A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2019 was a year of growth for the Association and we give thanks to our many volunteers and partners for the significant impact they have made on the Association, the GI community, and patients.

We continue to close the gap in quality of endoscopy skills with the SEE™ program. Consisting of three programs; Colonoscopy Skills Improvement, Train-the-Endoscopy-Trainer, and Endoscopic Polypectomy Improvement Course; SEE™ continues to gain momentum with over 18 centres across Canada and over 200 endoscopists trained in 2019.

The CAG continues to produce timely and relevant Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs). In 2019 CAG committees had five CPGs published in journals including as Gastroenterology, Annals of Internal Medicine, and the JCAG. Clinical Affairs has been working on a new, more robust, process for reviewing conflict of interest, ensuring that CAG CPGs continue to be held to an extremely high standard.

As our membership grows, we are working hard to ensure that we continue to meet your needs. This year we are creating a membership engagement plan which will provide a process for increasing membership engagement. In particular we want to identify the unique needs of our trainee members to provide relevant content and support. A major initiative which is gaining momentum is the Women’s Mentorship program, matching trainees or new Gastroenterologists with someone further along in their career in order to provide them with guidance and career advice.

This year we have had to put some plans on hold as we are experiencing an unprecedented global situation with the spread and impact of the COVID-19 virus. The CAG is working diligently to support its members, our colleagues, and the members of our communities. Our members are performing critical research to identify the impact of COVID-19 on GI diseases, producing critical guidance to assist with the resumption of endoscopic activities, and producing important virtual educational content so our members continue to have access to learning. I am very proud of the work our members are doing, the impact of which will be felt for years.

Kevin Waschke, MD, CM, FRCPC, CAGF, FASGE
MEMBERSHIP

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGULAR</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINEE</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUR MISSION

The CAG exists to optimize Members’ ability to be successful in the Digestive Health and Diseases field. Specifically, the benefits to our Members will be to ensure physicians are provided with the following opportunities:

- continuing professional development to further excellence in the practice of gastroenterology
- maintenance of certification
- programs to improve and/or learn new skills to provide better patient care
- up-to-date information including programs such as quality assurance and clinical practice guidelines
- dialogue with government and regulatory bodies to have the appropriate number of trained gastroenterologists to meet the health needs of Canadians
- a better understanding and increased awareness about gastroenterology and gastrointestinal health and disease states
- appropriate access to practice resources

In addition, the CAG seeks to ensure that researchers are provided the following opportunities:

- access to stable and continued funding and enhanced career opportunities for established researchers to expand gastroenterology and gastrointestinal sciences research
- access to stable funding for trainees to ensure continued excellence in Canadian gastroenterology research training and gastrointestinal sciences, research and practice
PAST 12 MONTHS IN REVIEW

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

The *Journal of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (JCAG)* had a very successful year in 2019. Out of 110 submissions 68% were accepted for publication. It takes, on average, 53 days from submission to final decision. The *JCAG* was pleased to re-establish the Thomson-Williams award, which recognizes the best paper, and runner-up, as published in the journal.

Thank you to Des Leddin, Matthew Carroll, et al for providing an update to the Gastroenterology Practitioner and Trainee Numbers in Canada. This important report contributes to health care planning in order for patients to receive timely access to GI healthcare.

The CAG was pleased to provide our leadership with another informative topic at the annual Fall Forum Leadership Meeting. Dr. Jillian Horton presented a workshop which focused on Physician Wellness and Mindful Practice, valuable content to support the continued health and wellbeing of our physicians.

CLINICAL AFFAIRS

Since the last annual report, CAG has published Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) for pediatric Crohn’s disease (*Gastroenterology/JCAG*), luminal Crohn’s disease (*CGH/JCAG*), IBS (*JCAG*), bile acid diarrhea (*CGH/JCAG*), and upper GI bleeding (*Ann Intern Med*). In addition, position papers published in JCAG include After Hours Endoscopy Cart, Biosimilars, and Cannabis. A robust new Conflict of Interest Policy for CAG CPGs has been developed, and follows the Guidelines International Network (G.I.N.) principles. This new policy will ensure CAG’s rigorously developed guidelines continue to be viewed with high quality and integrity. The CAG Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have now expanded to include five (Intestinal Ultrasound, Canadian Screening for CRC Research Network, Canadian Neurogastroenterology Network, Nutrition, Therapeutic Endoscopy) who support professional development and deepening of networks in focused areas of gastroenterology practice and research.

EDUCATION AFFAIRS

It was another busy year for Education Affairs with ten new Co-developed projects, ten accredited Physician Organization programs, and six Re-accreditations. As well, we accredited the CDDW™ meeting (and developed the annual GI Residents and Scholars Courses) and the CAG Fall Forum Leadership Summit. We launched 18 new Podcast episodes in 2019; the CAG website Podcast page averages 9,000 visits monthly!

July 2019 marked the implementation of Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) in GI. There are 15 EPAs total in 4 Stages: Transition to Discipline, Foundations, Core and Transition to Practice. There are 153 Milestone Observations required for Adult GI Residents and 99 Milestone Observations required for Pediatric GI Residents.
The Skills Enhancement for Endoscopy™ (SEE™) Program continues to be in high demand. During the past year, 50 Colonoscopy Skills Improvement (CSI), 10 Train-the-Endoscopy-Trainer (TET), and 2 Endoscopic Polypectomy Improvement (EPIC) courses were held, for a total of 240 endoscopists provided with training. We are pleased to announce that three addition SEE™ Centres were opened in 2019 bringing the total number to 18 across Canada. The SEE™ Program Faculty has also grown to 34 certified members and 7 in-training.

QUALITY AFFAIRS

The C-GRS program continues to expand across Canada with over 200 sites (hospitals and clinics) and over 525 users. Work continued on the QI interactive workbook as a companion to C-GRS. Efforts are underway to try to establish a national, standardised, endoscopy reporting template. An IBD-GRS has been developed and is currently being piloted in a number of sites across the country.

Quality Affairs is also collaborating with Crohn’s and Colitis Canada to use innovative discrete choice methodology to elicit patient preferences for quality elements in delivery of their care in the area of inflammatory bowel disease.

RESEARCH AFFAIRS

The CAG welcomed 30 trainees from across Canada to participate in the Research Topics in GI Disease meeting which was held prior to CDDW™. Support of the CAG Research Program is a key element of CAG’s mandate and is essential for a vibrant association to lead the way in healthcare delivery. This year the CAG proudly provided awards to over 15 trainees in our Resident Research Awards, Summer Studentship Awards, and PhD Scholarships.
CURRENT & UPCOMING INITIATIVES

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS
In an effort to continually meet the evolving needs of our members, the CAG office is conducting a full clean-up and review of its member database. The outcome will be a simplified membership renewal, more effective outreach to our members, and a more impactful CAG!

The newly formed GIWomenCAN! is developing a comprehensive series of initiatives to increase opportunities for women in gastroenterology with respect to closing the leadership gap, owning the podium, and creating a framework focusing on physician wellness. The successful Women’s Mentorship program currently has over 25 active mentor/mentee pairs and welcomes interested gastroenterologists and trainees who identify as female to apply. We look forward to the launch of their comprehensive website later in 2020.

CLINICAL AFFAIRS
The Immunization in IBD CPG will be submitted for publication this summer, with the content subsequently being used to populate an IBD extension for the CANImmunize app. This tool has been developed for patients with IBD in order to help track their immunizations and receive key notifications. In addition, a joint CPG is in progress between the CAG and ACG for Periprocedural Management of Antiplatelets and Anticoagulants – a pioneering effort to pave the way for future CPG collaboration/development between Associations. As we begin new guidelines this year, CAG will also continue to train and develop the new GRADE experts, ensuring that we have a team of methodologists to continue producing high quality CPGs.

EDUCATION AFFAIRS
We continue to work on our CPD Provider accreditation application for the RCPSC. The CAG is also developing an online curriculum which we hope will be available to the membership later in 2020. This curriculum will address various aspects from clinical to basic research topics. More to come soon.

QUALITY AFFAIRS
The Quality Practice Guidelines Committee are working on a process for selecting and developing quality guidelines. The committee is looking forward to initiating their first quality practice guideline in 2020/2021. In collaboration with Clinical Affairs, the committee will work to update the current Choosing Wisely Canada lists and to develop new ones.

RESEARCH AFFAIRS
The Research Affairs committee will be submitting an application for the CIHR Programmatic grant, which will allow the CAG to work with our partners to create a multi faceted training program for Canadian GI trainees.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

CAG Members as Owners

Board of Directors
Responsible for managing the properties and activities of the CAG

CDHF
Charitable foundation of the CAG

Audit Committee
Responsible for annual audit requirements

Nominations Committee
Screen slate of potential Board and Committee Members

Operations Committee
Responsible for day-to-day management

President’s Council
Provide advice to Board from time to time

Administrative Affairs
Admissions
Equity & Diversity
Ethics
Publications/Archives

Clinical Affairs
Endoscopy
Pediatrics
Practice Affairs
Regional Representation

Education Affairs
CAG Podcasts
GRIT
Maintenance of Certification
Program Directors Scholars

Quality Affairs
Innovation
Quality Practice Guidelines
Reporting Skills
Enhancement

Research Affairs
Research Topics
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**
Kevin Waschke, 2020-2022
MD, CM, RFCPC, CAGF, FASGE
McGill University
Montréal, QC

**PRESIDENT ELECT**
Paul Moayyedi, 2020-2022
BSc, MB, ChB, PhD, MPH, FRCP, FRCPC, AGAF, FACG
McMaster University
Hamilton, ON

**PAST PRESIDENT**
Nicola Jones, 2020-2022
PhD, FRCPC
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

**VP SECRETARY**
Laura Sly, 2020-2023
BSc, PhD, MSc
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

**VP TREASURER**
Elena Verdú, (2017-2021)
MD, PhD
McMaster University
Hamilton, ON
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

VP ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS
Louis Liu
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

VP CLINICAL AFFAIRS
Grigorios Leontiadis
McMaster University
Hamilton, ON

VP EDUCATION AFFAIRS
Charles Ménard
Université de Sherbrooke
Sherbrooke, QC

VP QUALITY AFFAIRS
Geoff Nguyen
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

VP RESEARCH AFFAIRS
Nathalie Perreault
Université de Sherbrooke
Sherbrooke, ON
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOARD COMMITTEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATIONS COMMITTEE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUDIT COMMITTEE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANADIAN DIGESTIVE HEALTH FOUNDATION</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The administrative aspects of the CAG are some of the most critical, supporting the structure and ensuring the viability and growth of the organization. The four sub-committees that comprise Administrative Affairs reflect the Association’s philosophy of accountability, transparency and effective communication.

ADMISSIONS encourage membership and reviews/approves applications for membership from qualified professionals.

DIVERSITY & EQUITY identifies important issues related to equity and visible minorities for discussion and action.

ETHICS establishes/updates guidelines for ethical standards in patient care, research, education, and industry interaction, and increases understanding of biomedical ethics in gastroenterology.

PUBLICATIONS/ARCHIVES is responsible for all the CAG publications/communications including the website and advising the journal editor, and oversees the archives.
With gastroenterologists and their trainees comprising the largest group within the membership, Clinical Affairs is at the core of the Association. Clinical Affairs and its Chairs enhance the CAG’s ability to respond quickly to the concerns of practitioners, such as lobbying governmental agencies as well as development of Clinical Practice Guidelines.

**ENDOSCOPY** represents the CAG on matters relating to endoscopy and promotes competence and training in the field, including development of credentialing guidelines in endoscopic procedures.

**PEDIATRICS** represents the interests of pediatric gastroenterologists and researchers.

**PRACTICE AFFAIRS** provides a forum to address issues relevant to clinical members of the CAG including ongoing training, knowledge dissemination, practice-related issues and Clinical Practice Guidelines.

**REGIONAL REPRESENTATION** serves as a channel of communication between the CAG and provincial/regional gastroenterology associations.
**GASTROENTEROLOGY RESIDENTS-IN-TRAINING (GRIT) COURSE** is a high-caliber, internationally recognized, annual training program for gastroenterology/hepatology residents held in association with CDDW™.

**MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC)** reviews and approves submissions for Section One and Section Three RCPSC accreditation of educational events. This committee also ensures the CAG Podcast material is peer-reviewed and educational in nature. Competence Based Medical Education (CBME) is a focus for the MOC committee.

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS** are elected via a process established by the RCPSC with the mandate of overseeing the standardization and maintenance of the quality of gastroenterology training programs in Canada.

**SCHOLARS’ PROGRAM** is an annual course preceding CDDW™ that encourages medical students and internal medicine residents to consider a career in gastroenterology.
Recognizing that resources are limited, in 2004 the CAG prioritized quality assessment initiatives in gastroenterology to ensure that limited human and other resources are optimally utilized for patient care. Quality projects grew so substantially in the following years that in 2016 the CAG restructured to make Quality Affairs its own division of Operations.

**INNOVATION** evaluates how best to develop quality metrics and assess how effective they are at improving quality.

**QUALITY PRACTICE GUIDELINES** develops quality guidelines relevant to endoscopic and clinical practice. Currently Quality Practice Guideline encompasses the two areas of endoscopy and inflammatory bowel disease.

**REPORTING** makes recommendations for content and standards related to point-of-care medical record systems that incorporate quality measures developed by Quality Affairs.

**SKILLS ENHANCEMENT** addresses issues relevant to life-long learning in gastroenterology, the main focus of which is on closing the loop with regard to quality guidelines that have been developed.
RESEARCH AFFAIRS

RESEARCH AFFAIRS

Nathalie Perreault, VP

CAG/CIHR/INDUSTRY PARTNER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Led by committee

CDDW™

Led by committee

SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS, RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARDS & PHD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Led by committee

RESEARCH TOPICS IN GI DISEASE MEETING

David Reed, Co-Chair
Samantha Gruenheid, Co-Chair

In contrast to Administrative, Clinical, Education and Quality Affairs, Research Affairs encompasses a committee of fifteen, chaired by VP, Nathalie Perreault, and is responsible for overseeing a number of key initiatives listed above. Other important initiatives include: Research Workshop Grant, Research Conference Grant, and PhD Scholarship Awards.

CAG/CIHR/INDUSTRY PARTNER RESEARCH PROGRAM is the pride of the CAG. Partners and CIHR provide 1-5 years of funding to junior clinicians and PhD scientists. The CAG appreciates the support from AbbVie for this program.

CDDW™ Research Affairs reviews approximately 300 abstracts and plans the basic science symposia and paper and poster sessions.

SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS, RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARDS & PHD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS provide key opportunities for trainee research training and experience towards establishing new researchers. The CAG appreciates the support from the Ontario Association of Gastroenterology, and IMAGINE SPOR for these award programs.

RESEARCH TOPICS IN GI DISEASE MEETING is an annual meeting held before CDDW™, where basic science and clinical trainees come together to present their research and network.
The Nominations Committee delivers a properly screened slate, as required, of potential Board members, VP Chairs of the Operations Committee, sub-committee Chairs and members according to Board-determined criteria for membership by no later than the first Board meeting of each fiscal year.
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE: RECOGNITION AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Dr. Derek McKay, University of Calgary; Dr. Stephen Collins, McMaster University; Dr. Ronald Bridges, University of Calgary; Dr. Alan Barkun, McGill University

CAGF
Dr. David Armstrong, McMaster University; Dr. Alan Barkun, McGill University; Dr. Melanie Beaton, Western University; Dr. Robert Berger, Dalhousie University; Dr. Charles Bernstein, University of Manitoba; Dr. Francois Boudreau, Université de Sherbrooke; Dr. Herbert Brill, McMaster University; Dr. Andre Buret, University of Calgary Dr. Kris Chadee, University of Calgary Dr. Martha Dirks, Université de Montréal Dr. Catherine Dubé, University of Ottawa; Dr. Samir Grover, University of Toronto; Dr. Robert Hillsden, University of Calgary; Dr. Lawrence Hookey, Queen's University; Dr. Kevan Jacobson, University of British Columbia; Dr. Nicola Jones, University of Toronto; Dr. Grigoris Leontiadis, McMaster University; Dr. Louis Liu, University of Toronto; Dr. John Marshall, McMaster University; Dr. Paul Moayyedi, McMaster University; Dr. Geoffrey Nguyen, University of Toronto; Dr. Remo Panaccione, University of Calgary; Dr. Nathalie Perreault, Université de Sherbrooke; Dr. Peter Rossos, University of Toronto; Dr. Maida Sewitch, McGill University; Dr. Harminder Singh, University of Manitoba; Dr. Laura Targownik, University of Toronto; Dr. Jill Tinmouth, University of Toronto; Dr. Bruce Vallance, University of British Columbia; Dr. Sander Veldhuyzen van Zanten, University of Alberta; Dr. Elena Verdú, McMaster University; Dr. Kevin Waschke, McGill University; Dr. Geoffrey Williams, Dalhousie University; Dr. Clarence Wong, University of Alberta; Dr. Brian Yan, Western University

VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP AWARD
Dr. Linda Rabeneck, University of Toronto

VISITING CLINICAL PROFESSORSHIP
Dr. John Marshall, McMaster University

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD
Dr. Elena Verdú, McMaster University

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARD
Dr. Jean-Eric Ghia, University of Manitoba

CIHR-INMD-CAG EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR PARTNERSHIP PRIZE
Dr. Laura Sly, University of British Columbia
YOUNG SCHOLAR IN QUALITY INNOVATION AWARD
Dr. Natasha Bollegala, University of Toronto

EXCELLENCE IN QUALITY INNOVATION AWARD
Dr. Catherine Dubé, University of Ottawa

THOMSON-WILLIAMS (JCAG)
Lawrence Hookey, Best Paper: GASTROSCOPY SHOULD COME BEFORE COLONOSCOPY USING CO2 INSUFFLATION IN SAME DAY BIDIRECTIONAL ENDOSCOPIES- A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Jill Tinmouth, Best Paper runner up: Directly mailing gFOBT kits to previous responders being recalled for colorectal cancer screening increases participation
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE: FUNDING AWARDS

EDUCATION FUNDING AWARDS

CAG-ABBVIE EDUCATION RESEARCH GRANTS
Rishad Khan and Samir Grover, University of Toronto; Thurarshen Jeyalingam and Jeffrey Mosko, University of Toronto

RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDS

CIHR-CAG FELLOWSHIP AWARD
Christian Antonio Hernandez, University of Toronto

CIHR-ABBVIE-CAG FELLOWSHIP AWARD
Ashish Marwaha, University of Toronto

PHD STUDENTSHIPS
Sabah Haq, McMaster University; Sunny Xia, University of Toronto

RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARDS
David Burnett, University of Alberta; Kriste-Kaye King-Robinson, McMaster University

IVAN BECK MEMORIAL SUMMER STUDENTSHIP AWARD
Muhammad Moolla, University of Alberta

IMAGINE SPOR-CAG SUMMER STUDENTSHIP AWARDS
Macallan King, Queen’s University; Xin Yu Yang, Université de Montréal

SUMMER STUDENTSHIP AWARDS
Sukhman Brar, Western University; ShuHua Li, University of Calgary; Matthew David Gryfe, University of Toronto; Celia Hammar, Université de Montréal; Dominique Tertigas, University of Toronto; Patrick Phu Vinh Ly, University of Toronto; Elena Lonina, McGill University

LATIN AMERICAN STUDENTSHIP
Nathalie Luisa Sousa de Oliveira Malacco, McGill University
IN MEMORIAM

The CAG family was saddened to learn of the passing of the following CAG members in 2019:

ERNEST SEIDMAN

LLOYD SUTHERLAND

RONALD WENSEL

NOEL WILLIAMS
The National office works with the Board, Operations Committee, and committees to support initiatives and achieve the goals of the Association. Central to the organization is the Executive Director, whose role involves chairing the Operations Committee, advising the Board, and strategic planning and fundraising. National office responsibilities may roughly be divided into six broad categories.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
For CDDW™ 2019, over 280 abstracts were accepted, and office staff liaised with the approximately 140 speakers and co-chairs to solidify the program which offered 86 hours of Section One accredited learning and up to 20 credits per delegate. The staff works behind the scenes to direct the conference planner and manage details on a weekly basis between the kick-off of planning each spring and the close of meeting finances the following June/July.

As an RCPSC-approved national provider of accredited gastroenterological education, the CAG annually accredits many local meetings and co-developed events.

RESEARCH
In 2020, four fellowships, ten summer studentships, and three resident research awards were awarded. The Executive Director liaises with government agencies such as CIHR and our research sponsors, and oversees the 15+ ongoing fellowships, grants and trainee research awards.

SPONSORSHIP
Since CDDW™ is run as a not-for-profit event, funds to run the Association are raised through corporate sponsorship. In 2019, ten partners (acknowledged on the final page of this report), including four BENEFACCTOR sponsors, have provided support to the CAG.

GASTROENTEROLOGY RESOURCES/ADVOCACY
The office coordinates activities related to the CAG’s digestive healthcare initiatives, which included the Quality Program – Endoscopy, the SEE™ Program, and the GI Workforce Report.

COMMITTEES
The national office provides continuous guidance and support to the Board and Operations Committee, their committees and projects, and plays an active role in over 30 administrative meetings (board, committees, sponsors, etc.) held during the week of CDDW™.

FINANCIAL
Strategic planning and fundraising efforts of the executive, Executive Director, and VP Treasurer have succeeded in raising over $2.5 million in revenue in the 2019/2020 financial period.
CONTACT US

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Paul Sinclair, paul@cag-acg.org

PROJECT MANAGER
Joanne Ardron, joanne@cag-acg.org

PROJECT MANAGER
Palma Colacino, palma@cag-acg.org

PROJECT MANAGER
Lesley Marshall, lesley@cag-acg.org

PROJECT MANAGER
Karen Sparkes, karen@cag-acg.org

1540 Cornwall Road, Suite 224
Oakville ON L6J 7W5
Phone: 888-780-0007
Local: 905-829-2504
Fax: 905-829-0242
SEE™ PROGRAM SPONSORS

Thank you to our SEE™ Program sponsors for their ongoing support.

[Logos of Olympus, Pendopharm, Pentax Medical, and Vantage Endoscopy]
THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

BENEFACTORS

AbbVie

Olympus

Pfizer

Takeda

PARTNERS

Lupin

Medtronic

P&G

MERCK

ASSOCIATES

Pendopharm