

EDITORIAL

Reproductive Rights as Human Rights

By Dr. André Lalonde, Executive Vice-President, SOGC

During the recent meeting of the members of the International Partnership Project 1999-2002, I found the workshop on Women's Empowerment, led by Isfahan Merali, particularly striking.

Ms. Morali, is the Director of the Human Rights Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. She was previously a human rights lawyer practicing with the Ontario Human Rights Commission in Toronto. She graduated with a B.A. in Canadian and Asian Studies at the University of Toronto in 1990 before studying international law in France.

Of special interest was the discussion on the categories of human rights linked to reproductive and sexual health, such as rights relative to (1) reproductive security, (2) to reproductive and sexual health, (3) to reproductive decision making, and (4) to reproductive equality.

The underlying factors that prevent women in developing countries from obtaining and accessing reproductive health services were reviewed. All participants agreed that issues such as distance from health service, health care costs, women's lack of decision-making power, her social status, inadequate health care services as well as discriminatory or inadequate law or health care policies were contributing factors to

limiting access not only in most developing countries, but also in some developed countries.

Various initiatives were proposed to integrate a social justice dimension into the reproductive health services of developing countries, in particular the development of ethical and human rights principles, including:

- ensuring that all services are provided in a way that promotes ethical principles such as treating women with respect and dignity, full and informed consent, confidentiality and privacy;

- developing guidelines for patient-health worker relationships in order to protect women's reproductive rights and to ensure those women receive adequate, efficient and professional services;

- ensuring that all health clinics or centres have a consistent human rights policy that respects the human rights and dignity of women. This requires the adoption of a gender perspective that accounts for the different realities and constraints which women and men face in their lives;

- developing culturally sensitive methods of providing information and services.

The SOGC has already shown leadership in the movement to integrate a social justice dimension into reproductive health services through the development of

evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, our continuing professional development programs, the implementation of consumer health education programs as well as our numerous partnerships.

Any SOGC member interested in obtaining further information on reproductive rights as human rights may consult documents such as the Cairo Program and the Beijing Declaration. These documents include recommendations that health professionals develop, disseminate and implement ethical codes to ensure practitioners' conformity with human rights, as well as to ethical and professional standards. You may also want to review a report on human rights written by former SOGC President, Dr. Dorothy Shaw, who is the Co-Chair of the FIGO working group on Women's Rights. &

National Office Restructures for the Future

Late this Summer, plans were developed for the merging of the Education Division and the Continuing Professional Development Division at the National Office. The merging of these two divisions was to reduce duplication of work and utilise the collective expertise and collaboration of the human resources within these two divisions. This will enable the National Office to provide the necessary educational programs for members to meet the requirements of the Royal College Maintenance of Certification Program which will be implemented January 1, 2001.

The implementation of the merger began in early September and was

completed by the end of the month. The new division name is The Continuing Professional Development Division. Dr. J. K. Milne, the Associate Executive Vice President of the Society, has been assigned the Directorship of this division.

The CPD Division is reviewing all aspects of its responsibilities and operational functions to ensure efficient use of its resources and the production of appropriate educational programs for the memberships. We look forward to working with you, the members of the Society, in developing educational programs and events which will meet your individual learning requirements and objectives. &

1999 Grant Submissions

By Robyn Harris, Executive Director, Canadian Foundation for Women's Health, SOGC

There was a tremendous response to the Foundation's call for grant submissions. In all, forty-one proposals were received covering a diverse spectrum of issues related to women's health. Investigators of the research projects that are selected will be contacted before SOGC's Ontario CME and will be invited to receive their awards during a special presentation to be held on Thursday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m. at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre. Those projects that are not selected may be projects, for review for the Spring 2000 call for submissions.

Updated guidelines for next year will be available soon. For your copy of the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health Grant Guidelines please contact the national office by e-mail, fax, telephone, or by post mail.

The Canadian Foundation for Women's Health is a national charitable organization dedicated to raising funds for research in all aspects of women's health. Our funds come from individuals and corporations, including the generous support of the Society of

Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Our goal is to ensure that women's interests and concerns are represented in medical research and in the search of scientific knowledge. For further information please contact:

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Charitable Registration Number: 88688
4089 RR0001

ICME 2000, Turks and Caicos Islands - The Answer To Relaxation In The Warm Caribbean Sunshine.

By Sylvie Paquette, Project Coordinator, SOGC

Of course, a little work can't hurt in such a Beautiful by Nature climate. Others would agree since a great deal of you have already booked your tour package for the ICME 2000 Program from March 6-10, 2000. With the beautiful Allegro Resort as our venue for the ICME 2000, SOGC's scientific program promises to be an educational one. Plenary sessions offered this year are: Managing Uterine Rupture, Progestins and HRT, Acne and OC's, Cerclage in Obstetrics, What you Should Know About New Imaging Techniques, Emergency Contraception, Cry For Help (Nausea and Vomiting), PPH Guidelines and Oxytocin, Androgens in Gynaecology Practice, Prevention of Thrombophelitis in OB/Gyn, Consensus on Management of Twins Pregnancy, Are C/S rates to high or too low, Do SERMS Prevent Breast Cancer, Vacuum Delivery, Thyroid Disease in Pregnancy and Depo Provera Clinical Tips. Best Practice Sessions planned this year will offer a greater opportunity for group discussions and include such topics as: HRT and CVS, OC's and the Adolescent, Induction of Labour, Healthy Bones (French and English groups), Multiples, Pharmacotherapy in Gestational Hypertension and many

others. Concurrent sessions held on Tuesday, March 7 and Wednesday, March 8 will cover such issues as New Technologies in Edometrial Ablation, Urogynecology, Vulvo Vaginitis and Abnormal Pap. All sessions will encourage interactive discussions and breakout sessions will be case-based. This is the perfect opportunity to bring some of your more challenging cases to discuss them with your colleagues. Look for more information in the ICME program coming out soon. With such a relaxing and interactive environment, it's easy to see why many physicians chose to continue their professional development at the ICME 2000!

What would be work without play? SOGC will again hold it's 7th Annual Tennis Tournament Monday, March 6th through Wednesday, March 8th in the afternoons. Thanks to Drs. Ferdinand Pauls and Charmaine Roye who have again agreed to facilitate this event. As in the past, your entry fee will be one can of balls and trophies will again be sponsored by Duchesnay Inc. New this year, T-Shirts sponsored by Novo Nordisk Canada Inc. An Entry Form will be available as part of your ICME program along with your registration form.

And what would be a conference in

such as setting without a Welcoming Reception? Mark you calendars, we'll see you on Monday evening for a small reception beginning at 18h00. This is a great way to get to know new faces and be reacquainted with familiar ones. It's also a perfect time to make arrangements for afternoon tours with some of your colleagues. A tour operator will be on site to offer some leisure activities available during the afternoons. Again this year, the SOGC will set up a hospitality desk at the Allegro Resort to assist you in obtaining more information on how to register for other tours as well.

If you are still thinking about it - don't wait too long. The ICME is a popular event and tour packages as well as airline seats are limited. Need to know more before you make your decision? Check out SOGC's web site as well as these other sites!

<http://sogc.medical.org/>
http://www.interknowledge.com/turks_caicos/
<http://www.turksandcaicos.tc/>
<http://www.atsea.com/islands/tciatl.htm>
<http://milk.tciway.tc/>
<http://www.providenciales.tc/>
http://www.surf_gate.com/tci/
<http://www.provo.net/>

We're Going to the Banff Springs Hotel!

By Liette Philippe, CME Conference Coordinator, SOGC

We have some exciting news . . . the 10th West/Central CME Program will be held in the Banff Springs Hotel, from March 23 - 25, 2000!

The Banff Springs Hotel (see picture) is located in the Canadian Rocky Mountains in Banff National Park and is a world-renowned symbol of Canadian hospitality. Built in 1888 by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the original four-storey wooden structure cost about a quarter of a million dollars to complete. Since the early 1900's, the Banff Springs Hotel has undergone many face lifts, large and small. Originally a summer resort, the hotel has been open year round since 1969 and has undergone an unbelievable transformation. Since 1990, there have been 80 million dollars of restoration to guest rooms and public spaces. The most recent addition has been Solace, the SPA. This 12 million-dollar European-style spa facility was completed in 1995 and is considered one of the finest on the continent.

Solace, the SPA, has a lavish interior highlighted by cascading waterfalls, mineral whirlpools, indoor and outdoor saltwater pools, 19 private treatment rooms, private solariums, lounges with grand fireplaces, steam rooms, saunas, fitness and training areas, beauty salon and more. Solace is a retreat within a retreat.

This majestic castle offers exceptional on-site shops and services. In fact, the Banff Springs Hotel feels more like a small indoor town than a hotel. The hotel has 50 shops and boutiques plus 15 food and beverage outlets that offer a wide variety of dining experience

of fun for the family. It has a four-lane, five pin Bowling Centre. In addition, the Games Café, located in the Conference Centre, has video games, pool tables, virtual golf, snack foods and specialty coffees. Your family will enjoy this incredible hotel and all it has to offer.

A grand meeting site, the Banff Springs Hotel will satisfy all of our needs. The 10th West/Central CME Conference will take place in the stunning Conference Centre, a state-of-the-art facility that was completed in 1991. We'll enjoy beautiful versatile meeting space with state-of-the-art audio/visual capabilities and gracious hospitality from exceptional staff. Here is your chance to attend a meeting amid breathtaking scenic beauty - a perfect place to work and play.

SOGC has reserved a block of rooms at the Banff Springs Hotel at an excellent rate of \$179 single/double - inclusive of the service charges (\$8.00 p.p. daily). To receive this special rate, you must reserve your room by February 18, 2000. The West/Central Preliminary Program, including registration and accommodation forms, will be distributed in early January.

For more than 100 years, this heritage property has provided world-class service in a fairy tale setting. We look forward to welcoming you to the Banff Springs Hotel for the 10th West/Central CME Conference. &



Banff Springs Hotel

ACM Montreal 2000

By Dr. Ken Milne, Associate Executive Vice President, SOGC

Come and participate in the changes! Plans are well underway for the Annual Clinical Meeting to be held in Montreal 2000. The dates for the meeting are June 17 - 21, 2000. The meeting will begin on Saturday, June 17, with eight Post-Graduate Courses. The Post-Graduate Courses will cover a wide spectrum of topics which will be of interest to those in general Obstetrics and Gynaecology and in the sub-specialties of our discipline. Throughout the five day meeting there will be ten International Symposia and two Luncheon Symposia.

This year, the Clinical Updates and Workshops will appear under a new title called "Best Practice Sessions" with nine of these being presented on Monday and the other nine sessions on Wednesday. The format of Abstract Day is being restructured. The paper/poster presentations will be presented as a stand alone event occurring on Tuesday, June 20th. The title for this day's event is called "From the Bench to the Bedside and Back". By profiling Abstracts in this format, we anticipate a significant increase in attendance and a more rigorous academic standard for papers to be selected for presentation.

At the ACM in Montreal 2000, a new educational session will be introduced to the program. This program will be called "Tips for the Teacher", and will be of interest to all who are involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education.

This year's Continuing Professional Development Workshop will focus on self-directed learning and will allow participants to learn their own learning style and incorporate that learning style in pursuing their continuing professional development initiatives. In addition, the workshop will instruct individuals on how to develop learning objectives for their individual needs. The workshop will provide hands-on experience with computer technology. Participants will be taught how to build their own learning portfolio and the efficient use of the internet for self-directed learning projects.

For more details on the Annual Clinical Meeting in Montreal, visit our website at www.medical.org.

We look forward to your participation at the ACM in Montreal, June 17 - 21, 2000. &

2000 ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING

ABSTRACT PROGRAM

**Abstracts must be submitted to the SOGC
by February 4, 2000**

Information:

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada
Phone: (613) 730-4192 or 1-800-561-2416
E-mail: kcrothers@sogc.com SOGCnet: www.medical.org

Advances in Gynaecological and Transvaginal Ultrasound

February 18 to 20, 2000

Toronto, Ontario

Information:

Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine

University of Toronto

Phone: (416) 978-2719

Fax: (416) 971-2200

Web Site: www.cme.utoronto.ca

World Congress on Gynaecologic Endoscopy

March 26 to 29, 2000

Tel Aviv, Israel

Information:

Secretariat, World Congress

on Gynaecologic Endoscopy

Phone: +972 3 514 0000

Fax: +972 3 517 5674

E-mail: endoscopy@kenes.com

The Fetus as a Patient

April 1st to 5, 2000

Rome, Italy

Information:

2nd Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology

University «La Sapienza» of Rome

Phone: +39 06 446 0484/0507

Fax: +39 06 446 9128/446 4518

E-mail: perinat@flashnet.it

7th Biennial World Congress of Endometriosis

May 14 to 17, 2000

London, UK

Caroline Roney Medical Conference

Organisers

Phone: +44 181 661 0877

Fax: +44 181 661 9036

E-mail: MedConfOrg@aol.com

VIII European Congress on Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologic

June 7 to 10, 2000

Prague, Czech Republic

Information:

Czech Medical Association JEP

Fax: +420 2 294 610

E-mail: senderova@cls.cz

Website:

www.congress.cls.cz/pediatricgynecology

V European Congress on Menopause

July 1st to 5, 2000

Copenhagen, Denmark

Information:

International Congress Services

Phone: +45 39 460 500

Fax: +45 39 460 515

E-mail: emas2000@ics.dk

Website: www.emas2000.ics.dk

Spring ALARM Course

By Renée Dupuis, ALARM/GESTA Course Coordinator, SOGC

Our Spring 2000 ALARM course dates have been confirmed. Registrations are already starting to come in, so don't be disappointed and register NOW!

London, ON - February 4-5, 2000

Halifax, NS - February 20-21, 2000 (in conjunction with the Dalhousie University 26th Annual February Refresher)

Banff, AB - March 20-21, 2000 with an Instructor's course on March 22, 2000 (in conjunction with the West/Central SOGC CME)

Ottawa, ON - March 31-April 1, 2000 (in conjunction with the SRPC Annual Rural Conference)

Toronto, ON - April 28-29, 2000

Richmond, BC - May 6-7, 2000 (in

conjunction with the BC Perinatal Conference)

Medicine Hat, AB - May 26-27, 2000

Montreal, QC - June 15-16, 2000 (given in English in conjunction with the SOGC's Annual Clinical Meeting)

Aimed at educating specialists, family physicians, midwives and nurses, the ALARM course is an intensive two day program, which includes the most recent evidence based clinical guidelines on high risk conditions during labour and delivery. This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and has been approved for 8 MAINPRO-C and 12 MAINPRO-MI credits by the College of Family

Physicians of Canada.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the ALARM committee members gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Duchesnay Inc., Ferring Inc., Janssen-Ortho Inc., Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc. and Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.

For more information on the ALARM course program and on upcoming course schedules, please contact Renée Dupuis at the SOGC National Office at 1-800-561-2416 extension 248, email at rdupuis@sogc.com or visit our web site at www.medical.org.

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Consumer Research Project on the Public Awareness Program on Menopause

By Christiane Ménard, Director - Communications and Partnerships, SOGC

During the summer of 1999, the SOGC conducted a consumer survey to evaluate:

- the awareness and knowledge of menopause and related health issues;
- women's information needs and sources and the credibility of these sources;
- the usefulness of the 1-800 information line on menopause and osteoporosis;
- women's familiarity with and trust in the SOGC; and
- women's opinion of menopause-related public education material and tools.

The results show that:

- While there is some awareness of the link between menopause and osteoporosis and of menopause and heart disease, there are still large knowledge gaps, especially in the older age groups and in women with a lower level of education.

- There is a strong interest in receiving information about menopause and lifestyle issues.

- Women give a very high credibility rating to an alliance of health partners that includes the SOGC, doctors and other health groups. However, pharmaceutical companies were not felt to be credible sources of information dissemination.

- The 1-800 line is a credible source of information if sponsored

by the SOGC or an allied group of health partners. However, for the 1-800 line to be an appealing information source, women must first be assured the line will be answered by real people who are qualified to answer questions beyond a prepared set of answers.

- Trust in the SOGC is high, and this recognition factor is in part due to the menopause public education program.

- All tools printed (brochures) were given high marks for being visually appealing, informative, understandable and interesting.

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Celebration Dinner for the Anniversaries of Bill C-150 and the Founding of CARAL

From Christiane Ménard, Director - Communications and Partnerships, SOGC

A celebration dinner was held on Friday, October 22, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of legalizing reproductive choice (Bill C-150) and the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL).

This event, held on Parliament Hill, was co-hosted by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada (PPFC) and CARAL. The Master of Ceremony for the evening was Laura Wershler, President of Planned Parenthood of Canada. Dr. Robert Gauthier, President of the SOGC,

delivered the opening remarks. Invited guests included parliamentarians, officers, medical providers as well as supporters of the SOGC, PPFC and CARAL.

Senator Lucie Pépin, served as the evening's Honorary Chair and gave a historical perspective of Bill C-150. Senator Pépin previously served as President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women and on the Badgley Commission which studied the application of Canada's abortion law.

Janet Baird, a long time advocate of contraception who worked with Margaret Sanger, gave an energetic

and colourful description of her part in the underground movement to fly American women to Yugoslavia for the provision of abortions. Ms. Baird, who has supported the American Chapter of Planned Parenthood for most of her 90 years, was their first Public Relations Director.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler was honoured for his contributions in defending women's right to safe abortions. Dr. Morgentaler is well known for his challenges to Canada's abortion laws. He is the author of *Abortion and Contraception* (1982) and is the subject of several biographies. &



From left to right: Kim Luton, President of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League; Dr. Robert Gauthier, President of the SOGC; Janet Baird; Senator Lucie Pépin; Dr. Henry Morgentaler; and Laura Wershler, President of Planned Parenthood of Canada.

New Central Region Representative on Council

By Dominique Blain, Special Project Coordinator, SOGC

Following the resignation of Dr. Eric Stearns from Council earlier this year, elections were held this fall for a new Central Region representative on Council. The incumbent is Dr. Michael Helewa from the University of Manitoba and St. Boniface General Hospital.

Dr. Helewa was first appointed as a Geographical Full Time Faculty with the Department of Obstetrics,

Gynaecology and Reproductive Sciences of the University of Manitoba in 1987, then became Associate Professor in 1991. He contributed to several MRC funded initiatives and was also a member of the MRC Clinical Trials Grants Committee in 1993-94. Closer to home, Dr. Helewa is also active with the Manitoba Perinatal Surveillance Group, the Winnipeg Hospital Authority and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba.

Dr. Helewa has served on several SOGC Committees, notably the CME Core Committee, ACM Planning Committee, and Breast Disease Committee. He has also been Chair of the Manitoba Section of ACOG (district VI) and the Vice-Chair of ACOG Patient Education Committee.

Council is very pleased to welcome Dr. Helewa as Alternate Chair for the Central Region. &

Elections 2000 - Executive Committee

By Dominique Blain, Special Project Coordinator, SOGC

The positions with the Executive Committee to be filled in the year 2000 are: President Elect, Treasurer and one (1) Vice-President. Pursuant to our rules of

geographical rotation (see Table below), the President Elect shall be a member from the Western Region and the Vice-President from the Atlantic region. There is no geographical constraint for the

position of Treasurer. The duties of each position are set out in the Society's Bylaws.

| Geographical representation of selected SOGC officers | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Year | President | President Elect | New Vice President |
| 1999 | Quebec | Central | Ontario |
| 2000 | Central | Western | Atlantic |
| 2001 | Western | Ontario | Quebec |
| 2002 | Ontario | Atlantic | Central |
| 2003 | Atlantic | Quebec | Western |

General requirements

Candidates to any of the above positions shall:

- be Ob/Gyn members in good standing with the Society;
- have demonstrated their commitment to the success of the Society through experience in various capacities within the Society;
- have served as regional representatives or committee members;
- be able to devote significant time traveling across the country and abroad, to attend Executive, Council and other meetings;
- be willing to coordinate closely with the National Office and make themselves available on short notice.

Specific requirements

Experience with the SOGC Council is highly desirable for the position of President. Similarly, a candidate for the position of Treasurer must enjoy a reputation of integrity, have experience managing sizeable budgets and possess a

thorough knowledge of the finances of the Society, preferably through experience with the Finance Committee.

Nomination Procedure

Letters of interest must be received **no later than January 31** by the National Office (attention of Executive Vice-President). Formal nominations shall include the following documents:

- Nomination form duly filled and signed by five (5) Ob/Gyn members in good standing with the Society;
- One page summary statement of curriculum vitae;
- One page statement on the reasons why the candidate is seeking election to the specific position;
- Nomination acceptance form duly filled.

Forms (Nomination and Nomination Acceptance) are available from the Director of Corporate Affairs at the National

Office. All nominations will be submitted to the Nominations Committee and examined at its mid-March meeting. A member may be nominated for only one position on the Executive Committee.

Election Procedure

If there is only one candidate for a position, the incumbent is proclaimed at the next Annual Business Meeting.

If elections are to be held, a voting package will be sent to all Ob/Gyn and Life Members in good standing no later than 14 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting so that Elections may be completed prior to the Meeting. Results are announced at the Meeting.

Terms of office begin at the end of the Annual Business Meeting.

If you have concerns or questions about these elections, please contact the Executive Vice President at the Society's National Office. &

SOGC Surveys 1000 Women in Canada

By Dominique Blain, Special Project Coordinator, SOGC

The SOGC commissioned the firm Environics to survey 1000 women in the month of July 1999. The purpose of the survey was to determine how often women consult ob/gyns, whether they have good accessibility to these specialists and whether they have a good patient/doctor relationship with them.

The results show that thirty five percent (35%) of all women surveyed had consulted an ob/gyn within the last two years. More women in Quebec had done so (51%), followed by women of Manitoba and Alberta (38% and 37% respectively). A higher proportion of women aged 18-29 had seen an ob/gyn in the last two years (52%) than women between the ages of 30 to 44 (46%) or between the ages of 45 to 59 (33%). Better educated women tended to consult an ob/gyn specialist somewhat more than women with lower education levels.

The purpose most frequently mentioned for visiting obstetricians and gynaecologists, irrespective of the time of the last visit, included: a general gynaecological examination (27%), a Pap smear (18%), pregnancy (14%) and an annual examination (14% each). A large portion of women did not know whether they needed a referral to see an ob/gyn (38%).

The questionnaire then turned to the respondents' last visit to an ob/gyn. Here we only report answers by women who had consulted an ob/gyn specialist over the last two years. Of these, 48% stated that they were able to obtain an appointment within a month or less. Women in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta reported less waiting, with 72%, 68% and 67% of them getting an appointment within a month of their decision to consult.

The rate of satisfaction from that visit was high: 82% of women indicated that they had discussed all the points

and asked all the questions they had in mind; 85% said they understood the answers and felt that they had been asked the right questions by their physician; 83% indicated that they felt the physician understood their medical concerns. Seventy-six percent (76%) thought that the time spent with the ob/gyn was adequate.

When asked to assess the quality of communication with their ob/gyn and the level of trust they had in them, 78% of women answered «good» or «excellent».

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of women said they were very likely to follow their ob/gyn's advice on medical issues (e.g. prescriptions and treatments); the level of compliance tended to increase with age and level of education.

For more information on this survey, please communicate with Dominique Blain at the SOGC National Office (dblain@sogc.com). &

Projects Update

By Liette Perron, Coordinator, International Women's Health Program, SOGC

In August 1999, SOGC received funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) (Partnership Branch), to continue its Partnership Project with the following ob/gyn associations:

- la Société Haïtienne d'Obstétrique Gynécologie (SHOG)
- the Asociacion de Ginecologia y Obstetricia de Guatemala (AGOG)
- the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda (AOGU)

Like the Society's first partnership project (1998-1999), this latest project aims to reduce maternal

mortality and morbidity in the partner's respective country by:

- Strengthening the capacity of partner association with regard to structure, membership, governance, planning, services/activities, finances and linkages.
- Developing and implementing sustainable initiatives/activities which will have a positive impact on the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity.
- Strengthening the capacity of partner association with regard to the inclusion of the women empowerment themes in the partner's program and activities.

SOGC Partnership Meeting

The Society hosted, from October

23 to 28th, 1999, its first partnership meeting here in Ottawa. Its purpose was to bring together representatives of AGOG, SHOG and AOGU and the involved SOGC members in order to:

- Review the work accomplished within the 1998-1999 Partnership Project and discuss the way forward for the next three years (1999-2002);
- Sensitize the participants to the issue of "women empowerment"/ "women's reproductive rights" and the importance of integrating these themes in the work we are conducting;

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- Confirm each partnership's work plan for the next three (3) years; and finally
- Review and discuss the work accomplished to date with regards to the ALARM/GESTA International Course. Two specific questions were under review:
 - a. Can the Alarm International Course to be used as a training tool to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in developing countries?
 - b. Is it possible to work toward the development of a "common/generic" ALARM/GESTA International Course?

The meeting was well attended and extremely rich in discussions. It permitted the members of the partner associations, including SOGC, to meet and share information, resources and experiences. It also enabled the three partnerships to realign their upcoming activities, within their respective work plan, to the goal and objectives of the Partnership Project.

The Partnership meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to discuss the issue of women's reproductive rights as it relates to

the improvement of reproductive health. Ms. Isfahan Merali, a human rights lawyer from the University of Toronto facilitated this workshop and assisted partner associations in identifying ways they could further integrate the reproductive rights dimension within their activities.

The participants also agreed to the development of a booklet on promoting reproductive health through human rights. This specific tool will be made available to the partner associations in order to educate their own members to the issue.

Finally, the discussions held within the ALARM/GESTA International workshop also proved extremely fruitful. The three partnerships unanimously agreed that the ALARM course had the potential to be used as a training tool to address the problem of maternal mortality and morbidity in their respective country. To have a true impact, the participants further recognized the need to, eventually, work toward increasing the knowledge and skills of traditional birth attendants who, in their countries, are the ones most likely

to provide support to women during childbirth and delivery. The participants further agreed and committed themselves to the development of a generic program with core course content.

Following these four (4) intense days of meeting, our international guests participated in a number of activities. Included were a one day trip to Montreal where they visited a the maternal health centre at the Centre hospitalier Angrignon (Pavillon LaSalle), a community forum organized by Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada (PPFC) and the Canadian Association of Parliaments on Population and Development (CAPPD) entitled "Achieving Results Through Partnership" and a lunch at the Parliament Restaurant on Parliament Hill. They concluded their visit in Ottawa by spending an evening at the Corel Center taking in a Senators Game, an event enjoyed by all! &



From left to right: Mrs. Lynn Krepart, President of the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health; Dr. Tony Mugasa (AOGU); Dr. Reynold Grand Pierre; Dr. Gonzalo Samayoa Herrera (AGOG) at a dinner in Montreal.



First from the right: Dr. Robert Gauthier, President of SOGC, with participants during a dinner in Montreal.

Back to the Future

By Danielle Bown, History and Archives Committee Coordinator, SOGC

In the spring of 1936 the idea of organizing a "travel club" emerged. The first assembly took place at the Toronto General Hospital on Saturday, September 26, 1936. In the minutes it was stated that "the meeting resulted from a mutual desire on the part of the younger obstetricians and gynaecologists of Toronto and Montreal to form a gynaecological travel club for yearly visits to Canadian and American centres". Meetings are to be held annually in a university centre, and the venue is to be fixed a year in advance.

At its inception, the Canadian Gynaecological Society was made up of eighteen charter and five honorary members. So was born the Canadian Gynaecological Society (CGS), also known as the Canadian Gynaecological Travel Club and the Senior Travel Club.

At the meeting of the CGS in 1943 it was moved and carried unanimously "that our Society go on record as being in favour of the formation of a Canadian Society which will represent those specializing in obstetrics and gynaecology. On November 3 and 4, 1944, the Canadian Gynaecological

Society continued to have an important bearing on events leading to the formation of a National Society.

It was decided that the regular members of the Canadian Gynaecological Society, plus its honorary members, would constitute an adequate number of founding members of the new Society. However, it was recognized that to achieve strength and to further its political aims, the Society would have to develop a much larger membership.

Thus it was that the Canadian Gynaecological Society instigated and spearheaded the move to establish the new organization, and in this way made its great contribution toward the establishment of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, name originally suggested by Dr. Léon Gérin-Lajoie on a motion which was carried without a single dissenting vote during the inaugural meeting of May 23, 1944.

November 1999, I had the privilege of conversing with Dr. George B. Maughan who's vivid memory provided these interesting facts on the Travel Club. The members would meet every Fall in a hotel. Attendance was by

invitation from the University host. The meeting would start on the Friday morning and terminate on the Saturday. Dr. Maughan reported that the group would discuss current topics in gynaecology. Traditionally, the day would end with a black tie dinner, at the same hotel. I gather from my conversation with Dr. Maughan that no spouses would attend the dinner and that attendees would travel mostly by train.

The picture shown below was graciously donated by Dr. James Goodwin Jr. I wish to thank Dr. Goodwin as well as Dr. Robert Kinch, Dr. Fred Bryans and, Dr. George Maughan for providing the names of the individuals shown in the picture. There are still three names missing. I am calling upon members of all ages to help identify these three individuals.

This picture and other historical artefacts pertaining to the history of the Society are now on permanent display at the National Office. &

Sources: Oxorn H. *The First Fifty Years 1994 - 1994*. The Parthenon Publishing Group. 1994.



Third row, from left to right: Dr. P.J. Kearns, Montreal; Dr. Fergus Johnston, Montreal; Dr. J.C. Goodwin, Toronto; Dr. N. Philpott, Montreal; Dr. D. Nelson Henderson, Toronto; *Name missing*; Dr. George Altimas, Montreal.. **Second row, from left to right:** *Name missing*; Dr. D. Stewart Henry, Montreal; Dr. John Mann, Toronto; Dr. J.S.L. Browne, Montreal; Dr. Rod N. Foote, Montreal; *Name missing*; Dr. G.B. Maughan, Montreal; Dr. Edwin Robertson, Kingston.. **First row, from left to right:** Dr. Leslie Watt, Toronto; Dr. John Puddicombe, Ottawa; Dr. Preston MacLeod, Kingston; Dr. Ken MacFarlane, Montreal; Dr. H.W. Johnston, Toronto; Dr. Mel Watson, Toronto

ACM Montreal 2000

By Dr. Ken Milne, Associate Executive Vice President, SOGC

Come and participate in the changes! Plans are well underway for the Annual Clinical Meeting to be held in Montreal 2000. The dates for the meeting are June 17 - 21, 2000. The meeting will begin on Saturday, June 17, with eight Post-Graduate Courses. The Post-Graduate Courses will cover a wide spectrum of topics which will be of interest to those in general Obstetrics and Gynaecology and in the sub-specialties of our discipline. Throughout the five day meeting there will be ten International Symposia and two Luncheon Symposia.

This year, the Clinical Updates and Workshops will appear under a new title called "Best Practice Sessions" with nine of these being presented on Monday and the other nine sessions on Wednesday. The format of Abstract Day is being restructured. The paper/poster presentations will be presented as a stand alone event occurring on Tuesday, June 20th. The title for this day's event is called "From the Bench to the Bedside and Back". By profiling Abstracts in this format, we anticipate a significant increase in attendance and a more rigorous academic standard for papers to be selected for presentation.

At the ACM in Montreal 2000, a new educational session will be introduced to the program. This program will be called "Tips for the Teacher", and will be of interest to all who are involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education.

This year's Continuing Professional Development Workshop will focus on self-directed learning and will allow participants to learn their own learning style and incorporate that learning style in pursuing their continuing professional development initiatives. In addition, the workshop will instruct individuals on how to develop learning objectives for their individual needs. The workshop will provide hands-on experience with computer technology. Participants will be taught how to build their own learning portfolio and the efficient use of the internet for self-directed learning projects.

For more details on the Annual Clinical Meeting in Montreal, visit our website at www.medical.org.

We look forward to your participation at the ACM in Montreal, June 17 - 21, 2000. &

2000 ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING

ABSTRACT PROGRAM

**Abstracts must be submitted to the SOGC
by February 4, 2000**

Information:

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada
Phone: (613) 730-4192 or 1-800-561-2416
E-mail: kcrothers@sogc.com SOGCnet: www.medical.org

Advances in Gynaecological and Transvaginal Ultrasound

February 18 to 20, 2000

Toronto, Ontario

Information:

Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine

University of Toronto

Phone: (416) 978-2719

Fax: (416) 971-2200

Web Site: www.cme.utoronto.ca

World Congress on Gynaecologic Endoscopy

March 26 to 29, 2000

Tel Aviv, Israel

Information:

Secretariat, World Congress

on Gynaecologic Endoscopy

Phone: +972 3 514 0000

Fax: +972 3 517 5674

E-mail: endoscopy@kenes.com

The Fetus as a Patient

April 1st to 5, 2000

Rome, Italy

Information:

2nd Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology

University «La Sapienza» of Rome

Phone: +39 06 446 0484/0507

Fax: +39 06 446 9128/446 4518

E-mail: perinat@flashnet.it

7th Biennial World Congress of Endometriosis

May 14 to 17, 2000

London, UK

Caroline Roney Medical Conference

Organisers

Phone: +44 181 661 0877

Fax: +44 181 661 9036

E-mail: MedConfOrg@aol.com

VIII European Congress on Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologic

June 7 to 10, 2000

Prague, Czech Republic

Information:

Czech Medical Association JEP

Fax: +420 2 294 610

E-mail: senderova@cls.cz

Website:

www.congress.cls.cz/pediatricgynecology

V European Congress on Menopause

July 1st to 5, 2000

Copenhagen, Denmark

Information:

International Congress Services

Phone: +45 39 460 500

Fax: +45 39 460 515

E-mail: emas2000@ics.dk

Website: www.emas2000.ics.dk