHP.pdf

Employment Opportunity Obstetrician/Gynaecologist

Centre hospitalier du Pays d' APT Luberon (Vaucluse) FRANCE

Possibility of serving as
Department Head
Small, Level 1 maternity hospital,
validated by SROSS
Friendly, family-like atmosphere
10 beds; 200 deliveries in 2001
Part-time hospital-based physician
Network with Level 2 maternity
hospital in Avignon
Surgery, medicine, emergency
Wonderful area, great quality of life

Contact:
Dr. Carrelet, IMC President
Mr. Jacques, Director

Tel 04 90 04 33 00
chir.apr@wanadoo.fr
dir.apr@wanadoo.fr

MEMBERS' CORNER: NAMS Update

Dr. Morrie M. Gelfand, President

As 2001-2002 President of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS), I am pleased to report that the Society's 12th Annual Meeting, held in New Orleans on October 4-6, was remarkably successful. In spite of the tragic events of September 11, attendance topped the level achieved last year in Orlando, reaching 1,300. Almost 9% were Canadians.

Our meeting theme, *Focus on Diversity: Women are Different*, proved to be of great interest. As stated by the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, MD, "Improved understanding of biologic, cultural, and environmental differences should help us tailor medical and preventive advice to individual women with greater sensitivity to our differences." The program also provided an update on clinical issues for postmenopausal women.

If you were not able to attend, I encourage you to review the proceedings. Audio CD/cassette recordings of the plenary sessions, workshops, and satellite symposia are available from the supplier (970-207-1614 or www.cmc-net.com). Abstracts of all presentations except the satellite symposia were published in the November/December 2001 issue of the Society's journal, *Menopause*.



Morrie M. Gelfand, CM, MD

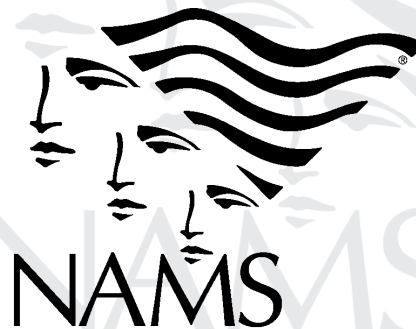
Many fellowships and awards were presented at the meeting. Among these recipients were two Canadians. Patricia Kaufert, PhD, University of Manitoba, received the 2001 NAMS/Pfizer Women's Health Diversity Award, which acknowledged a body of work that addresses the importance of diversity in achieving optimal health during perimenopause and beyond. Elizabeth Contestabile, RNC, BScN, Ottawa General Hospital, received the 2001 NAMS/Organon Education Excellence Award, which recognized a health educator

from the NAMS membership who has helped improve the quality of life of menopausal women through education.

Plans for the 2002 Annual Meeting, being held in Chicago on October 3-5, are well underway. I invite you to submit abstracts (due date is April 15) and join us for another exciting time. For more information, visit the NAMS Web site (www.menopause.org). During my year as NAMS President, my primary goal will be to maintain the Society's reputation as a premier provider of both professional and consumer education regarding the management of menopause. I also have two personal goals, namely, to help improve the quality of life of women with breast cancer who are faced with managing menopause symptoms without hormones and to help women better understand the benefit-risk profiles of estrogens, progestogens, and androgens so they can make informed decisions regarding hormone therapy.

And as the first Canadian President of NAMS, I'm looking to strengthen the Society's mission to serve North America, particularly Canada, and to help implement our plans to establish a closer working relationship with the SOGC.

Dr. Gelfand, the 1985-1986 President of SOGC, is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at McGill University in Montreal, having held that professorship since 1981. Dr. Gelfand was also Chief of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital from 1976 to 1995; since that time, he has been Honorary Chief. In 1989, he was honored with receipt of the Order of Canada for his contributions to women's health. He follows Lila E. Nachtigall, MD, in this leadership role for NAMS.



NAMS
THE NORTH AMERICAN
MENOPAUSE SOCIETY

SOGC JUNIOR MEMBER NEWS



Of Prime Interest to Junior Members

Denise Desautels, Junior Member Coordinator

Student Symposium

A new program has been introduced to the Annual Clinical Meeting. This year, a Student Symposium will follow the Junior Member Committee Meeting on Saturday, June 22nd. Invitations to attend will be extended to all medical students in the Winnipeg area and across Canada; the local organizing committee is setting up billeting arrangements for those travelling from outside Winnipeg. The two-hour session will feature a presentation developed by Dr. Lynne McLeod (details in next issue) and a panel discussion with questions and answers. The presentation will be followed by food and good times.

It is hoped that this will become an annual event at the ACM. **As Junior Members you can help make the event a success. Pass the message on to the medical students in your university.** Students are encouraged to attend ACM sessions and will be actively encouraged to attend Resident's Fun Night.

Brochure to introduce Ob/Gyn to medical students

The Promotion of the Specialty Committee has developed a brochure to assist in the recruitment of new members to the specialty. Titled "What is Obstetrics and Gynaecology?", it aims to introduce medical students to the specialty and its subspecialties. It was focus tested in February

with medical students at two universities. Once it has been finalized, the brochure will be printed and forwarded to designated individuals at the 16 medical faculties for distribution.

News on Junior Member Elective Fellowship Grants

Junior Member Elective Fellowship Grants are intended to assist Junior Members to pursue elective training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology during their residency program. Six fellowships are available in 2002 through the generous sponsorship of the following companies: Berlex Canada Inc., Duchesnay Inc. and Janssen-Ortho Inc. There will be two competitions with application deadlines of May 10th and September 27th.

Applicants must be a Junior Member of the SOGC in good standing and enrolled in a residency training program in Canada. The elective training must be four weeks minimum and must be held in Canada unless the chosen program is not available in Canada.

The fellowship must start within six months of being announced and must be completed within 12 months of its start date.

At time of print of this newsletter, applications were in the printing stage. They should now be available through the Program Director in your local department.

Dedicated support for Junior Members

Ms. Denise Desautels has recently been hired to support the Junior Member Programs and the Promotion of the Specialty Committee. Denise comes with a wealth of experience, having worked in health care settings for a number of years. In addition, Denise has worked extensively with post-graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. She is looking forward to assisting the junior members.



Her e-mail address is ddesautels@sogc.com. She may be reached extension 249 at the National Office in Ottawa.

Junior Member Committee Projects

Jean-Pierre Gennaoui, VP,
Junior Member Committee

Bonjour;

I would like to inform you of a few projects to be undertaken by the Junior Member Committee in the coming year.

The first project consists of updating the list of fellowship positions available across Canada. We will attempt to provide you with the latest information on the number of positions, the available financing and contact people to reach.

The second project will generate a list of electives which are available in obstetrics/gynaecology across Canada. Meeting residents from the four corners of the country made me aware that inter-university electives are quite popular outside Québec. A significant detail is that the salary follows the resident, no matter which province the elective takes place in. Also, some residents have taken advantage of fellowships offered through the SOGC to do an elective in another setting.

Keep reading the **Junior Member News** to stay abreast of these projects!

Till next time!

Colpo and Vulvar Diseases Elective

Coralie Beauchamp, R4, University of Montréal

I was worried about finishing my residency while feeling inadequately prepared for the barrage of vulvar complaints that women can share with us. Luckily for me, my sister, who is in obstetrics/gynaecology in Vancouver, mentioned this elective (and offered to house me...) This is an optional elective for residents of the University of British Columbia. It is a one-month elective at Vancouver General Hospital. When you arrive, you are given a preestablished and well-structured schedule which includes colposcopy, vulvar disease and vulvar pain clinics, as well as study periods. You also have

the opportunity to perform day surgeries (cone, laser, excision, etc...) but you have to coordinate this with the resident who is doing his/her gyn/oncology residency at that time.

The most wonderful part of the elective is the support you get from the Elective Supervisor, Dr. Leslie Sadownik, a gynaecologist who is passionate about the subject and about teaching it. She takes you under her wing and ensures that the elective meets your expectations and your needs. She does only teaching clinics on vulvar diseases and pain and leaves colposcopy to the gyn/oncologists at the hospital.

Obviously, you must reserve your place in advance (!) as only one resident at a time can take this elective, thus ensuring maximum exposure.

Absolutely a must do!

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