

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, CLINICAL & SCIENTIFIC SECTION

The Year in Review

As a family physician from a rural centre, I am honoured to have been elected and supported in the role of Chair of the Clinical and Scientific Section (C&SS) and extremely proud of the accomplishments of the section this past year. I would like to thank the Executive of the C&SS: Vince Woo, Past Chair; Minna Woo, Vice Chair, Scientific; Jay Silverberg, Vice Chair, Clinical; Ron Sigal, Treasurer/Secretary; and Councillors, Onil Bhattacharyya, Ian Blumer, Alice Cheng, Robin Conway, Ron Goldenberg, Rejeanne Gougeon, Céline Huot, Farid Mahmud, Doreen Rabi, Ravi Retnakaran and Peter Senior. In addition, Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) support has been invaluable and I would like to acknowledge the much appreciated help of Sylvia Leonard, Jovita Sundaramoorthy and Carolyn Gall Casey.

It has been a year with a steep learning curve serving on the Board of Directors of the CDA and experiencing just how big and complex the Association is! I would like to acknowledge the diverse and amazing talents and dedication of the board members. The C&SS appreciates the direction from the board concerning changes in governance due to the new Canada Not For Profit Corporations Act which requires the Association to adopt a new constitution. It has also been a year of much challenge and change at the CDA as we move ahead with the strong leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, Michael Cloutier. The C&SS looks forward to some of the new organizational changes, such as the addition of a Chief Scientific Advisor to work with the professional sections.

Under the expert direction of Dr. Alice Cheng, work continues on the *2013 Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada*. The Expert Committee, a group of over 100 phenomenally dedicated professionals and people living with diabetes, met in February, followed by a meeting of the Steering Committee in September to present and discuss recommendations proposed for each chapter. The Steering Committee met again in October to review all recommendations, followed by another Expert Committee meeting in November. The *2008 Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada* continue to remain a source of reference for government agencies, health professionals, clinical research groups, medical curriculums and others to ensure that people living with diabetes receive the best evidence-informed care. The C&SS has recently received requests from South Africa and Australia to share the guidelines as well as our successful strategies for dissemination and implementation.

Through the continuing efforts of the Implementation and Dissemination team, spearheaded by Dr. Ian Blumer, 4 of the 6 “tools” for the *CPG Tool Kit for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada* have been developed. This year, we released 2 tools:

- Protecting Mothers and Children
- Physical Activity and Exercise

Both tools were well received and work is currently ongoing for the final set of tools that will be released in 2012. Also, the 2008 clinical practice guidelines are now fully searchable on diabetes.ca due to a grant from the Government of Ontario through the Diabetes Strategy. As well, slides created for each chapter are now available online and can be customized for presentations.

During the 5-year cycle of the production of the clinical practice guidelines, the C&SS develops position statements on issues that arise. In July, the position statement on A1C for the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes was published in the *Canadian Journal of Diabetes* (CJD). Thank you to lead author, Dr. Ron Goldenberg. This was an update to the 2008 clinical practice guidelines recommendation due to changes in the body of evidence and diagnosis criteria as proposed by many international groups. In addition, commentary on self monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) for people with type 2 diabetes was published in the September 2011 issue of CJD. Thank you to Dr. David Miller and Dr. Alice Cheng for their long hours of work in this controversial area. In February of this year, it was decided that no revisions would be made to diagnostic criteria for gestational diabetes as recommendations in the 2008 clinical practice guidelines. This will be deferred until the 2013 Guidelines.

This year, the Association and C&SS have been approached by other agencies requesting endorsement of their guidelines. The executive is looking into the process of endorsing the guidelines of other organizations and will have some policies in place by early next year.

The C&SS, through our liaison, Dr. Jay Silverberg, continues to have input into the National Advocacy Committee. A new position statement was reviewed by the C&SS and passed by the board on Mental Health and Diabetes.

With regards to professional publications, we continue to move ahead with amalgamation of 3 journals with a view towards indexing. The Association has retained the services of Elsevier as external publisher and the new publication is expected in February 2012. The first stage of the amalga-

mation is to combine the CJD and *Canadian Diabetes; The Diabetes Communicator* will become an electronic newsletter that will be distributed to Diabetes Education Section (DES) members. Dr. David Lau, who has worked tirelessly and has been incredibly committed to the future security of the professional publications, will initially act as Editor-in-Chief for the new journal with a full application process instituted to choose an Editor-in-Chief in early 2013.

This year, the joint professional sections meetings are taking place in Toronto. As the largest diabetes meeting held in Canada, the combined CDA/Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (CSEM) Professional Conference and Annual Meetings welcomed approximately 2,300 researchers, clinicians, educators, healthcare providers and consumers to a vibrant learning environment. The commitment of all volunteers involved in the planning of this event facilitates its success, and congratulations are in order to this year's Co-Chairs Dr. Jean-François Yale (C&SS), Ms. Kathryn Arcudi (DES) and Dr. Lawrence Leiter (CSEM), and all those who worked with them to plan and execute the event. We thank Ms. Arcudi and Dr. Leiter for their contributions over the past 2 years as they step down as C&SS Annual Report 2011 Co-Chairs. We welcome incoming Co-Chairs Ms. Arlene Kuntz (DES) and Dr. Stephanie Kaiser (CSEM) and thank Dr. Jean-François Yale (C&SS) who will be serving as conference Co-Chair for a third year. I look forward to seeing all of you in Vancouver from October 10 to 13, 2012.

Communication with our membership is a priority for this executive, therefore, starting in early 2012, a monthly newsletter will be sent to C&SS members providing updates on the section and the Association. This mode of communication is now possible since the membership database is now managed in-house by the Association. This means that membership renewals and new membership applications can now be completed and processed online through the Association website (www.diabetes.ca).

Many small working groups have been busy developing tools and resources related to educating healthcare practitioners, such as chronic disease nurses who work in primary care with family physicians on insulin initiation. These tasks were accomplished by collaborating with the DES of the Association.

In research this year, a record number of applications were received. A total of 292 applications for operating grants and personnel awards went through peer review. The peer review committees worked long and hard to ensure the best research was funded by the Association. The 2011 competition resulted in 31 new operating grants and 17 new personnel awards. These grants and awards, combined with our ongoing research commitments and partnerships, resulted in a total commitment of \$7.2 million to research this year.

Congratulations to Dr. Stuart Ross who is the recipient of the 2011 Gerald S. Wong Service Award. This award, established in 1994, is given to a physician to recognize significant contribution to the diabetes community.

Dr. George Steiner is the recipient of the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award. First presented in 2007, this award is bestowed upon a Canadian who is recognized for longstanding contributions to the Canadian diabetes community and as a leader in diabetes research.

As well, congratulations to Dr. Minna Woo who is the recipient of the 2011 CDA Young Scientist Award. The Young Scientist Award recognizes outstanding research conducted in Canada by young scientists in the field of diabetes.

I look forward to my second year as Chair and feel privileged to work with such a dedicated group of healthcare professionals, volunteers and staff who are all striving to improve the lives of people living with diabetes.

Dr. Maureen Clement
 Chair, Clinical & Scientific Section
 Canadian Diabetes Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, DIABETES EDUCATOR SECTION

The Year in Review

Greetings on behalf of the National Executive. I find it hard to believe that my tenure as Chair of the Diabetes Educator Section (DES) and as a Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) Board Director will come to a close after the Annual General Meeting. I started as Director of Quality on the National Executive in 2004, I then moved into the Chair-Elect position in 2007 and the Chair position in 2009. It has been a busy 7 years (especially the last 2 years), but years where I have learned a wealth of knowledge in leadership, governance and definitely time management skills.

As an organization for health professionals involved in diabetes education and management, DES has a rich history. We began as the Professional Health Workers Section (PHWS) in 1971. The PHWS was renamed DES in late 1980. The *PHWS Newsletter* evolved to *Diabetes Quarterly* and, currently, *The Diabetes Communicator. Beta Release*, the professional journal of the PHWS, was launched in 1976. This has now evolved into the *Canadian Journal of Diabetes*. The first PHWS annual conference in 1972 had 40 attendees. In mid 1997, DES and C&SS gathered for the first time as a joint meeting with 1,200 attendees. The Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (CSEM) partner was added in 1999 to become the CDA/CSEM Professional Conference and Annual Meetings. Last year, the CDA/CSEM conference in Edmonton had approximately 2,000 attendees.

Presently, DES has 2,700 active members and 42 active Chapters across Canada. The expertise our volunteers give us in managing these Chapters is, as always, greatly appreciated. Each year, we have a Leadership Forum for our volunteer Chapter Chairs. I think all of our Chapter Chairs would agree that this year's Leadership Forum was quite amazing in the aspect that we were able to host it at Banting House in London, Ontario. For many, this was a first-time experience and having Grant Maltman give the history of Banting and the discovery of insulin tour was a truly fantastic opportunity. DES continues to move forward with many projects, all reflecting our strategic plan 2010-2015. Our pillars of Self-Management and Education; Advocacy; Research and Education; and Partnerships and Collaborations continue to be strategically aligned with CDA. I encourage you to read our 2011 DES Annual Report available at www.diabetes.ca.

This year, we have been actively involved with creating interest groups. As a member, you are now able to join one of several interest groups, ranging from Zoomers (a.k.a. retired but still really interested in diabetes) to Long-Term Care/Home Nursing and/or Camp Nursing. As you are

aware, you are now able to obtain your membership online as the DES database is now fully integrated in-house at CDA which makes communication with members much more streamlined.

Our many volunteers continue to offer us great expertise for the many projects and partnerships with which we are presently involved. The National Nutrition Committee, working with Sharon Zeiler, Senior Manager, Diabetes Education and Nutrition, continues to do much work in developing healthy eating resources for our many multicultural communities across Canada, this year specifically focusing on the Latin American and Aboriginal populations.

We are also very appreciative of the countless hours the Conference Planning Committee, under the direction of Kathryn Arcudi, has provided for us. Once again, the Planning Committee has been able to pull together a great conference. I hope you have all had a chance to attend some of the wonderful presentations. This is Kathryn's last year as conference Co-Chair and we welcome Arlene Kuntz as the 2012-2013 new conference Co-Chair.

A thank you also to our publication volunteers under the direction of Colleen Rand, Editor of *The Diabetes Communicator*. As many of you are aware, our 3 publications, *The Diabetes Communicator*, *Canadian Journal of Diabetes* and *Canadian Diabetes*, developed the Publications Working Group to look at amalgamating all 3 publications so we will be successful in the indexing of the new journal in the upcoming year. The Publications Working Group has been moving forward and has, most recently, obtained the services of Elsevier to help us develop and move our amalgamated journal to the next level and, ultimately, MEDLINE indexing. The projected date for our first combined journal is February 2012.

We have so many volunteers who give up their time to work with us on our many DES projects. I am truly amazed how many times I have sent an email to a potential DES volunteer and how readily they step up to the challenge of volunteerism. Thank you.

There is one person, in particular, who I would like to single out and thank. I could not have done this role without her unending support with the numerous teleconferences and meetings I have had to attend. My work colleague, Patricia Baker. Patricia and I have worked together for 11 years and, during my tenure, she has been very supportive and has always been there for me to bounce ideas off. Thank you.

Of course, I would be remiss in not thanking the CDA staff who have so diligently worked with our DES membership. A big thank you goes out to Carolyn Gall Casey, Director of Professional Education; Sharon Zeiler, Senior Manager, Diabetes Education and Nutrition and, of course, Jennifer Belding, Coordinator of Professional Sections and Membership. As many of you are aware, Jennifer is retiring December 23, 2011. Thank you, Jen, for keeping your promise to stay on until my term was complete. It has been fantastic working with you and thank you for keeping me on track. Thank you to the DES Executive for your time and wonderful contributions to your roles. You each have made so many contributions and I will truly miss working with all of you. Of course, I will have a place to visit now in each province and will definitely pick July, Anne, to visit you in Nunavut! Jan, I look forward to working with you and your new Executive. Make sure to have fun! I have been greatly honoured to be Chair of such a hardworking organization. Over the years, I have appreciated all the support I have received from the DES membership, Board of Directors and CDA staff. I would encourage each of you to look at the leadership potentials within DES and CDA. I can truly say it has been a wonderful experience and one I will definitely miss. Thank you.

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