

Editor: Dr. D.W. Fear / Volume 7, Number 2 / Summer 1991

Greetings From the President



Dear colleagues,

It is a rare occurrence that a community hospital anaesthetist from a small centre like Kelowna becomes President of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. I thank you for your confidence and I look forward to representing our Society during the next year.

I have enjoyed working at the Executive level over the past four years, and I am pleased to report to you that our Society is strong, well organized, and growing in many areas.

Our Annual Meeting continues to grow and is one of the most popular anaesthesia meetings in North America. We employ a fulltime meeting coordinator, and the budget for the Annual Meeting alone is around half a million dollars. The recent meeting in Quebec City, the home town of our immediate Past President, Dr. Jacques Samson, was a great success and attracted 733 registrants. The scientific and social programmes drew many favourable comments and the Advanced Trauma Life Support Workshop was a first for the Society and was an interesting experience for many, myself included.

Our journal, the Canadian Journal of Anaesthesia, is also experiencing growth, mainly due to an increase in the number of Canadian submissions. You will have noticed an increase in the number of issues recently. The plan is to increase the number of issues published from the six in 1989 to ten in 1992. As a bonus, the financial situation of the Journal is healthy and contributes to the general revenue of the Society.

The Society is responsible for the assessment of applications for four major research awards which are presented annually. Two further awards are planned for 1993, the 50th anniversary of the Society. The proposed awards are the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Research Recognition Award and the Dr. R.A. Gordon Career Research Award.

The growth and success of the Society would be impossible without the many hours of volunteer work donated by large numbers of our members who, throughout the year, serve on the scientific, organizational and social committees.

There are three major issues about which you should be informed:

1. Guidelines for Epidural Anaesthesia during Childbirth

From a personal perspective as a community hospital anaesthetist, I am delighted to draw your attention to the updated version of the guidelines formulated by our Committee on Standards of Practice, and approved by Council in June. This new approach goes a long way in unfettering practising anaesthetists from the "immediate availability" clause, which was neither clearly defined nor possible to always comply with (even in some teaching centres).

2. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Maintenance of Competence Project

Our Society, at the invitation of the Royal College, has agreed to participate in a pilot project to study self-reporting of Continuing Medical Education activities. This is an attempt to improve the CME available and to document involvement. You will be receiving an invitation to participate, which I encourage you to accept.

3. The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society central office

Your Executive and Council have agreed on the urgent need to relocate the headquarters of the Society. The current location is unsuitable for many reasons, including the safety of our staff, the necessity for extensive renovations to accommodate computerization and the difficulty in renting out excess space because of the location. The building has been listed for sale and alternative space is under investigation.

I invite your comments and ideas on these three issues or on any aspect of the Society's business.

In closing, I remind you of our combined meeting with the Australian Society of Anaesthetists in Brisbane in October. I look forward to meeting many of you at this important event which promises to be a most interesting cultural and scientific exchange.

Richard J. Baxter, MB, BS, FRCPC

Cardiac Interest Group Meets to Form Section

An interest group held a meeting during the Annual Meeting to discuss the formation of a Cardiac Section within the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. Dr. J. Earl Wynands chaired this luncheon meeting, which was attended by 38 CAS members. It was the consensus of those who attended the meeting that a Cardiac Section should be formed and working by the time of the next Annual Meeting, June 5-9, 1992 in Toronto. An Organizing Committee, consisting of Drs. John Murkin, Fiona Ralley, Davy Cheng and J. Earl Wynands was appointed.

Any members who administer anaesthesia for cardiac surgery and are interested in joining the Section are asked to register with the central office of the Society at the following address:

Canadian Anaesthetists' Society 187 Gerrard Street East Toronto, ON M5A 2E5

Please provide the following information: name, hospital, address, telephone number and number of cardiac anaesthetics administered per year. When the registry is adequate in size, individuals will be contacted by the committee to solicit further

Dialogue Among Allied Health Professions Continues

Introduction

The Committee on Allied Health Professions (CAHP) is a standing committee of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society (CAS). The Terms of Reference of the committee require that the CAS provide representation to specific allied health professional organizations, namely, the Canadian Society of Respiratory Technology (CSRT), the Canadian Society of Clinical Perfusion (CSCP) and Emergency Medical Technology (EMT), which has no national body for certification/licensure. Historically, the purpose of representation is to provide coordination with and development of professional advancement within these organizations.

Respiratory Therapy

The CAS has had close ties with the CSRT since its inception in 1964, when the CAS was involved with the development of the initial constitution for the CSRT. This involvement with the CSRT has continued through membership, by members of the CAS, on the Medical Advisory Board of the CSRT and on the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Conjoint Committee for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Respiratory Therapy. In addition, a member of the CAS (Dr. Chris Soder) has been instrumental in forming, and is the first chairman of the Canadian Board of Respiratory Care (CHRC), a separate organization dedicated to setting and administering national final certification examinations in French and English. The result of the efforts of the CSRT board and the CBRC is that there is national reciprocity for individuals certified by the CBRC and international reciprocity with the US Society of Respiratory Therapy for the Part I and II examintions.

The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, through the Medical Advisory Board of the CSRT, together with representatives from the Canadian Thoracic Society, the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Canadian Critical Care Society, have been developing advanced post-graduate programmes for certified respiratory therapists. These programmes include advanced certification in Adult and Neonatal Intensive Care, Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics and Anaesthesia. The CSRT has worked closely with its medical advisors and their societies in drafting the curricula for these programmes and has taken special note of guidelines such as the document "Anaesthesia Technicians - Description of Duties" accepted by the Council of the CAS in June of 1990. The final draft of the curriculum for the post-graduate programmes in Anaesthesia should be completed by September 1991.

The Michener Institute in Toronto has been working closely with an Anaesthesia Technology Curriculum Advisory Committee, drawn from hospitals in Toronto and southwestern Ontario, and has been guided by

both the CSRT curriculum and by the document "Anaesthesia Technicians - Description of Duties" in the development of their curriculum. It is anticipated that this advanced programme will be in place for the first 6 students by early 1992. This pilot programme will be 26 weeks duration and will include 12 weeks of didactic teaching and 14 weeks of clinical teaching at the hospitals involved with the development of the programme. Similar programmes are planned for Cariboo College in Kamloops and for the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary, but development is not as advanced as at the Michener Institute, due to delays in receiving government funding,

The situation in Quebec is slightly different. Anaesthesia training has been an integral part of the curriculum at the undergraduate level for the last 15 years. The programme has a duration of about 25 weeks, of which 15 are didactic and 10 are clinical. At a postgraduate level, additional educational opportunities are presented to respiratory therapists. These options include, for example, a course in paediatric anaesthesia of a duration of 30 hours, one of which was recently given in Montreal.

Clinical Perfusion

The Canadian Society of Clinical Perfusion (CSCP) was incorporated under the Canadian Corporations Act as a professional Society on September 20, 1989. The document entitled "The Role of the Clinical Perfusionist in Canada", which outlines the objectives of the CSCP, was endorsed by the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society in June of 1990. In the same year, the document also received endorsement from the Canadian Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society and the CMA.

The CSCP immediately set out to establish a certifying process for Canadian perfusionists. On October 16, 1990 the first Canadian National Certification Examination for Clinical Perfusion was held in Halifax,

1991-1992 Members of Executive and Council

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Nova Scotia. The CAS was actively involved in the establishment and evaluation of the results of this examination and officially endorses the examination. Prior to the establishment of this Canadian certification process, the American Board of Clinical Perfusion served as the certifying body for Canada.

Currently there are 138 perfusionists listed with the CSCP: 108 have received certification, 15 are in the examination process and 15 are students or are graduates undergoing assessment to determine their eligibility to write the examination.

Cardiovascular Perfusion Technology is a post-diploma programme. The usual preliminary qualification is graduation from a 2- or 3- year health science programme. The education portion of the program is a minimum of 12 months and is structured so that students can meet the didactic and clinical programmes. The clinical experience requires 50 adult and 15 paediatric perfusions. There are now two schools of Cardiovascular Perfusion Technology in Canada: the Michener Institute in Toronto, Ontario, which has been in operation for many years, and, more recently, Cariboo College in Kamloops, British Columbia. Each school has affiliated hospitals which provide the clinical portion of the programme. Both schools and all affiliated hospitals require accreditation by the Advisory Committee on Cardiovascular Perfusion Technology to the Committee on Allied Medical Education of the CMA, as do all applications for new affiliated hospitals or new programmes. The CAS has representation on this committee.

Cariboo College has also developed a means by which on-the-job-trained perfusionists may be credited for the skills they have developed working as perfusionists. This programme is referred to as "The Clinical Challenge Examination". The purpose of this process is to ensure practising perfusionists have achieved an adequate level of knowledge and clinical competence to work effectively and safely.

Currently there is a shortage of perfusionists in Canada. This shortage is the result of a rapidly increasing demand for perfusion services for expanding cardiac surgical programmes and for new programmes outside of the operating room setting (e.g. ECMO). Emphasis is being placed on the expansion of programs to increase the number of appropriately trained and certified perfusionists to meet this increasing demand for perfusion services.

> I. White, F. Burrows, L. Nugent, P. Limoges

Editor's Note: due to space constraints, the second part of this article will follow in the next issue. Division reports will also appear at that time.

Paediatric Anaesthesia Section Constituted

With the encouragement and approval of the Council of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, a Section of Paediatric Anaesthesia was formed at the Annual Meeting in Quebec City. Anaquest sponsored the breakfast session, which was coordinated by Drs. Louis Fournier and Larry Roy.

Bylaws for the Section were adopted. The Section was formed for the purpose of promoting a high standard of paediatric anaesthesia in Canada through:

• Provision of or assistance with the education programmes at the Annual Meeting of the CAS;

 Fostering exchanges of information, staff and trainees between departments of paediatric anaesthesia;

 Promoting the study of patterns of practice of, and outcomes following anaesthesia for children; and

• Advising on the setting of minimum standards for training for, and the practice of, paediatric anaesthesia.

 An Executive of the Section was elected for a two-year term, as follows: Chair:

Dr. Gerald Goresky

Alberta Children's Hospital,

Calgary, AB

Vice-Chair:

Dr. John Muir Izaak Walton Killam Children's Hospital, Halifax, NS

Secretary-Treasurer:

Dr. Elliot Rhine

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa, ON Members-at-Large: Dr. Pierre Limoges Ste-Justine Hospital, Montreal, PQ Dr. Suzanne Ullyot Children's Hospital of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB

With the formation of this new Section of the CAS, it is hoped that the Section meetings will provide a forum for the exchange of information and for the discussion of problems common to paediatric anaesthesia. As with other Sections of the Society, meetings will be planned to enhance participation in the scientific sessions of the Annual Meeting. As a result, liaison with the CAS Committee on Scientific Affairs will be ongoing.

CARDIAC INTEREST GROUP continued from page 1

membership data and suggestions for a Cardiac Section meeting at next year's Annual Meeting.

Topics for discussion at this first official meeting will be submitted to the Organizing Committee for consideration. A programme will be circulated prior to the meeting. Through discussion in small groups, members of the Section will be able to exchange views on problem areas with their peers in cardiac anaesthesia.

Enthusiasm for forming the Section is high and the Organizing Committee is optimistic that members with an interest in cardiac anaesthesia will respond to this excellent opportunity to be involved with the evolution of a vital anaesthesia subspecialty.

Recommendations Regarding Epidural Analgesia

Since publication of the guidelines for epidural analgesia in the September 1986 issue of the CAS Newsletter, experience has shown that the incidence of major complications associated with continuous low-dose epidural analgesia is extremely low.

Consequently, it is not necessary for an anaesthetist to remain physically present or be immediately available during maintenance of continuous infusion epidural analgesia provided:

1. an appropriate protocol for the management of these epidurals is in place;

2. an anaesthetist can be contacted for the purposes of advice and direction. In contrast to continuous infusion epidural analgesia, bolus injection of local anaesthetic into the epidural space can be associated with immediate life-threatening complications.

- In recognition of this, the CAS recommends that:
 When a bolus dose of local anaesthetic is injected into the epidural space, an anaesthetist must be available to intervene appropriately should any complication
- arise.

The intent of the phrase "available to intervene appropriately" is that individual departments of anaesthesia shall make their own determination with regard to availability and appropriateness. This determination must be made after each individual department of anaesthesia has considered the possible risks of bolus injection of local anaesthetic and also the methods of dealing with any emergency situation that might arise from the performance of the procedure in their facility.







Dr. John Richards, Mrs. Etelka Richards; Dr. Richard Baxter.

President of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists charmed by Canada

Dr. John Richards and his wife Etelka enjoyed their visit to Quebec City and participated in both scientific and social events. Dr. Richards hopes to welcome many Canadian delegates to Australia in October during the combined meeting of the ASA and the CAS.



Dr. David Bevan, Editor-in-Chief, CJA; Dr. Richard Baxter, President, CAS, dressed to tackle the Australian bush.

Thanks to. . .

The 48th Annual Meeting, held June 21-25, 1991 in Quebec City, was a tremendous success. 733 delegates, many of who brought accompanying adults and children, attended the meeting. The commercial exhibit sold out very quickly and 69 companies occupied the 94 booths available.

Special thanks are extended to many individuals and groups. Dr. Robert Byrick, past Chair of the Committee on Scientific Affairs, must be commended for his excellent selection of the scientific content of the meeting. His hard work has not, however, gone unrecognized and, as he hands over the Chairship of this committee to Dr. Diane Biehl, he should feel pride in the obvious growth and maturation of this vital component of the Annual Meeting.

The Committee on Local Arrangements, under the able guidance of Dr. Pierre Lapointe, also deserves praise and thanks. The social programme gave visitors an excellent opportunity to experience the many facets of Quebec City and its surroundings. In addition, the local team must be thanked for their efforts in coordinating the very popular workshop on Advanced Trauma Life Support.

The staff of the central office, who ensured the success of the meeting, must not be forgotten. This team has worked tirelessly and capably and deserves the sincere thanks of the Society. The individuals involved were: Ms. Ann Andrews, Ms. Angela Fritsch, Ms. Kara Kieferle, Ms. Jane Leckey and Mr. Tim Nast. Ms. Kerry McClenaghan and Miss Ann Wright, who were again "volunteered" to help, must also be commended, as must Ms. Vanessa Pullen, who looked after the central office while everyone else was in Quebec.



A display by Dr. Robert McBurney on Canadian efforts in the Persian Gulf conflict.

HIGHLIGHTS

Winners of the 1991 Research Awards

The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Research Award of \$20,000 was won by Dr. Karen Brown of the Montreal Children's Hospital for her project "Disturbances in ventilatory control mechanisms during halothane anaesthesia in infants and children."

The David S. Sheridan Canadian Research Award of \$10,000 was presented to Dr. Bruno Bissonnette of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto for his work entitled "Does nonshivering thermogenesis exist under halothane anaesthesia in infants and children?"

The I.C.I. Pharma Canadian Research Award in Anaesthesia of \$5,000 was presented to Dr. Neal Badner of the University Hospital in London, Ontario for his project "Optimum concentration of epidural bupivacaine mixed with fentanyl for postoperative analgesia."

The Dr. Paul Janssen Canadian Research Fellowship Award of \$40,000 was won by Dr. Joel Parlow of Queen's University in Kingston for his work entitled "Low pressure baroreceptor during the perioperative period of major vascular surgery."

The winners deserve praise for the high quality of their research. The primary objective of these awards is to encourage young investigators to perform anaesthesia-related research in Canada. In order to ensure that this objective is met, however, it is essential that members of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society continue to support anaesthesia research by making tax-deductible donations to the CAS Research Fund.



Dr. Karen Brown accepting the CAS Research Award from Dr. Douglas Craig.

Winners of the 1991 Residents' Competition

Dr. Brian Kavanagh; Dr. Liette Isabel; Dr. Martin Stockwell.

- 1st Prize:
 - Dr. Brian Kavanagh

(University of Toronto)

"New insights into the importance of arterial oxygen desaturation in patients prior to CAGB surgery"

2nd Prize:

Dr. Liette Isabel (Laval University)

"Does gastric aspiration reduce postoperative nausea and vomiting in outpatients?"

3rd Prize:

- Dr. Martin Stockwell
- (University of Saskatchewan)
- "Superior laryngeal nerve block and the airway protective reflexes"
- The Society congratulates these individuals.

It is to be hoped that the experience in research gained during residency training will provide a significant basis for further projects throughout their careers in anaesthesia practice.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Videos of Royal College Lecture Available

Videotapes of the 1991 Royal College Lecture, presented by Dr. Marcel Boulanger, Medical Director of the Cardiology Institute of Montreal, will be available for purchase if demand is sufficient. A price has yet to be determined.

Dr. Boulanger's presentation, on "The Image of the Profession," was very well received by all who attended. The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society is delighted to be able to provide members with a permanent memento of Dr. Boulanger's skills as both orator and physician.



Dr. Marcel Boulanger, 1991 Royal College Lecturer.



The thrill of victory.

Fun Run Results

The winners of the Fun Run around the Plains of Abraham are as follows:

- 3 km Tim Bell Shirley Laney
- 6 km David Cohen Ramona Haskell
- 9 km Albert Christ Fiona Campbell

Sincere thanks go out to Critikon, sponsors of the event, to the Red and Black Athletics Club of Laval University and their liaison, Mr. Richard Chouinard, who hosted it, and especially to Dr. Pierre Denault, local coordinator of the event.

Art Exhibit Winners

The art exhibits were divided into four categories. The results, according to the medium of the piece, are:

Photography:

- 1. Elizabeth McLeod, A Glimpse of Hades
- 2. Andrew Davies, The Little and the Big
- 3. Joy Dobson, Harbour Light

Painting:

- 1. J. Crompton, Fundy Coast
- 2. Elaine Binns, Pumpkin
- 3. J. Crompton, Dover School House
- Cartoons:
- 1. S.M. Yentis
- Craft Work:
- 1. G.K. Bilkhu



Beating the odds on Fun Night.



Welcome to Ms. Angela Fritsch

Ms. Angela Fritsch, Associate Director of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, has been involved in the Canadian publishing field for over ten years. As manager of the Journals Programme at the University of Toronto Press she acquired extensive knowledge of journal management, including production, as well as expertise in general administration. Her forte is financial management. She has brought great enthusiasm for the scholarly association environment to the Society and looks forward to a long and fruitful association.



The CAS Newsletter is published quarterly by the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society and distributed free of charge to all members. It is available in French upon request (SCA bulletin de nouvelles). Letters to the Editor, articles, and suggestions for articles are invited.

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Dr. F. Burrows, Dr. G. Goresky, Dr. P. Limoges, Dr. L. Nugent, Dr. I. White, Dr. J.E. Wynands Send inquiries, correspondence and

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Programmes Available

For individuals interested in attending either the 10th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in The Hague, The Netherlands, June 12-19, 1992 or the Joint Meeting of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists/Canadian Anaesthetists' Society in Brisbane, Australia, October 12-16, 1991, please note that preliminary/provisional programmes for both events are available.

Please address your requests to: Canadian Anaesthetists' Society 187 Gerrard Street East Toronto, ON M5A 2E5 Telephone: (416) 923-1449 Fax: (416) 944-1228

Opportunity Available for Volunteer Anaesthetist

A volunteer anaesthetist is required for St. Jude Hospital, St. Lucia, West Indies. St. Jude Hospital has 110 beds and provides medical, surgical, maternity and pediatric services for the southern half of the country. A onemonth period is strongly recommended for first-time volunteers. Paediatric experience is preferred but not essential. Interested individuals can call or write Sister Annette Wong, (809) 454-6041, St. Jude Hospital, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, West Indies.

1992 Research Awards Applications Available

Application forms for the 1992 research awards are now available from the CAS central office. The following awards are available:

The I.C.I. Pharma Canadian Research Award in Anaesthesia (\$5,000) The David S. Sheridan Canadian Research Award (\$10,000) The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Research Award (\$20,000) The Dr. Paul Janssen Canadian Research Fellowship Award in Anaesthesia (\$40,000)

For applications and further information, please contact the CAS central office at:

187 Gerrard Street East Toronto, ON M5A 2E5 (416) 923-1449

Upcoming Meetings

Ontario Medical Association Section of Anaesthesia 1991 Meeting September 19-21, 1991 Thunder Bay, Ontario

For information: Dr. George Doig Chair, OMA Section of Anaesthesia 1991 Meeting % McKellar General Hospital 325 S. Archibald Street Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1G6 Telephone: (807) 622-0601

Australian Society of Anaesthetists/ Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Combined Scientific Meeting Brisbane, Australia October 12-16, 1991

For information: Dr. J.P. Bradley Conference Chairman PO Box 1280 Milton, Queensland Australia 4064 Telephone: (7) 369-0477 University of Michigan Medical School Fourth Annual Symposium on the Difficult Airway and Fiberoptics Ann Arbor, Michigan October 20-21, 1991

For information: Ms. Julie Jones Townsley Center for Continuing Education Department of Post-graduate Medicine University of Michigan Medical School P.O. Box 1157 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-9869 Telephone: (313) 763-1400

American Society of Anesthesiologists 1991 Annual Meeting San Francisco, California October 26-30, 1991

For information: American Society of Anesthesiologists 515 Busse Highway Park Ridge, IL 60068-3189 Telephone: (708) 825-5586 World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists 10th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists June 12-19, 1992 The Hague, The Netherlands

For information: Congress Secretariat Holland Organizing Centre 16 Lange Voorhout 2514 EE The Hague The Netherlands Telephone: (+31-70) 365.78.50

Join Us In San Francisco

The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society and the Canadian Journal of Anaesthesia will share a booth at the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Annual Meeting, which will be held October 26-30, 1991, in San Francisco, California. Members are urged to drop by the booth and to encourage non-members to become acquainted with both our primary publication and with the various benefits of membership in the CAS. Look for booth #631!

In collaboration with the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, Burroughs Wellcome is proud to continue its commitment to medical education in the field of anaesthesia through the exclusive sponsorship of the "ASA Patient Safety Program" videotape series.

Please contact your Burroughs Wellcome representative for further details.

