

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROPATHOLOGISTS
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROPATHOLOGISTES**

President: Dr David Munoz, Secretary-Treasurer: Dr Rob Macaulay

CANP Website – <http://www.canp.ca>

Spring 2011 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues:

On Saturday, May 19, 2011, I attended a meeting of Laboratory Physicians National Specialty Societies, held at Toronto General Hospital, and called by Dr. Laurette Geldenhuys, President of the Canadian Association of Pathologists. I was joined in representing the CANP by Dr. Edward Johnson, Past President, and Dr. Julia Keith, Member-at-Large. The trigger for this meeting was the consensus conference on Laboratory Medicine, which took place November 15, 2010 in Ottawa. Although the initial focus was on surgical pathology, it was later expanded to all areas of laboratory medicine. Working groups on the future of pathology, workload, quality assurance, and education were formed.

The most important resolution was the proposal for the creation of a Canadian Leadership Council on Laboratory Medicine; however, there was a consensus that the CLCLM membership as proposed would be far too large and unwieldy and would not adequately represent laboratory physicians. Therefore, the group agreed to form a Canadian Alliance of Laboratory Medicine (CALM) with a mandate to cooperate on issues of mutual interest in laboratory medicine, including but not limited to quality assurance, resources and education; to create working groups to address particular issues; and to advocate for Laboratory Medicine.

It was agreed that the different organizations would obtain approval from their executive committees. Our executive committee has agreed to join CALM. Other members include Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada, the Canadian Association of Medical Biochemists, the

Canadian Association of Pathologists, the Canadian Society of Cytopathology, and the Hematological Pathology Section of the Canadian Association of Pathologists. Initially, each member society will fund its delegate to attend CALM meetings. It was agreed to invite the CEO of the Royal College to attend the next face-to-face meeting of CALM, to discuss issues facing Laboratory Physicians. Meanwhile, the CAP-ACP has issued a draft proposal for a Pathology Council, proposing a return to a focus on Surgical Pathology, rather than all of Laboratory Medicine. CALM would be represented in this council, but not CANP.

Preparations for our 51st Annual Meeting are underway. The local organizers are Drs Wayne Moore and Chris Dunham. The 2011 symposium will focus on demyelinating disease with three speakers: Dr. Vanda Lennon from the Mayo Clinic on aquaporin-4 antibodies in neuromyelitis optica; Dr. Dessa Sadovnick at UBC on genetics of multiple sclerosis, and Dr. Wayne Moore at UBC on imaging-pathology correlation in multiple sclerosis. Dr. Sam Ludwin will be the Gordon Mathieson Invited Member Speaker and will talk on the interaction between science and the media on public policy regarding multiple sclerosis. We will not have a Royal College speaker this year, as we no longer receive those grants from the Royal College.

I look forward to meeting you all at the scientific sessions and to enjoy our banquet at a most privileged site, Grouse Mountain, with few parallels in the whole world.

Having served with incredible mastery and dedication the full 5 years of his term, Dr. Macaulay will give up his position as secretary-treasurer of the

CANP during the 2011 meeting. However difficult it may be to follow in his footsteps, a new secretary-treasurer must be elected, and any members interested in filling the position should contact me at their earliest convenience.

A recent issue of Clinical Neuropathology (2011, 30:43-44) addresses the issue of the status of neuropathology in the U.K, which appears to be on the verge of becoming an independent specialty. This is expected to influence European Union regulations by adding an important member to the four countries that currently award specialty status to neuropathology, and may also have an impact in Canada. The Royal College has released drafts of white papers on the future of medical education and has requested input. Members may wish to remind the Royal College of our reasons to maintain a separate specialty designation for neuropathology.

Obituaries on Dr. Ellsworth (Buster) Alvord, a longtime member of the CANP, have been published in the Journal of Child Neurology (25:1588-1597) and the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences.

David Munoz
CANP President

DETAILS OF 51st ANNUAL MEETING

VENUE

The 2011 Annual CANP Meeting will be held from Thursday September 15th to Saturday September 17th, 2011 at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel, 1128 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, British Columbia. Note that a pre-meeting discussion of Professional Affairs will occur during the afternoon of the 14th (Wednesday); please ensure that travel arrangements allow for arrival by early afternoon on September 14th if you plan to participate in this discussion.

REGISTRATION AND PRE-REGISTRATION

Again this year meeting attendees will be invited to visit the CANP website (www.canp.ca) and follow the link to pre-registration on 'Meetings and News'. Please note that web-based pre-registration will be available for credit card use only; anyone who would prefer **not** to use credit card payment online may pre-register by sending a cheque to the

Secretary/Treasurer. Website registration is being finalized and should be available by mid-June. Onsite registration will commence on Wednesday September 14th from 2000-2200 h, in conjunction with the President's Reception.

FEES AND PRE-REGISTRATION DISCOUNT

The registration fee is **\$250**; as usual, non-members and prospective members are most welcome at no additional cost. The student/retired member registration fee will be \$100.

There will be a \$50 reduction for participants who pre-register. Thus, the registration fee until August 1, 2011 is \$200 for regular attendees and \$50 for students and retired members. After the pre-registration deadline the full fees apply; please note however that as in previous years **credit card payments will not be accepted at the meeting venue** – cash or cheque only.

Scientific sessions are scheduled Thursday through Saturday morning; see Dr Munoz's report for details of the invited speakers. Breakfast will be included in the Meeting registration fee each morning just outside the lecture theatre.

BANQUET

The venue for the Annual Banquet is the nearby Grouse Mountain 'The Peak of Vancouver', which affords spectacular views of the city, the surrounding mountains and the ocean. The site will be accessible from 1730 h, and the meal will be served in the early evening. The cost of banquet tickets is \$125 per active member or guest, and \$50 for trainees and retirees. More details to follow.

RESERVATION PROCEDURE

The group rate for the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel is \$199 per night for single or double occupancy. Web-based and telephone reservations will be available; follow the link on the CANP website for the former. The hotel reservations desk is (800) 207-4150. Please ensure that the hotel registers you as attending the CANP Meeting to ensure we satisfy our room quota. The cutoff date for room reservations is August 14, 2011, but space is limited and it is strongly advised that reservations be made well in advance. Remember that the pre-registration discount for the meeting is August 1, 2011.

TRANSPORTATION

Vancouver Airport is south of the city; taxis are readily available; in addition, the Canada Line Skytrain (subway) leaves directly from the airport. It is very well marked; you can purchase a ticket from the vending machines on the subway platforms. You ride this train right to the end: Waterfront Station (about 20 minute ride or so) is on Cordova St. The Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle is one street south (West Hastings) and 3 blocks west, at the corner of Thurlow and West Hastings. From Waterfront Station to the hotel, it would be a 5 minute walk, but if you have bags, some might prefer to take a short taxi ride...taxis should be available just outside the station.

LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS

Chris Dunham: CDunham@cw.bc.ca

Wayne Moore: Wayne.Moore@vch.ca

ABSTRACT AND CASE SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2011. Please see the enclosed instructions for submissions, which must be in **electronic format**; send to: robert.macaulay@cdha.nshealth.ca. The instructions are also on the website (www.canp.ca).

Once your submission(s) has been received it will be acknowledged by return email. If you do not receive confirmation of your submission please contact the Secretary/Treasurer to ensure that nothing untoward has occurred. We welcome submission of material from non-members, subject to acceptance. Only presentation-style submissions will be considered; **there is no poster session**.

Scientific abstracts will be published in the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences in early 2012; as a consequence, the lead author must provide written assurance that all listed authors are in agreement with the presentation. Case presentation diagnoses will be listed but clinical histories will not be published.

DIGITAL SCANNING OF SUBMISSIONS

Dr Rob Hammond will scan the submitted diagnostic slides and place them on the website prior to the meeting. He will also add them to the teaching file/historical file/atlas for members (and

trainees). Any additional material/scans to be posted on the website should be emailed to: robert.macaulay@cdha.nshealth.ca.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

The PAC generated a draft version of a workload assessment tool, which was distributed to Canadian members in March; it was subsequently discovered that some members did not receive these documents. Anyone who needs to have them resent should contact the Secretary Treasurer or Dr Michaud ASAP. The importance of this and other professional issues is obvious, and there is a consensus that another face-to-face meeting prior to the commencement of the regular scientific meeting would be beneficial. Accordingly, there will be a discussion at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle during the afternoon of Wednesday September 14, 2011. Further details and an agenda will be provided with the Meeting program in the summer.

CAP-ACP NEUROPATHOLOGY SECTION

The CAP-ACP Annual Meeting in Vancouver is fast approaching, June 4-8 2011, at the Fairmont Vancouver Hotel. Two items will be of interest to CANP members.

First, there will be a workshop entitled **Autoantibody-based Neurological Disorders: Clinical Suspicion to Laboratory Diagnosis**; the workshop director is Ronald Booth, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at The Ottawa Hospital Faculty and faculty include Joel Oger from the Department of Neurology at UBC.

Second, there will also be a neuropathology symposium focused on inflammatory disorders, with three CANP members sharing their experience with attendees. **HIV and Less Common Inflammatory Disorders of the Human CNS** will be presented by Harry Vinters, **The Neuropathology of Fatal Cerebral Malaria in Children** by Katerina Zis, and **Pathology and Pathogenesis of Multiple Sclerosis: Current Concepts** by Wayne Moore. More details at: <http://www.pathologyconference.com/>.

NP SPECIALTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Marc Del Bigio, Chair

During the past year, the RCPSC specialty committee in neuropathology met on October 15, 2010 (Toronto ON); we will meet next on September 16, 2011 at the CANP meeting in Vancouver, BC. The committee's major work over the past two years revising all of the RC training documents is complete; the new documents will likely come into force in July 2011.

Five programs are currently active with several new or soon to be new program directors: Chris Dunham at UBC, Lee Cyn Ang at UWO, Lothar Resch at U Calgary, Julia Keith at Toronto, and Yves Robitaille at Montreal. The next regular survey scheduled is University of Western Ontario in the fall of 2012.

I have had a couple of informal discussions about the creation of new training programs. I cautioned that the future job market should be carefully considered and that discussion within the CANP and/or CAP-ACP might be advisable.

The committee had an email discussion concerning the development of a 1 year RCPSC diploma program in 'Adult brain tumor diagnostics' to satisfy some of the needs of smaller non-university centers with neurosurgery groups. The majority opposed the idea. The specialty committee might need to ensure that trainees learn how to diagnose intraoperative samples using the computer-based methods used by telepathology.

A matter that affects us indirectly but positively is the fact that the Royal College of Pathologists, in association with the British Neuropathological Society, has applied for Neuropathology to be recognized as a full specialty, separate from Histopathology, with its own certificate of completion of training. This would be similar to the system of training currently offered in Canada.

The RCPSC Committee on Specialties (COS) will review the Specialty status of Neuropathology in the autumn of 2012. Anatomic Pathology and Forensic Pathology are being reviewed in the same cycle.

Committee Membership: Dr Ian Mackenzie is Vice-chair. Active members are Drs Jane Barron

(Region 5), Peter Gould (Region 4), Patrick Shannon (Region 3), Chris Dunham (Region 2), and Lothar Resch (Region 1). Dr John Rossiter continues as Chair of the Examination Board, ably assisted by Drs Hawkins and Woulfe.

ANNUAL DUES:

Thanks to all those who paid annual dues of \$200 promptly. Accompanying this Newsletter is your receipt for 2011 dues. For those who have yet to return their dues payment, a second notice is enclosed. Remember that members who remain in arrears **for two years or more are subject to suspension** from the Association for non-payment.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Any items for inclusion in the Summer Newsletter should be sent by August 1st, 2011 to:

Dr Rob Macaulay
Mackenzie Building Room 738
QEII Health Sciences Centre
5788 University Avenue
Halifax, NS
Canada
B3H 1V8

or by email to:

robert.macaulay@cdha.nshealth.ca.

Enclosures:

1. Instruction sheet for submission of Abstract or Case Summary
2. Copyright transfer agreement for publication of abstract in the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences
3. Sample layouts for Case Submissions and Scientific Papers.
4. Receipt for 2011 dues (if paid), or
5. Second 2011 dues notice (for those who had not submitted as of the date of mailing).

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF SUBMISSIONS IS JULY 15th, 2011.

Spring 2011

