



SOGC News

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

NOVEMBER 2001

EDITORIAL

First Quarter Snapshot

Jan Christilaw, MD, SOGC President

The events of the last few weeks have shaken us all. Something substantive has changed, and the world somehow is not as safe a place as it was before September 11. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families. On your behalf, we have sent messages of support to our American colleagues, expressing our sympathy and our wish to help in any way we can.

However, life goes on. We have all returned more or less to normal. There are patients to see, babies to birth, surgeries to do. There is also much activity at the SOGC, and that too has gone on, despite the recent turmoil. I thought I'd take advantage of this editorial to bring you up to date on some of the activities I've been involved with since my inauguration as your President in June.

Perhaps the biggest project on the horizon is the upcoming submission to the Romanow Commission on the Future of

Health Care in Canada. This commission has a mandate to help redesign the Canadian health care system, based on four pillars: 1) Canadian values, 2) sustainability, 3) managing change, and 4) cooperative mechanisms. Two major committees of the SOGC have come together to prepare our brief. The Women's Health Policy Committee and the Government Relations Committee have had input through both teleconferences and face-to-face meetings.

We are also approaching the November 8 launch date of an exciting new Website, which is being developed through the Contraception Awareness Project (CAP). This project has involved many hours of work for the national office staff and the contraception awareness team, and the final product looks magnificent. It is a truly innovative and user-friendly Website that will contain vast quantities of information for both the Canadian public and for practitioners. The CAP project also involves a series of training programmes in contraception counselling and sexual health that will be taking place across the country. Watch for news of these events.

International women's health continues to be a major focus. Every day, we welcome inquiries from new countries about the International ALARM Programme. Our members have a wealth of experience in various facets of international health, which they bring to the richly textured SOGC mosaic. There is always a need for new volunteers!

Many other projects are ongoing. We are presently interfacing with the Health Protection Branch to try to improve safety and availability of women's health products to Canadian women. We are working with CIHR to assure that research in women's health is properly supported in Canada. The number of issues and projects coordinated by the national office and by our committees every day is impressive. I treasure my days in the Ottawa office, and each one is a great learning experience.

This only touches the surface of what's

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going on. But the SOGC is only as strong as the sum of its parts. The members are the backbone of the organization, and I welcome your comments and ideas at any time. Please feel free to contact the SOGC office or to visit the Website.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

November is Osteoporosis Awareness Month.
Turn to page 3 for related articles.

MILLENNIUM FELLOWSHIPS

An insert outlining all three categories was included in the last issue of SOGC News.

For further information, visit www.sogc.org or call 1-800-561-2416, ext. 248

Deadline for applications is December 1st, 2001.

LAST CALL!!!

IN THIS ISSUE

From the EVP's Desk	2
West/Central CME	5
Stump the Professor	5
Members' Corner	6
Steroidal Contraceptives	7
Canadian Foundation for Women's Health	8

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FROM THE EVP'S DESK

Associate Member Midwife on SOGC Council

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

The first midwife was recently elected to the SOGC Council. The Associate Midwife membership has risen in the last two years, to 82 members; thus, midwives were in a position to elect a representative on the SOGC Council.

During the last few years, the SOGC has worked very closely with midwives in various provinces to promote midwifery care and to break down the barriers between nurses,

midwives and doctors in providing care for women in Canada. The SOGC is very pleased about recent developments at the Canadian Association of Midwives. The ICM (International Confederation of Midwives) is pleased to see this collaboration in Canada. With the current maternity care crisis in our country, especially in human resources, physicians across Canada need to see midwives as collaborators, and explore new models of practice with midwifery associations across the country. Certainly the division between health care organizations in the past must give way to collaboration if we want to develop a model of care that will respect the individual specificity of each organization, in promoting better health for women and to also help provide a more attractive profession of ob/gyn for men and women in Canada.

Our ALARM Courses have already attracted many midwives and we will seek their collaboration on our international health programs. Our committees have welcomed the participation of midwives and many more areas of collaboration will be developed in the years ahead.

Practices are now overworked and unsustainable. New models of practice where obstetricians, family physicians, midwives, nurse practitioners and nurses work together would help alleviate work weeks of more than 60 hours which are unsustainable in the long term. Long working hours lead to an unsatisfactory professional and personal life, increased litigation and early burnout.

Let's welcome our colleagues in midwifery practice across Canada and work in a collaborative cordiality to unify our efforts toward providing optimal women's health care in Canada.



Elections were held on October 17, 2001 and Ms. Eileen Hutton was elected Associate RM Representative by her peers. Ms. Hutton became a Registered Midwife in 1994. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Toronto, where she is currently working on a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology. She is a member of the College of Midwives of Ontario (CMO) and the Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM), of which she was President from 1994-96. She has served on the boards of both the AOM and the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA). She has made Ontario her home for several years, but has also lived and worked in British Columbia, Labrador and Québec, providing her with an appreciation of the diversity of issues that face care providers across the country. Her practical, academic and research experience will serve her well in her duties as Associate RM Representative. She welcomes the opportunity to represent midwives working with a national body of obstetrical care providers in addressing issues relevant to the provision of care to pregnant women and their babies. Congratulations Ms. Hutton and good luck!

Menopause and Osteoporosis:

New Medical Reports Set the Record Straight on Contradictions and Controversies

Christiane Ménard, Director, Communications and Government Relations

The first of a four-part report on menopause and osteoporosis was published in the September issue of The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada. This authoritative report stems from the 2001 Canadian Consensus Conference on Menopause and Osteoporosis and sheds new light on the contradictions and controversies over the best treatment options for managing symptoms and health issues during perimenopause and menopause. It also outlines how, by focusing on disease prevention and early intervention, health care providers can help women avoid serious health problems and disabilities as they age.

"This new report is the ultimate reference guide for any health care professional counselling perimenopausal and menopausal women in our country. It clears up many of the misconceptions and contradictions about the use and effects of hormone replacement therapy and alternative therapies" said Dr. Jan E. Christilaw, President of the SOGC.

"Consult the September issue of JOGC for the Executive Summary and key recommendations. The next three issues of JOGC will cover perimenopause and menopause under various headings."

The Consensus on Menopause and Osteoporosis explores the areas of perimenopause and menopause under the headings of healthy living; sexual health; hormone replacement therapy in relation to cardiovascular disease, cancer and the brain; osteoporosis; urogenital health; medical and special conditions; pharmacotherapy and complementary approaches. While the first section includes the Executive Summary and the key recommendations, these headings will be published in the next three issues of JOGC.

"As health care providers, it is now our responsibility to deliver this information to our patients and to all Canadian women. By the same token, our governments have the responsibility to ensure that Canadians have

equitable access to all proven treatments and therapies, both new and conventional" concluded Dr. Christilaw.

A National Multidisciplinary Forum

The Canadian Consensus Conference on Menopause and Osteoporosis is a national multidisciplinary forum of experts from across Canada that includes obstetricians/gynaecologists, reproductive endocrinologists, family physicians, rheumatologists, cardiologists, epidemiologists, and pharmacists as well as a nurse and a lay person. The report is a result of an extensive collaborative examination of the latest research and information on all aspects of menopause and osteoporosis in Canada.

The Bone Wellness Centre

Renz Juaneza, Executive Director

The Bone Wellness Centre is a unique health facility that focuses solely on performing quality bone mineral density testing for the diagnosis of osteoporosis and low bone mass. It is also the centre's aim to provide **free access** for our patients to the myriad of educational and other resources available for the prevention and treatment of this disease.

What is our vision?

Our vision is to continue our reputation of excellence and further the advancement of osteoporotic medicine – the greatest weapon we have in fighting this disease is through patient education and awareness.

How was the Bone Wellness Centre established?

Salima Ladak-Kachra, President and co-founder of The Bone Wellness Centre is a relatively young female who experienced a life changing health problem. She sustained four fractures in her spine at the age of twenty-five, a consequence of thin and brittle bones. The excruciating pain and emotional distress that she endured is something that she does not want others to go through. Consequently, Salima and Renz Juaneza, Executive Director at The Bone Wellness Centre, have dedicated their careers and lives to educate and improve the quality of life and bone health of others.

What is the Fe Juaneza Osteoporosis Education & Resource Centre?

The Bone Wellness Centre's primary objective is to ensure our patients not only receive quality bone density testing, but also that

they obtain the information they need to take an active role in their fight against osteoporosis. To that end, the centrepiece of our facility, the Fe Juaneza Osteoporosis Education & Resource Centre, was founded. Our patients routinely watch educational videos about osteoporosis. Prior to their examination, a comprehensive osteoporosis assessment is conducted to obtain information regarding the patient's lifestyle habits and medical history, which may predispose them to osteoporosis. Following the procedure, the patients are encouraged to use our free educational centre. Here, they have access to the latest information concerning osteoporosis risk factors; menopause; optimal calcium intake; proper postural techniques; exercise; disease causes; and treatment options, and information on topics ranging from fall prevention and back care, to general nutrition and exercise. The experts at The Bone Wellness Centre are also present to counsel and advise patients and their families.

The consultants at The Bone Wellness Centre have extensive clinical experience. They have performed over twenty thousand bone density procedures, provided in-depth clinical training and participated in clinical research. They have also organized educational seminars and certification courses and established bone mineral density (BMD) sites (i.e. education on procedures, technical standards & patient care, designing thorough requisition, history and patient forms) in hospitals and learning institutions alike. The centre, located in Toronto, Ont., currently serves about 250 patients a month.

For more information, visit bonewell@bonewellness.com or call (416) 405-8881.

PROGRAMMES

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

12th West/Central CME
 Rimrock Resort Hotel
 Banff, Alberta
 February 7-9, 2002

**It's not to late!
 BOOK NOW**

15th International CME
 Grand & Club Marival Nuevo Vallarta
 Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico
 March 3 - 7, 2002
 Check out our Web Site for programme updates and watch for the Preliminary Programme in the mail soon.
 Carlson Wagonlit Travel (Verdun)
 1410, Stanley Street, Suite 500
 Montreal, QC H3A 1P8
 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
 Web Site: www.carlson-vv.com/sogc

COURSES

(Cities and dates subject to change)

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

ALARM Course
 Toronto, Ontario
 December 2 and 3, 2001

ALARM Course
 Regina, Saskatchewan
 February 9 and 10, 2002

ALARM Course
 Vancouver, B-C
 April 5 and 6, 2002
+ Instructors' Course
 April 7, 2002

Endoscopic Skills
 Toronto, Ontario
 December 7 and 8, 2001

The 2001 Québec CME Golf Tournament a Success

Carole Brault, CME Program Officer

Again this year, the Québec CME programme was a huge success. As tradition goes, we had more requests from participants for the golf tournament than we had places available and 44 lucky players experienced a golf course that gave them a cold sweat under a bright blue sky. *Le Diable* took the players by surprise - it looked easy but the greens were challenging and what about those sand traps.....

And the winners are:

For the shot closest to the pin:
Dr. Claudie Gendron and Dr. Luc St-Pierre
 For the longest drive:
Mrs. Johanne Gauthier and Mr. Charles Côté
 And the best player was:
Dr. Claude Fortin

The SOGC would like to thank all of our sponsors for their participation in this year's Québec

CME Programme: 3M Canada Company, Alza Canada, Berlex Canada Inc., Duchesnay Inc., Eli Lilly Canada Inc., Fournier Pharma Inc., Janssen-Ortho Inc., Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., Organon Canada Ltd, Pharmacia Canada, Pfizer Canada Inc., Schering Canada Inc., Tycro Healthcare Group Canada Inc., Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.

See you next year!



*Pierre Blanchard,
 Pascal Lefebvre,
 Diana Allen and
 Daniel Lévesque.*

The SOGC Urges Physicians to Take Safety Precautions

Christiane Ménard, Director of Communications and Government Relations

As you know, physicians who perform abortions have been the target of attacks and threats of violence in the past. Most, but not all, of these attacks have occurred during the month of November. Some physicians have been targeted more than once.

As we enter the Fall season, and especially in light of current world events, the SOGC felt it appropriate to remind its members to take appropriate precautions to ensure their safety. The following measures have been suggested by various police forces:

- Increase your awareness in your everyday surroundings, including your home. Watch for cars you do not recognize, parked in odd places, etc., and report all suspicious activity immediately;
- Change your routine as much as possible, including the routes you drive and the time you enter and leave your home and office;
- Wear your scrubs in the clinic only;
- Consider wearing body armor, even at home;
- Do not assume you are safe in your home - use window coverings to limit visibility

into your home, keep your outside lights on all night;

- Be sure to use your home security system, and if you do not have one, have one installed;
- Keep emergency numbers near all the phones in the house, and be sure everyone knows how to get immediate assistance in an emergency, including children;
- Keep a cell phone with you at all times, with emergency numbers programmed;
- Use caller ID on your phone to track hang-up or crank calls.

The SOGC will continue to publicly condemn any form of violence against all physicians, health professionals as well as the women who seek to terminate a pregnancy. The SOGC believes that its members have the right to practice in a safe and supportive environment and that women have the equal right to safety in accessing any medical attention. Physicians must be able to exercise their professional judgement and should have the freedom to choose the most appropriate therapy for each individual patient.

JOIN US IN THE ROCKIES FOR THE 12th West/Central CME Programme February 7-9, 2002

We are going back to the Rimrock Resort Hotel by Popular Demand!

Following an SOGC member survey, the 2002 edition of the West/Central CME will be held at The Rimrock Resort Hotel. Renovations totaling nearly \$10 million have recently been completed to the hotel fitness and spa area, to both restaurants, to the grand lobby and the conference floor. The staff of the Rimrock Resort Hotel, one of the leading hotels in the world, is looking forward to welcoming you again!

The SOGC wishes to acknowledge the financial support of the following sponsors to both the West/Central CME and the ICME 2002 programmes:

Berlex Canada Inc.	Duchesnay Inc.	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Janssen-Ortho Inc.	Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Organon Canada Ltd.	Pfizer Canada Inc.	Pharmacia Canada Inc.
Schering Canada Inc.	3M Canada Company	Tyco Healthcare Group Canada Inc.
	Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.	



New dates

The West/Central CME 2002 is earlier this year. Mark your calendar and join us in Banff from February 7-9, 2002 for a memorable experience.

Book your hotel reservations before the Christmas holidays

The hotel cut-off date is also earlier this year, that is **December 21, 2001**.

Preliminary Programme

It was mailed at the end of October, so watch for it in your mail.

58th Annual Clinical Meeting

Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 20-25, 2002

ABSTRACT PROGRAM

From the Bench to the Bedside
and Back

Deadline for Abstract
submissions: Dec. 14, 2001

For information: (613) 730-4192
or 1-800-561-2416

E-mail: mlanders@sogc.com

Fax: (613) 730-4314

Stump the Professor 2002



Have you recently been involved with perplexing and thought provoking obstetrical/gynaecological cases? If so, then we want to know!! The 2002 edition of Stump the Professor will be held on Tuesday, June 25th during our 58th Annual Clinical Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. If your case is selected you will be asked to present it in front of an expert panel of judges. A prize of \$750 will go to the resident who submits the Best Obstetric Case and another \$750 for the Best Gynaecologic Case, as selected by a panel of judges.

Cases should include:

- Patient profile
- Reason for admission
- Symptoms/problems
- Past medical history
- Family & social history
- History of present illness
- Lab work
- Medications
- Follow-up

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

January 18th, 2002

Send your submissions to:

Lyne Chrétien, Executive Assistant to AEVP
The Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada
780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5R7
Tel: 1-800-561-2416 or 613-730-4192 ext. 248
Fax: 613-730-4314
Web: www.sogc.org



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Osteoporosis in Canada Symposium on Diagnosis and Management & ISCD Certification Course

November 30 - December 2, 2001
Hilton Hotel
Toronto, Ontario
Info: Ellen Hunter
1-800-463-6842, ext. 239
E-mail: ehunter@osteoporosis.ca

WOMEN'S IMAGING Advances in Gynaecological Imaging and Transvaginal Ultrasound

Colony Hotel, Toronto
February 22-24, 2002
Study Credits
RCPSC: 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

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

MEMBERS' CORNER:

A New Beginning for Dr. Pierre Lessard

Lynn Bray-Levac,
Translator and Communications Specialist

After close to 21 years of dedicated service in Yellowknife, Obstetrician/Gynaecologist Dr. Pierre Lessard retired this Summer. When he and his wife decided to settle in the North, they said they'd give it four years. But after about a year, they were hooked. To what? According to Dr. Lessard, the people and the diversity of his work. Given the limited human resources as compared to the South, he practiced more components of his specialty.

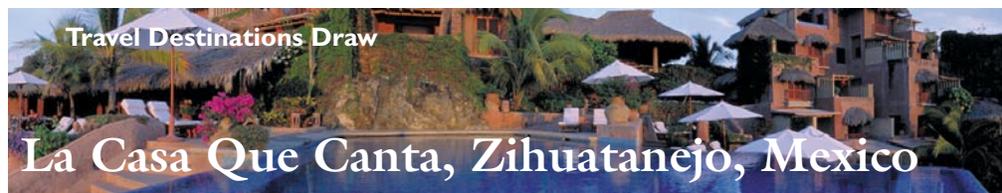
He has seen much improvement in aboriginal health in his 20-odd years: prenatal and infant mortality have declined, more and more aboriginals are taking the initiative for their own health, and more of them are opting for a career in medicine. "It's slowly improving", in his words.

Lessard started a committee under the

SOGC to examine health issues facing aboriginal people and in 1990, an education award was named for him to acknowledge his 10 years' involvement in continuing medical education. In 1993, he received the President's Award from the SOGC for his achievement in women's health care.

He left the North in a fanfare of publicity. Some of his colleagues came up with the idea of having him agree to shave off his 31-year-old beard and moustache for charity. Dr. Lessard did agree, but set the minimum price at \$2,500 to be donated to the Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation. In four days, \$5,717 were raised. "For six grand, why not?" he said afterward, although he admitted the idea of having to start shaving would take some getting used to...

Congratulations, Dr. Lessard, for your dedication and hard work, and for the positive contribution, financial and other, you made to your northern community.



Submitted by Dr. André Lalonde, SOGC Executive Vice-President

This first hotel is suggested for a very special event where, once in your lifetime, you want to take a special person to an incredible site which will bring out the best in you and

your partner. I had the occasion to visit this place many years ago, and although expensive, it is worth every penny to spend a minimum of five nights in this incredible resort.

Built into a cliff above Mexico's Zihuatanejo Bay, it features 24 suites and a large private terrace overlooking the bay and the Pacific beyond. From the mates who prepare your bed each day with a hand-made design using flower petals, to the exquisite meals and swimming in the infinity pool, your life will be changed for years to come.

Here are some comments from past visitors:

"A week of paradise - excellent food, perfect service, genuinely friendly staff and some of the most beautiful surroundings on earth. Our time here surpassed our imagination. Thanks!"

"Proof that there is a heaven!"

Visit www.lacasaquecanta.com to get a glimpse of this luxurious resort, and for press reviews.

Readers are invited to submit brief articles describing special destinations they have visited, and be eligible for our monthly draw, the details of which were published in the October issue.

Congratulations Dr. Rodolphe Maheux!

Lynn Bray-Levac, *Translator/Communications Specialist*

The VII *Certamen nacional de video en obstetricia y ginecologia* (VIIth National Obstetrics-Gynaecology Video Competition) was held in Lugo, Spain from September 27 to 29, 2001. This annual conference focuses mainly on new technology and the development of videos and multi-media presentations.

The SOGC is proud to announce that the presentation "*La medicina basada en evidencias y la endometriosis: ¿Qué debería abandonarse, qué debería hacerse?*" (Evidence-based medicine in endometriosis: What should we abandon, what should we provide?), by Dr. Rodolphe Maheux, won the prize (*ex aequo*) for the best multi-media presentation of the conference.

Preparing and giving a multi-media conference in a foreign language is quite a feat; this was Dr. Maheux's 6th presentation. It is very impressive to win first prize for the best presentation at an exclusively Spanish conference!

Our sincere congratulations, Dr. Maheux.



X. Iglecias Guin, Luis Cabero Roura, Rodolphe Maheux, Francisco Cacharro Pardo and Francisco Vazquez.

Another Barrier to Access?

Dr. André Lalonde, Executive Vice-President

The SOGC recently participated in a consultation process initiated by Health Canada's Health Products and Food Branch (formerly known as HPB) to review draft regulations on the approval of steroidal contraceptives used by women. While the SOGC appreciates the role of the Health Products and Food Branch in ensuring the safety of medications that come to the market, the Society has serious reservations about the proposed guidelines.

Included in the proposed regulations is the requirement for twice as many study subjects over a time period that is double than the previous requirements. This is felt to be unrealistic and unnecessary as the assessment of contraceptive efficacy and safety can be achieved within the requirements outlined in the current guidelines. Given the rate of non-compliance for contraceptives, it would be extremely difficult to find the number of subjects required and to have them comply for a full two year period.

The draft regulation also includes the requirement for annual endometrial biopsies. The SOGC believes that there is no scientific basis for this procedure and that

Presently Canada lags far behind Europe and the USA in terms of the availability of contraceptives for its population.

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

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

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this process would subject patients to cruel and misguided therapy. The SOGC also questions whether an institution's Ethics Review Board would approve any study where invasive procedures are required without scientific basis.

Another requirement is to document pharmacological effects of these contraceptives on fallopian tube function. The SOGC questions not only its relevance but how it would be done.

It is not clear to the SOGC why the new guidelines were needed, or what process was employed in the preparation of the current draft proposal. However, the SOGC did submit a comprehensive brief. The following is an outline of the major concerns raised:

- 1- There seems to be no effort made to have the proposed guidelines match the guidelines from the USA or from the European Union. It was the understanding of the Society that the Canadian Government (through the Cusson Commission) had indicated a willingness to establish close ties with other countries, in order that studies are not repeated unnecessarily and that standards from the European Union and the United States concerning their requirements for approval of steroidal contraceptives could be harmonized. These will be referred to in our response to the proposed guidelines.
- 2- The proposed guidelines constitute administrative barriers to access to contraceptives for Canadian women. Presently Canada lags far behind Europe and the USA in terms of the availability of contraceptives for its population. It takes longer and longer for new contraceptives to receive approval and to be offered in Canada. Barriers to access to effective contraceptive choices can only have negative effects on the rates of abortions and unwanted pregnancies which are still quite high (100,331 abortions in 1998 of which 50% are in the 20-29 year olds). The SOGC has pointed out to Health Canada that a number of studies have clearly established that compliance is directly related to the ability of patients (women) to access a wide range of contraceptive choices. A recent example in Canada, the "Depo Provera saga" clearly outlines that the delay in approving this contraceptive in Canada had serious deleterious effects

Barriers to access to effective contraceptive choices can only negatively affect the rates of abortion and unwanted pregnancies which are still quite high.

on the health of many Canadian women, especially in young adults. Canada was the last of all of the countries in the developed world to approve Depo Provera, even years after the fact that the World Health Organization had recommended its use for contraception. The U.S. has recently approved the contraception vaginal ring and we can only assume that there will be delays in its approval in Canada.

- 3- The SOGC has consulted extensively with experts in infertility, reproductive endocrinology and ethics and is concerned that the proposed guidelines on steroidal contraceptives will not meet the approval of ethical boards across Canada. Ethical boards are now taking a much stronger stand on what is acceptable in terms of testing in studying for a new medication in Canada. Ethical boards will not accept the stringent requirements that are not evidence-based and could potentially be detrimental to women's health, especially when a painful procedure such as an endometrial biopsy is involved.

The SOGC has requested a meeting between the Society's experts and senior officials at the Health Products and Food Branch Directorate in the very near future to ensure that the regulations that are adopted are scientifically sound, respect ethical guidelines and balance safety with access issues.

ANTHRAX

A Fact Sheet has been produced by the Government of Ontario as a result of the recent cases diagnosed in the U.S. Visit the SOGC's Web site at www.sogc.org, click on SOGCnet, then Welcome, then **Fact Sheet on Anthrax**. You can also go directly to www.gov.on.ca/health/english/pub/pubhealth/anthrax.html for information on the subject.

What's so special about women's health?



Everything, actually.

Women make up 52 percent of our population, but the amount of money dedicated to medical research specifically for us is strikingly disproportionate.

With your help, we can change that.

The [Canadian Foundation for Women's Health](http://www.cfwh.org) is a charitable organization dedicated to raising funds for research in all aspects of women's health.

Your donation will go a long way to ensure women aren't left behind in the quest for medical progress.

For more information call **1-800-561-2416** or visit www.cfwh.org

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



Generously supported by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada