



CAEP

Volume 1, No.1

CAEP PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of CAEP's President Newsletter. The executive of CAEP have heard complaints over the years about a lack of communication with the membership. This is an attempt to keep you informed of what we are doing for you and hopefully, get more of you involved in CAEP activities. We can only help ourselves.

Executive Meeting

Your executive had their winter meeting this year in Quebec City on January 10-11, 1986. This will be the site of our 1987 Annual Meeting and Scientific Assembly, held in conjunction with the Association des Médecins d'Urgence de Quebec (AMUQ). We met with Dr. Pierre Champagne, who will be involved in organizing the 1987 meeting. You should look forward to a most enjoyable meeting within the old stone walls of that charming city.

Litigation

Many of you are familiar with the litigation that CAEP and former CAEP President Dr. Peter Lane had introduced against Ontario Medicine and its publisher, Mr. Frederick Porte. I am pleased to report that Ontario Medicine has printed an acceptable retraction and reimbursed CAEP for all legal fees expended. We wish to thank Mr. Porte and Dr. Lane for their co-operation and understanding in this matter.

C.M.P.A.

As most of you are aware, the Canadian Medical Protective Association has placed emergency physicians in Category 5, along with most surgical specialties, for their 1985 classification system. CAEP, in 1984, wrote to the CMPA requesting data supporting their classification of emergency physicians along with high-risk specialties. This request was denied. We also requested representation on the Council. The response to this request was that representation was based on geographical distribution, not specialty representation. In the meantime Dr. Jan Ahuja has been lobbying CMPA in Ottawa and this year we see that our classification has dropped from Category 5 to Category 4. I wrote to Dr. F. Norman Brown, expressing our relief at this change and again requested data to support their classification. Again this request has been denied. The only course of action left open to us is to continue lobbying on your behalf.

Medical malpractice coverage is becoming a very explosive issue in Canada. The meeting of CMA Offices and Affiliate Societies will be meeting in Ottawa on April 18-19. Medical malpractice is high on the agenda. They will be discussing a number of measures aimed at controlling the explosive increase in liability coverage cost. If you have any comments or contributions, please get in touch with Dr. Terry Sosnowski who will be our representative at that meeting.

/Continued



CAEP

CAEP President's Newsletter
Volume 1, No.1

- 2 -

First International Conference on Emergency Medicine - April 14-19, 1986

The Canadian quota to this meeting in London, England has been filled. Many CAEP members will be presenting talks at this meeting, and we look forward to learning from our colleagues in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Disaster Planning

The Trauma Association of Canada and CAEP have proposed a joint committee on Disaster Planning in Canada. The purpose of this committee is to supply medical input from emergency physicians and trauma surgeons into the various national and regional disaster organizations. If anyone is interested in working on this committee they should get in touch with Dr. Peter McGuire in Calgary.

Medical Manpower

On February 14, 1986, I attended a meeting of Specialty Societies of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The purpose of this meeting was to effect a response to a Federal/Provincial/Territorial report on medical manpower. This governmental report makes certain assumptions about medical needs in the year 2000 (only 14 years away), and concludes that Canada will need fewer general practitioners and medical specialists, and more surgical and laboratory specialists. The conclusions will mean drastic cuts in certain training programs in the near future. The CMA is currently formulating its own report on medical manpower needs based on its data bank (see CMAJ Vol. 132, May 15, 1985). This, too, will be discussed at the meeting on April 18-19.

For Emergency Medicine, it is not only important to determine how many emergency physicians we have and where they are practising; we must determine future needs. We are a growing specialty in our early youth. We must survey emergency departments across Canada to determine our potential numbers, so that we will be better able to defend our present training programs and perhaps expand in the future. To this end it is imperative that we develop our own manpower survey as soon as possible. I am awaiting suggestions and volunteers for this project.

Medifacts

The Medifacts Company will soon begin distribution of audio educational tapes to our members at no charge. These will be reviewed by our Education Committee before distribution. You may use them for educational purposes or for your kids' punk rock tapes.

/Continued

**CAEP**CAEP President's Newsletter
Volume 1, No.1

- 3 -

CMA Statements on Emergency Medicine

In 1983 and '84, the CMA General Council approved certain statements concerning Emergency Medicine which were prepared by the Council on Medical Education. These statements were:

- (i) the Statement on Emergency Medicine Training Requirements for Physicians (1983);
- (ii) the Statement on the Role of the Certificant in Emergency Medicine (1983), and
- (iii) the Statement on the Organization of Emergency Medical Services in Hospitals (1984).

These statements were prepared with little or no input from CAEP.

As a result of CAEP objections to these statements, a Conjoint Council Subcommittee on Emergency Medicine was struck to review these statements and make recommendations as to changes in those statements. Dr. Jan Ahuja has been our representative to that committee and, as a result, some changes will be made in the original statements. The final statements may still not be entirely satisfactory to us, but rest assured that the CMA Council will hesitate to pass resolutions in the future concerning Emergency Medicine without adequate consultation with CAEP!

After-Care Sheets

Dr. Gilbert Dyck is developing a series of after-care sheets for use in the emergency department. These will soon be made available to emergency departments across the country.

Royal College

CAEP has endorsed the recommendation of Dr. Rocco Gerace as Chairman of the Examining Board in Emergency Medicine. He is currently involved in the development of an essay-type exam for the written section. Any suggestions for the examination process should be directed to him.

Public Relations

Suggestions keep coming to me about increasing the public awareness of Emergency Medicine. One idea is to have a specific Emergency Services Week in Canada. This would be a time when articles could be prepared locally for the media, open houses in conjunction with ambulance and hospital services would be organized, and public service announcements would be distributed to the media. I am looking for creative, media-attuned people to organize a package along these lines. Please respond.

/Continued



CAEP

CAEP President's Newsletter
Volume 1, No.1

- 4 -

Membership Fees - New Members' Fee

The news again this year is: no increase!

We have been able to function without increasing fees because our executive and committee chairmen are not paid; our annual meetings have been financial successes; and we have the use of part-time facilities for our head office. One way we could reduce fees would be to encourage more emergency physicians to join CAEP. To this end we are offering a first-year fee of \$75.00. This would also allow a \$50.00 reduction in registration for the annual meeting. Please encourage your fellow emergency physicians to join us and support the work we are doing.

Economics

The economics of medicine in Canada is in a state of crisis. The Federal Government is reducing transfer payments and the Provincial Governments are looking at ways to trim their budgets. Royal College certificants are seeking recognition for specialty fee structures in Emergency Medicine. Governments are talking about putting hospital-based physicians on salary. Where do we fit in this scheme? What power do we have? What can we do to defend ourselves and put forward our concerns?

CAEP has taken a positive step in this area by establishing an Economics Committee to look into these issues. Dr. Herb Parkin is the chairman and he will be addressing these problems in his talk at the Emergency Symposium in Edmonton. He will also chair the first meeting of this committee at that time. Interested parties should contact him before the end of May.

CAEP Review

In September 1985, your executive was faced with the prospect of discontinuing the CAEP Review. After years of hard work and frustration, Dr. Peter Lane had resigned from his position as editor. There seemed to be a lack of interest in this publication, as measured by submitted manuscripts, and some members were suggesting we abandon it and throw our support (moral and financial) behind a relatively new publication--The Archives of Emergency Medicine. This step would have given us representation on the editorial board of an indexed medical journal of international scope (it is now based in England).

The ensuing debate was long and heated. The CAEP Review was criticized for the quality of its original research but its value as a publisher of CAEP news and review articles was recognized. The Archives would give us a recognized journal with our name among a list of sponsoring organizations at a cost of \$45.00 per year per member. There were many other arguments and considerations which will be relayed to you before the annual meeting in May.



CAEP

CAEP President's Newsletter
Volume 1, No.1

- 5 -

CAEP Review (Cont'd)

We decided to stay with the CAEP Review for now and Dr. Lynn Fulton has agreed to continue as editor. The Review is self-supporting, but to continue it needs your input. Please submit any original research, review articles, or case reports to Dr. Fulton, so we may keep the Review alive.

Our affiliation with the Archives of Emergency Medicine will be discussed at our annual meeting in May.

Research Fund

Dr. Greg Powell is organizing the first meeting of our Research Fund Committee this month. The function of this committee is to solicit funds for research in Emergency Medicine and then review applications for grants. All donations are 100% tax-deductible. If you wish to work on this committee or submit donations, please get in touch with Dr. Powell at Foothills Hospital in Calgary.

Royal College Meeting

Last year, emergency physicians submitted an impressive number of original articles for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Royal College. This year Dr. Anna Malawski is our representative to the Program Committee. She has been actively soliciting abstracts for this meeting. Please submit your abstracts through the usual Royal College channels and be sure to indicate CAEP as your first choice.

Communication

We want to hear from you. This is our first newsletter, but it is only a one-way communication. If you have any questions, comments, or opinions, please write or phone any member of the executive. Our names, addresses and phone numbers are published in the CAEP Review. If you have any articles or announcements for the newsletter, submit them to me at 3420 West 15th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2Z1. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you again in Edmonton.

Sheldon Glazer, MD
President, CAEP