

Message from the Chair, Clinical & Scientific Section

The Year in Review

As I review the past year, which was my first year as Chair of the Clinical & Scientific Section (C&SS), I am extremely proud of our continued accomplishments. The Membership and the Executive are energetic and committed to the work of the Section, and the Section continues to provide its combined and individual expertise to the work that is needed to ultimately help Canadians living with diabetes.

Just before I started my term, the Association released the *2008 Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada*. These guidelines continue to be internationally recognized as comprehensive and evidence-based, and provide clinical recommendations for the management of diabetes as well as preventative measures for populations at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

The dissemination of the 2008 Guidelines continues to be an ongoing activity of the Section. Every six months for the next three years, key themes from the guidelines will be presented and added to the “Tool Kit for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada.” The first theme, “Cardiovascular Risk Assessment and Reduction” was issued to all family/general practitioners across Canada. It is due to the large number of dedicated volunteers who represent a broad variety of healthcare professionals from across Canada, that we are able to support the upcoming themes over the next three years. Special thanks go out to Drs. Ian Blumer, Alice Cheng and Maureen Clement for their ongoing efforts.

The C&SS continues to work with the board and administrative staff of the Association. Ellen Malcolmson, now in her second year as President and CEO was instrumental in developing a new mission statement for the Association. The

C&SS Executive and I, in my capacity as a board member, helped craft the new mission statement. Jerry Young is currently the Chair of the Board, but will be stepping down this year; his dedication will be missed.

Margaret Beatty is the Vice President Research, Professional Education and Government Affairs and works closely with myself and the C&SS. Thanks go to her for all her efforts over the past year, after inheriting a demanding position and having to fill in for many other vacant positions. I wish to extend my thanks to many Canadian Diabetes Association staff including: Jennifer Belding Coordinator, Professional Membership & Projects; Lucy Montana Manager, National Meeting & Conference Services; Hal DeLair, Interim Director, Professional Education; and Josée Guimond, Director, Research Programs & Partnerships.

This October, in Montreal, the world will focus on the International Diabetes Federation's 20th World Diabetes Congress. Over 200 diabetes associations from more than 160 countries around the world will come together to discuss how we might enhance the lives of people living with diabetes, and those at risk of developing the disease. The World Diabetes Congress provides the ideal platform for all diabetes stakeholders to connect in person. Conference preparations are already underway for the 13th Annual Canadian Diabetes Association/Canadian Society of Endocrinology & Metabolism Professional Conference, and Annual Meetings for 2010, which will be held in Edmonton, Alberta. Dr. Jean-François Yale will chair the Clinical and Scientific Committee portion of the meeting, and is also committed for the meeting in Toronto, Ontario in 2011.

It has been a pleasure working with the Chair of the Diabetes Educator Section, Arlene Kuntz. Her term has now ended and Aileen Knip steps into the Chair position. We look forward to working with her and the DES over the next year.

A very special thank you to Dr. Heather Dean, who has served as Editor-in-Chief for the *Canadian Journal of Diabetes* over the past six years, her leadership has moved the Journal to greater prominence. Thank you too, to Dr. David Lau, the Interim Editor-in-Chief. Finally, thank you to Dr. Danièle Pacaud for her leadership on *Canadian Diabetes*.

The Clinical & Scientific Section /Canadian Diabetes Association Lifetime Achievement Award, first presented in 2007 has had great success. The recipient of the 2009 award, bestowed upon a Canadian who is recognized for longstanding contributions to the Canadian diabetes community, and as a leader in diabetes research is Dr. Bernard Zinman. He is well deserving of this honour. We are fortunate that he will speak at the Professional Conference in Edmonton in 2010.

As well, congratulations to Dr. Vincent Poitout, the recipient of the Canadian Diabetes Association, Great West Life, London Life & Canada Life Young Scientist Award. Also this year we honoured Dr. Makram Boctor with the Dr. Gerald S. Wong Service Award.

The numerous research grants review committees and the National Research Council continue to advance the Research Strategic Plan for the Association. Many colleagues continue to be front and centre in new discoveries both in Canada and around the world. In 2008, research funding was \$6 323 419, in 2009 we contributed \$7 091 832 and in 2010 research funding will be \$7 376 000.

The Clinical & Scientific Strategic Plan 2010 to 2015 is almost complete and compliments the Association's Strategic Plan, which is to translate knowledge into useful tools to help people with diabetes live healthy lives.

My sincere thanks to the members of the Executive who provided their time and effort on behalf of the Section over the past year, and to the many dedicated professionals who volunteer their efforts, and sit on Committees, perform reviews and provide advice and support to the Association. Your commitment is very much appreciated.

Vincent Woo MD FRCPC
Chair, Clinical & Scientific Section
Canadian Diabetes Association