



SOGC News

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

SEPTEMBER 2002

EDITORIAL

Where are we with the HRT issue?

André B. Lalonde, SOGC Executive Vice-President

Following the letter you received in July explaining the SOGC's intended actions in regard to the WHI study on HRT use, I am happy to report that our team of experts is working tirelessly at preparing our official statement and

modifying our recommendations in the Consensus on Menopause and Osteoporosis.

We anticipate having the documents finalized and approved by the Executive in early September. A nationwide

awareness campaign will be launched in late September/early October. One component of this campaign will include advertising supplements in the JOGC, Actualité Médicale, Medical Post, Healthy Woman/Santé Femme, our Web site and other appropriate media venues. The public campaign will be launched following our press conference in late September.

You will receive a package with the statement, the modified recommendations in the Consensus on Menopause and Osteoporosis, pamphlets, and other promotional material that can be handed out to patients. If you have not received your package by mid-October, contact Gabrielle Hamilton at 1-800-561-2416, ext 225, who will forward one to you.

Consult the October issue of *SOGC News* for more on the subject.

59th SOGC ACM Call for abstracts!

Submission deadline: December 20, 2002



Du 3 au 5 octobre 2002

Soyez de la partie pour le 15^e programme de FMC du Québec qui aura lieu au Fairmont Le Château Montebello!

Pour plus de renseignements concernant le programme ou encore pour vous inscrire, veuillez consulter le site Internet au www.sogc.org/quebec/index.htm

SOGC Council has unanimously approved motions on the approval of women's health products in Canada and on African aid

See page 2 for details.

FIGO World Congress of Gynecology & Obstetrics Santiago, Chile

Info: Secretariat c/o Events, International Meeting Planners
759 Victoria Square - Suite 300, Montreal, QC, Canada H2Y 2J7

Tel: 1-514-286-0855

Fax: 1-514-286-6066

E-mail: figo2003@eventsintl.com

**NEW DATE!!!
November 2-7, 2003**

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FROM THE EVP'S DESK
Product Approval

(from page 1) It has come to the attention of the SOGC that guidelines and procedures for approval of new reproductive health products in Canada are very restrictive. The responsibility for approval is given to one or two persons, with little or no input from the Canadian scientific community, and certainly with no input from the Canadian general public.

Recent studies conducted by the SOGC on the availability of oral contraceptives and hormonal products in Canada have shown

that very few products have been approved in the last two or three years. Certain products have been submitted more than five years ago and others have been delayed for a number of years, while they are approved in more than thirty countries, including all of Western Europe and the USA.

Many pharmaceutical firms are not submitting new products for approval in Canada. Compliance issues are directly related to the choices available to Canadian women. The SOGC Council respects the autonomy and the mandate for safety of the Therapeutic Product Division of Health Canada, but has some serious questions as to the approval process in the last two years. Too many delays, lack of compatibility and of harmonization with other developed countries are both discouraging and allow for discrimination against women's health products in Canada.

The situation is even worse for products that prevent or delay premature labor. Presently, there are no approved drugs for this treatment that would allow the effective use of corticosteroids, used to prevent respiratory distress syndrome. The delay to approve the submission of products is not only questionable, but also detrimental to the birth of thousands of Canadian premature newborns. The cost of prematurity treatment in Canada is over six billion dollars a year.

The SOGC Council has therefore unanimously approved the following motion on March 4, 2002, which will be submitted to the Canadian Minister of Health to accelerate the review and the approval of reproductive health products in Canada:

« Whereas access to effective reproductive health products in Canada is severely restricted in comparison to Europe, Australia, USA and other countries,

Whereas it appears that access to women's health products is restricted when compared to therapies in other therapeutic areas, and

Whereas we accept TPD's central role in the process of safety, SOGC feels that there are needless delays in approving therapeutic products that women in other countries have had access to for many years,

Be it resolved that SOGC requests that the Government of Canada enhance access to safe and effective products for Canadian women by accelerating the approval process through harmonization with the therapeutic guidelines of other developed countries. TPD should form expert advisory groups made up of Canadian experts, to help speed up approval process and provide advice to reviewers. SOGC recommends that the new TPD therapeutic guidelines be consistent with other developed countries. »

AFRICAN AID

« Whereas the present state of Maternal Health in Africa is poor as evidenced by the tragic levels of mortality related to pregnancy and childbirth

And Whereas the G8 heads of state are meeting in Kananaskis Alberta to discuss the "Action Plan of Africa" and in particular "investment in health care as a means of poverty reduction"

And Whereas the Prime Minister of Canada has expressed his personal concern for Africa and that he intends to make this action plan the centerpiece of the summit discussions,

Approved unanimously that: A national group of obstetricians and gynaecologists, general practitioners, nurses, midwives and residents, attending the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) International Women's Health Symposium in Winnipeg on June 20th, 2002, call on the Prime Minister of Canada to ensure that Canada keeps to its already stated commitments concerning the human rights of women, and in particular, takes a leadership role in the promotion of the International Safe Motherhood Initiative, as it has done through promotion of the treaty banning land mines and by its contribution to the prevention of AIDS/HIV. »

SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 2002

MEMBERS' CORNER:

Johnson Scholarship and Academic Grant Program

Are your children starting university this year?

A few months ago, the SOGC introduced you to the Johnson Preferred Service Home-Auto Plan, a special home and automobile insurance program. An important advantage of the Preferred Service Plan is the Johnson Scholarship and Academic Grant Program.

In 1997, Paul J. Johnson, along with the Corporate Leadership Members, created the Johnson Scholarships and Academic Grants

Program to show their appreciation to those Clients who contributed to the growth and development of Johnson Inc. SOGC Members who are now Johnson Inc. policyholders, along with their dependent(s), are eligible to apply for a Johnson Scholarship or Academic Grant. One hundred Scholarships and Academic Grants are awarded annually, each valued at \$1,000.

Scholarships are to assist students

beginning full time post secondary studies following the completion of high school. Academic Grants are to assist:

- those returning to full time post secondary studies following an absence of 2+ years, or
- those beginning full time studies as mature students, after being out of the high school or college system for 2+ years.

For more information or to apply, call Johnson Inc. directly at 1-877-328-7878, or visit Johnson online, www.johnson.ca.

Please note that applications must be received prior to September 15, 2002.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

“Making a Difference”

“Making a Difference”, the International Women’s Health Symposium at McMaster University on Friday November 8, 2002 will be an exciting interchange of ideas and opportunities around the issues of women’s health abroad.

Key note speakers include UNICEF director of Health, **Dr. Ives Berjevin**, author and journalist (covering women’s health in Afghanistan); **Sally Armstrong**, clinician and activist from Uganda; **Dr. Florence Mirembe**, politician and democracy advocate; the honourable **Audrey McLaughlin** (former federal NDP leader); **Dr. John Sellors** from Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (sponsored by the Bill Gates Foundation); and **Dr. Sonia Anand** (director of Women’s Health at McMaster University).

The Symposium is open to students, academics (health and social science) and to all who have an interest in women’s health

issues abroad (including the public).

It will be held at the beautiful Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ontario (about 1 hour from Toronto and Niagara Falls).

You will be inspired, challenged and motivated to engage in issues such as maternal mortality (585,000 women die yearly from pregnancy related complications - that is equivalent to 3 jumbo jets crashing daily, loaded with pregnant mothers!), female genital mutilation and human rights violations which lead to poor health.

Please join us and consider submitting an abstract (see the web site for details).

Contact the Continuing Medical Education Department at McMaster University: Tel. (905) 525-9140 ext. 2211, fax (905) 572 7099, E-mail: jchamber@mcmaster.ca or marydharvey@yahoo.com, Web site: www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/iwh

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to inform SOGC members that **Ev Sargeant (Queens '62)** passed away suddenly at his Port Sydney cottage on July 4th 2002.

Dr. Sargeant practiced at **St. Joseph's - McMaster** since the early '70s and was instrumental in establishing a **Gyn-Oncology Unit** there with **Dr. Denny DePetrillo**. Besides his many interests and hobbies, **Dr. Sargeant** provided ob/gyn mission services to Haiti on numerous occasions.

He will be missed. A donation to the Haiti Medical Fund was made in his memory by the Ontario Society Ob. Gyn. The SOGC extends its condolences to his family members.

Special Subscription Rate for SOGC Members

Best Practice & Research Clinical OBGYN

The above journal, now published by Elsevier Science, was recently accredited by the SOGC for Continuing Medical Education for its members. This year, MCQ's are published in each issue for the first time. As a result of this, and the accreditation bestowed by the Society, the following advantageous subscription rate is offered to SOGC members for 2002 and

2003: \$ 116.00 US per member per year. The regular personal subscription rate for 2002 is \$ 206.00 US.

For additional information, please contact:

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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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E-mail: lbray-levac@sogc.com

SOGC News
is produced and published by the SOGC.

SOGC CME EVENTS

PROGRAMMES

15th Quebec CME

Fairmont Le Château Montebello
October 3-5, 2002

21st Ontario CME

Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre
December 5-7, 2002

COURSES

ALARM Course Toronto, ON
November 17-18 and December 8-9

SCOPE Programme

Mount Sinai Hospital's Surgical Skills
Centre, Toronto, ON
December 8-9

MILLENNIUM TECHNOLOGY Programme

December 6
Michener Institute, Toronto, ON

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Precedent and Innovation Health Law in the 21st Century

Sept. 27-28, Edmonton, AB
Hotel Macdonald,
Tel. (780) 436-0983, ext. 231
Email: hli@buksa.com
www.buksa.com

Canadian Association of Midwives 2nd Annual Meeting & Conference,

October 2-4 Richmond, B-C
Radisson President Hotel & Suites,
Email: admin@canadianmidwives.org
Tel.: (604) 859-0777
Fax: (604) 859-0767

Okanagan Regional Perinatal Conference

October 3-5, 2002
Manteo Resort, Kelowna, BC
Tel: 1-604-875-3737
Fax: 1-604-875-3747
www.rcp.gov.bc.ca

Motherisk Update 2002

November 13, 2002 Toronto, ON
Hospital for Sick Children
Tel: 1-416-813-8084
Fax: 1-416-813-7562
E-mail: momrisk@sickkids.on.ca
www.motherisk.org

Violence and Health 2003

April 3-5, 2003, Vancouver, BC
Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites
www.interprofessional.ubc.ca
Tel: 1-604-822-4965
Fax: 1-604-822-4835

New SOGC Honorary Members

During the recent 58th Annual Clinical Meeting, Dr. Jan Christilaw had the pleasure of bestowing an Honorary SOGC Membership to the following distinguished guests:

Dr. Jesus Puentes Tovar, President, Mexican Ob/Gyn Society
Dr. Michel Brazeau, Executive Director, RCPSC
Dr. Shelley Ross, President, Medical Women's International Society
Dr. Charles Hammond, President, ACOG
Prof. Bruno Carbone, Secretary General, Collège national des obstétriciens et gynécologues Français
Of particular interest is the fact that Dr. Shelley Ross is the first family physician to receive an honorary membership to the SOGC, owing to her outstanding contribution to women's health, both in Canada and internationally. Congratulations to one and all and welcome to the SOGC!

*Dr. Shelley Ross of the Medical Women's International Society,
one of five new honorary members of the SOGC*



Millennium Fellowship Program Winners

Lisa Spencer, Program Coordinator

The SOGC and the Foundation for the Promotion of Reproductive and Sexual Health congratulate the following individuals who were awarded fellowships at the 58th Annual Clinical Meeting in Winnipeg.

SOGC/APOG PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Ellen M. Greenblatt (Toronto, ON)
Dr. Karen Fung Kee Fung (Ottawa, ON)

CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Shelagh Connors (Charlottetown, PEI)
Dr. Helen Steed (Edmonton, AB)
Dr. Sharon C. Caughey (Ottawa, ON)

NURSES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Catherine Lesk (Gloucester, ON)
Ms. Margaret Mary Belliveau (London, ON)

JUNIOR MEMBER ELECTIVES IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH

Steve Parsons, Memorial University of
Newfoundland
Bing Guthrie, University of Alberta,
Edmonton

The program offers an excellent opportunity to obtain additional training in an area of recognized need - either personal learning needs or identified community needs, as they pertain to obstetrics and gynaecology and/or to sexual and reproductive health. Questions about the program should be directed to Lisa Spencer at lspencer@sogc.com. Congratulations to our winners!

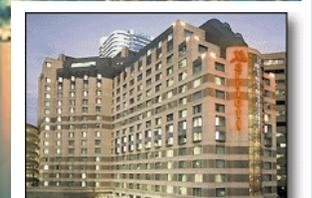
DON'T MISS THE 21ST ONTARIO CME PROGRAM

DECEMBER 5-7 2002



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\$ 145 per night single/double occupancy
Deadline: October 25, 2002



**CHECK YOUR MAIL FOR THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM
DUE TO ARRIVE EARLY FALL**

SOGC JUNIOR MEMBER NEWS



JM Update

University of Western Ontario

*The Residents of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario*

Greetings from Southwestern Ontario! The residents and staff of the UWO Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology have had a busy and exciting year. We have seen some familiar faces leave and at the same time have a new group to greet. While others were travelling on exciting electives across the continent, London started construction on a new home for our department.

First, we have to congratulate our recent graduates who have moved on to start their own practices in communities surrounding London. Congratulations Cathy, Emma and Paul, we're proud of you all! While some residents move on, there is a new bunch to welcome. Our PGY-1's include Patricia, Cecilia, Mark, Angelina, and Jenna. Our annual introductions have extended to several patio nights, our annual resident BBQ and a formal lunch.

There's another new face in our Department as of this past March. Dr. Janice Kwon is a wonderful new addition to our Gyne. Oncology division creating a complement of three young and motivated providers! Janice promises to get us all in shape so that we may join her in one of her upcoming marathons or triathlons.

The other new members of our department promise to drool lots and offer hours

of sleepless nights... Our best wishes go out to the many new parents among our resident roster.

A couple of our residents also had the "travel bug" courtesy of the SOGC Junior Fellowship program. Andrea had the opportunity to work in Belize for two months. While there she had the chance to learn of the health care system challenges of the third world and in particular the HIV crisis. While Andrea was down south, Sony made his way west to Vancouver where he had an opportunity to work in the area of abortion provision with some of the leading providers of reproductive choice in Canada. We had the opportunity to share both their experiences during grand rounds upon their return.

Lastly, the department is full of anticipation as we await our move to one site in the upcoming years. Just recently, an official ground breaking ceremony was held for our new Women's Hospital, which is scheduled to house all of obstetrics in the City of London!

That's a brief look at some of the happenings in London this past year, we look forward to sharing more with you all when we see you in Toronto this December. See you soon!

Dalhousie University

Dr. Winifred Lee, Dalhousie University

As summer slow-down comes to a close, we hope that everyone is refreshed and had a great few months in the sun. The summer rotation at Dalhousie Ob/Gyn was fairly busy for most of us as we are juggling with a temporary resident shortage.

For this academic year, our programme has incorporated combined obstetrics and gynaecology call. Our academic year consists of four three-month blocks. Generally, this breaks down into two obstetric rotations and two gynaecology rotations. Every night, two residents are on call. The obstetrics call-resident is in-house and covers the caseroom at our delivery hospital. The gynaecology call-resident does home-call and covers all Gyn patients from our four hospitals. In the past, one would only do obstetrics call while on their Ob rotation – and likewise, only gynaecology call while on Gyn. As you can imagine, things get quite busy and tiring when you are on your sixth month of Ob call. Since July, we have switched our call schedule such that each month, we get a mix of both Ob and Gyn call. Advantages include: less tired Ob residents, better continuity of care for patients, a nice "refresher" night of one discipline after being on a long stretch of the other, and more importantly – it provides a more realistic view of the real world once we burst from the bubble of residency. So far, the change has been quite well accepted.

Just a quick reminder to everyone that the deadline for Elective Fellowship Grants is soon approaching on September 27, 2002. We would be pleased to have residents come visit Halifax or elsewhere on the East Coast. Our department offers sub-specialty fellowship training programmes in Maternal Fetal Medicine, Urogynaecology and Pelvic Floor Reconstruction, as well as Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Do keep us in mind if you have not yet organized electives for upcoming rotations.

It was great meeting many of you at the recent meeting in Winnipeg. We look forward to seeing you at the next gathering. Mark your calendars for SOGC 2003 - Charlottetown promises to be a fantastic time. We can't wait to show you a good old-fashioned Maritime party!!

Contraception Awareness Project

Lisa Spencer, Coordinator

Keep your ears and eyes open this fall for some great radio ads and inserts in popular magazines about the Contraception Awareness Project's Web sites www.sexualityandu.ca and www.masexualite.ca.

If you're in the Ottawa listening area of the CHUM group radio stations (Cornwall, Smith Falls, Perth, Kingston and basically anywhere in a 1.5 hour radius of Ottawa) you should turn up Kool 93.9 or Majic 100.3 all through September to hear some entertaining radio ads.

The SOGC is also launching a major print campaign with Rogers Media. You will find a pull out section called "LifeLines" in magazines such as Glow, Flare, Elle, Elle Québec, Today's Parent and other such magazines. "LifeLines" is an insert dealing with FAQ's, STD's and contraception. If you would like additional copies for your office, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Spencer at lspencer@sogc.com and I'll send them out to you.

We have also partnered with Chatelaine to be included in their very popular Web Guide as an excellent source for contraception and sexual health information.

Finally, stay logged on to our Web sites for some great new changes happening in the coming weeks. These changes are sure to keep sexualityandu.ca and masexualite.ca at the forefront of reliable, credible contraceptive and sexual health information.

The Junior Member News section of SOGC News is funded by a grant from Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.

FOUNDATION NEWS

by Robyn Harris, Executive Director

You can make a difference in women's health research

Supporting the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health with your financial contributions has advanced research in women's health since 1998. Participating in the Foundation's fundraising activities and responding to the annual appeal are just two of the ways you have helped. Fortunately there are several other ways in which you can make a difference.

Each year the United Way campaign in your community raises funds for local charities as well as other registered charitable organizations in Canada. By naming the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health on your United Way appeal card, you have ensured that your donation is directed to furthering women's health research. Please encourage your spouse or partner and family and friends who take part in the annual United Way campaign that is launched every September, to include the Foundation as a beneficiary of their donation. To those of you who are currently supporting the Foundation through your United Way donations, many thanks. Because the United Way agencies do not provide the names of those who have designated the Foundation to receive their donations, it would be greatly appreciated if you could inform the Foundation office of your pledge. Thank you once again!

Leaving a living legacy is yet another way you can make a difference in the lives of those who follow. By including the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health in

your life insurance policy or will you can do just that.

Every day, the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health strives to improve the lives of women through medical research. Financial assistance is essential to support this

By naming the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health on your United Way appeal card, you have ensured that your donation is directed to furthering women's health research.

work. By making even a small gift in your will or through life insurance, the Foundation can continue to fund necessary research in Canada. And there are tax benefits to these gifts.

A gift is also a wonderful way to recognize someone who has made a difference in your life. This kind of memorial gift can be

arranged. You just need to make it clear that the gift is given in memory of a particular person.

Leaving a legacy provides a unique opportunity for you to support the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health. For further information please contact the Foundation at 1-800-561-2416 or if you have a professional advisor, then please speak with him or her about making a gift.

With the holiday season fast approaching you may want to consider making a donation to the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health in honour of those on your list. You can say goodbye to crowded shopping malls while knowing you are contributing to women's health. With your donation you will receive a letter and tax receipt and those you honour receive a card in the mail informing them that you have made a donation in their name. In the past, individuals have made these donations not only to wish someone a Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah, but also to send birthday greetings and just to say "thank you".

Please consider helping the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health today. For further information, you may contact the Foundation at the following coordinates: Telephone 1-800-561-2416 or (613) 730-4192 ext. 238, by e-mail at rharris@sogc.com, on the web at www.cfwb.org, or at 780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7.

Canadian Foundation For Women's Health...
Supporting research for the health of women



Single closure C-sections risky: study

From *Maternal-Fetal Medicine*

Women with a single-layer closure C-section are 4 times more likely to have a uterine rupture during a subsequent vaginal delivery, according to new research from Quebec.

Dr. Emmanuel Bujold and colleagues made the findings while studying more than 1,500 women to determine their risk of uterine rupture at different interdelivery intervals. Women were divided into four groups according to the number of months

from their C-section to the trial of labour for their second pregnancy. Those who'd waited 24 months or less had a rupture rate of 2.8% compared to 0.9% for those who'd waited more than 24 months. Results showed the women who'd waited the shorter interval and had a single-layer closure had a rupture rate of about 5%, which Dr. Bujold considers "highly significant." He suggested a repeat C-section be considered

for these patients pending confirmation of these results.

According to Dr. Bujold, single-layer closure has become popular in recent years because it saves time, and is therefore thought to reduce the risk of infection. Yet, adding a second layer of stitches only takes 4 to 5 minutes and "it's something we can change easily."