Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Sponsorship

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Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada
Vantage Endoscopy

SUPPORTERS
Shire Canada Inc.

CAG would like to recognize and thank our Corporate Sponsors as listed above. Corporate sponsorship provides funding which is essential for the day-to-day operations, inclusive of national office expenses and support for orphan programs not funded by other sources.

Research
The CAG/CIHR Industry Research Program provides research funding to promising young pre-clinical and clinical scientists working in gastrointestinal health and disease. For each fellowship and grant dollar committed by corporate partners CIHR provides matching funds. CAG would like to thank Abbott, Aptalis, the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada, Shire, Takeda, and Warner Chilcott for their vision in growing gastroenterology and gastrointestinal research in Canada.

CDDW
Canadian Digestive Diseases Week is the annual educational event of CAG, and one that would not be possible without financing from our partners. Partners may choose from various sponsorship options including basic science and clinical symposia, small group breakfast sessions, paper and poster sessions, the prestigious McKenna Lecture, research and education award lectures and the postgraduate course. The Association would like to thank all the sponsors of CDDW 2012.
President’s Message

I am excited to share with you some key accomplishments and initiatives within the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) over the past year.

The CAG Consensus Guidelines on Safety and Quality Indicators in Endoscopy were published in January, the culmination of several years’ work that continues to generate follow-up publications, such as Indicators of Safety Compromise in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, and partnerships with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) and Accreditation Canada. Several more consensus-related manuscripts are under development for publication later this year.

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Press Release – Quality and Safety in Endoscopy

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In the area of research we look forward to publishing with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) a summary of the productivity and accomplishments of fellows and grantees of the CAG/CIHR/Industry Research Program during the period of 2000-2008.

I encourage you to follow these developments and keep abreast of other CAG initiatives through the website (www.cag-acg.org).

Sincerely,

Dan Sadowski, MD, FRCPC, ABIM

Dan Sadowski, CAG President

The Past 12 Months in Review

GRS-Canada Website Launched

Formerly hosted through an arm of the U.K. Global Rating Scale (GRS) website, Canada developed and launched its own GRS website to support quality, patient-centred endoscopy in October 2011. The site currently consists of a streamlined data entry system and basic reporting features, with enhanced reporting to be available later this year. This includes providing graphical reporting of data collected in past years via the U.K. system, as well as a library of educational materials to support endoscopy quality improvements.

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Current and Upcoming Initiatives

RCPSC Innovation Award – ePortal

Last autumn CAG was presented with a RCPSC innovation award for the colonoscopy practice audit, a tool that enhances learning for endoscopists and contributes data on patient wait times. In 2012 the Association will again be presented with an Accredited CPD Provider Innovation Award, this time for its educational portal (ePortal) for physicians. The ePortal allows members to review specific topic areas, view highly rated CDDW lectures, perform self assessments, access key resource materials such as clinical practice guidelines, all while recording credits to meet their maintenance of certification requirements.

Supplementary Manuscripts from the Consensus on Safety and Quality in Endoscopy

The first supplementary manuscript from the CAG Consensus on Safety and Quality Indicators in Endoscopy – Indicators of Safety Compromise in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy – was published in February (Can J Gastroenterol 2012;26(2):71-8). Look for an article on the GRS-Canada to be submitted for publication later this year.

Report on CAG/Industry/CIHR Research Program

Further to the 2003 publication of CAG’s research program (Can J Gastroenterol 2003;17(7):437-9) the Association and CIHR are pleased to be collaborating on a follow-up report of the research accomplishments of the program during the 2000-2008 funding period. To date, the program has supported over 400 researchers to the tune of more than $26 million.

Forthcoming Guidelines/Consensus Statements

A number of areas of clinical practice are being delved into in order to develop clinical practice guidelines. These include:

- Dysphagia
- Inflammatory bowel disease and thromboembolism
- Quality and safety in pediatric endoscopy
- Screening in individuals at high risk for colorectal cancer
- Use of capsule endoscopy
- Endoscopic ultrasound
- Helicobacter pylori
- Barrett’s esophagus

Discussions with International Partners

The CAG liaises with our international colleagues including the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) and United European Gastroenterology (UEG). This has resulted in collaborative efforts including, for example, CAG accrediting the AGA DDSEP educational program in order to make this excellent program available to Canadian gastroenterologists so that they may claim RCPSC credits. The CAG has also initiated discussion surrounding collaboration in the development of clinical practice guidelines with an aim to facilitate guideline development which optimizes resources in topic areas of mutual interest.

Organizational Structure

The mandate of the Board of Directors is to chart the strategic direction of the Association while day-to-day management has been delegated to the Operations Committee and its four portfolios. The Nominations and Audit Committee fill essential administrative roles while the President’s Council provides the Board with guidance based on the experience and wisdom of past leadership. Finally, the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF), as CAG’s charitable foundation, also reports to the Board.
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Like the various committees and sub-committees the Board does not receive payment for service, despite the significant amount of time invested. The Board welcomes your comments and suggestions which you may forward via the national office (general@cag-acg.org).
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**Clinical Affairs**

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 Leads enhance CAG's ability to respond quickly to the concerns of practitioners, such as lobbying governmental agencies for additional funding of new medications, new interventions, and new screening protocols.

**Endoscopy**
- Lead: Lawrence Huskey, MD
- Represents CAG on matters relating to endoscopy and promotes competence and training in the field, including development of credentialing guidelines in endoscopic procedures.

**Practice Affairs**
- Lead: Harmernder Singh, MD
- Provides a forum to address issues relevant to clinical members of CAG including ongoing training, knowledge dissemination, practice-related issues and consensus guidelines.

**Quality Practice**
- Lead: David Armstrong, MD
- Directs initiatives related to quality assessment relevant to endoscopic and clinical practice.

**Regional Representation**
- Lead: James Gray, MD
- Serves as a channel of communication between CAG and provincial/regional gastroenterology associations.

**Pediatric**
- Lead: Angela Noble, MD
- Represents the interests of pediatric gastroenterologists and researchers.

**Education Affairs**

Professional education has long remained a priority and strength of CAG – a strategic planning survey showed that members rate CDDW as the most important service provided by the Association. Given the scope and importance of its activities, Education Affairs is divided into several sub-committees, each with a specific mandate.

**GRIT**
- Sub-Committee: Christopher Anstee, MD
- Liaises with regional representatives to facilitate advocacy at the government and hospital levels.

**Scholars**
- Sub-Committee: Jamie Gregor & Clarence Wong, MD
- Encourages membership and reviews/approves applications for membership from qualified professionals.

**Lecture Series**
- Sub-Committee: Maria Cino, MD
- Encourages membership and reviews/approves applications for membership from qualified professionals.

**Program Directors**
- Sub-Committee: Winnie Wong, MD
- Encourages membership and reviews/approves applications for membership from qualified professionals.

**Maintenance of Certification**
- Sub-Committee: Connie Switzer, MD
- Encourages membership and reviews/approves applications for membership from qualified professionals.

**ePortal**
- Sub-Committee: Kevin Waschke, MD
- Encourages membership and reviews/approves applications for membership from qualified professionals.

**Gastroenterology Residents-in-Training (GRIT) Course**
- A high-caliber, internationally-recognized, annual training program for gastroenterology/hepatology residents held in association with CDDW.

**Scholars’ Program**
- An annual course preceding CDDW that encourages medical students, and internal medicine residents to consider a career in gastroenterology/hepatology.

**Lecture Series**
- Monthly national videconference with presentations from national and international experts.

**Program Directors**
- Reviews and approves submissions for Section 1 RCPSC accreditation of educational events.

**Maintenance of Certification**
- Online CPD learning for members which includes a variety of tools and the ability to automatically collect and track Maintenance of Certification credits.

**Research Affairs**

In contrast to Clinical, Education and Administrative Affairs, Research Affairs encompasses only one committee chaired by VP Research Affairs, Andre Brunet PhD, but is responsible for overseeing a number of key initiatives.

**CDDW**
- Research Affairs reviews the more than 300 abstracts submitted to the CDDW scientific conference, and plans the basic science symposia and paper and poster sessions.

**CAG/CHIR/Industry Research Program**
- The CAG/CHIR/Industry Research Program is the pride of CAG, its industry partners, and CHIR, providing one to three years of funding to junior clinicians and PhD scientists studying gastrointestinal health and disease. In the first ten years of the program 87 young researchers were supported, to the tune of more than $8.7 million (Can J Gastroenterol 2003;17(7):437-9).

**Research Topics in Gastrointestinal Disease**
- Since 2001 Research Topics has been an annual event where basic science and clinical trainees, including Masters and PhD students, gastroenterology residents, and postdoctoral fellows, come together for a weekend to present their research and meet and liaise with fellow students and faculty. Research Affairs reviews the 40 abstract submissions and organizes the scientific program. In 2013 the meeting will precede CDDW in Victoria.

**Administrative Affairs**

The administrative aspects of CAG are some of the most critical, supporting the structure and ensuring the viability and growth of the organization. The six sub-committees that comprise Administrative Affairs reflect the Association’s philosophy of accountability, transparency and effective communication.

**Admissions**
- Sub-Committee: Christopher Anstee, MD
- Responsible for all CAG publications including the website. Oversees the Archivist, who maintains the organization’s records/history, and advises the editor of the CAG journal.

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**Ethics**
- Sub-Committee: Sylviane Forget, MD
- Establishes/updates guidelines for ethical standards in patient care, research, education, and industry interaction, and increases understanding of biomedical ethics in gastroenterology.

**Equity & Gender**
- Sub-Committee: Wendy Winsor, MD
- Identifies important issues related to gender and visible minorities for discussion and action.

**Liaison & International Affairs**
- Sub-Committee: Naoki Chiba, MD
- Networks with national and international organizations and promotes the interests of CAG with other societies.

**Public Relations & Advocacy**
- Sub-Committee: Dave Morgan, MD
- Responsible for CAG's advocacy and PR issues/programs; provides rapid response to media requests; lobbies with regional representatives to facilitate advocacy at the government and hospital levels.
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Research Topics in Gastrointestinal Disease

Since 2001 Research Topics has been an annual event where basic science and clinical trainees, including Masters and PhD students, gastroenterology residents, and postdoctoral fellows, come together for a weekend to present their research and meet and liaise with fellow students and faculty. Research Affairs reviews the 40 abstract submissions and organizes the scientific program. In 2013 the meeting will be held in Victoria.

Administrative Affairs

The administrative aspects of CAG are some of the most critical, supporting the structure and ensuring the viability and growth of the organization. The six sub-committees that comprise Administrative Affairs reflect the Association’s philosophy of accountability, transparency and effective communication.

Admissions

Encourages membership and reviews/approves applications for membership from qualified professionals.

Publications/Archives

Responsible for all CAG publications including the website. Oversees the Archivist, who maintains the organization’s records/history, and advises the editor of the CAG journal.

Research Affairs

In contrast to Clinical, Education and Administrative Affairs, Research Affairs encompasses only one committee chaired by VP Research Affairs, Andre Buurt PhD, but is responsible for overseeing a number of key initiatives.

CDDW

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CAG and the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL) look forward to welcoming you to the joint 2013 CDDW and Annual CASL Winter Meeting in Victoria. Drs Derek McKay and Eberhard Renner are co-chairs of the Implementation Committee and are supported by a CAG and CASL core program committee in creating the scientific program.

The combined conference showcases the best of Canadian gastroenterology and hepatology research, and provides a venue for colleagues to meet. In 2014 the conference will be held in Toronto. This year over 1,000 delegates attended the conference.

Trademark annual sessions include:

- **Richard D McKenna Memorial Lecture** – Named after the founder of the Association, this prestigious lecture serves as the traditional kick-off to CDDW and features an international leader in the area.
- **CASL Gold Medal Lecture** – Recognizes physicians and scientists who have significantly advanced the field of liver research.
- **Research Excellence Award Lecture** – Honours an outstanding Canadian researcher and CAG member.
- **Education Excellence Award Lecture** – Honours outstanding national or international educational contributions from a CAG member.
- **Postgraduate Course: Advances in Gastroenterology and Hepatology** – For this course presenters mine the literature from recent years and review the key developments and papers clinicians need to know.
- **Symposia** – A number of basic and clinical science symposia are held on topics of interest as identified by members in the annual needs assessment survey.
- **Breakfast with the Experts** – Overwhelmingly popular since their introduction in 2003 these small group sessions provide interactive time with leaders in the field.
- **Small Group Sessions** – Following a similar interactive format as Breakfast with the Experts, small group sessions have been enthusiastically attended.

**CDDW/Education**

For the 2012 CDDW and Annual CASL Winter meeting 330 accepted abstracts were sorted and laid out for the final program, and office staff liaised with the approximately 200 speakers and co-chairs to solidify the program. 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 May.

As a RCPSC-approved national provider of accredited gastroenterological education CAG annually accredits many local meetings. In addition, RCPSC co-developed events – in which CAG works with industry to develop the educational program – have become increasingly popular. Coordinating these many educational programs demands significant time from national office staff and the members of the Maintenance of Certification Sub-Committee.

**Research**

In 2012, fifteen fellowships and two grants (approximately 30 funding years) were awarded. The executive director liaises with government agencies such as CIHR and our research sponsors, and oversees the over 40 ongoing fellowships, grants and trainer research awards.

**Sponsorship**

Since the CDDW is run as a minimal profit event, funds to run the Association are raised through corporate sponsorship. In 2012 12 companies, including six BENEFACCTOR sponsors, support CAG.

**Gastroenterology Resources/Advocacy**

The office coordinates activities related to CAG’s digestive healthcare initiatives which in 2012 included the Quality Program—Endoscopy, the CAG Consensus on Safety and Quality Indicators in Endoscopy and SAGE 2012.

**Committees**

The national office provides continuous guidance and support to board members and their committees and projects, and plays an active role in 40 on-site 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 $2.2 million in revenue in the 2011/2012 financial period.
What Does the CAG National Office Do?

The national office works with board members and committees to support initiatives and achieve the goals of the Association. Central to the organization is the executive director, whose roles involve chairing the Operations Committee, advising the Board, strategic planning and fundraising, and overseeing office staff and activities. National office responsibilities may roughly be divided into six broad categories as shown in the figure at the right and described below.

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Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Sponsorship

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SUPPORTERS
Shire Canada Inc.

CAG would like to recognize and thank our Corporate Sponsors as listed above. Corporate sponsorship provides funding which is essential for the day-to-day operations, inclusive of national office expenses and support for orphan programs not funded by other sources.

Research
The CAG/CIHR Industry Research Program provides research funding to promising young pre-clinical and clinical scientists working in gastrointestinal health and disease. For each fellowship and grant dollar committed by corporate partners CIHR provides matching funds. CAG would like to thank Abbott, Aptalis, the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada, Shire, Takeda, and Warner Chilcott for their vision in growing gastroenterology and gastrointestinal research in Canada.

CDDW
Canadian Digestive Diseases Week is the annual educational event of CAG, and one that would not be possible without financing from our partners. Partners may choose from various sponsorship options including basic science and clinical symposia, small group breakfast sessions, paper and poster sessions, the prestigious McKenna Lecture, research and education award lectures and the postgraduate course. The Association would like to thank all the sponsors of CDDW 2012.