



SOGC News

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

APRIL 2001

EDITORIAL

Decreasing Unintended Pregnancy by Improving Access to Emergency Contraception - A National Initiative.

Dr. Vyta Senikas, Acting Associate Executive Vice-President

The SOGC, in partnership with the Canadian Pharmacists Association and the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, continues to spearhead advocacy and awareness programs for improved access to emergency contraception.

This initiative was launched by the SOGC Council which passed the following motion in November 1998:

- (1) That emergency postcoital contraception should be made available without prescription in pharmacies, family planning clinics, emergency rooms, walk-in

clinics and school health programs. Emergency postcoital contraception can be given without the need for any woman to have a pelvic examination;

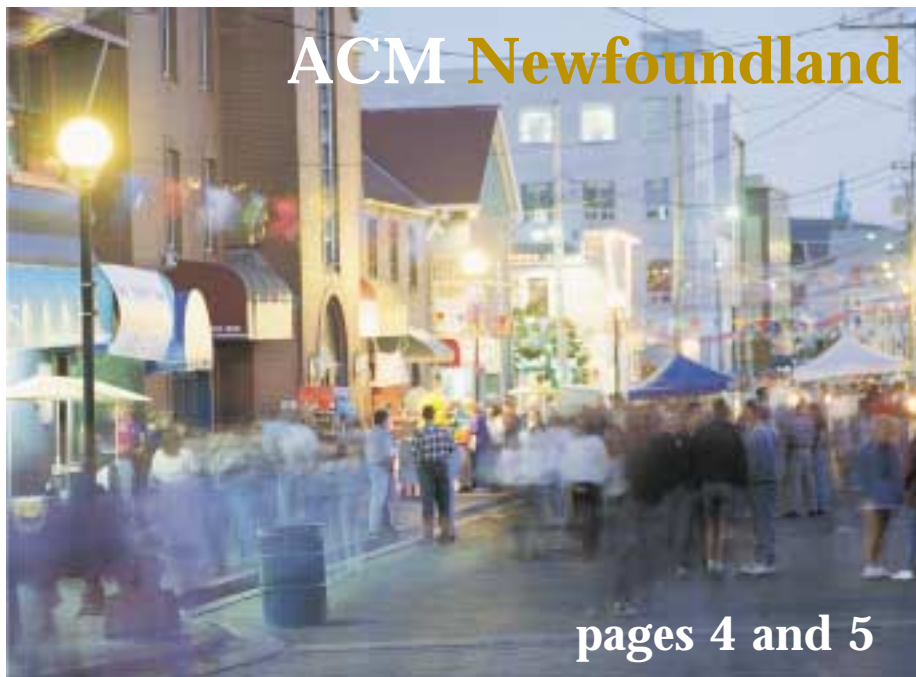
- (2) That the SOGC National Office initiate the process required to change the prescription status of emergency postcoital contraception;
- (3) That the SOGC seek the approval of medical and public health institutions, affiliate societies, including the Canadian Pharmacists Association and other relevant organizations.

Since that time, the SOGC has obtained letters of support from various national and

provincial physician groups, pharmacy groups, allied health organizations, universities and provincial governments.

The SOGC also established the National Advisory Committee on Emergency Contraception in May 2000. This Advisory Committee, which the SOGC co-chairs with the Canadian Pharmacists Association and the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, also includes representatives from the Canadian Public Health Association, the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities as well as an observer from Health Canada. All these organizations believe in, and endorse, the recommendations made by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its 1998 guide on emergency contraception which states that "emergency contraception has an important part to play in helping women achieve their reproductive intentions by avoiding unintended pregnancies" and that "the provision of these ... should be considered part of the long-term strategy to improve reproductive health care." The WHO document concludes that "the need for emergency contraception is

continued on p. 7



IN THIS ISSUE

International Women's Health	2 & 3
Physician Agreements	4
ACM News	4 & 5
ALARM at Mont Ste-Anne	6
Members' Corner	7
Foundation News	8

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International Women's Health

McMaster University Project



Standing, left to right; Ni Jadon, Wesley Romulus, Dr. Henry Muggah, Trish McDonald, Brian Guest, Micheline Wylde, France Tremblay, Anne Ehrlich, Dr. Mario Alvarez, seated, left to right; Patricia McNiven, Dr. Susan French, Dr. Regine Plancher, Dr. John Yates, Sister Katrina, Dr. Bob Hutchison, Dr. Victor Neufeld.

Haiti: A Women's Health Initiative

Dr. Henry Muggah

McMaster University is heading a five-year, \$ 1.7 million multidisciplinary project which aims to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in Haiti. It is estimated that 25% of women are of childbearing age, and one third of them will not receive any prenatal care. The risk of dying from child-birth-related causes is more than 100 times that in Canada (500 to 700/ 100,000 live births) and among the highest rates in the world. Partnering with McMaster are The Haiti State University of Medicine & Pharmacy (H.S.U.M.P.) and International Child Care, a non- governmental organization (NGO) with hospital and clinic facilities throughout the country.

The goals of this collaborative project are to strengthen the educational capacity of the H.S.U.M.P. with the development of evidence-based curricula and the subsequent training of physicians, nurses, community health workers and possibly midwives to meet the reproductive health needs of rural and urban populations. A secondary goal is to explore the possibility of reestablishing a School of Midwifery, the previous one having been closed in 1984.

Members of the team from McMaster's Faculty of Health Sciences include Drs. Henry Muggah and Bob Hutchison from Medicine, Ms. Anne Ehrlich and Dr. Susan French from Nursing and Drs. Karyn Kaufman and Patti McNiven from Midwifery. Dr. John Yates, a Mac Alumnus,

is heading the NGO team, and Dean Alvarez and Post Grad. Education Director Moise are representing the State University of Haiti. The Sisters of St. Joseph's Health Care System in Hamilton is providing support through its existing linkages in Haiti, and with the advice of its Executive Director, Brian Guest.

The project is funded by The Canadian International Development Agency through open competition via its Tier 2 Partnerships Program, and administered by The Association of Colleges and Universities of Canada.

The Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs are excellent vehicles for funding International Development Projects and all SOGC members interested in partnering with agencies, universities and NGOs in the south are encouraged to seek out the terms of reference to see if they apply to their development work, present or future.

For further information or to share thoughts on this project please contact Henry Muggah at McMaster at (905) 521-6041. We are particularly interested in hearing from those of you who might have had experience working in Haiti.

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

Program Update

FIGO Save the Mothers Uganda Canada Project: News from the field!

Dr. Harry Janzen, Canadian Volunteer Physician

The FIGO Save the Mothers Project has been operating for two years in the Kiboga District. Since the beginning (Feb. 1999), various Canadian volunteer obstetricians have been serving on a short term basis with Ugandan doctors filling in as well.

This joint enterprise between the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda (AOGU) and the SOGC is currently funded by the FIGO Save the Mothers Fund. As a pilot project, it is being observed with interest by Uganda's health officials. If successful in showing a reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality, the project may well be emulated in other outlying districts of Uganda.

On January 18th, a celebration was held in Kiboga to mark two years of successful cooperation between the SOGC and the AOGU. The event was chaired by Drs. André Lalonde and Anthony Mugasa and was attended by 300 healthcare workers and district officials. A number of local midwives and elected officials gave testimony to the life-saving results of this project in their community.

As a volunteer from January - March 2001, I functioned as a consultant and clinical teacher, both to the general practitioners at the district hospital and to the nurses and midwives at the hospital and the 13 district maternity units. These units were visited by the co-ordinating midwife, Dr. Tony Mugasa (the local clinical director) and myself on a rotating basis. We

consulted with the resident midwives concerning patient volume, referral history and deliveries, checked equipment and drug supply inventory and saw problem obstetrical patients and elective gynaecology patients.

The challenge for the future of this project is to overcome the cultural barriers and traditional methods that prevail in the rural settings. A common theme that emerges in discussions here is that pregnancy is a condition that prepares women for the "lutalo lwabakyala" (the women's battle), that is, childbirth. Seeking help is seen as a sign of defeat. For this reason they often present too late in labour, which results in an unacceptably high rate of stillbirth and maternal morbidity and mortality. To date, I have seen a number of vesicle vaginal fistulas secondary to obstructed labour, and also a patient with a ruptured uterus and a fresh stillborn completely extruded together with the placenta into the peritoneal cavity. The bladder and lower uterine segment were torn. She survived since the rupture



Twins!

occurred in the theatre as we prepared her for an emergency caesarean section.

With the new Social Justice Fund provided through the auspices of the Canadian Auto Workers' Social Justice Fund, the project is now turning its attention to community awareness through education of traditional birth attendants, community leaders and the women and their husbands.

It was a privilege to participate in this exciting project in an area of the world which has one of the highest maternal mortality rates.

REMINDER

A national survey on the "Diagnosis and Management of Prolonged Latent Phase of Labour" was inserted in the February issue of the SOGC News.

Latent phase of labour is poorly defined, and conflicting conclusions have been reported regarding its management and outcome. In view of this, the more completed surveys received by the research team the better for the profession.

If you have not yet done so, please take a few moments to complete and return it today in the envelope provided or by fax to (416) 586-5992. Should you require another copy of the survey, please contact Lynn Bray-Levac at (613) 730-4192 or lbray-levac@sogc.com. **Thank you.**



Clinic at Bukumero

PROGRAMS

57th Annual Clinical Meeting
Delta Hotel,
St. John's, Newfoundland
June 14 to 19, 2001

14th Québec CME
Mont Tremblant, Québec
September 27 to 29, 2001

20th Ontario CME
Marriott Eaton Centre
Toronto, Ontario
November 29 to December 1, 2001

COURSES

ALARM Course
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
April 6 and 7, 2001
+ Instructor Course
April 8, 2001

ALARM Course
Vancouver, British Columbia
April 28 and 29, 2001

ALARM Course
Toronto, Ontario
May 4 and 5, 2001

GESTA Course (French)
Mont Ste-Anne, Québec
May 27 and 28, 2001

ALARM Course
St. John's, Newfoundland
June 13 and 14, 2001

ALARM Course
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
September 6 and 7, 2001

ALARM Course
Moncton, New Brunswick
September 23 and 24, 2001

ALARM Course
Kamloops, British Columbia
October 20 and 21, 2001

ALARM Course
Toronto, Ontario
November 17 and 18, 2001
+ Instructor Course
November 19, 2001

ALARM Course
Toronto, Ontario
December 2 and 3, 2001

Physician Agreements - Are they necessary?

Jim Sweeney

Any business arrangement must clearly define the conditions and financial obligations established by entering into an agreement, how income or expenses are to be shared during the term of the agreement and how to address one's obligations when exiting the business relationship, both voluntarily and involuntarily.

Partnerships are a separate business entity and establishing a partnership agreement is standard practice. As time passes, changes to the way a practice operates must be reflected in the agreement. Many agreements often fail to clearly spell out associate or cost-sharing arrangements.

Take the example of a three-physician group that recruited a fourth associate to equally share in the expenses of the group. The original group had just signed a five-year lease and had renovated their existing facility, at a cost of \$25,000, to accommodate the new associate. This seemed like a good investment, since the addition of a new member would reduce overhead costs for the whole group. The new associate was asked to pay one-quarter of the total overhead. No formal agreement was signed and the new associate didn't have to sign the lease. Nine months later, however, the new

associate left to pursue another career opportunity. With no formal agreement in place, plus the fact that his signature was not required on the lease, the departing associate had no financial obligations to any of the remaining members of the group. In the end, the three physicians simply wound up increasing their own overhead costs compared to what they had to pay prior to the arrival of the new associate.

Let there be no doubt that if this group decides to recruit another physician, a formal agreement will be in place. It will clearly state all relevant operating terms, including the ownership of assets, their repair and replacement, a cost-sharing formula, the group's insurance requirements, as well as the individual responsibilities, costs and terms of joining the group and terms of withdrawal.

Whether the group is in a partnership, associate or cost-sharing arrangement, it is imperative that the business relationship that exists among the physicians is clearly defined and signed by all parties, and reviewed on an annual basis. Consult with a qualified lawyer and an accountant before drawing up any practice-related agreement. For more information, contact the MD Practice Management Hotline at 1-800-361-9151.

Jim Sweeney is Lead Consultant in Practice Management with MD Management.

Thank you
to the West/Central CME
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ACM SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM UPDATE

A new session entitled **Contraceptive Counselling Skills** will be offered at the ACM.

**Saturday, June 16
16:30 to 18:30
Concurrent to the Best
Practice Session A**

This two-hour interactive workshop is an integral component of the National Contraception Awareness Program. Participants will be provided with a "tool kit" to assist with contraceptive counselling. Those tools will then be reviewed and used in role-playing physician/patient scenarios. All those involved with the provision of contraceptive counselling in their practice will benefit from attending.

The Contraceptive Counselling Skills session is limited to 20 participants.

57th Annual Clinical Meeting - St. John's, Newfoundland

Dr. Joan Crane, ACM Host Committee

We would like to invite everyone to come visit St. John's, Newfoundland for the SOGC 57th Annual Clinical Meeting June 14 - 19, 2001. In addition to an exciting and informative scientific program, our city and province offer a lot to see and experience. The city of St. John's, the oldest settlement in the western world, mixes Old World friendliness and New World sophistication. You will find traditional music to jazz to Celtic rock, local cuisine as well as that from around the world, and pubs and clubs throughout the downtown area. Come visit George Street, alive with night-life, music, pubs and clubs for which the city

is famous. Throughout St. John's are walking trails, connecting rivers and lakes in the city. A must stop for every visitor is Signal Hill providing a panoramic view of the city and harbour. It is here that Cabot Tower is located and Marconi received the first transatlantic wireless message in 1901. Another site to visit is Cape Spear - the most easterly point in North America, and home to Newfoundland's oldest lighthouse.

If you enjoy nature and the outdoors, Newfoundland is the place to visit. Here, whales meet icebergs and sea birds. St. John's is along the path of iceberg alley and June is prime time



iceberg season! It is also the perfect time to see whales (from land, boat tours, or sea kayak). From May to August, twenty two species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises swim in the waters off Newfoundland. I encourage everyone to go whale watching - don't miss the opportunity to see the majestic humpback whale breach out of the water. Also nearby are a number of bird sanctuaries accessible by boat tours (Witless Bay Ecological Reserve) or by car (Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve is the most accessible seabird colony in the western hemisphere - birds by the millions including gannets and puffins - so close you can almost touch them). There is lots to see and explore in St. John's, Newfoundland; we hope to see you here in June!

ACM 2001

**The Hotel Newfoundland
has a new name:
The Fairmont Newfoundland**

MAY 11 IS AN IMPORTANT ACM DATE

It is the deadline for:

1) HOTEL RESERVATIONS

How to reserve?

Send your Accommodation Request Form to the Housing Bureau by fax to (514) 843-5680 or 1-877-426-1100. Please note that there is no telephone number to contact the Housing Bureau directly, since they need a signature to guarantee the reservation. If you have any questions, please contact them by email at sogchotel@aliotours.com.

Where can you find an Accommodation Request Form?

Enclosed in the Preliminary Program that you received at the end of January;
On the SOGC Website at www.sogc.org;
By calling the SOGC at (613) 730-4192 or 1-800-561-2416

Where are the conference sites?

Delta Hotel and The Fairmont Newfoundland (formerly known as Hotel Newfoundland)

2) SOCIAL AND LEISURE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

How to register?

Complete the appropriate sections on the ACM Registration Form.

Where can you find the Registration Form?

Enclosed in the Preliminary Program that you received at the end of January;
On the SOGC Website at www.sogc.org;
By calling the SOGC at (613) 730-4192 or 1-800-561-2416

What activities await me?

Please refer to the Preliminary Program or the SOGC Website for all the details!

3) DAYCARE SERVICE

How to register?

You have to complete the appropriate section of the SOGC Registration Form.

What are the dates and hours?

June 14 to June 19, 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where will the daycare service be located?

At the Fairmont Newfoundland (formerly known as Hotel Newfoundland). Please note that the name of the room reserved for this purpose will be confirmed on site.



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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

BC Reproductive Care Program Partners in Prenatal Care Conference April 26-28, 2001
Delta Pinnacle Hotel, Vancouver, BC
Information: Tel: (604) 875-3737
Fax: (604) 875-3747

9th Annual Symposium: New Developments in Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics
May 16, 2001, Mount Sinai Hospital
600 University Avenue, Toronto, ON
Credits : MAINPRO1-M1 credits by the CFPC, Maintenance of Certification Program of the RCPSC, Category I credits of AMA
For information and registration : Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
Toronto, ON M5S 3E2
Tel: (416) 978-2719
Fax: (416) 971-2200
E-mail: kristin.parsonson@utoronto.ca
Website : www.cme.utoronto.ca

North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (NASPAG) Annual Clinical Meeting
Delta Chelsea Inn, Toronto, ON
May 18-20, 2001
Information: www.naspag.org

Advances in Fetal & Perinatal Cardiology 25-26 may, 2001
The Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto
Information: Diane Pettai,
Tel.: (416) 813-7850
Fax: (416) 813-7880
E-mail: diane.pettai@sickkids.on.ca
Website: www.sickkids.on.ca/fetalcentre/AdvancesInFetalPerinatalCardiology.asp

3rd International Meeting on Recent Advances in Gynaecological Surgery (IMRAGS)
Church House Conference Centre
Westminster, London, UK
May 30 & 31, 2001
Info: IMRAGS Secretariat
Tel: +44(0)20 8661 0877
Fax: +44(0)20 8661 9036
Email: info@conforg.com

World Congress of Perinatal Medicine September 17 to 23, 2001
Barcelona, Spain

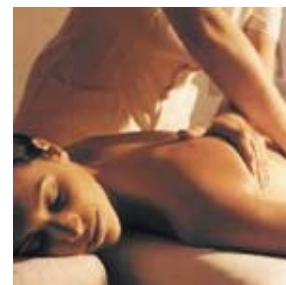
13th World Congress: International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy June 2-5, 2002
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto
For Information and Call for Papers:
c/o Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
150 College Street, Suite 121
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3E2
Telephone: (416) 978-2719
Fax: (416) 971-2200
e-mail: kristin.parsonson@utoronto.ca
Web page: www.cme.utoronto.ca/PDF/ISSHP.pdf

Need a little R&R?

Take the ALARM course at Mont Ste-Anne and then give yourself a couple of days off to enjoy one of Canada's jewels: Mont Ste-Anne and Quebec City.

Whether you are enjoying a relaxing round of golf, going for a few laps in the pool, visiting an art gallery or sampling fine cuisine, Mont Ste-Anne has something for everyone.

After the ALARM course, **pamper** yourself at a full spa at Chateau Mont Ste-Anne. Clinique Santé Relax offers treatments that include balneotherapy, algae therapy, spa, massage and more, all lavished on you by healthcare professionals. Indulge yourself and a loved one to **relaxation and rejuvenation**.



Or quickly head off to Quebec City, only 30 minutes away from Mont Ste-Anne. Visit Vieux Québec (Old Québec) and see winding cobbled streets flanked by seventeenth and eighteenth century stone houses and churches, graceful parks and squares, and countless monuments.

And remember: ALARM is an Accredited Group Learning Activity earning you 14.35 MOC credits and 8 MAINPRO-C® and 12 MAINPRO-MI® credits.

So why not **enrich your mind** and then provide a little **R & R for your body and soul!**



Mont Ste-Anne : May 27 - 28, 2001

(Course offered in French)

To register contact Correena Z. Snook, ALARM Coordinator
at tel: 613-730-4192, ext. 247 or e-mail: csnook@sogc.com



*Imagine breath-taking scenery ...
A mountain with endless forests
and river waters flowing free*



Members' Corner:

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. GUYLAINE LEFEBVRE

Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre of Ottawa, Ontario has recently accepted the position of Chief, Obstetrics & Gynaecology at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. She will assume her new responsibilities as of May 1st, 2001.

Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre graduated from the University of Ottawa Medical School in 1985. Following her residency in obstetrics and gynaecology in Ottawa, she completed a fellowship in advanced gynaecologic surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Her interests focus on gynaecology with specific attention to vaginal surgery. She chairs the SOGC Clinical Practice Committee for Gynaecology and is a member of the SOGC Council. She was recently appointed to represent the SOGC on the Ontario Women's Health Council.

Congratulations Dr. Lefebvre, and good luck!



Decreasing Unintended Pregnancy...

continued from page 1

clearly demonstrated by the occurrence of unintended pregnancies and induced abortion, and by high rates of unintended pregnancy among adolescents".

The National Advisory Committee on Emergency Contraception intends to implement a national program in order to:

- Make emergency contraception more available to women in Canada, including availability from pharmacists without a prescription;
- Raise awareness of emergency contraception among the general public;
- Raise awareness of emergency contraception among healthcare providers in Canada, including physicians, pharmacists and nurses;
- Educate health care professionals in the provision of appropriate counselling surrounding emergency contraception in Canada.

Members of the National Advisory Committee on Emergency Contraception are confident that their goals of increasing awareness, ensuring appropriate use and improving access to emergency contraception are well supported across Canada. While there are some very successful initiatives under way in certain regions of Canada (B.C., Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec), the National Advisory Committee hopes to implement a national program to ensure equitable access to emergency contraception to all women across the country.

Representatives from the National Advisory Committee on Emergency Contraception recently met with officials at the Therapeutic Products Program (formerly known as HPB) to fast-track a regulatory submission by the manufacturer so that the status of emergency contraception be moved from prescription to non-prescription (behind-the-counter) status. More meetings are planned in the near future with other key government officials.

Further details are available in a discussion paper developed by the National Advisory Committee on Emergency Contraception. You may obtain a copy from Christiane Ménard, SOGC's Director of Communications and Government Relations at 1-800-561-2416 ext. 225 or by e-mail at: cmenard@sogc.com

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR "SURVEY OF OBSTETRICAL PRACTICES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BREECH AND TWIN PREGNANCIES"?

All practicing members of the SOGC received a copy of the survey with the March 2001 issue of the SOGC News. Thank you to all of you who have sent your surveys in so promptly. We are about to enter the data from the returned surveys and will begin the analysis shortly. We need information from as many obstetrical care providers as possible. If you have not yet returned your survey, please take 5 minutes to complete it and send it in today. If you need a new copy of the survey, or if you have any questions, please contact:

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University of Toronto
Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Research Unit
Centre for Research in Women's Health
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Toronto, ON
CANADA M5G 1N8
eileen.hutton@utoronto.ca

Thank you.

ERRATUM

An error slipped by in the Dec. 2000-Jan. 2001 issue of the SOGC News. Dr. Morrie Gelfand was in fact elected President of the *North American Menopause Society (NAMS)* for the year 2001-2002. He is **President Elect** at the present time. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

Foundation News

By Robyn Harris, Executive Director

Your support is helping to close the gap!

Thanks to your donations to the annual fall appeal and through SOGC's membership renewal form, the Foundation received a total of \$7,000 from 75 individuals. Your donation directly supports research into women's health carried out across Canada through funding provided by the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health.

If you have not yet made your contribution, it is not too late to help close the gap in women's health research. You may phone, fax or mail your donation to the Foundation. Your continued support ensures that more research projects will be given the attention they deserve.

Research Grants 2001

Another exciting competition is nearing the end as peer reviewers tally the scores on the numerous research proposals submitted this year. All proposals received have been acknowledged by e-mail and recipients of this year's grants will be notified by the middle of May. Please contact the Foundation office if you have any questions.

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

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Fax: (613) 730-4314
E-mail: lbray-levac@sogc.com

ACM 2001

Another Annual Clinical Meeting is just around the corner and the Foundation has some special features planned. On Saturday, June 16, participants will be treated to "A Taste of Newfoundland" featuring The Irish Descendants. What could be more fun than a lobster feast followed by everyone's favourite band of merry musicians? The Irish Descendants have just released their new album, "Blooming Bright Star," so the evening will be filled with new tunes and old favourites. If you haven't yet heard this wonderful Canadian talent, not to worry, it won't be long before you'll be tapping your feet and clapping your hands to their Celtic-style music. And if the spirit moves you, there will be plenty of room to dance a jig! The Foundation wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the current corporate sponsors of this event - Berlex Canada Inc., Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. and Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.

On Sunday evening, June 17, Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc., in cooperation with the Foundation, are pleased to present "A Child

On Her Mind." This thought-provoking play about the ethical, social and moral pressures women face when choosing to have a child, written by Jeff Nisker and produced by Louise Fagan, is sure to keep you entertained.

The Foundation helps wrap up the ACM's final day on Tuesday, June 19, with a late-morning presentation by this year's Cannell Lecturer, Dr. Jean-Claude Fouron of Saint Justine's Hospital in Montreal. Dr. Fouron will speak on "Prenatal Diagnosis: The changing and complex relationship between perinatologists and life." The afternoon will feature the much-anticipated presentation of the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health research grant awards, where two major grants will be awarded: a \$27,000 grant from the Duchesnay Fund for a better use of drugs during pregnancy and lactation, and a \$21,000 grant from the Foundation's General Fund.

The Foundation would like to thank you in advance for registering and participating in the above activities.



The Irish Descendants