



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. #2

First International Conference on Emergency Medicine

In April of this year, CAEP participated along with the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, and the Casualty Surgeons Association of the U.K., in the First International Conference on Emergency Medicine. Close to 300 participants attended this four-day conference held in London, England. Our organization was well represented in the plenary sessions, discussion groups and paper presentations. Topics ranged from pre-hospital care to trauma centres to staffing plans and specialty status. All the participants felt it was a most worthwhile experience, allowing us to learn from the experience of others in similar situations. The hospitality shown by our British colleagues was very warm and generous. The highlight of the social program was a formal banquet in London's famous 14th century Guildhall.

The next conference will be held in Brisbane in 1988 and CAEP has made a tentative proposal to host the 1990 meeting in Vancouver.

Manpower

As you are already aware, the medical manpower crises has hit Canada and Emergency Medicine is preparing to deal with it.

The federal and provincial governments are cutting back funding for residency training positions. Emergency Medicine (both FRCP and CFPC programs) produces barely enough residency-trained emergency physicians to cover attrition. We are a new specialty, representing a different standard of care in the emergency department. Demand for residency-training emergency physicians is growing astronomically. To ensure the future viability of our specialty, we must demonstrate the need for more residency training positions in an atmosphere where these programs are being cut back. This summer CAEP is doing a nation-wide manpower study under the direction of Dr. David Walker. Regional co-ordinators are following up on questionnaires that have already been distributed to emergency department heads and hospital directors. The results of this study will be used to negotiate with funding agencies and other specialties for increased numbers of training slots. The future viability of emergency medicine is at stake.

Malpractice

As settlement costs rise for negligence suits, so will our CMPA premiums. Last year our rating category was reduced but, nevertheless, the entire scale will rise dramatically over the next few years. There are many ways to approach this problem: politically, professionally, and personally. The CMA and the CMPA are already taking steps to approach the political aspects of the problem. We are going to include more articles on medico-legal issues and risk management in the CAEP Review.

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The time is ripe for political solutions to the larger questions of liability legislation: statutes of limitations, restriction in award sizes for pain and suffering, restriction of awards for medical costs that are already borne by the government, restriction of award "gross-up". I urge all our members to become knowledgeable in these areas and speak to your federal and provincial parliamentary representatives.

Cox Report

The Cox report on Family Practice Training has issued their preliminary recommendations. Among many suggestions, they recommended a standard minimum two-year pre-licensure training program. Despite the perceived need for this training period, it is difficult to see how this will be implemented in today's climate of financial cut-backs.

They have also recommended the creation of a Conjoint Committee on Post-graduate Family Practice Training to co-ordinate specialty and family practice training programs so that a large part of their two-year program could be recognized by both the RCPS and the CFPC. I have written to Dr. Reg Perkins of the CFPC offering our input on this committee.

Public Relations

Plans are underway to co-ordinate some of CAEP's committees that have similar goals. The Seatbelt, Drinking and Driving, and Public CPR Committees will likely be amalgamated as the Public Education Committee. Again, I am seeking the involvement of CAEP members in the organization of a national Emergency Health Services Week promotion. People interested in working on this project should contact me as soon as possible.

Royal College Specialty Committee

The Royal College Specialty Committee in Emergency Medicine is chaired by Dr. David Walker. Members are appointed by the Royal College for two-year terms. These members are often re-appointed for a second or third two-year term. Current members are Dr. R.J. Abernethy, Dr. Neil Swirsky, Dr. Bruce M.T. Rowat, Dr. Jeffrey Simons, Dr. Philip R. Beck, Dr. D.P. Colohan. Chairmen of the Examining Boards are Dr. Rocco V. Gerace and Dr. Margurite Dupre. The lone corresponding member is Dr. V.M. Wood. Nominations for replacement of retiring members comes from the CAEP executive and the chairman of the specialty committee.

World Congress

In 1991, CAEP will be hosting the World Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine in Montreal. The organizers are Drs. Mathias Kalina and Michel Tetreault. Dr. Peter Baskett, of course, will attend.

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Dr. Marilyn Li of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario is the new chairman of our Paediatric Section. Dr. Donald Doell has replaced ailing Dr. Herb Parkin as the chairman of the Economics Committee. Dr. Martin Friedberg of Toronto is replacing Dr. Bob Johnston as chairman of our Pre-hospital Care Committee. Dr. David Shragge replaces Dr. John Maynard as chairman of the Education Committee. Dr. Jim Ducharme is chairman of the 1987 Annual Meeting Committee.

Medical Education

Dr. John Maynard has completed a Core Content for Emergency Medicine Training in medical schools. This guideline has been recommended by CAEP and is to be distributed to the deans of the medical schools in Canada.

Annual Meeting 1986

The Emergency Symposium 1986, held in Edmonton in May, was a huge success. The joint meeting, with Interphase and NENA contributed to an attendance of approximately 800. The facilities were superb, the organization was faultless, the academic program was on a high level, the social program was enjoyable, and everyone had a good time. Dr. Carolyn Neal and her committee of hard-working Edmontonians deserve much praise for a job well done. The only disappointing note was the relatively small number of CAEP members who registered. It is difficult to maintain a high level academic program if physicians do not support it. Hopefully our members will be more visible in Quebec City in September 1987. We have tentatively selected Vancouver as the site of the 1988 annual meeting, again in conjunction with Interphase and NENA. Mark your calendars.

New Executive 1986-87

President	- Dr. Michel Tetreault
President-elect	- Dr. Jan Ahuja
Past-president	- Dr. Sheldon Glazer
Secretary	- Dr. Robert Johnston
Treasurer	- Dr. Trevor Gilkinson
Member-at-large	- Dr. Lynne Fulton

Royal College Annual Meeting

The CAEP research presentation will be on Thursday, September 25, 1986 at 0800 hours in the Carmichael Room at the Westin hotel in Toronto.

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President's Newsletter
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Dr. Ingrid Vicas, our Toxicology Chairman, is pursuing funding for a proposal for a clinical toxicology tutorial to be offered to CAEP members. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Vicas.

CAEP Review

Most of you are familiar with the on-going debate, "whether the CAEP Review". Despite its wide circulation the Review has suffered a lack of articles submitted by Canadian emergency physicians. One reason for this is that the Review is not listed in the Index Medicus and authors of original research articles want as wide an audience as possible. At a recent UAEM forum some original research was presented as the first of its kind ever published. Overlooked was the fact that a similar article was published in the Review two years before. The CAEP Review persisted because of the hard work of its editors, Dr. Peter Lane and Dr. Lynne Fulton. Also, the Review was almost self-supporting because of its large circulation (4,000) and advertising support. Unfortunately the publication of Perspectives in Emergency Medicine, distributed free to over 40,000 physicians, has caused our advertising support to evaporate. the Review now costs our organization over \$25,000 per year to subsidize.

An alternative to the Review was presented to the executive by Blackwell Scientific Publications. They proposed that we join their publication entitled, "Archives of Emergency Medicine". This journal is published in Great Britain and jointly sponsored by the Casualty Surgeons Association of Great Britain and the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine. The cost would be approximately \$50 per member per year.

The issue has been debated in your executive committee over the past year. At our annual meeting in Edmonton the Publications Committee themselves were evenly divided on two alternatives:

1. Cease publication of the Review and join the Archives of Emergency Medicine.
2. Make an attempt at getting the CAEP Review indexed over the next year and continue its financial support over a reasonable time until that is archived (1-2 years).

Another alternative was to join the Archives and keep the CAEP Review as a newsletter only.

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The issue is a complex one involving the desire of some of our members to retain a Canadian forum for research publication, especially for those who are fledglings in the field. Others desire a wider distribution of their research with some Canadian input. Even our present co-editors are divided on the solution while they are willing to try to get the Review indexed, they have recommended joining the Archives.

A final decision must come soon. I ask your advice on the alternatives. Please fill in the enclosed questionnaire and return as soon as possible in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

(Please tear off here and return in the enclosed envelope)

ALTERNATIVES FOR CAEP PUBLICATIONS

- ☐ Continue to support the CAEP Review
- ☐ Join the Archives of Emergency Medicine

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