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FIGO hosts first meeting

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Notices

ERRATUM

In the May SOGC News, Dr. Philippe-Y. Laberge and not Dr. Claude-A. Fortin is the outgoing president of AOGQ. The SOGC apologizes for the error.

ACOG NAMES new president

The SOGC would like to welcome Dr. Douglas W. Laube, who was appointed 57th president of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) on May 10. Dr. Laube was officially appointed President at ACOG's Annual Clinical Meeting in Washington, DC.

SUMMER Hours

From July 3rd until September 1st, the SOGC national office will be open:

- Monday to Thursday - 7:30 am until 6:00 pm;
- Fridays - 7:30 am until 12:00 pm.



ACM

The 62nd SOGC ACM will be held in Vancouver from June 22-27, 2006, at the Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina. For more details log on to www.sogc.org, or contact the SOGC at 1-800-561-2416 or at events@sogc.com.

THANK YOU! from the SOGC

The SOGC 62nd Annual Clinical Meeting is just around the corner and the SOGC has been hard at work to put together another fantastic program. At this time, we would like to acknowledge the financial support of our sponsors (in the form of unrestricted educational grants):

Diamond / Diamant



Platinum / Platine



Gold / Or



Bronze / Bronze





SOGC'S Strategic Plan 2006-2011

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has developed its new Strategic Plan for 2006-2011.

The SOGC Council has mandated the Society to develop strategic directions that meet the demands of our members and of Canadian women at large. Complete details of the new plan will be available at the official launch of the Strategic Plan at the 2006 Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM) in Vancouver. The Strategic Plan will also be made available to all of our members in detail through the SOGC newsletter and website, www.sogc.org.

SOGC's 2006-2011 strategic directions include:

1. Aboriginal Health
2. Advocacy
3. Continuous Professional Learning (CPL)
4. Human Resources
5. International Women's Health
6. Patient Safety
7. Women's Health Issues.

The strategic directions of Continuous Professional Learning, International Women's Health, Patient Safety and overall Women's Health continue to be the pillars of our organization. These strategic directions should challenge our members to join together to address these issues – issues of critical importance to both Canadian women and women abroad.

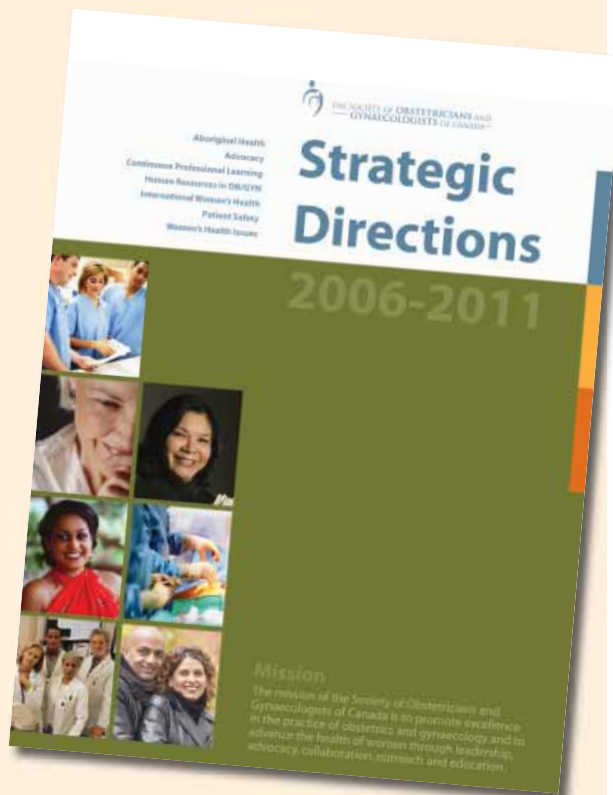
Our Society has grown over the past five years.

We are now poised to address difficult issues such as improving the health of Canada's disadvantaged women, and to continue to build upon our commitments to maternal health in low-resource countries.

However, none of this is possible without the collaboration and dedication of you, the members of SOGC. Each year, hundreds of our members across Canada devote time, energy and commitment to the SOGC. Without this dedication, the Society could not reflect the best aspirations of obstetricians/gynaecologists and allied health care providers in Canada. At the start of this new five-year plan, may we join together in delivering the most ambitious strategic directions in the history of the SOGC!

Yours sincerely,

André B. Lalonde, MD, FRCSC, FSOGC, FACS, MSc
Executive Vice-President, SOGC



Executive Committee

- **President:** Dr. Michael Helewa, Winnipeg, MB
- **Past-President:** Dr. Gerald W. Stanimir, Mont-Royal, QC
- **President-Elect:** Dr. Donald B. Davis, Medicine Hat, AB
- **Executive Vice-President:** Dr. André B. Lalonde, Ottawa, ON
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Douglas Moreton Black, Ottawa, ON
- **Vice-President, Atlantic:** Dr. Scott Alexander Farrell, Halifax, NS
- **Vice-President, Ontario:** Dr. Guylaine Gisele Lefebvre, Toronto, ON

Regional Chairs, Alternate Chairs and Other Representatives

- **Chair, Western Region:** Dr. Nicole Racette, New Westminster, BC
- **Alternate Chair, Western Region:** Dr. Sandra de la Ronde, Calgary, AB
- **Chair, Central Region:** Dr. Margaret Burnett, Winnipeg, MB
- **Alternate Chair, Central Region:** Dr. Annette Epp, Saskatoon, SK
- **Chair, Ontario Region:** Dr. Catherine MacKinnon, Brantford, ON
- **Alternate Chair, Ontario Region:** Dr. Richard Johnston, OSOG representative, Orillia, ON
- **Président, région du Québec:** Dr. Philippe-Yves Laberge, Ste-Foy, QC
- **Président suppléant, région du Québec:** Dr. Diane Francoeur, Montréal, QC
- **Chair, Atlantic Region:** Dr. Terry O'Grady, St. John's, NL
- **Alternate Chair, Atlantic Region:** Dr. Ward Murdock, Fredericton, NB
- **Public Representative:** Ms. Jane E. Caskey, Toronto, ON
- **Junior Member Representative:** Dr. Tiffany Wells, Edmonton, AB
- **Associate Members (MD) Representative:** Dr. Owen Hughes, Ottawa, ON
- **Associate Members (RN) Representative:** Ms. Sandra Gwen Christie, RN, Halifax, NS
- **Associate Members (RM) Representative:** Ms. Michelle Kryzanasuskas, RM, Stayner, ON
- **APOG Representative:** Dr. Wylam Faught, Edmonton, AB
- **Corresponding Member:** Lucie Pépin, Senator, Ottawa, ON

The SOGC News is produced and published monthly by the SOGC. Comments and contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to the SOGC News, 780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON K1S 5R7; tel: 1-800-561-2416 or 613-730-4192 ext. 330; fax: 613-730-4314; e-mail: nbickford@sogc.com or mhaymes@sogc.com

**The 18th
Quebec CME
Programme**

Quebec

September 28-30, 2006

Mont-Tremblant (Quebec)

In association with the Association des obstétriciens
et gynécologues du Québec (AOGQ)

Conference Site:

Hôtel Fairmont Tremblant, 3045 de la Chapelle Rd., Mont-Tremblant QC J8E 1B1

- Telephone: 1-800-441-1414

- Group Code: SOGC

- SOGC special rate:—Fairmont Room: \$209.00 single/double occupancy

Cut-off date: Monday, August 21, 2006

Be sure to check your mailbox for the programme and mark your calendars!

For additional information, please visit our website www.sogc.org. This programme is offered in French



THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7

Tel: 1 800 561-2416 or (613) 730-4192 fax: (613) 730-4314 www.sogc.org

The 2nd Quebec CME Programme in Obstetrics: Preconception to Postpartum November 16-17, 2006

In association with the *Association des omnipraticiens en périnatalité du Québec (AOPQ)*

CONFERENCE SITE

Hôtel Omni Mont-Royal, 1050 Sherbrooke West, Montreal (Quebec) H3A 2R6

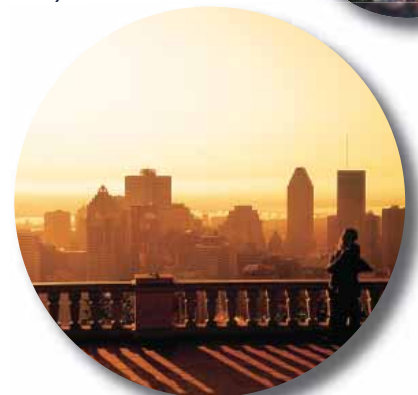
- Hotel Reservations: (514) 284-1110 or 1-800-843-6664

- SOGC special rate: \$155.00 per night single/double occupancy (** Note: to obtain the special rate, please advise hotel staff that you are attending the SOGC conference.) **

Cut-off date: Monday, October 16, 2006

For additional information, please visit our website www.sogc.org.

This programme is offered in French.



THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7

Tel: 1 800 561-2416 or (613) 730-4192 fax: (613) 730-4314 www.sogc.org

25th Ontario CME November 30 to December 2, 2006

in association with Ontario Society of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists (OSOG)

Conference Site: Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre
525 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2L2

Telephone: 1-800-905-0667

Group code: SOGC

SOGC special rate: \$149 per night single/double
occupancy

Cut-off date: Friday, October 27, 2006

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Upcoming Meetings



SOGC Meetings

62nd Annual Clinical Meeting

June 22–27, 2006, Vancouver, British Columbia

18th Quebec CME

September 28–30, 2006, Mont Tremblant,
Quebec

2nd Quebec CME in Obstetrics

November 16–17, 2006, Montreal, Quebec

25th Ontario CME

November 30–December 2, 2006,
Toronto, Ontario

ALARM Program Schedule 2006

Location	Date
Vancouver, BC	June 21–22 (in conjunction with ACM)
Sudbury, ON	September 29–30
Woodstock, NB	October 14–15
Cranbrook, BC	October 27–28
Toronto, ON	December 3–4 (in conjunction with ON CME)

Other Meetings

La Leche League Canada presents “**What Newborns Know About Breastfeeding**”
Seminar Series: June 12, Cambridge, Ontario;
June 14, Pembroke, Ontario; June 16, Calgary,
Alberta. For more information visit www.LLCC.ca

The 8th World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Infertility (COGI),

September 14–17, 2006, Fiesta Bahia Hotel,
Salvador-Bahia, Brazil. For more information,
visit <http://www.comtecmed.com/cogi/brazil/Default.aspx>

Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine 36th Annual Scientific Meeting,

September 15–17, 2006, Melbourne Australia
www.icms.com.au/asum2006

Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) 52nd Annual Meeting,

November 15–18, 2006, Westin Hotel, Ottawa,
Ontario. For more information, visit www.cfas.ca

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LIFE at the University of Toronto

By Anjali Aggarwal, PGY3

The Obstetrics and Gynaecology program at the University of Toronto continues to grow. We currently have 43 residents, with 7 finishing this June and 9 more joining us this summer. Our numbers are accommodated by spending time at several different hospitals. In the past, our core training has been based out of the three main downtown hospitals but we are now doing some of our core training in the community as well. This has been a positive experience for all residents involved.

We have numerous opportunities, both academic and social, to spend time with those in our program. We are very fortunate to have access to the U of T surgical lab, which has models for operative vaginal deliveries, hysteroscopy, laparoscopy and many other important skills. This year's annual retreat was a fantastic mixture of discussion and fun. The event took place at an indoor entertainment centre where we played laser tag and whirly ball (like basketball in bumper cars) and spent time evaluating the positive and negative aspects of our program. The general consensus was that we are a happy group of residents! Other events include a PGY1 welcome dinner, an annual barbecue and baseball game as well as monthly clinical science evenings.

Our program continues to support electives in International Health. I recently had the opportunity to spend 3 months working for an NGO in Calcutta, India, which was a fantastic experience. We have also had residents spend elective

time in Zimbabwe at the Howard Hospital, and at training centers in South India. Many others have plans to do international electives in the years to come. Our program director and the Center for International Health should be thanked for their support of these initiatives.

Otherwise our training consists of a rotating first year with 2 months of community ob/gyn, 2 months of downtown ob/gyn, one month of clinics/ultrasound, one month selective, two months internal medicine, one month general surgery, one month ICU, one month NICU and one month in the Emergency. We then spend 18 months doing core obstetrics and gynaecology, now both downtown and in the community. Our subspecialty rotations consist of maternal fetal medicine, gyne onc, pediatric/adolescent gynaecology and REI. We can also choose to spend time doing colposcopy and urogynaecology. Our training also consists of pathology, ultrasound, ambulatory clinics, 6 months as chief resident and 3 months of research time.

Our program provides us with an excellent mix of academic training, surgical skills, research time and opportunities to spend electives in all parts of the world. In discussing our training with the outgoing residents, they all feel it has been a positive experience and that they leave our program well prepared for the future.

GREETINGS from the University of British Columbia!

By Tara Singh, R3 and Carolyn Donnelly, R2

We have had an exciting and productive year here in Vancouver.

Academically, we've now finished a full year of MIS rotation – a one-month rotation of all laparoscopy, hysteroscopy and dry lab work – and from all reports it has been well received. In addition to rotations at BC Women's, Vancouver General and St. Paul's hospitals, this year's PGY2s will now spend 3 months at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. Here, they will participate in a new preceptor-based rotation that will include exposure to the full scope of ob/gyn practice, including ambulatory care and operative gynaecology and obstetrics. This addition will ensure excellent experiences for all residents in our rapidly expanding program.

Spring has certainly sprung in Vancouver, which means our annual Resident's Day is just around the corner. A leisurely day of kayaking or sailing on June 2nd will be followed by an exquisite dinner at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. At this event, we will sadly bid farewell to our beloved chief residents Luc Beaudet, Duna Goswami, Julia Ingles, Andrew Kotaska and Kate Rheault. We wish them all luck in their exams and their new endeavors, which will take them across Canada from Ontario to Yellowknife.

We would like to welcome our six newest recruits: Erin Adams, Jason Burrows, Oisín Coll, Carolyn Icton, Jacqueline O'Connell, and Rebecca Rivera, who are currently finishing the rotating intern year and will join us in July. We are also thrilled that Samar Nahas, a delightful resident from Saudi Arabia, has joined us as a PGY2/3. We would also like to welcome a few new "junior" recruits: congratulations to Jen Kenyon on the birth of her daughter Megan, and Darren Lazare on the birth of his daughter Ava.

Congratulations are also in order for many involved in research. Genevieve Eastbrook was awarded the STIRRH5 research grant to support a master's degree, and Susan Sadeghi and Melanie Altas were awarded Berlex Junior Member Elective Fellowships and have taken time to do electives in Uganda. Congratulations to all!

Finally, everyone is working hard to prepare for the 62nd Annual Clinical Meeting here in Vancouver. Our program is graciously working to facilitate residents attending as many days of the conference as possible. We look forward to seeing you all in Vancouver in June and showing you around our wonderful city!



Notices



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME for All Junior Members!

This is just a friendly reminder to all medical students, junior and junior-family practice residents that your 2006/2007 membership fees are due. Your membership will expire on June 30th, 2006. Look for your renewal notices and change of status forms in the mail or please visit our website www.sogc.org and renew online. Thank you to those of you who have already completed your renewal.

JUNIOR MEMBERS Writing Contest Update

Please note that the first, second and third place winning essays in the 1st Annual SOGC Junior Member Writing Contest will not be published in the JOGC, but will be published in the SOGC Newsletter, on the SOGC website and displayed at the SOGC ACM in Vancouver. Incorrect information appeared in the April SOGC News article *1st Annual SOGC Junior Member Writing Contest*.



Members' Corner

OB/GYN PROFESSOR EMPLOYS "creations cards" in the struggle against international maternal morbidity

By Mamta Gautam, MD, FRCPC, MOT

Creations Cards is a non-profit organization founded by obstetrician/gynaecologist Dr. Edward Hughes, a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at McMaster University who lives in Ancaster, Ontario. Creations Cards makes high-quality handmade greeting cards using limited edition nature photography taken by Dr. Hughes, and proceeds from the sale of the cards is donated to the *Save the Mothers* organization.

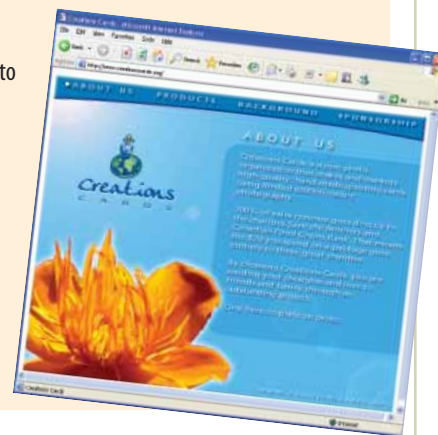
Save the Mothers is an international organization committed to partnerships that promote the health and dignity of mothers in developing countries. Their vision is to bring mothers in the developing world safely through childbirth, and to improve their quality of life by addressing the particular health problems arising out of the childbirth experience. Currently, *Save the Mothers* has chosen to partner with Uganda for its first location for impact. The program will then be replicated in other countries in the near future.

According to the *Save the Mothers* website, www.savethemothers.org, a woman in Africa has a lifetime risk of 1 in 16 of dying from pregnancy-related complications. In the industrialized world, it is 1 in 4,000 (UNICEF, 2003). In addition, these deaths leave many children without mothers, which also reduces the children's chance of survival.

Proceeds from the sale of Creations Cards go to *Save the Mothers* to address this preventable tragedy. Why does Dr. Hughes do this? "Because I care and because I can," he says.

In addition to his artistic pursuits, Dr. Hughes is a respected professor and lecturer, the author of numerous publications, and the vice-president of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS).

To learn more about Creations Cards, please visit their website at www.creationscards.org.



WELCOME new members!

The Society is pleased to welcome our newest members to the SOGC:

Member ob/gyn: Dr. Octaaf Bulterys; Dr. Hesham Arab; Dr. Gulnaz Jiwa; Dr. Maged Bakhet.

Medical Student Members: Ms. Natalie Leung; Miss Yvonne Leong; Miss Carrie Ferguson; Ms. Daralyn McCurdy; Mr. Michael McNeil; Mr. Ramzi Helewa; Mr. Matthew Hicks; Mrs. Allison Salter; Ms. Jaime Schachar; Ms. Julie Ryckman; Ms. Nadine Taub; Ms. Sara Scott.

Junior Members: Dr. Aaron Jackson; Dr. Roberta Mackenzie.

Junior-Family Practice Resident: Dr. Sivakumar Nagamuttu

Associate Member RN: Ms. Pam Novak; Mrs. Lynn Demsey Jechel.

Associate Member PhD: Dr. Amiram Gafni.

Associate Member MD: Dr. Peter Kuling.

SOGC'S 2006 Regional Awards

Each year the SOGC presents its regional awards to healthcare professionals who not only enrich the health of their patients, but also the health of their profession through their leadership and example. This year, the SOGC is pleased to honour the exceptional contributions of three individuals: Drs. Robert Lotocki and Guy-Paul Gagné, and midwife Eileen Hutton.



Dr. Robert Lotocki is a practicing gynaecologic oncologist at Cancer Care in Manitoba, and the head of gynaecology at the St. Boniface General Hospital. From 2002-2004, he served as the President of the Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists. As a respected professor in the University of Manitoba's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dr. Lotocki diligently imparts his substantial expertise to the next generation of health care professionals. In addition, Dr. Lotocki is also the medical director of the Manitoba Cervical Cancer Screening Program, an important program charged with increasing the utilization of Pap smear testing in Manitoba. For such noteworthy contributions to improving women's health, the SOGC is proud to present Dr. Lotocki our Central Regional Award.



This year, the SOGC is pleased to award the Western Regional Award to Eileen Hutton, a midwife and clinical epidemiologist. Ms. Hutton has shown tremendous leadership in her dedication to research and education. Her research interests include trial design, twin birth, VBAC, and ECV and fetal presentation. In addition to her role as an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia's Midwifery Division, Ms. Hutton

is the principal applicant to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for Early External Cephalic Version (ECV) 2 Trial and is a co-applicant and member of the steering committee for the Twin Birth Study. She completed her master's degree in nursing in 1985, and has recently completed her PhD with a specialty in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto. Her dedication to research and the advancement of the state of knowledge in women's health makes Ms. Hutton an ideal recipient for the SOGC's regional awards.



Dr. Guy-Paul Gagné, this year's Quebec Regional Award winner, has become known for his humanist philosophy of care, emphasizing family and a woman's autonomy in the decision-making process. Dr. Gagné has considerably contributed to the enhancement and humanization of obstetrical and gynaecological care at the *Centre hospitalier de Lasalle* by introducing the TARP concept (labour, birth, recovery and post-partum) at the *Unité familiale des naissances*. He has also been very active within the SOGC, and was instrumental in the production of the first-edition of SOGC's "Healthy Beginnings" guidebook for pregnancy and birth. In addition, Dr. Gagné has also become known for his diplomacy and ability to resolve conflicts, and played a key role in reaching a trail-blazing agreement between midwives and his birthing unit in Montreal.

The SOGC would like to congratulate this year's winners and to commend them for their ongoing contributions to women's health. The regional award winners will be honoured at the SOGC awards ceremony on June 26, 2006, as part of the 2006 Annual Clinical Meeting in Vancouver.

FIGO HOSTS FIRST MEETING of the new Save the Mothers and Newborns Project

On April 1st and 2nd, the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FIGO) held its first project meeting in London, UK, for the new Save the Mothers and Newborn Projects. The meeting brought together representatives from seven project countries with their project mentors. SOGC was represented at the meeting by: Dr. Ferdinand Paul, mentor for the Ukrainian and Kosovar initiatives; Dr. Jean Chamberlain, mentor for the Ugandan project; Dr. André B. Lalonde, co-Chair of FIGO's Save the Mothers and Newborns Committee; and Ms. Liette Perron, SOGC International Women's Health Program Manager.

FIGO launched its second generation Saving Mothers and Newborns project in September 2004, when the organization issued a call for proposals from national societies (in collaboration with midwife associations) for projects aimed at reducing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. Of 22 proposals submitted, 17 were provided with seed monies to develop full proposals, and, of these, 12 proposals were accepted by FIGO for implementation once funding was obtained. The Ukrainian, Ugandan and Kosovar proposals are among the first projects to be funded.



The Ukraine intervention seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Ukrainian ob/gyn association to promote the ALARM International Program to improve maternal and infant health in their country. The Ugandan project builds on the original Canada-Uganda Save the Mothers initiative, and aims to increase quality of and access to emergency obstetrical care (EOC) in Kiboga and Kibale. The project includes a strong community mobilization component.

Finally, the Kosovo initiative proposes to strengthen the capacity of the Kosovar ob/gyn and midwives' associations to improve the quality of maternal and newborn care. This proposal strives to achieve this through the development and implementation of guidelines in EOC. All projects are to be implemented by August 2006.

Recently, the proposal submitted by SOGC's partnership organization in Haiti has also been retained for funding. More information will be provided about this initiative at a later date.



TRAINING THE TRAINERS

SOGC hosts first ever ALARM International Professional Development Session for Canadian instructors



Central to the sustainability and success of the ALARM International Program (AIP) is a framework emphasizing a train-the-trainer model, in which professionals develop their skills to mentor and train each other. This was certainly the spirit of the first ever ALARM International Instructor Professional Development Session, hosted April 28- 29, 2006.

The goals of the session included: sensitizing the instructors to the International Women's Health Program framework and to the strategies linked to maternal and newborn health; strengthening capacity for the delivery of the AIP (3rd edition); and exploring the new vision of the ALARM International Program as a multi-year intervention. Thirty-six new and experienced instructors were invited to participate in the two-day event, which was held at the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel.

Dr. Dorothy Shaw, Past-President of the SOGC and President Elect of FIGO, opened the session with a thought-provoking presentation, "Promoting the Sexual and Reproductive Rights Based Approach – Why is it so important? Why is it so difficult?". Dr. Shaw's presentation inspired much discussion and reflection among the participants.

In addition, the two-day session featured diverse presentations of a global and theoretical nature. Presentations also covered updates incorporated into the 3rd edition AIP manuals and accompanying documentation.

Representatives from the SOGC's partner organizations also participated in the activities – including long-standing partner countries Haiti, Guatemala and

Uganda, and the Society's new partners in the Ukraine. In addition to building on their own skills as AIP instructors, partner representatives helped provide crucial reference points throughout the session by relating the information to specific implementation issues in their countries. Representatives from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, who will be using the ALARM International Program in an intervention that they are conducting in Iraq, were also in attendance.

"Seek first to understand, then to be understood"

Quoted in a presentation by Professor Dorothy Shaw

On the second day of the event participants had the opportunity to explore some of the new content included in the 3rd edition course material; in particular, workshops were conducted using the content for the full-day session on "Monitoring and Evaluation of Safe Motherhood Programs and Maternal Audits", and "Sexual and Reproductive Health – The Rights Approach". Participants appreciated these sessions, though a few indicated that the two hour time slot was insufficient – a comment which certainly reinforced the inclusion of full-day sessions on these two topics in the actual ALARM International Program.

Preliminary feedback from the event suggests that the Canadian ALARM International Instructors and our visiting partners found the event useful, and that the comprehensive overview left them feeling better equipped to act as AIP instructors. They indicated that the session content provided them with a global perspective on the AIP and their roles, thereby better preparing them to share this knowledge as part of our partnership activities. Formal evaluations were conducted, and an analysis of the feedback will be produced in the upcoming weeks.

The Walter C. MacKenzie-Scotiabank FELLOWSHIP IN SURGERY

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is accepting applications for the annual Walter C. MacKenzie-Scotiabank Fellowship in Surgery. Named after the college's past-president, the fellowship is open to Fellows in all surgical specialties (including obstetrics and gynaecology) who have spent at least 50 percent of their professional time in active practice over the last five years. The fellowship is to enable a Fellow to visit one or more centres to acquire surgical research or clinical surgical expertise. The fellowship is for a value of \$1,750 per month, for visits of three to 12 months duration. The deadline for applications is September 29, 2006, for awards to be granted in 2007.

For more information, complete eligibility requirements, or to download an application form, please visit the Royal College's Website at www.rcpsc.medical.org.

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§ Based on data from two controlled comparative clinical trials. Compliance rate percentages represent EVRA* vs. an oral contraceptive.

+ Triphasil is a registered trademark of Wyeth Canada.

1. EVRA* (norelgestromin/ethinyl estradiol transdermal system) Product Monograph, Janssen-Ortho Inc. November, 2003.

2. Archer DF et al. Assessment of compliance with a weekly contraceptive patch (ORTHO EVRA™/EVRA™) among North American women. *Fertility and Sterility*. 2002; 77 (2 Suppl. 2): S27-S31.



RM REPORT: Misoprostol, Fellowships, and an “Evidence Boost” for Canadian Midwives

By Michelle Kryzanauskas, RM

It has been a very busy time for the RM Advisory Committee recently. A recent teleconference saw a very full agenda, and this report will be brief as many of the actions resulting from this meeting are ongoing at this time.

The committee has drafted a letter supporting the use of misoprostol (cytotec) by midwives as a second line drug for treatment of postpartum hemorrhage. The letter was sent to the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Consortium, and was also copied to the Canadian Association of Midwives and all provincial and territorial midwifery regulators.

A new responsibility of the RM Advisory Committee includes membership on the selection committee for the Millennium Fellowships for Nurses and Midwives. The Foundation for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health, administered by the SOGC, annually provides Millennium Fellowships to financially assist healthcare professionals wishing to improve their knowledge or increase

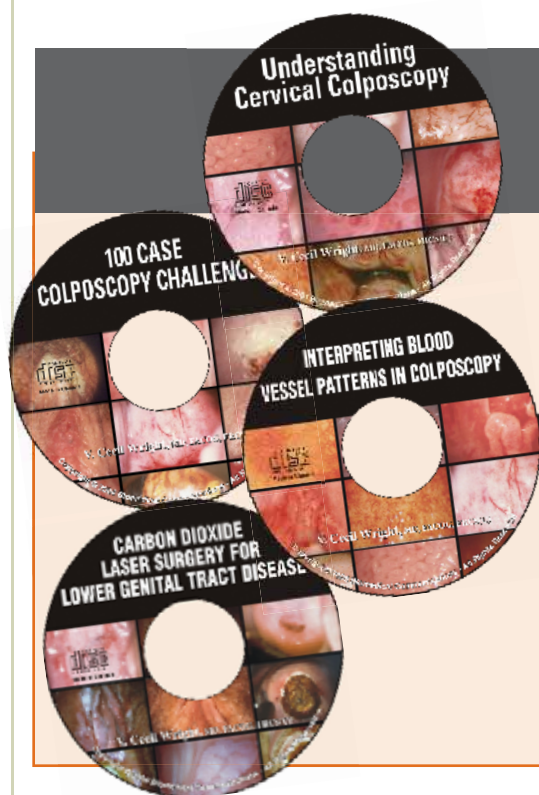
their clinical surgical expertise in areas of obstetrics and gynaecology. One fellowship is to be awarded for nurses and midwives, and the chairs of the RN and RM Advisory Committee participated as adjudicators in the selection process.

The committee has also been involved in a review of a brief document titled “Allow midwives to participate as full members of the health care team”, an “Evidence Boost” report from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF). A major function of this Evidence Boost is to make research accessible and in plain language. Our review considered whether CHSRF had missed or misrepresented any of the research as they attempted to make it more accessible. The Evidence Boost is short in length and highlights only the most critical arguments and evidence.

The CHSRF is self-described in the following quote from their web site: “The Canadian Health

Services Research Foundation promotes and funds management and policy research in health services and nursing to increase the quality, relevance and usefulness of this research for health-system policy makers and managers. In addition, the foundation works with these health-system decision makers to support and enhance their use of research evidence when addressing health management and policy challenges. Any foundation project, process or activity always involves both researchers, and managers, policy makers from academia and Canada’s health system. The foundation is an independent, not-for-profit corporation, established with endowed funds from the federal government and its agencies.”

In closing, I reflect on the vast amount of work and support the RM Advisory Committee members and the SOGC staff provides to accomplish the workload of the RM Advisory Committee. I would like to express my appreciation to each of you, thank you!



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SOGC SUPPORTS Canada's rural physicians in Iraq

PRIMA launches

new web resource on substance abuse during pregnancy

The PRIMA (Pregnancy-Related Issues in Management of Addictions) website <http://dfcm.med.utoronto.ca/research/prima/home.html> is now available through University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine's webpage. This site provides a comprehensive summary of knowledge and recommendations about managing substance abuse in pregnancy. A direct link via www.addictionpregnancy.ca is soon to follow.

This site contains a pocket reference developed and reviewed by PRIMA's national board which has representatives from Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal. A Care Provider's Guide, "Webinars", and Train-the-trainer Workshops are under development, funded by Health Canada. For more information or to contact the PRIMA Project, please visit the website.

In late April, the SOGC signed a memorandum of collaboration with the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) to provide technical expertise and materials to support SRPC's international health initiative in Iraq. Under the agreement, the SOGC will provide components of the ALARM International training program to the rural physician's society, which they will then incorporate into their ongoing CME activities in Iraq.

Developed in the mid 1990s, the ALARM International Program (AIP) is a five-day training course for healthcare professionals providing emergency obstetrical care. The course's main focus is on preventing the principal causes of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. It has been successfully implemented by the SOGC in many low-resource countries, particularly Uganda, Haiti, and Guatemala. In late January, the SOGC also signed an agreement with the Ukrainian Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to pilot the AIP in eastern and central Ukraine. The program has also received endorsement from the Partnership for Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health and the World Health Organization as a tool to ensure skilled attendance.

The SRPC has been involved in Iraq through the association's "Care to Care" CME program. As part of the new collaboration with the SOGC, representatives from the SRPC recently participated in an ALARM International "train-the-trainers" course held in Ottawa.

"This agreement means that SOGC's tremendously successful ALARM International Program, which is designed to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, will be used by doctors from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada when they undertake their missions to Iraq," said Dr. Michael Helewa, President of the SOGC.

"SOGC has already successfully brought ALARM International training to countries around the world, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to share this tool with other professional associations in Canada who believe, as we do, that enhancing women's health globally is vital to the health of societies."

The new agreement with the SRPC was officially signed on April 21st, as part of the SRPC's annual general meeting in Winnipeg.

INNOVATIONS in Health Intervention

From April 4-7, Entebbe, Uganda, hosted a global meeting aiming to provide opportunities to hear about state-of-the-art interventions, explore innovative approaches, discuss challenges in bringing about such care to vulnerable populations, debate program approaches and plan for concerted actions. The FIGO/ICM joint statement on PPH was promoted within this forum, which brought together more than 21 country teams from Africa.

SOGC executive vice-president Dr. André B. Lalonde participated in a skill building session looking at innovations in treatment of PPH. Other SOGC representatives included Dr. Jean Chamberlain and Ms. Liette Perron.