PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues:

Preparations for the 50th Anniversary CANP Annual Meeting October 14-16, 2010 in Toronto are almost completed. For the first time, pre-registration is available on the web at our server www.canp.ca.

The scientific program promises to be the largest ever for CANP, with 33 scientific abstracts and 11 diagnostic case presentations. Our symposium will be focused on stem cells in neuropathology. The Jerzy Olszewski guest lecture will be delivered by Dr. Sebastian Jessberger from Zurich, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons lecture by Dr. Jenny Hsieh from University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Peter Dirks from the Hospital for Sick Children will close the symposium with the lecture on Stem Cells in Brain Tumors. Our educational program will be augmented by a special CANP 50th Anniversary special guest lecture by Dr Peter St. George-Hyslop on Advances in Alzheimer’s Disease, and completed by the Gordon Matheson invited member lecture by Dr. Harvey Sarnat entitled Markers of Neuronal Maturation in Developing Human Brain and Malformations.

On the Wednesday afternoon prior to the meeting, the CANP will be sponsoring a mini-symposium on professional issues relating to Neuropathology, supported by the Neuropathology Section of the Canadian Association of Pathologists, and the Neuropathology Specialty Committee of the RCPSC. This represents a significant departure from the traditional CANP focus on science and education. Three topics have been chosen: 1) Practice guidelines; 2) Human resources and workload assessment; and 3) Maintenance of competence and education. Each discussion will be Chaired by a CANP member identified by the Executive as having a particular interest or expertise in the area. Several members have made interesting proposals, but a consensus on how to proceed is needed. Given our small size and limited resources, we will also address the issue of whether the CANP should get involved in these activities, and whether we would be more effective developing, implementing, and monitoring the procedures on our own or within the auspices of a larger group. The Chairs will be responsible for summarizing the discussions and presenting them to the General Assembly, where the decision to accept or reject the recommendations of the group will take place.

It is at this moment not yet clear whether the much delayed ongoing construction on Bloor Street, will be over by the time of our meeting, although a new official announcement yesterday by City Hall stated it will be completed by the end of October. In any case, the banquet at the Gardiner Museum, a short walk from the meeting hotel, promises to be delightful from the artistic, historic, and culinary aspects.

We have invited all Past-presidents of the CANP as well as retired members, and a good number of them have responded in the affirmative; their presence will greatly contribute to the 50th Anniversary celebrations. I look forward to welcoming all of you to Toronto.

David Munoz, MD, FRCP(C)
Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, University of Toronto
President, Canadian Association of Neuropathologists
UPCOMING 50th ANNUAL MEETING
Active members will find enclosed the Scientific Program for the Annual CANP Meeting, as well as the Unknown Slide set. There was a record number of submissions this year, with a total of 44 presentations accepted. Together with the 5 invited speakers, Annual General Meeting, pre-conference discussion and Banquet the schedule is action-packed and scintillating with excitement.

DATE AND VENUE
The Meeting will be held from Thursday October 14th, to Saturday October 16th, 2010 at the Marriott Hotel in Toronto at Bloor & Yonge, near Yorkville.

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING
By popular demand a meeting will be held at the Bloor Marriott on Wednesday October 13th in the Hanlan/McBride Room. The CANP, the CAP-ACP NP Section, and the NP Specialty Committee are cooperating to convene this important and ground-breaking gathering. Please contact the Secretary-Treasurer if you plan to attend to facilitate catering. The Presidents’ Reception will follow the pre-conference gathering in the same room, at 1900 h.

REGISTRATION AND PRE-REGISTRATION
The pre-registration process has been successful, but was unintentionally de-activated recently. Because of the uncertainty and inconvenience created by this situation THE EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 9th, 2010. Credit card payments will be continue to be accepted for online registration, or cheques can be forwarded to the Secretary/Treasurer. Please follow the link from the CANP website page ‘Meetings and News’. Onsite registration will commence on Wednesday October 13th from 1900-2200 h, in conjunction with the President’s Reception (but the fee for onsite registration is significantly greater – see below).

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 is $100. The $50 discount for pre-registration has been extended until September 9, 2010. If you are unable or unwilling to use the website registration process please contact the Secretary/Treasurer directly; however, credit card payments will be accepted only online, not at the meeting venue (or if pre-registering by mail) – cash or cheque only.

Breakfast will be served at 0700 h in the Yorkville room nearby (but not adjoining) the Forest Hall Ballroom, where the scientific sessions will be held.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The AGM will be conducted in the Hanlan/McBride room, scheduled at 1600 h on Thursday October 14, 2010. Active members will find enclosed a draft agenda; please send additional agenda items to either Dr Munoz or Dr Macaulay, or feel free to add to the agenda at the beginning of the AGM.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CANP BANQUET
The Annual Banquet at the Gardiner Museum, 111 Queen’s Park, will commence at 1900 h. This location is opposite the Royal Ontario Museum at the corner of University Avenue and Bloor St, one subway stop from the Bloor Marriott Hotel.

The cost of banquet tickets is $125 per active member or guest, and $100 for trainees (early ticket purchase before September 9th qualifies for a $50 discount for trainees). In recognition of our 50th Anniversary celebration all retired members and Past-Presidents have been invited to join us for the Banquet.

RESERVATION DEADLINE LOOMS
The special group rate for the Bloor Marriott Hotel ($199 per night) is guaranteed only until September 9, 2010. Website registration and hotel reservation is still possible through www.canp.ca or phone the hotel reservations desk at (416) 515-2574. Please ensure that the hotel recognizes you as attending the CANP Meeting.

TRANSPORTATION
The hotel is easily accessible from the Bloor/Yonge subway station; exit to the left (east) but stay underground; follow the overhead signs to the Marriott hotel (about 3 minutes). There is an elevator to the lobby level (as well as a short staircase) at the end of a windowless hallway. The Toronto airport boasts a TTC bus stop near the departures level which connects with the subway lines. The Toronto City Centre Airport on Toronto Island is closer but requires a ferry ride to access the
city. Bus and train stations are also close to subway stations. Hotel parking is available but for an additional cost.

LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS
Cynthia Hawkins: cynthia.hawkins@sickkids.ca
Bill Halliday: william.halliday@sickkids.ca

ANNUAL DUES:
Thanks to all of you who have paid your annual dues. Accompanying this Newsletter is your receipt for 2010 dues if your cheque was received in the last few months. For those who have yet to return their dues payment, a third invoice is enclosed. Remember that members who remain in arrears for two years or more risk suspension of membership.

CAP-ACP NEUROPATHOLOGY SECTION
CAP-ACP Annual Meeting in Vancouver 2011:
There will be significant representation from various laboratory disciplines, under the umbrella of the Canadian Congress of Laboratory Medicine. CANP membership participation in the CAP annual meetings, and membership representation in the CAP by Neuropathologists, will continue to be helpful to maintain bridges between the two Associations. The possibility of some form of future joint meeting could be a topic of future discussion, if the initial concerns expressed on this at the last annual CANP meeting can be overcome. Dr John Woulfe has recently succeeded Dr Maguire as Chair of the NP Section of the CAP/ACP.

Sincerely,
John Maguire
Past-Chair, Section of Neuropathology, CAP-ACP

RCPSC NP SPECIALTY COMMITTEE
The Specialty Committee Meeting will occur at the Bloor Marriott Hotel on Friday October 15, 2010 from 1300-1500 h, in the Executive Boardroom. A light luncheon will be served.

ICN 2010
Final preparations are underway for the XVII Congress of Neuropathology in Salzburg, as well as the pre-congress Prion Satellite Meeting.

In Memoriam – Dr. E.C. Alvord

With sadness we write to announce the passing of Dr. Ellsworth C. (Buster) Alvord, Jr. at the age of 86 years on January 19, 2010 from a stroke, one of many sustained in recent years. A member of the CANP since 1987, Dr. Alvord was active in attending and participating in the Association’s Annual Meetings. Many members will recall his various presentations, along with Dr. Kristin Swanson, on the development of mathematical models to predict the growth of gliomas.

A medical graduate (1946) of Cornell University, Dr. Alvord did his post graduate training at the New York Hospital (Pathology), Walter Reed General Hospital (Neurology), and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (Neuropathology). In choosing Neuropathology as a career and in the formulation of the curriculum of his training Dr. Alvord was strongly influenced by the mentorship of Dr. Lewis D. Stevenson, a neuropathologist who was an expatriate Canadian at Cornell.

It was through Dr. Stevenson that Dr. Alvord was introduced to the study of experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE) as a model for multiple sclerosis, which became the mainstay of his research career. This research interest became
further consolidated while he served as Chief of the Clinical Neuropathology Section at the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, where he established a long collaborative association with Dr. Marian Kies on the EAE model. Thereafter, he went to Baylor University School of Medicine in Houston before relocating to the University of Washington in Seattle in 1960. In addition to his research on EAE, Dr. Alvord and his colleague, Dr. Cheng-Mei Shaw, established an active neuropathology service that entailed rotating brain cutting sessions at various Seattle hospitals, as well as receipt of consultation material from other centers in the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska and Montana. This clinical material served as the source for their publications on congenital malformations of the CNS and developmental neuropathology. At the same time, Dr. Alvord and Dr. Shaw developed a training program in Neuropathology that over the years offered one to two years of instruction to more than 45 trainees, with several coming from Asia as well as a few from Canada and Europe. From personal experience, whether as a trainee (EJ) or faculty member (HS), the weekly neuropathology teaching conference that he oversaw remains memorable for the lively debate, intellectual excitement and, on occasion, revelatory insight into his analytic approach to diagnosis. At times he liked to trick people, but for a resident to trick Dr. Alvord was a high risk enterprise requiring much verve and the confidence of the foolhardy to succeed.

Dr. Alvord’s interest in devising mathematical models to predict the growth of CNS tumors was generated by attempts to predict the period of recurrence for epidermoid tumors and ependymomas. The introduction of MRI and the advancements in image analysis further enticed his intellectual curiosity to design, with other collaborators from applied mathematics, models to predict the “virtual” growth of high grade gliomas by which the efficacies of various treatments could be evaluated. He continued this research up to the time of his death.

Inquisitive of mind, thriving in debate, dry but warm in humour, Dr. Alvord was perpetually fascinated by Neuropathology to the point that he never retired. The only subject of greater passion, perhaps, was the generous philanthropy that he and his wife, Nancy, bestowed on the various cultural institutions in greater Seattle and the University of Washington. Of this philanthropy, his last, but most notable act arising from his research interests has been the establishment with his wife, their four children and nine grandchildren of The Nancy and Buster Alvord Brain Tumor Center with six endowed chairs to foster multidisciplinary collaborative approaches in the research and care of patients with brain tumors. In whatever role one encountered him, be it as trainee, working associate, colleague, or friend, Dr. Alvord along with his “Scotty dog” clip on outlandish neckties would leave an indelible impression that Neuropathology is a noble calling.

Dr Edward Johnson, Edmonton
Dr Harvey Sarnat, Calgary

Note: A more detailed tribute to Dr. Alvord is to be published in the Journal of Child Neurology.

NEXT NEWSLETTER
Any items for inclusion in the Winter Newsletter, should be sent by December 15th, 2010 to robert.macaulay@cdha.nshealth.ca.

Enclosures:
1. CANP Annual Meeting Program 2010
2. Unknown slide set (2 styrofoam containers)
3. 2010 AGM Preliminary Agenda
4. Endowment Trust agenda and projected financial statement for Committee Members
5. Notice of pre-conference meeting
6. Receipt for 2010 dues (if paid), or
7. Third 2010 dues notice (for those who had not remitted as of the date of mailing).
8. Receipt for non-website 2010 Meeting payment

Summer 2010