



# SOGCC News

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

WINTER 2002-03

EDITORIAL

## GOC Member Dr. Rejean Savoie Launches Teleoncology Program

*Elizabeth Waite, National GOC Coordinator*

GOC is proud to have provided support to Dr. Rejean Savoie in establishing a cervical cancer screening program in New Brunswick over the past two years.

In April 2001, the Government of Canada announced a \$1.2 million grant to the Beauséjour Regional Health Authority for a telemedicine pilot project in oncology. The official launch of the program took place on September 26, 2002.

Using health information and communications technologies, the goal of the project is to develop an efficient, comprehensive screening system for cervical cancer in New Brunswick to reduce the disease's incidence and mortality rates. It is being implemented in five regions across the province: south-eastern New Brunswick, Miramichi, Bathurst, Big Cove and the Acadian Peninsula, as well as Campbellton. The project is funded through the Canada Health Infrastructure Partnerships Program.

Screening clinics have been opened in every participating region. Technologies used in the project include a central system

to register every woman who obtains a Pap test, thus creating a database that would allow identification of the regions at risk and establishment of a call-recall system. This central registry database also enables hospitals to analyze useful and pertinent patient information and may serve for other programs such as the breast screening services.

In addition, an e-consult software was created that enables gynaecologists to send an electronic request for consult to a gynaeco-oncologist, including patient demographics, history, request form, and images taken from a colposcope. This system will demonstrate how medical professionals can use technology in order to give a better service to the patient by eliminating unnecessary traveling and having access to a specialist at a distance. The software focuses on the efficacy of making information available to the caregiver in a telemedicine environment without compromising patient confidentiality and is unique in its capacity to integrate new data with the existing medical record.

Also available are high tech colposcopy systems used to perform colposcopies at a remote site, enabling caregivers to store images and transmit them to a referring site. The Wellness Network ensures that rural and urban regions in New Brunswick have access to a fibre optic network with a bandwidth large enough to accommodate a variety of telemedicine applications.

Various components related to the project objectives will be evaluated according to Health Canada's framework. The evaluation will focus on improvements to health services, integration of health services, lessons learned, cost-effectiveness and technology performance. A study will evaluate the effects of distance learning on Aboriginal persons in terms of knowledge gained and attitudes about cancer of the cervix and screening.

GOC is pleased for Dr. Savoie and his team who have worked hard to get this huge project underway. Its success demonstrates once again what GOC members can accomplish working together to become the voice of gynaecologic cancer in Canada. Further information about the project can be obtained at 506-862-4044.



*Dr. Joan Murphy, GOC Past-President; the Honourable Anne McLellan, Federal Minister of Health; the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Federal Minister of Labor and Dr. Réjean Savoie.*

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FROM THE EVP'S DESK

Challenges in 2003!

André B. Lalonde, Executive Vice-President

For obstetricians and gynaecologists, 2003 will bring new and old challenges. A new one is the consideration of collaborative practices between doctors, nurses and midwives. With the current crisis in human resources, we need to change our silo approach to practice. If we are interested in improving maternal health, we must practice together at the office and in hospital settings. The SOGC will submit related projects to the Health Canada Primary Health Care Transition Fund, in collaboration with CFPC, CNA, CAM and NAHO.

Individualized patient care and balancing risks and benefits will continue to challenge all of us. Respect for patients who do not agree with our advice remains a difficulty for many physicians. In the end, treatment decisions must rest with the woman. Only through respect of her opinion and decision can we progress in our goal of optimizing women's health.

On the international scene, too many women still die unnecessarily in childbirth with no apparent concern from our governments. Each one of you is urged to call your MP to sensitize and pressure them to act and fund Safe Motherhood initiatives. Education without health is as bad as health without education.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2003.

It's that time of year again!

Danielle Bélanger, Membership Coordinator

Time to renew your SOGC membership, that is. We are pleased to announce that there will be no membership fee increase for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row. We strive to keep our operating costs at a minimum while always increasing the level of service to our members and to women's health in general. Membership in the SOGC is made up of over 2750 health care professionals. Many have taken advantage of our ALARM, SCOPE and CME programs throughout the year. Registration discounts for members vary from \$20 to \$200 per program and in many cases, surpass the cost of membership to the Society.

In order to remain competitive, this year we added two new partners to our Corporate Agreement Program: Johnson Inc. for home and auto insurance and SelectCom for audio teleconferencing, local and long distance telecommunication services. Both are proud to be affiliated with the SOGC and this is reflected in the competitive prices and high level of customer service offered to our members.

In our continuing efforts to keep you informed, we are launching an e-newsletter, which will be a brief outline of important events and decisions that affect you as a health care provider. We are also listening to our members and taking all comments and suggestions into consid-

eration. As a result, we introduced a new reduced-fee membership category for ob/gyns in developing countries.

Annual dues notices were sent in early November and we encourage you to advise us of changes in your practice status or contact information so that we may continue to serve you in the best possible manner. You can also renew your membership on line by visiting our Web site at [www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org).

If you have any questions regarding your membership status please contact Membership Services at the National Office at 730-4192 or 1-800-561-2416.



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

SOGC News  
780 Echo Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 5R7

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

Fax: (613) 730-4314

E-mail: [lbray-levac@sogc.com](mailto:lbray-levac@sogc.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Link between dairy products, lactose and calcium, and ovarian cancer

from *NutriNouvelles Nationales*, Sept. 2002, vol. 4, no. 7

Epidemiological data on the link between dietary fat, dairy products and calcium, and ovarian cancer are contradictory. The authors led a case-controlled study in Hawaii and Los Angeles, California, to verify various dietary hypotheses related to the etiology of ovarian cancer in a population with different dietary intakes.

The intake of dairy products in general, of all types of milk and low-fat milk, but not of whole milk, was inversely and significantly related to the rate of ovarian cancer in the 1,165 study subjects. The results suggest the intake of low-fat milk, calcium or lactose could reduce the risk of ovarian cancer.

Reference : *Association of Dairy Products, Lactose and Calcium with the Risk of Ovarian Cancer* published in *Am J Epidemiol* 2002; 156:148-57.



from the Canadian Institute of Child Health

**The Rights of the Child** is available free of charge from the CICH in brochure and poster formats and in both languages. It outlines 11 specific rights of children, with references to the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child. To order your copy, contact the CICH at [www.cich.ca](http://www.cich.ca) or (613) 230-8838.

## CFAS Facts and Figures

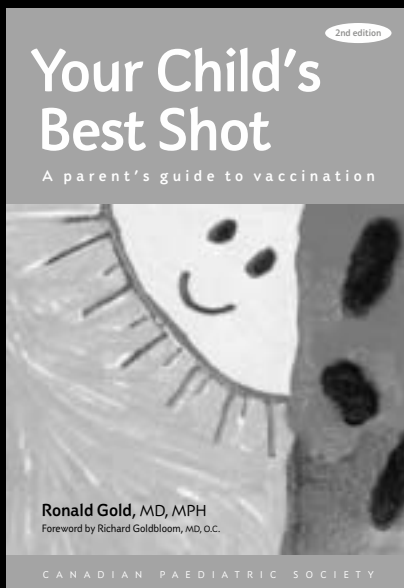
The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) recently released the second annual nation-wide results on assisted reproduction live birth rates in Canada. Live birth rates for 2000 were as follows:

- overall live birth rate per cycle started: 20%
- 65% of live births were singletons
- most of the multiple births were twins
- live birth rates by age of mother:
  - for women under 35 years, the live birth rate was 26%
  - for women aged 35-39, the live birth rate was 20%
  - for women aged 40 and older, the live birth rate was 8%

Preliminary results for 2001 are as follows:

- overall pregnancy rate per cycle started: 28%
- complications occurred in fewer than 3% of treatment cycles
- on average, 2-3 embryos were replaced in the uterus
- 2/3 of pregnancies were singletons
- most of the multiple pregnancies were twins
- as expected, the woman's age has a strong influence on pregnancy rate:
  - for women under 35 years, the pregnancy rate was 34%
  - for women aged 35-39, the pregnancy rate was 28%
  - for women aged 40 and older, the pregnancy rate was 15%

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or call 1-613-526-9397



For further information, please contact Dr. Albert Yuzpe, Chair, IVF Directors Special Interest Group, Genesis Fertility Center, Vancouver, BC.

## SOGC CME EVENTS

### PROGRAMMES

#### 13th West/Central CME

Rimrock Resort Hotel  
Banff, Alberta  
February 6-8, 2003

#### 16th ICME

Hilton Tobago, Lowlands,  
Scarborough, Tobago  
March 3-7, 2003

### COURSES

#### SCOPE 2003

##### April 25 & 26, 2003

Mount Sinai Hospital, Surgical Skills  
Centre  
Toronto, Ontario

##### October 24 & 25, 2003

University of BC, Centre of Excellence  
for Surgical Education  
Vancouver, BC

##### November 21 & 22, 2003

Mount Sinai Hospital, Surgical Skills  
Centre  
Toronto, Ontario

#### ALARM 2003

**VANCOUVER, BC** January 24-25

**SASKATOON, SK** February 8-9

**TORONTO, ON**  
February 28 – March 1

**CALGARY, AB** April 4-5

**MONTREAL, QC** April 26-27  
(Offered in French)

**Instructors' Course**  
**MONTREAL, QC (TBC)**  
April 28 (by special invitation)

## 59th SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting

### JUNE 25-30, 2003

You are encouraged to book your hotel room early, as the ACM is during peak tourist season! The Society has reserved blocks of rooms at several hotels at special convention rates such as:

- the Delta Prince Edward: 1-888-244-8666 or 902-894-1203
- the Rodd – The Charlottetown: 1-800-565-7633 or 902-894-7371
- the Inns on the Great George: 1-800-361-1118 and quote group # 0603
- the Best Western: 902-892-2461
- the Quality Inn on the Hill: 1-800-466-4734

Look for more information on our Website at [www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org) starting in January 2003.

## ICME 2003 Tobago, Scarborough, March 3 to 7, 2003

### It's not too late!

The ICME Planning Committee has been hard at work in developing the scientific programme. The concurrent sessions to be held on Tuesday, March 4 will highlight 3 themes, each covering its own specific subjects:

- Obstetrics: Advances in Early Prenatal Screening; ECVs-Successes and Failures
- Office gynaecology: Troubleshooting with OC's
- Advanced gynaecology: Medico-Legal Cases, Hysteroscopic Sterilization and Uterine Embolization

Several other subjects will be highlighted throughout the 5-day morning meeting, such as the management of twins, drugs in pregnancy, the use of Misoprostol in obstetrics, bone and heart disease prevention and pelvic pain. Wednesday morning is



dedicated to the HRT crisis with a talk on the WHI study as well as the HERS report 1 & 2. The day will end with a meet-the-expert session.

Please contact Carlson Wagonlit Travel at 1-800-561-7477 if you need more information on making your travel arrangements. If you need a brochure, contact us at [regionals@sogc.com](mailto:regionals@sogc.com) or visit our Web site at [www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org). Look for your preliminary programme early in January 2003!



## 13th West Central CME Programme

### February 6-8, 2003

### Banff, Alberta

Draped in snow, Banff is a winter wonderland and a skier's paradise. Touring Banff provides the perfect blend of cultural and natural attractions with indoor and outdoor activities.

Scientific Programme based on membership needs assessments. Full day sessions on Thursday, and half-day sessions on Friday and Saturday:

- Programme developed to meet the needs of specialists and family physicians
- Plenary sessions
- Breakout sessions for small group discussions and interaction using case presentations
- Surgical Gynaecology
- Primary Care Obstetrics
- Contraception Counselling Skills Workshop
- Pre-conference Millennium Technology Workshop.

**Check your mail for the Preliminary Programme!**



# ALARM International in Haiti

Liette Perron, Program Officer

A team of SOGC and SHOG (Société Haïtienne d'Obstétrique et de Gynécologie) instructors gave the ALARM International course in Port-au-Prince during the week of October 21, 2002, as part of a joint initiative of the PanAmerican Health Organization (PHO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP), whose goal is to strengthen the capacity of

certain departments to offer essential obstetrical services.

Nineteen health professionals — specialists, GP's and nurses — took part in this pilot initiative. The ALARM International course served as a basis for the training, and several new themes were added in order to better meet the participants' training needs, namely first trimester infections, antenatal and neonatal care and neonatal resuscitation.

Dr. François Beaudoin, Course Director, was supported by Drs. Gilles Brunet, Jean-Marie Moutquin and Lauré Adrien (from SHOG). Ms. Liette Perron, International Women's Health Program Officer, provided administrative and logistical support to the team.

The SOGC and SHOG are pursuing discussions with the PHO, WHO and



Training partners (from left to right) Dr. Gilles Brunet (SOGC), Dr. Jean-François Duclos (MPHP), Dr. François Beaudoin (SOGC), Dr. Jean-Marie Moutquin (SOGC), Dr. Rodolphe Magloire (PHO/WHO), Dr. Laure Adrien (SHOG), Dr. Hady Diallo (PHO/WHO) and Liette Perron (SOGC)



Dr. Jean Marie Moutquin training health care professionals

MPHP with the goal to provide the training to health professionals in other departments within the country.

## Your SOGC National Office Staff

# Division of Communications and Public Relations

The Communication Division's mandate is to provide expertise, services and support to other divisions in the field of communications, public education and government relations. The Division is currently being restructured, concurrent to the numerous staff changes over the last year. Let us therefore introduce the team's members and their responsibilities.

As of April 2002, the Director of Communications and Public Relations is Andrée Poirier. Her responsibilities include the overall operation of the division. Lisa Spencer has remained the Contraception Awareness Program (CAP) Coordinator, with the added responsibilities of coordinating media requests. Sylvie Séguin is still responsible for the sales of our publications, as well

as developing and applying a marketing strategy for the these sales, and responding to all public inquiries.

Daniel Morier, Public Education Coordinator, is a new staff member. Aside from coordinating information to produce public documents on various topics, Daniel is also responsible for developing advertising supplements and ads for newspapers, scientific journals and magazines, and for overseeing the updating of information on our Web site. Ms. Danièle Filion is our new administrative assistant. If you are looking at offering a Contraception Awareness Workshop and need tool kits, Danièle is the person to contact.

We unfortunately lost a key member of our team just last month. Lynn Bray-Levac has decided to pursue her long time wish of freelancing as a translator from home. Lucky for us, she still coordinates the production of the **SOGC News**. We have, however, acquired a very qualified translator to replace her: Martin Pothier is responsible for translating all documents produced for the National Office.

To contact any member of the Communications Team, call 1-800-561-2416.

## CPD Millennium Fellowships

Financial support is available to assist SOGC members in acquiring further technical knowledge or skills in the areas of obstetrics/gynaecology and/or sexual and reproductive health. Clinical Professional Development (CPD) Millennium Fellowships have been created for health care professionals who wish to improve or enhance their clinical/surgical expertise and skills in obstetrics and gynaecology.

The professional development is to be provided through a short stay (2 to 8 weeks) at a centre of excellence, providing the specialist with an active, individualized and practical experience related to clearly defined objectives.

For further details, as well as application forms, visit our Website at [www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org) or call us at 1-800-561-2416.

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

**First International Perinatal Congress**  
"Together for Better Maternal and Child Health"  
January 31-February 3, 2003  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Information: 9661551-2341 or  
E-mail: [care@dab-bd.org](mailto:care@dab-bd.org)

**Obstetric Ultrasound Setting the Standard for 2003**  
February 21-23, 2003  
Toronto Colony Hotel  
Toronto, Ontario  
Information: (416) 978-2719 or  
[www.cme.utoronto.ca](http://www.cme.utoronto.ca)  
E-mail: [ce.med@utoronto.ca](mailto:ce.med@utoronto.ca)

**Cancer Rehabilitation: Myths and Realities Moving Forward After Treatment 2003**  
March 28-29, 2003  
Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites  
Vancouver, BC  
Information: (604) 822-0054 or  
[www.interprofessional.ubc.ca](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca)  
E-mail: [interprof@cehs.ubc.ca](mailto:interprof@cehs.ubc.ca)

**Violence and Health 2003**  
April 3-5, 2003, Vancouver, BC  
Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites  
Tel: 1-604-822-4965  
Fax: 1-604-822-4835  
[www.interprofessional.ubc.ca](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca)

**I<sup>st</sup> European Endoscopic Surgery Week**  
June 16-18, 2003  
Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre  
Glasgow, Scotland, U.K.  
Information: Tel.: 44 (0) 1794 511331/2  
Fax: 44 (0) 1794 511455  
E-mail: [icms@indexcommunications.com](mailto:icms@indexcommunications.com)  
[www.eesw.com](http://www.eesw.com)

**FIGO**  
November 2-7, 2003  
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](mailto:figo2003@eventsintl.com)

## MEMBERS' CORNER:

### Honorary Fellowship



*Professor William Dunlop welcomes Dr. André B. Lalonde as a Fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of the United Kingdom. Several prominent international professors and physicians were admitted during the Fellows' Admissions Ceremony, which took place on September 20, 2002. Congratulations Dr. Lalonde!*

### Appointment Announcements

Dr. Zohra Docrat of Brantford, Ontario, was named President-Elect of the Canadian Federation of Medical Women from August 2002 to August 2003, at the Federation's recent Annual Meeting.

Dr. Jan Christilaw was named as a representative to the Steering Committee of Task Force II on Physician Human Resources at the National Specialty Societies effective September 1, 2002.

Congratulations to you both!

## A New Partner to SOGC Member Affinity Program: Selectcom Inc.

The SOGC, a long-standing customer of SelectCom Inc., is pleased to offer to its membership a full suite of telecommunication services. SelectCom Inc. is a full-service, 100% Canadian owned telecommunications service provider, with its head office & call centre located in Ottawa, Ontario. SelectCom's suite of enhanced product & service portfolios allows our current & future members to benefit from savings on local line, long distance, toll-free 800, calling card & audio tele-conferencing services. SelectCom has structured the following special offer to SOGC members.

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- No transfer, set-up or cancellation fees!
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- Voice Long Distance Services available w/o local line
- (1) NON-SOGC Members subject to a long distance rate of \$0.075

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON REGISTRATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Parker MacDonald**

Manager, Selectcom Inc. Business Development  
( 613 ) 722-2941 ext. 106 ( Ottawa ) 1-877-567-3000 ext. 106 (Canada)  
[pmacdonald@selectcom.ca](mailto:pmacdonald@selectcom.ca)  
or Danielle Bélanger at 1-800-561-2416.

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# SOGC JUNIOR MEMBER NEWS



## Message from the Chair

*Jean-Pierre Gennaoui, PGY5, Laval University*

Dear colleagues, 2002 has been a very fertile year for the SOGC Junior Member (JM) Committee. With the participation of all ob-gyn programs in Canada, we are now putting the final touches on the new directory of Canadian fellowships. It will provide all the information you need to plan an elective anywhere in Canada and will be sent to you in early 2003.

We have also witnessed a surge in interest for grant requests for electives in other programs or countries. We encourage you to put in a request before the next deadline in order to take advantage of the rewarding opportunity of an elective in a different setting.

Ever involved in the promotion of our specialty, several junior members organized or took part in career/recruitment nights in their respective university. A visual aid developed by Lynne McLeod (a past president of the JM Committee) is available to you through the SOGC. See your local representative for details.

I encourage you to submit a Stump the Professor case for the next annual meeting in Charlottetown, in June 2003. The residents having submitted the cases selected will have the opportunity to present them in an effort to stump the experts.

Finally, the JM Committee will conduct a survey on the career opportunities for ob/gyn residents. We will also ask if there are any subjects you would like discussed at the JM Committee, or any actions you would like the committee to pursue. The survey's

results will allow us to define the JM Committee's next steps, in order to better meet your needs at the national level.

On behalf of the JM Committee, I would like to wish you a happy holiday season and a New Year filled with health and happiness.

## Message from the Vice-Chair

*Dr. Sony Sukhbir Singh, PGY-3, University of Western Ontario*

Greetings from South-western Ontario and your new SOGC JM Committee Vice-Chair. The roles of the Vice-Chair and Chair provide an opportunity to represent and meet residents at the national level. As discussed by the junior members at the ACM in Winnipeg, there are many issues that are important to all residents wherever they may be! I look forward to working with Jean-Pierre (Laval) and the rest of the JM Committee over the next two years as advocates for our colleagues across Canada.

It is true that residents are an essential part of the provision of obstetrical and gynaecological care in Canada. As such, they should be valued for their service through optimal educational experiences and an opportunity to voice their needs, concerns and

strengths at the national level. The SOGC JM Committee is the ideal forum for all residents in the country to stay connected, discuss issues pertaining to resident well-being and advocate for our concerns.

As Ob/gyn residents, we have more in common than we could ever imagine. We share similar clinical experiences and face the same life challenges of going through a surgical residency. The JM Committee continues to be proactive in bringing us together because communication is essential to empowerment and growth. Our positive experiences must be shared, but more importantly, we need to move to the next step and address the challenges. We will aim to promote positive resident experience by articulating issues to the SOGC membership at large.

The JM committee at the national level has a unique status as a representative of all Canadian Ob/gyn residents. Through the goals of increasing communication, making resident well-being a priority and advocating for resident concerns, we hope to make a positive impact for all of us in Canada.

Take care and see you soon at the JM meetings!

### PROGRAM UPDATE

## University of Ottawa

*Dr. Nathalie Gamache*

Greetings from Ottawa where "Girl Power" has taken over the capital, or at least the OB/GYN department! This year, we welcomed five new PGY1 into our residency program; Asia Al-Shaikh, Amira El-Messidi, Anita Fan, Gabrielle Farkas, and Edith Valcourt. We were also joined by Stacey Snider, an FM graduate who is furthering her obstetrical knowledge, and Jennifer Nicholson, a practising GP from B.C. who joined our department as a PGY2 in September. Welcome to all of you.

We are also tickled pink to announce four births amongst our residents since June! Who said residency was all work and no play?!? Congratulations to Anne Gravelle PGY5 (Erin), Ghadeer Al-Shaikh PGY2 (Allyah), Nasser Beshara PGY5, who had a little help from his wife!

(Natalie), and Jessica Dy PGY4 (Jordana). They have all exchanged their scrubs for diapers and burping pads for a few months. Have fun with your bundles of joy, and see you soon!

Congratulations are also in order to Sarah McDonald, also known as Queen Sarah, who passed her exams with flying colors and started a fellowship in perinatology in Toronto in July. Best of luck Sarah!

Despite our busy social calendar, we also manage to work and further our knowledge... To orchestrate all this, Dr. Paul Claman, from our very own REI department became program director in May. He replaced Dr. Wylam Faught, who has moved to Edmonton.

*(continued on page 8)*

## STUMP THE PROFESSOR 2003

Deadline :  
**Thursday, March 6, 2003**

Send your cases to:  
Mrs. Denise Desautels  
Coordinator,  
Junior Member  
Programs

780 Echo Dr.,  
Ottawa, ON K1S 5R7



# FOUNDATION NEWS

Robyn Harris, Executive Director

## WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

On behalf of the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health, I would like to thank those who have responded to the annual appeal for donations, either by returning the donor reply card included with the October issue of SOGC News or through the SOGC membership renewal form. Your generous support is helping fund research in women's health all across Canada.

If you have not yet replied to the Foundation's appeal, it is not too late to do so. Keep in mind that your donation can also be made in honour or memory of someone special or to wish someone a Happy Holiday. Please contact the Foundation office for further information on making a tribute donation or go online at [www.cfwh.org](http://www.cfwh.org).

## 2003 RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION

Please see the flyer included with this issue for information on the 2003 Research Grant Competition.

## CHARLOTTETOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

Make sure you register early for June's Foundation-sponsored Maritime Lobster Feast and Concert. 2003 is sure to be the most outstanding time you have ever had at an annual clinical meeting. The dress will be casual, the lobster plentiful, and the entertainment, out of this world! Check your preliminary programme for more details.

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



## University of Ottawa

*(continued from page 7)*

Dr. Claman welcomed the residents and their families at his home for the traditional July BBQ.

In the last year, a few of our residents explored Canada and beyond during electives. Jessica Dy spent a month in the Philippines, where women deliver lined up in the hallways – and we complain about our ERs? – and a lack of scissors allowed one woman to escape the “episiotomy”... Dan Reilly PGY3, also went west on an SOGC elective grant. He popped his tent in Dawson Creek, B.C., where he completed a community rotation. I heard the fishing was good too...

By the time these words hit the press, another CARMS will be well under way. This year, we had the chance to work with some truly amazing students, and we anticipate a record number of applicants from our own university. This reminds me that in the last few years, our increased enrolment, a dedicated administration, and a strong and determined resident body have all contributed to a significant improvement in the quality of residency life. We have been able to accompany our budding residents during their first few months on call while they spread their wings before their first solo flight, and we have surpassed the PAIRO requirements for call nights. Juniors now do 6/28, and Seniors 4/28. Our 7 a.m. sign-out time is the envy of many departments...OB/GYN in Ottawa is truly “MAGIC”! From the Winterlude Capital, I wish you and your families a great Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. Cheers!

## Laval University

*Isabelle Lincourt, PGY 2*

The academic year is well underway at Laval. We started off by welcoming our five new residents during our annual garden party, under sunny skies and in Dr. Daris' pool. It was loads of fun, as always. The arrival of some brings the departure of others... Congratulations to Drs. Lajeunesse, Poirier and Labelle who successfully completed the exams of both the Royal College and the Collège des médecins du Québec.

In September, we took part in the annual departmental days, at which several interesting speakers were invited, namely Dr. Thomas J. Garite from Irvine California University and Dr. Philip D. Darney from the University of California, San Francisco. The Jacques-Émile Rioux Award was given to residents who presented their research projects. Dr. Bruno Camiré came away with the first prize, the second went to Geneviève Labelle, and the third, to Dr. Mathieu Leboeuf. Another award was handed out on this occasion, that of the residents' Boss of the Year Award 2001-02. It was given to Dr. Marleen Daris in recognition of her great devotion toward residents and teaching. In November, we will participate in the inter-university debate to be held at the Université de Sherbrooke. Several hot subjects are on the agenda, including the one we must defend: for or against Caesarian on demand.

I must mention how proud we are to have received full accreditation from the Royal College, following their September visit. We are the first program in Canada to have gone from a notice of intent to withdraw to full accreditation. Everyone took

part in the program's restructuring, and the incredible work of Dr. Jacques Mailloux, our Program Director, cannot go unmentioned. We are very happy to be at Laval.

One topic in particular is on everyone's minds these days. I don't know if others hear about Bill 114 in other parts of the country. This bill forces, under court order, doctors who have ER skills to cover shifts in areas lacking in human resources. This forces them to abandon their hospital activities or their time on call in the hospital to which they are affiliated. Residents from all over Québec have mobilized during local and provincial meetings. We hope that the decisions taken will take the form of incentives that respect the autonomy we have a right to want to maintain! The discussion about this bill is far from over in Québec, but it is also worrisome for all doctors in Canada because it will create a precedent in the history of health care in this country. We hope we will be heard by our elders and by governments. Much more discussion and action are on the horizon.

Wishing you all a great end to 2002 and a Happy New Year!

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