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Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society

ANESTHESIA NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society has always been extremely proud of the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* (CJA). For over 60 years, under a succession of six illustrious Editors-in-Chief, and dozens of contributing editors, CJA has made an outstanding contribution to the dissemination of knowledge in the science and culture of our specialty in Canada and internationally. Over the years, CJA has evolved and innovated, and this year is no exception. In an agreement dated May 4, 2017 between the Canadian

Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS) and the Canadian Critical Care Society (CCCS), the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* will become the official journal of the CCCS. It is expected that this association will further enrich the content and reach of CJA, and advance its mission of "Excellence in research and knowledge translation in anesthesia, pain, perioperative medicine, and critical care." Congratulations, CJA!

In 2015, CAS, as the national specialty society for anesthesiology, joined Choosing Wisely Canada (CWC). Under CWC and following consultation with CAS members, Drs Patricia Houston, Susan O'Leary, Greg Bryson and Duminda Wijeyesundera, elaborated an initial anesthesia-focused list of "Five Things Clinicians and Patients Should Question," identifying commonly utilized investigations unsupported by evidence of benefit, and possibly causing unintended harm. This month, all CAS members will be advised of an educational document which has been produced by Ontario's Anesthesiologists in collaboration with Dr Kyle Kirkham, the Chair of the CAS Choosing Wisely Committee. This "Implementation Guide" is intended to assist anesthesiologists as they plan to adopt the five CAS CWC recommendations within their own institutions. Included is valuable advice based upon the experience of several groups. I strongly urge you to consider this material, and become inspired to make the CAS Choosing Wisely recommendations a reality within your practice environment.

An incredible amount of work has been invested over the past several months by a great many people to produce a successful and memorable CAS Annual Meeting in beautiful, historic Niagara Falls, Ontario. Now the result of this collective effort is at hand! We have an outstanding

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2017

www.cas.ca

Innovative leadership and
excellence in anesthesia,
perioperative care, and
patient **safety**

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program of scientific, educational, social, commemorative, and recognition events. Find out more on the meeting website at:

www.casconference.ca/en

My thanks go out to the many people involved in the Annual Meeting:

- Dr Adriaan Van Rensburg, Chair of the CAS Annual Meeting Committee and all committee members
- CAS Executive Director, Debra Thomson and the CAS staff team
- Members of the Annual Meeting Working Group
- Chairs and members of CAS Sections and Committees
- The Canadian Anesthesia Research Foundation and the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation
- All speakers, presenters, moderators, workshop and Problem-Based Learning Discussion facilitators, sponsors, and exhibitors who will be participating in the meeting.

Please join us in Niagara Falls for an energizing kickoff to what I hope will be an enjoyable summer for all.

Dr Douglas DuVal, FRCPC
President



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2017 ANNUAL MEETING: ARE YOU REGISTERED?

The CAS Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls is a “must attend” event and there is still time to sign up! There’s an impressive roster of notable speakers who will talk about vital practice areas, research innovations, and the newest techniques.

Here’s a sampling of the topics and the speakers:

Opening Plenary Symposium: Simulation, Education, and Competence in Anesthesiology

Dr David Gaba, Stanford University School of Medicine

Symposium: Improving Perioperative Outcome in Ambulatory Patients, O², Drugs and Airway

Moderator: Dr David Wong

Presenters: Dr Adam Law, Dr Matthew Chan, Dr Anil Patel

Dr Angela Enright Lecture: Is There a Better Way to Build Expert Anesthesiologists? The myths and magic of the new Canadian system of training

Moderator: Dr Michael Sullivan

Presenter: Dr Jason Frank

Dr John Wade CPSI Patient Safety Symposium: Medication Errors Don’t Need to Happen: Solutions for Everyone

Moderator: Dr Lucie Filteau

Presenters: Dr Guylaine Lefebvre, Dr Ludwik Fedorko, Dr Sherissa Microys

Ethics Symposium: Healthcare Communication and Social Media—The Ethics of Privacy in an Electronic World

Moderator: Dr David McKnight

Presenters: Dr Karen Devon, Dr Dennis Desai, Dr Clyde Matava

Choosing Wisely Symposium: Where are we at?

Moderator: Dr Gregory Bryson

Presenters: Dr Jason Taam, Dr Kyle Kirkham, Dr Hance Clarke

President’s Symposium: Pride, Patriotism and Professional Association

Moderator: Dr Douglas DuVal, CAS President

Presenters: Dr Paul A Clyburn, President, Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, Dr David Kibblewhite, President, New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists, Dr Chris Simpson, Past President, Canadian Medical Association, Dr Jeff Plagenhoef, President, American Society of Anesthesiologists

NEED CPD CREDITS?

Take advantage of completing your CPD required credits in one weekend. Register for the CAS Annual Meeting now!

PRE-ANNUAL MEETING TIPS

- Hashtag: #CAS_SCA2017
- Don't forget to check the CAS Facebook page daily for pictures!
- Did you know that completing the evaluations at the Annual Meeting means you are eligible to win one of three iPads?

ANNUAL MEETING MOBILE APP

Navigating the Annual Meeting just got easier. To download the App, go to: www.casconference.ca/en/mobile-app

MOBILE APP TIPS!

IMPORTANT PROFILE INFORMATION!

By default, all attendee profiles are visible, but private.

To make it easier for other delegates to contact you, please consider making your profile viewable or public.

To make your profile viewable by all attendees:

- Click on the menu, then the gear icon
- Log in to your app (type in your names)
- Enter your verification code (this will be sent to your email)

Once logged into the app:

- Touch the gear icon again
- Click edit profile
- Uncheck "Set Profile to Private" box

You may also edit other personal details on this page.

HERE'S HOW TO CONNECT WITH DELEGATES AT THE MEETING...

Step 1: Go the Attendee tab

Step 2: Find the name of the delegate with whom you want to contact

Step 3: Click "Add Contact"

Step 4: Wait to be connected

REGISTER NOW!

To register for the annual meeting, go to: www.casconference.ca/en/registration

For information about the attractions and sights in Niagara Falls and the surrounding region, go to: www.visitniagaracanada.com

PRIZES FOR BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS

The cameras will be out in Niagara Falls and we think delegates will want to share some of their pictures from in and around the Annual Meeting and the city.

Upload your pictures to the CAS Twitter feed, using the #CAS_SCA2017 hashtag. Your photos will be instantly available in the meeting app for all to enjoy.

Winners will be randomly selected from the posted photos, and the prize will be \$100 off your 2018 Annual Meeting registration. Winners will be announced in the September issue of *Anesthesia News*.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AT SEVERAL ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS...

Welcome Reception: Friday, June 23, 18:00 – 20:00

A great way to get the meeting started! Visit the exhibitor booths in the Exhibit Hall and reconnect with colleagues. We're expecting great laughs with pictures drawn by caricaturists, slight-of-hand magic, and toe-tapping beats from the St Jamestown Youth Centre Steel Orchestra.

Residents' Reception: Friday, June 23, from 19:00

The CAS Resident's Section invites all Residents, Fellows, and medical students to kick off the meeting with colleagues and complimentary refreshments at:

The Residents' Reception

Grand Central Sports Bar
4573 Queen Street, Niagara Falls

RESIDENTS' SIMULATION EVENT

It's new. It's exciting and it's not to be missed. Join us for the fun and your team could win \$3,000! Individual registrants will be placed on a team, or teams of three are encouraged to register NOW! For more information, go to:

www.casconference.ca/en/residents-simulation-olympics

CAS President's Dinner: Saturday, June 24

Tickets are selling quickly, and won't be available onsite. Don't miss your chance to enjoy a delightful evening with colleagues and friends, hosted by CAS President, Dr Douglas DuVal! Begin with a pre-dinner reception with appetizers and drinks, and then enjoy a sumptuous four course meal served with paired wines. Finally, join in with the outstanding performers of Beatlemania Revisited while they transport you through the four eras of the Beatles with both music and costumes.

You will feel compelled to sing along—and possibly to jump onto the dance floor! All this will be complemented by a spectacular view of Niagara Falls.

We look forward to seeing you in Niagara Falls.

GOOD NEWS! POSITIVE 2016 FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR CAS

DR FRANÇOIS GOBEIL, FRCPC

Treasurer

I am happy to announce that our 2016 financial results are extremely positive. We met our goal of a balanced budget by 2018 sooner than planned and even surpassed it with a surplus in 2016. This is an obvious contrast to the 2015 deficit and the anticipated 2016 deficit. The success of the 2016 Annual Meeting in Vancouver—combined with overall tight cost controls—led to this turnaround.

This positive outcome is a result of everybody's exemplary contribution. I especially want to emphasize the work of Executive Director, Debra Thomson; Controller, Iris Li; 2016 Annual Meeting Committee Chair, Dr Daniel Bainbridge;

and *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* Editor-in-Chief, Dr Hilary Grocott. I also want to thank all Finance Committee members and Board members (chaired by Dr Douglas DuVal), and the CAS staff.

It is indeed a time for celebration. However, the budget remains fragile and, as the Treasurer, I encourage us to be cautious. The goal is to always attain a balanced budget. We have to stay vigilant and keep up our efforts to maintain revenue and monitor expense levels.

CAS MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING – NOW 2,000 STRONG!

WE HAVE GOOD NEWS!

CAS membership numbers have not only reached but surpassed our goal of 2,000 members. This is an increase of more than 125 members from 2016!

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to those current members who encouraged colleagues to join the society. Thanks also to the CAS staff team for their work in new member recruitment. All efforts have ultimately moved the society forward, and we will now work hard to provide our members with the benefits and services they expect.

Let's keep the momentum. Please help us to register all Canadian anesthesiologists in our great society! Talk to your friends and colleagues now.

ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE WEBINAR OPTION

CAS is pleased to provide a [webinar option](#) for those unable attend the meeting in person.

Two live 3.5 hour sessions are available. You can claim up to 3.5 hours per day for Section 1 Royal College credits. Access information will be sent a week prior to the webinar.

Note: sessions will be held in English only.

Congratulations to the winners!



Career Scientist Award

Dr Daniel McIsaac

University of Ottawa
Ottawa, ON

Enhancing the Care and Outcomes of our Ageing Surgical Population: Design and Implementation of a Perioperative Surgical Home for the Frail Elderly



New Investigator Operating Grant Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Research Award

Dr Mandeep Singh

University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

Developing a Novel Clinical Tool to Evaluate Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) with Airway Ultrasound—A Prospective Cohort Study



Subspecialty Awards CAS Research Award in Neuroanesthesia in memory of Adrienne Cheng

Dr Miguel Arango

University of Western Ontario
London, ON

GASTROKE—The effect of General Anesthesia versus Sedation for Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke Undergoing Endovascular Treatment on Three Month Morbidity and Mortality: A Feasibility Study



Dr Earl Wynands Research Award in Cardiovascular Anesthesia

Dr Alexander Gregory

University of Calgary
Calgary, AB

Aortic Strain, Advanced Modeling of Aortic Mechanical Properties and Techniques for Future Clinical Research: Comparison between Speckle Tracking Echocardiography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging Modalities



Open Operating Grant Dr RA Gordon Research Award for Innovation in Patient Safety

Dr Scott Beattie

University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

Troponin Elevation After Major Surgery (TEAMS II) A Prospective, Matched Cohort, Study Investigating the Relative Incidences of Asymptomatic Pulmonary Embolism in Patients with Postoperative Non-infarction Troponin Elevation



Residents' Research Award Ontario's Anesthesiologists— CAS Residents' Research Grant

Dr Gavin Hamilton

University of Ottawa
Ottawa, ON

Assessing the Impact of Anesthesiology Interventions on Postoperative Outcomes in Adult Patients Undergoing Ambulatory Shoulder Surgery

CELEBRATING AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

As Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary as a nation in 2017, anesthesiologists are marking the 75th anniversary of the first clinical use of curare by Harold Griffith in Montreal in 1942.

As a tribute to this important milestone, on May 2, 2017 the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* published "Harold Griffith's Legacy: a Tribute on the 75th Anniversary of the Introduction of Curare into Anesthetic Practice". Authored by Drs Derek Dillane (Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of Alberta), Daniel Chartrand (Department of Anesthesia, Montreal Neurological Hospital/McGill University), and Roger Maltby (Department of Anesthesia, University of Calgary), the editorial reflects on the remarkable life and achievements of Dr Griffith and his contribution to medicine.

"The impact of Dr Griffith's contribution to anesthesiology is immeasurable as is its impact on raising the standards for the delivery of health care to patients," says Dr Daniel Chartrand.

"We are celebrating an event that occurred 75 years ago, which is truly impressive. I am especially delighted that we are paying tribute to Dr Griffith's legacy at a time when we are also celebrating 150 years of Canadian history."

ADDITIONAL READING

Members who are interested in reading more about this important milestone in our history can also find the following resource on the CAS website:

["Harold Griffith: His Life and Legacy: A Tribute on the 50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Curare into Anaesthetic Practice"](#)

Edited by JR Maltby and DAE Shephard
Published as a supplement to *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* (Volume 39, Number 1, January 1992)

IN MEMORIAM: PAYING TRIBUTE TO DECEASED CAS MEMBERS

To recognize the contributions of and pay tribute to deceased CAS members, *Anesthesia News* will publish obituaries that are submitted to CAS.

If you would like to submit an obituary for a deceased CAS member, please forward it to anesthesia@cas.ca. A photograph may be included.

Please note the following general guidelines:

- The person must have been a member of CAS during their career, although not necessarily at the time of death.
- While vital statistics are important, stories about the individual's life, career, and contributions to specific endeavours are strongly encouraged.
- The obituary should be limited to 500 words.
- All submissions will be edited.

SOCIAL MEDIA AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Stay current, informed and on track with the latest discussions... Sign up and take advantage:

-  CAS on Twitter at [@CASupdate](https://twitter.com/CASupdate)
-  CAS on Facebook: [CanadianAnesthesiologistsSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianAnesthesiologistsSociety)

ONTARIO'S ANESTHESIOLOGISTS CHAMPION CHOOSING WISELY CAMPAIGN

CAS is a formal partner of Choosing Wisely Canada (CWC), the national campaign that has engaged clinicians and patients in conversations about unnecessary tests and treatments. Ontario's Anesthesiologists (OA) has also set a goal to champion the cause and to help individual hospitals implement these changes as recommended by the CAS.

To help facilitate implementation, OA has expended considerable human and financial resources to develop Beyond the Mask, a report that provides information on how the CWC recommendations can be implemented in hospitals in Ontario. Importantly, the recommendations also benefit members and hospitals across Canada (specifics may vary somewhat across the country). CAS is highly supportive of OA's initiative and will share the news and resources with its members nationally.



BEYOND THE MASK: ANESTHESIOLOGY 20.20 is a strategic initiative that was crafted to elevate Ontario Anesthesiologists' role and profile in the health care system over the next five years. As part of its initiative, the Executive of the Ontario's Anesthesiologists has articulated the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Anesthesiologists in new and different leadership roles (beyond Anesthesiologist in Chief)
- Anesthesiologists in more leadership roles in delivering care, within the hospital, as part of the profession and across the system
- More anesthesiologists involved in influencing health and public policy
- Introduction of new proven approaches, practices and procedures
- Stakeholders (including the Ontario Medical Association, hospital administrators, policy makers and colleagues) identify anesthesiologists as being influential in transforming the system
- The public is better informed as to the role of anesthesiologists in determining patient safety
- Individual anesthesiologists indicate a stronger identity and sense of professional contribution
- Other jurisdictions across Canada are implementing similar approaches.

CASIEF: INTERNATIONAL TEACHING OPPORTUNITY: GUYANA

Are you passionate about the practice of anesthesiology? Are you looking to step out of your comfort zone? Do you love learning? Would you like to make a difference in the world?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then this opportunity may be for you!

The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation (CASIEF) is excited to be a part of a new anesthesia residency training program in Georgetown, Guyana and we need your help.

We are looking for anesthesiologists who are willing to give two to four weeks of their time to travel to Guyana to be a clinical teacher, be a mentor, build relationships, and be a part of something new, exciting, and inspirational. Why Guyana you ask? Why not?!

For more information, please visit the CASIEF website at casief.ca/volunteer to fill out an application or send an email to info@casief.ca. We look forward to having you join our team!



Canadian Anesthesia Research Foundation
La Fondation canadienne de recherche en anesthésie

Sunday, June 25th
7:00am
5km Fun Run



Please join us on Sunday, June 25th for the annual Fun Run for CARF!

Overlooking the Niagara River and winding through the town, the 5km run starts and finishes near the Convention Centre. The registration fee is only \$50.00 and includes a t-shirt and snacks. All proceeds will directly benefit the 2018 CAS Research Awards.

Register on-site when you check in at the CAS Annual Meeting.



"I can't think of a more scenic run than what we will experience in Niagara Falls. I truly value the work being done by CARF in support of Canadian anesthesia research. Our financial support for CARF is extremely important and, for those reasons, I urge you to join me at the Fun Run for CARF. See you at the starting line!"

Dr. Susan O'Leary
Past President, CAS



Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society
Soci t  canadienne des anesth siologistes

CAS CONGRATULATES & RECOGNIZES 2016 NEWLY CERTIFIED ANESTHESIOLOGISTS!

Karim Abdulla
Sadiq Abdulla
Dina Aboutouk
Nitin Ahuja
Aseel Nsaif Jasim Al-Ahbab
Ehtesham Baig
Matthew Banasch
Julian Egbert John Barnbrook
Fraser Bebbington
Marie-Eve B lang r
Shachar Ben-Zeev
Garrett Benson
Landon Berger
Derek Boechler
Carl- ric Bouchard
Amir Bouzari
Russell Brown
Myles Cassidy
Ian Chan
Jasmin Charbonneau
Tarek Chbat
Melissa Chin
Chiaw Chiu
Eugene Choo
Yaroslava Chtompel
Jane Colish
Catherine Cournoyer
 tienne Couture
Jason Cronje
Cecilia De Guzman
Braden Dulong
Scott Else

Christopher Farlinger
Claire Fast
Kelly Fedoruk
Tyler Fraser
Jordan Gagnon
Jason Gallant
Jaclyn Gilbert
Yehoshua (Josh) Gleicher
Denis Goguen
David Goodick
Steven Green
Kevin Gregg
Brian Gregson
Yuqi Gu
Luis Herrera
Mark Hindle
Syed (Zia) Hoda
Darryl Hoffer
Alexander Huang
Amanda Jasudavisius
Mathew Kiberd
Nicole King
Alexandra (Sandy) Kisilevsky
Grace Kong
Andrea Kreitz
Karmen Krol
Mahmoud Labib
Karim Ladha
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Jei Eung Park
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CAS is your National Society, and your renowned colleagues understand the value of maintaining membership throughout their careers. Be a part of this established group – access your special offer today!

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Register as a CAS Active member and get two years for the price of one!
Pay only 50% of regular fees per year for the first two years.

Please contact Pascal Lalonde at membership@cas.ca, or call 416-480-0602 ext 18.

www.cas.ca

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Wojciech Dobkowski

Paul Doiron

Joseph Downie

Scott Drysdale

Robert Elliott

Tobias Everett

Ivor Fleming

William Flexer

Elaine Forestell

Susan French

Sylvain Gagné

Susan Galgay

Michael Gallagher

Adrian Gelb

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Pirjo Manninen

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Andrew Maykut

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Patti Murphy

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Jacques Picard

Bruce Ramsey

Erin Ray

Desigen Reddy

Dennis Reid

John Riendl

Edwin Roberts

Julien Roy-Blais

Guylaine Séguin

Subash Sethi

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COMPETENCE BY DESIGN AND MILESTONES AND EPAS...OH MY!

FOLLOWING THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Dr Robert Anderson, Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Dr H el ene Pellerin, Universit e Laval

Dr Reuben Eng, University of Calgary

Why is it that the struggling learner gets all the attention but the stars and the average learners are left to fend for themselves? Why do we "pass" residents on our rotations when we have little information about what they can do, but rather that there were "no red flags"? Why is it acceptable to write "read more" on an evaluation and think that we are facilitating learning?

Questions like these plague medical educators and are among the reasons that medical education in Canada is moving to competency-based medical education (CBME). Anesthesiologists across the country are pioneers in this endeavour, as the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Anesthesiology program is one of the first, and has the largest cohort of learners to transition to "Competence By Design" (CBD), the Royal College's version of CBME.

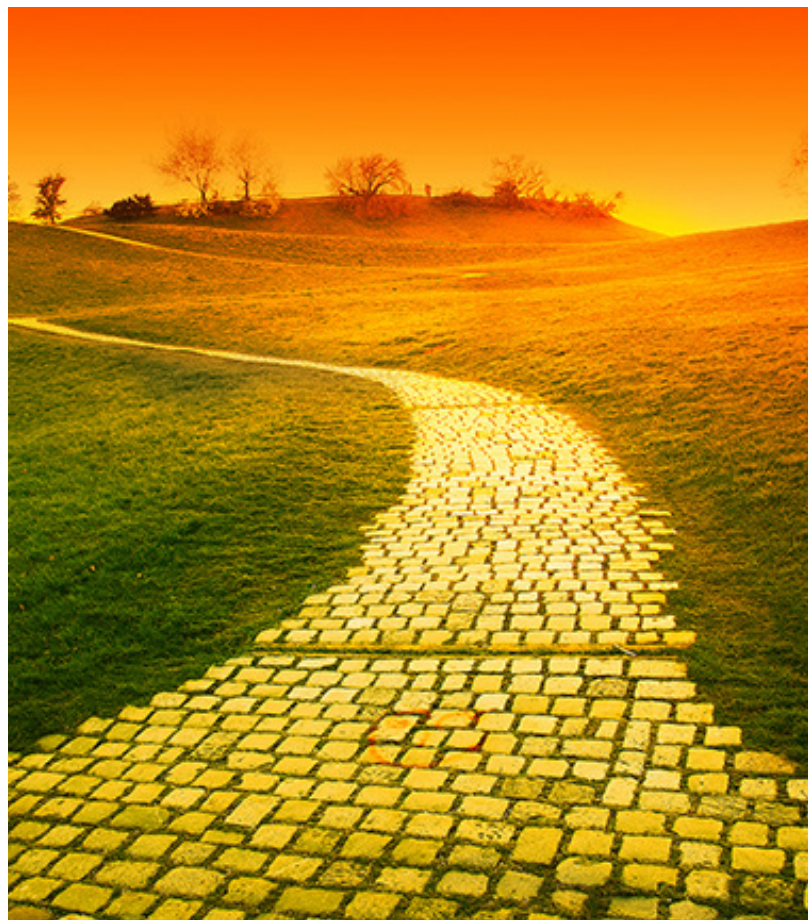
CBME is about raising the bar for all: ensuring competence, but teaching for excellence. Canadian training programs have long been envied as international leaders. That is not to say that we cannot do better.

Transitioning to CBME is a strategy to deal with many of the areas that we can improve. Fundamentally, it is about moving from organizing a training program from time-based blocks, to a system where a learner progresses by demonstrating an ability to do a unit of work safely, thoughtfully, and capably. Along with revamping the training schedule into "stages of training" instead of PGY levels, there are a number of important changes:

- Front-line faculty providing frequent, specific **workplace-based assessments** that are low stakes and not "pass/fail". They are focused on coaching for a particular task;
- **Comprehensive portfolio review** by a competency committee at least twice a year to provide feedback on an **individualized learning plan** and to decide on progression in the program; and
- **Learner ownership** over assessments and progression facilitated by a transparent map of competencies and clear goals of training.

The key enabler of this transition has been the creation of a comprehensive set of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). These are "tasks of our profession" that, over time, a learner can do independently. A tangible example for Anesthesiology is the management of labour analgesia for normal pregnancy. This is clearly a task we "entrust" to relatively junior learners. With this new paradigm and with rigorous documentation of multiple observations of each specific task, we will have evidence that residents have earned that trust, and they should be able to progress in their training in a better customized fashion through improved feedback and coaching. For the Royal College CBD program, there are nearly 90 EPAs that are mapped to four different stages of training, which serve to guide the learner through their five years.

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It must be emphasized that these EPAs are simply a clearer definition of the minimum standard used to organize the training program. Residents will target mastery and excellence in performance.

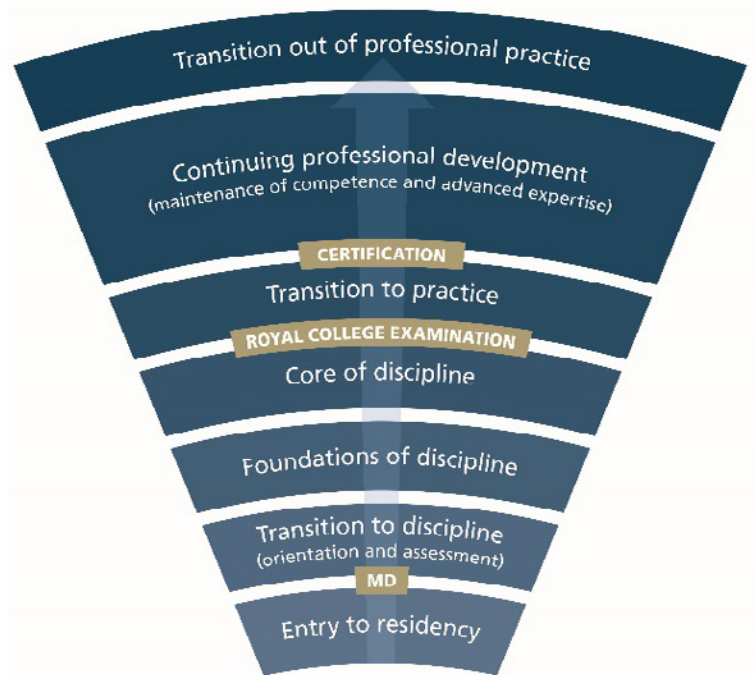
What does this mean for us?

For the frontline anesthesiologist who supervises learners, it means providing at least one piece of authentic feedback to the resident each day and documenting it. For the scholar, it is an opportunity of a century to explore how we can assess learners, provide faculty development, and make thoughtful decisions regarding better progression. For learners, it means an improved trajectory of learning in a more efficient and thoughtful system, whether they are struggling or excelling. Finally, for patients it means a safer system that encourages closer supervision and documentation of progress toward independence. Further, it means creating a habit of seeking out authentic feedback on performance and integrating it into practice, one that will carry into the career of the practising anesthesiologist and improve patient outcomes overall!

Just like pioneering, this change will not be simple but it is important. The EPAs will need modification over time, based on the feedback of everyone involved—including you! The training schedules will need to be changed thoughtfully. There will be a number of things that won't be perfect from the start, but it will be better, and our patients will thank us!

For more information, go to www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/cbd/competence-by-design-cbd-e

CBD Competence Continuum



COMPETENCY-BASED FAMILY PRACTICE ANESTHESIA TRAINING IN CANADA

Dr Clinton Wong, University of British Columbia
Dr Robert Anderson, Northern Ontario School of Medicine

While the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) embarks on its journey toward Competence by Design, The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) has already made great strides toward competency-based education through the “Triple C” curriculum. Starting in 2017, the Family Practice Anesthesia (FPA) programs will also be integrating competency-based medical education (CBME) into their programs.

In 1988, the Webber Report, which arose from broadly representational meetings, created educational objectives designed to prepare family physicians to deliver anesthesia services. These educational objectives have been the basis of FPA training programs in Canada since that time. With the move toward CBME, they formed the springboard toward the new paradigm of “Priority Topics” and “Key Features”. Similar to Entrustable Professional Activities, priority topics define clinical problems and situations that a resident needs to **experience** in order to demonstrate competence prior to graduation. Key features identify the components of a priority topic that are essential for valid assessment.

Starting in 2013, a “Working Group on the Assessment of Competence in Family Practice Anesthesia” (with representation from the Association of Canadian University Departments of Anesthesia, the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society, the RCPSC, the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, and the FPA program directors and practitioners) developed and created this new framework. Through a formal iterative process, the working group identified 14 clinical and three generic priority topics that were validated with clinicians. (These can be found at www.cfpc.ca/uploadedFiles/Red%20Book%20English.pdf).

The priority topics were validated through a survey of nearly 200 family practice anesthesiologists (FPAs). Then, the working group created the “Key Features” of each priority topic. The goal of key features is to identify what is critical to assess in each priority topic. What are the mistakes that learners make? What is difficult to do well? What is essential to successful resolution of a problem? For example, the priority topic “the complex airway” has six key features, one of which is: “*When assessing a patient for anesthesia, identify the airway that may be difficult to manage and the stage(s) at which difficulties are expected (i.e., bag-mask ventilation, laryngoscopy, intubation, or extubation)*”. Being able to predict if an airway would be difficult and why and when in the airway management plan may run into trouble is both highly important and a common area where learners struggle. On the other hand, “doing a direct laryngoscopy” seems highly relevant but is unlikely to identify a learner who is struggling, and would not be a good focus for limited faculty resources.

The priority topics do not define the scope of practice for FPAs; instead, they represent a guide to focus the sampling of performance. Once a learner has demonstrated competence in these domains and completed the training program, they receive a Certificate of Added Competence from the CFPC.

While the CFPC and RCPSC frameworks have different labels, the role of the faculty member supervising physician training in anesthesia in Canada is the same in both streams: watch the learner closely and provide high-quality feedback on performance. For FPAs, this new process adds a robust assessment strategy to help ensure high-quality anesthesia care in the communities they serve!

References

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2. Report of the Invitational Meetings on the Training of General Practitioners/Family Physicians to provide Anaesthesia Services, Appendix B of Reports to the General Council of the Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Medical Association, Ottawa, 1988
3. www.cfpc.ca/CAC

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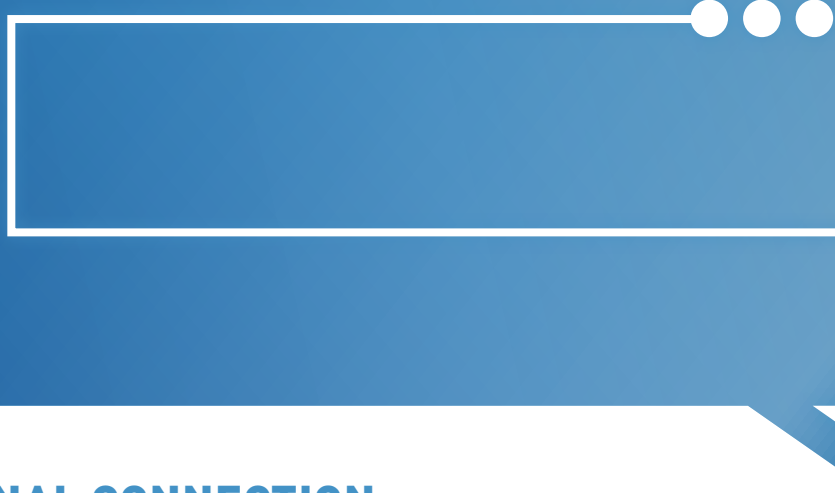
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