

# 2018

YEAR in REVIEW

Canadian Association  
of Gastroenterology



L'Association Canadienne  
de Gastroentérologie



# 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summarized financial statements for the year ending June 20, 2018 will be made available on MY CAG at

[www.cag-acg.org](http://www.cag-acg.org)



**“2018 was a year of accomplishments in all areas of the association’s work”**

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Under the leadership of the CAG Education Committee, we delivered a record 27 accredited educational programs during the year. Our members consistently rate CDDW™ as CAG’s most important service. CDDW™ 2018, held in Toronto, provided over 77 hours of section one education accredited learning in gastroenterology and hepatology to over 1000 attendees. We welcomed over 34 Scholars, 30 Research Topic attendees and 67 residents to the GRIT Course prior to CDDW™.

One of CAG’s key strategic objectives is to address the identified skill gaps and enhance quality in endoscopy. In that spirit, we have introduced a new addition to the SEE™ program, Endoscopy Polypectomy Improvement Care (EPIC). The Canadian Global Rating Scale (C-GRS) for Endoscopy, another key quality initiative, experienced a rapid uptake across the country during 2018 with now over 190 sites. C-GRS provides endoscopy teams with the ability to reflect on both the quality of their clinical care and patient experience.

There were 4 CAG Clinical Practice Guidelines published during 2018. Guidelines developed by the CAG are held to an extremely high standard due to the rigorous GRADE process that is followed and as a result are becoming internationally recognized. In addition, our newly launched journal *JCAG* is gaining momentum and produced 4 issues during 2017-2018.

CAG is committed to supporting and enhancing opportunities for Canadian Researchers through fellowships and awards. In 2018, with the support of CIHR, Crohn’s and Colitis and our industry partners we were able to deliver \$680,000 to support the development of researchers in Canada. I look forward to 2019 being a year of strengthening these partnerships and working together to find new solutions to ensure Canadian GI Researchers have the support they need to flourish.

In addition to these accomplishments, we also said goodbye to CAG's longstanding Executive Director Paul Sinclair and welcomed CAG's new Executive Director Cindy Roll. We thank Paul for the dedication and excellence he brought to the role, helping to make CAG the successful organization it is today. Cindy brings great passion and skill to the role. We look forward to working with Cindy to ensure CAG continues to be at the forefront and to help lead the organization into the next decade.

In summary, 2018 has been an exceptional year of delivering to our members high-quality services and initiatives that benefit the GI community and patients. Later this year and next we will be renewing our strategic plans. It will be very important to hear from you on areas of strength and gaps we need to address to maximize our value to you, our community and patients.

Without the dedication of our volunteers and support of our over 1300 members these accomplishments would not have been possible. On behalf of the Board of Directors a sincere thank you.



Nicola Jones  
**PRESIDENT**



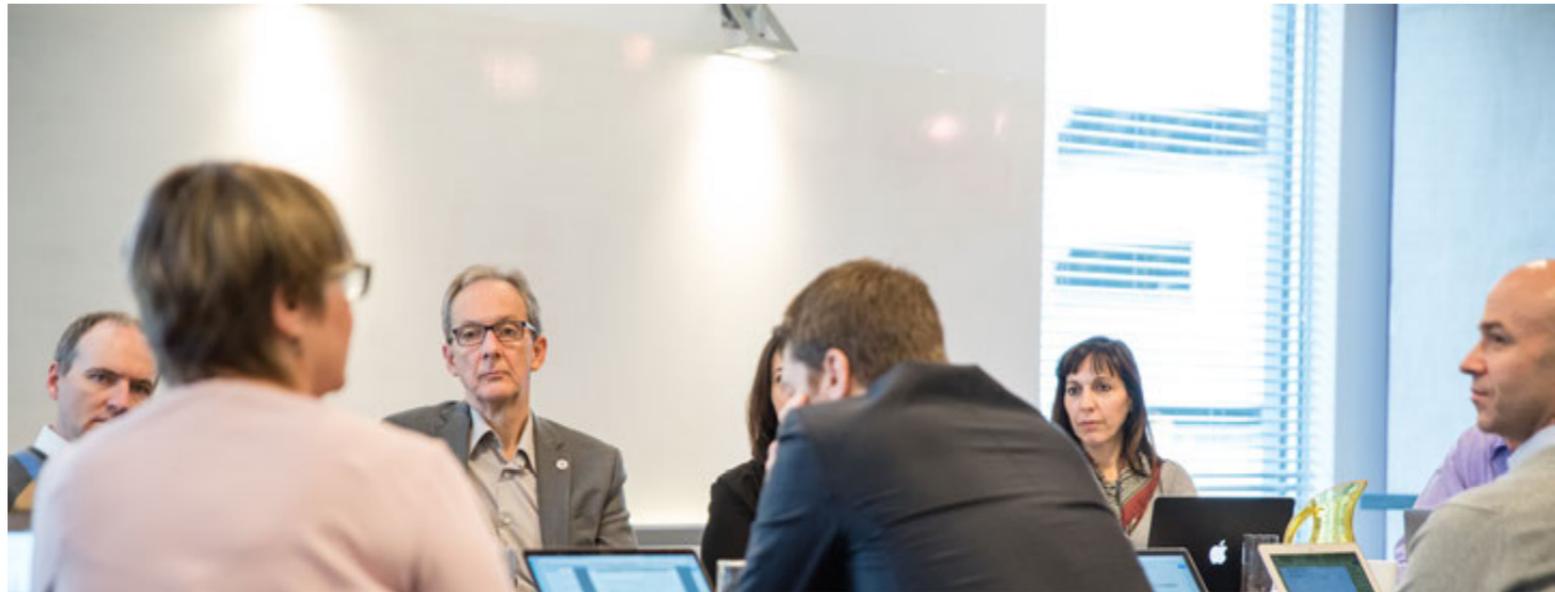
# ePORTAL

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View over 400 education videos from CDDW™, University of Manitoba's annual GI Symposium... and more!

**Watch today!**



The **FUTURE** of education,  
quality & research.

# 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

## 2018 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

### Dr. Phil Sherman, University of Toronto

This award is to honour individuals who have provided distinguished service to the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) either by:

- their recognized excellence in research and through achieving international recognition for the CAG in their field
- or
- have provided exemplary service to the CAG



Distinguished Service Award presentation at CDDW™ 2018 (left to right): Dr. Nicola Jones (President), Dr. Philip Sherman (award recipient)

## 2018 CAG FELLOW DESIGNATION (CAGF)

Acknowledging continued service to the Association, as well as high standards of professionalism: the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Fellow (CAGF). Awarded to physician or PhD members who have been regular members for 10 consecutive years and have served on a CAG committee or executive board for 5 years.



CAGF Recipients at CDDW™ 2018 (left to right): Dr. Nicola Jones (President), Dr. Lana Bistriz, Dr. Donald MacIntosh, Dr. Wallace MacNaughton, Mr. Paul Sinclair, Dr. Louis Liu (Chair, Admissions)



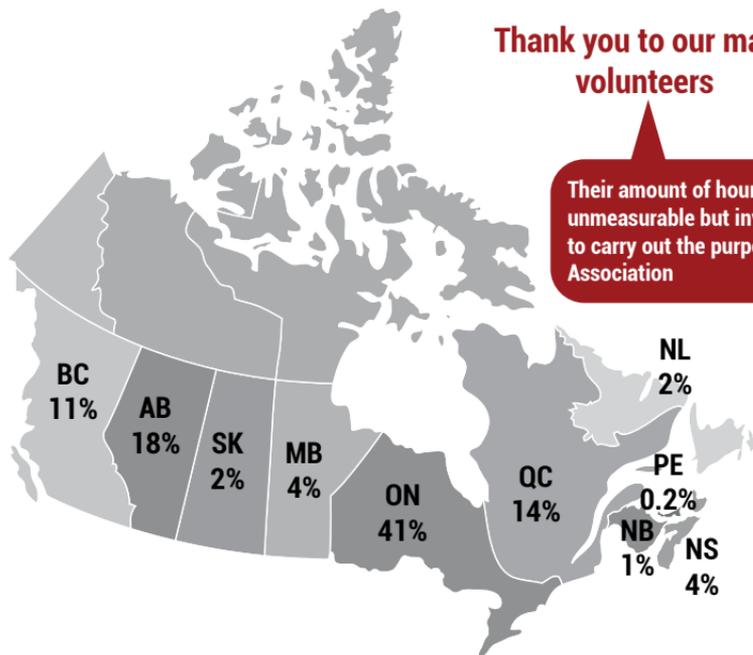
Thank you to our **MEMBERS**  
and **VOLUNTEERS**

# TOTAL MEMBERSHIP : 1237

Regular	689
Trainee	474
International Trainee	31
Retired	29
Affiliate	14



62% Male  
38% Female



Thank you to our many  
volunteers

Their amount of hours are  
unmeasurable but invaluable  
to carry out the purpose of the  
Association

# What can the **ASSOCIATION** do for *you*?



The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) was founded in 1962 with a mandate of:

- Supporting and engaging in the study of the organs of the digestive tract in health and disease,
- Promoting the advancement of the science and art of gastroenterology by providing leadership in patient care, research, teaching and continuing professional development (CPD), and
- Promoting and maintaining the highest ethical standards.

Over 1200 members including gastroenterologists, surgeons, pediatricians, basic scientists and nurses comprise the Association. The CAG provides professional gastroenterological education and funding opportunities for gastrointestinal health and disease research, and more recently, has advocated for improved timeliness and quality of digestive health care for Canadians.

The CAG is very active in the development of Clinical Practice guidelines, producing two to four guidelines each year. There is also a concerted effort underway regarding quality aspects. This includes the Skills Enhancement for Endoscopy™ program and the Canada-Global Rating Scale.

## **BENEFITS**

- Member rates for CDDW™
- Member rates for SEE™
- Discounted publication fee to *JCAG*
- Monthly Member eNews
- Access to ePortal
- Voting privileges
- Award and funding eligibility
- Serve on committees



Canadian Digestive Diseases Week™  
2019

**CDDW™ 2019**  
**BANFF, AB**

FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS

MARCH 1-3, 2019

**GET CONNECTED!**  
**#CDDW2019**

  @CDDWCANADA

# WE INVITE YOU TO EXPERIENCE **CDDW™ 2019**

Canadian Digestive Diseases Week™ (CDDW™) is **Canada's premiere educational conference which showcases the best of Canadian gastroenterology and hepatology research.** It provides a venue for colleagues and partners to meet. Whether you work in patient care, research, education or administration, CDDW™ is the place to be!

Visit us at [www.cag-acg.org](http://www.cag-acg.org)

Canadian Association  
of Gastroenterology



L'Association Canadienne  
de Gastroentérologie



# Our **2018** accomplishments

# EDUCATION

Professional education has long remained a priority and strength of the CAG. Members rate Canadian Digestive Diseases Week™ (CDDW™) as the most important service provided by the Association.

## CDDW™

CDDW™ is Canada's premiere educational conference which showcases the best of Canadian gastroenterology and hepatology research. It provides a venue for colleagues and partners to interact.

CDDW™ 2018 was highly successful with **1046** attendees, **342** of which were trainees and **160** who were speakers. **342** abstracts were accepted. The conference provided over **77 hours** of Section One accredited learning!



# RICHARD D. MCKENNA MEMORIAL LECTURE 2018

## Making a Difference - Dr. Roland Valori



Dr. Richard D. McKenna was an outstanding clinician, scientist and humanitarian whose enthusiasm and knowledge drove the establishment of the CAG. To honour him, the CAG each year selects an individual who has made significant contributions to gastrointestinal medicine and/or science to give the Richard D. McKenna Memorial Lecture. This award is the highest honour the CAG bestows. This year, the CAG elected to honour Dr. Roland Valori for his groundbreaking work in elevating quality standards in gastroenterology.

Dr. Valori's award lecture 'Making a Difference' explored the untapped potential for doctors to transform health care in an increasingly challenged and resource-constrained environment. He stressed that until now doctors have been largely responsible for the delivery of healthcare, leaving responsibility for strategy and organization of services to individuals with little or no experience of caring for patients. Doctors and other health professionals are uniquely

placed to take a more active leadership and organizational role at all levels in the system, and in all clinical settings. The lecture stressed how important it is to involve patients in the design and delivery of services.

The transformation of the endoscopy service which started in England since 2002 has had global impact. From this pioneering work, a template was developed to improve the quality of care everywhere. What has resulted is the recognition of the crucial role clinical leadership has in delivering this transformation and sustainable change.

The lecture concluded with a vision of how a clinically led quality assurance framework can deliver value based healthcare in all medical specialties, and described the potential role professional associations, such as the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology have in this process.

# CDDW™ 2018 SPONSORS

## PLATINUM

abbvie



## GOLD



## SILVER



OLYMPUS

**PENTAX**  
MEDICAL

## BRONZE



## ACCREDITATION

The CPD/CME program of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG), under the leadership of the CAG Education Affairs Committee, is committed to providing an educational environment that fosters the continued professional development of its members through diverse learning opportunities and programs that promote and enhance their clinical, scientific and procedural skills, as well as facilitating opportunities for self directed assessment and learning to ultimately enhance patient care.

The CAG is a leader in providing accredited Section Three assessment opportunities to its membership. In 2017-2018 there were 9 Section Three Accredited Programs available!

A special thank you to Dr. Connie Switzer who chaired the MOC Committee for 11 years!

### The Association had a record number of Accredited Programs in 2017



## TRAINEE PROGRAMS

The CAG's aim of the various Trainee Programs: Research Topics in GI Diseases Meeting, Scholars' and GRIT (Gastroenterology Residents-In-Training), is to cover timely topics of interest, providing up-to-date information in a context that allows critical evaluation, and to foster an environment where clinical, research and educational initiatives may occur between individuals in different gastroenterology training programs across Canada.

The 2018 programs involved 34 Scholars' trainees, 30 Research Topics attendees and 67 residents at the GRIT course.

***"The enthusiasm shared by the speakers was much appreciated and admired. Amazing experience to help guide a future career in GI. Thank you!"***

Scholars' Trainee

***"Experience presenting, learning about new research areas, networking...overall fantastic!"***

Research Topics Trainee

Congratulations to the trainees who earned the most Participation Points during the final year of the **National Trainee webinar Lecture Series**: Matthew Mazurek, Calgary, Becky Chen, Vancouver, Thuarshen Jeyalingam, Toronto, Sarah Al Ghamdi, Toronto, Felipe S. Briglia, Vancouver.

A special thank you to Dr. Maria Cino who Chaired the Trainee Lecture Series for 11 years!



## ePORTAL

Learn and earn online credits! With over 400 videos, the CAG ePortal is your ultimate guide to online learning and discussion. This year, ePortal videos were watched 1,913 times for a total of 213 hours!

New this year are the session videos from the popular **University of Manitoba GI Symposium: An Update on Disease of the Esophagus and on IBD** that took place on June 15, 2018. Over the next year, the CAG is developing a promotional plan for the ePortal to ensure that all members are aware of its benefits.

Education is just a click away with the CAG



*Learn. Discuss. Reflect.*

### Top 5 Popular ePortal Courses for 2017-2018:

1. **CDDW 2017 - Rapid Fire 2016 Journal Review**
2. **Polypectomy Techniques - Dr. Kevin Waschke**
3. **Post-infectious Irritable Bowel Syndrome - Dr. John Marshall**
4. **An Update on Hepatitis B - Dr. Anna Lok**
5. **Polypectomy: Guidelines and Practical Tips - Dr. Charles Ménard**

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

CAG Special Interest Groups (SIGs) exist to support professional development and deepening of networks in focused areas of gastroenterology practice and research. A SIG's primary purpose is to act in the best interests of the Association, including being integral to the pursuit of the Association's mission and objectives.

In 2018 the CAG introduced two new SIGs, the Canadian Neurogastroenterology Network (CNN) led by Dr. William Paterson and the Canadian Gastroenterology Nutrition Network (CGNN) led by Dr. Maitreyi Raman. Both SIGs hosted meetings at CDDW™ which were well attended. The CAG hopes to expand SIG's. The feedback from members who attended was very positive.

**"I would strongly encourage supporting these in the future. It is a great way of growing research and scholarship in the GI community and these groups could ultimately enhance the CDDW meetings in the future."**

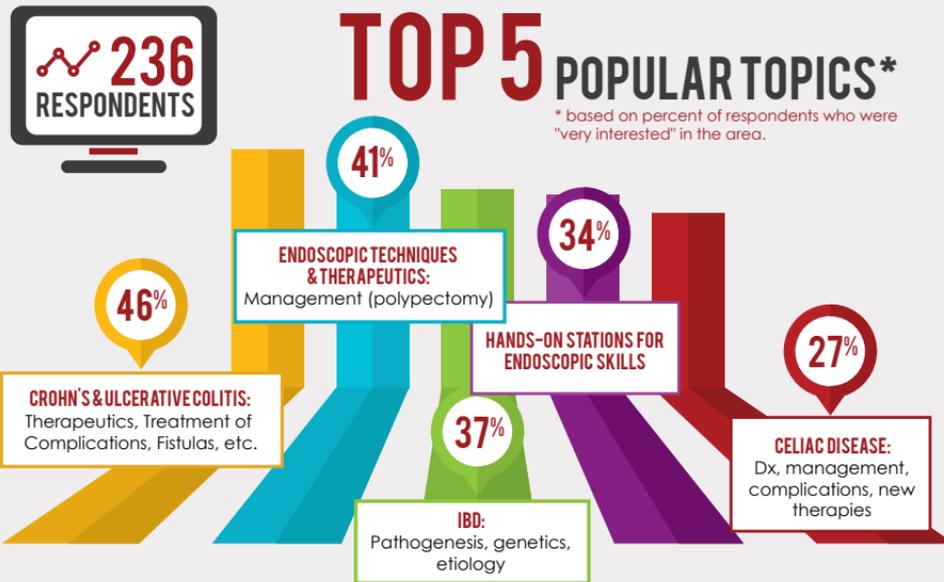
– CAG member

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The CAG Education Affairs Committee conducts this annual educational survey of the entire CAG membership, as is required by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for all RCPSC Accredited Providers of CPD activities. This information is essential in providing guidance to the CAG regarding the educational needs of its membership, and is a major resource for selecting topics for presentation at the annual CDDW™ conference and regional meetings. The data may also potentially serve provincial and regional gastroenterology groups as well, in addition to the national mandate of the CAG.

2018 Needs Assessment can be found at [www.cag-acg.org](http://www.cag-acg.org).

## CAG Member Needs Assessment 2018



View full report at [www.cag-acg.org](http://www.cag-acg.org)

Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Educational Needs Assessment Report 2018, Charles Ménard - VP, Education Affairs

# CAG PODCAST

We are excited to announce a NEW CAG educational initiative that offers bite-sized, on-demand, informal education that is flexible and convenient to access. Learn while you commute - with the new CAG Podcast!

This podcast is developed by the CAG and is primarily intended to meet educational needs of the CAG membership, including Adult and Pediatric Gastroenterologists, Basic Scientists and Trainees.

The CAG Podcast is available on iTunes, Google Podcasts, Google Play Music, Castbox, Stitcher and the CAG Website under Education – CAG Podcast. All CAG podcast material is peer-reviewed and listening to podcasts are considered a Section Two Scanning Activity by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Maintenance of Certification program and are valued at 0.5 Section Two Credits per activity.





# CAG Podcast

Digestible Bites of GI Education

**LEARN WHILE YOU COMMUTE!**

Listen on your favourite podcast mobile app or on the CAG website!



# QUALITY



Skills  
Enhancement for  
Endoscopy™

## SEE™ PROGRAM

With 1.6 million endoscopic procedures performed annually in Canada it is essential that patients receive the highest quality care. High quality endoscopy requires well-trained healthcare professionals working in an appropriate environment with proper equipment to deliver care that is responsive to patients' needs.

For the past six (6) years, the CAG increased its focus on quality for all performed procedures and the Skills Enhancement for Endoscopy™ (SEE™) Program is one initiative that has certainly contributed to improving the overall quality of colonoscopy in Canada.

In 2012 a working group met to determine the quality gaps and the key components that a training program could house and the framework of how to develop this program nationally to ensure that standards were uniform, could be monitored and that training would be available to those in need. Thus, the SEE™ Program was developed.

Currently SEE™ offers three types of accredited courses which run independently. The first course offered is Colonoscopy Skills Improvement (CSI) which is designed for all practising endoscopists. The CSI Course provides up-skilling and improvement of colonoscopy skills. This course consists of one (1) day live endoscopy sessions, with two (2) SEE™ Certified Faculty teaching up to three (3) delegates. This course is of particular interest to the provincial colon cancer screening programs (endorsed by the British Columbia, Ontario, and Newfoundland programs) which are underway in Canada.

The second course offered is Train-the-Endoscopy-Trainer (TET), which is led by SEE™ Certified Faculty. This course is designed for teachers of endoscopy, with specific aims to improve teaching skills and procedural conscious competence needed to teach endoscopy. The TET courses will run 1.5 days with two (2) SEE™ Certified Faculty teaching up to six (6) delegates. It is recommended that the CSI Course is taken prior to the TET Course.

In response to delegates' feedback from the CSI course, the NEW Endoscopic Polypectomy Improvement Course (EPIC) was developed and added to the SEE™ Program in December 2017. This one day course currently offered at two (2) simulation centres; McGill Steinberg Centre for Simulation Interactive Learning and The University of Ottawa Skills and Simulation Centre consists of a half-day didactic lecture (Approach to Polypectomy: Diagnosis of polyps; Polypectomy techniques; Case-based discussion) and a half-day practical hands-on

session using an ex-vivo porcine model. The course is facilitated by five (5) SEE™ Certified Faculty teaching up to three (3) delegates per station (total of 15 delegates per course).

***EPIC was great! Hands-on and opportunity to try equipment with feedback from experts was so valuable. Recommend to all doing colonoscopy.***

Dr. Taralyn Picton, Kamloops, BC

***After completing the course twice, I feel it should be mandatory to complete every few years. We can all learn how to do something better, even something we've been doing for 10 years. It helps you to recognize and correct bad habits...that sometimes you don't even realize you have. It has made me a better endoscopist, to the benefit of my patients. I feel I am safer, more efficient, and my patients more comfortable. I cannot imagine anyone completing it without benefiting. It should be mandatory for any practicing endoscopist in Canada.***

Dr. Jennifer Leonard, St. John's, NL



McMaster University Medical Centre SEE™ Centre - Dr. Frances Tse and Dr. Sandra Nelles, SEE™ Certified Faculty

**Since 2012...**



# SEE™ PROGRAM SPONSORS

## PREMIER SPONSORS



## PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



## EPIC COURSE SPONSORS



## C-GRS

The C-GRS© program is far reaching across Canada with over 190 sites (hospitals and clinics) and 500+ users.

2017-2018 for C-GRS was filled with milestones. The program celebrated its 10th year and launched a new platform in the spring of 2018 with over 190 registered sites! Through the new platform, participating sites record their responses to the bi-annual questionnaire to help them reflect and track the quality of both clinical and patient services they provide via charting and report summaries. In addition, the platform includes access to Endopedia, a resource of documents and templates to support quality expansion at hospitals and clinics.

## ENDOSCOPY QUALITY SYMPOSIUM

The CAG continues with its dedication to educate on the importance of meeting high levels of quality standards in all aspects of gastroenterology by hosting the endoscopy quality symposium Training: the Key to Cost Effective Endoscopy. The symposium was held in February with the primary objective of highlighting the importance of quality/value based care within the Gastroenterology community. The day and a half program brought together experts from around the world known for their groundbreaking work in quality standards.

### 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## Congratulations to the 56 new C-GRS sites!



## PAGE

Practice Audit in Gastroenterology (PAGE) is a CAG initiative and a Royal College Accredited Self-Assessment Program (Section 3). The PAGE platform allows users to record and nationally compare key variables like scope timing, and has NEW \*toggle\* options to create a tailored experience.

## RPAGE

In 2017, the Resident Practice Audit Program Gastroenterology (RPAGE) program also added toggle options to create a more tailored and streamlined experience. RPAGE aims to provide registered trainees with a point-of-care, peer-comparator practice audit tool, with access for Program Directors to review and support the identification of learning needs and objectives for students. The promotion of RPAGE has proven timely, as a tool for Canadian training programs to proactively embrace the Competence by Design (CBD) initiative by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada with the formal integration of competency-based education to learning and assessment in postgraduate medical training.

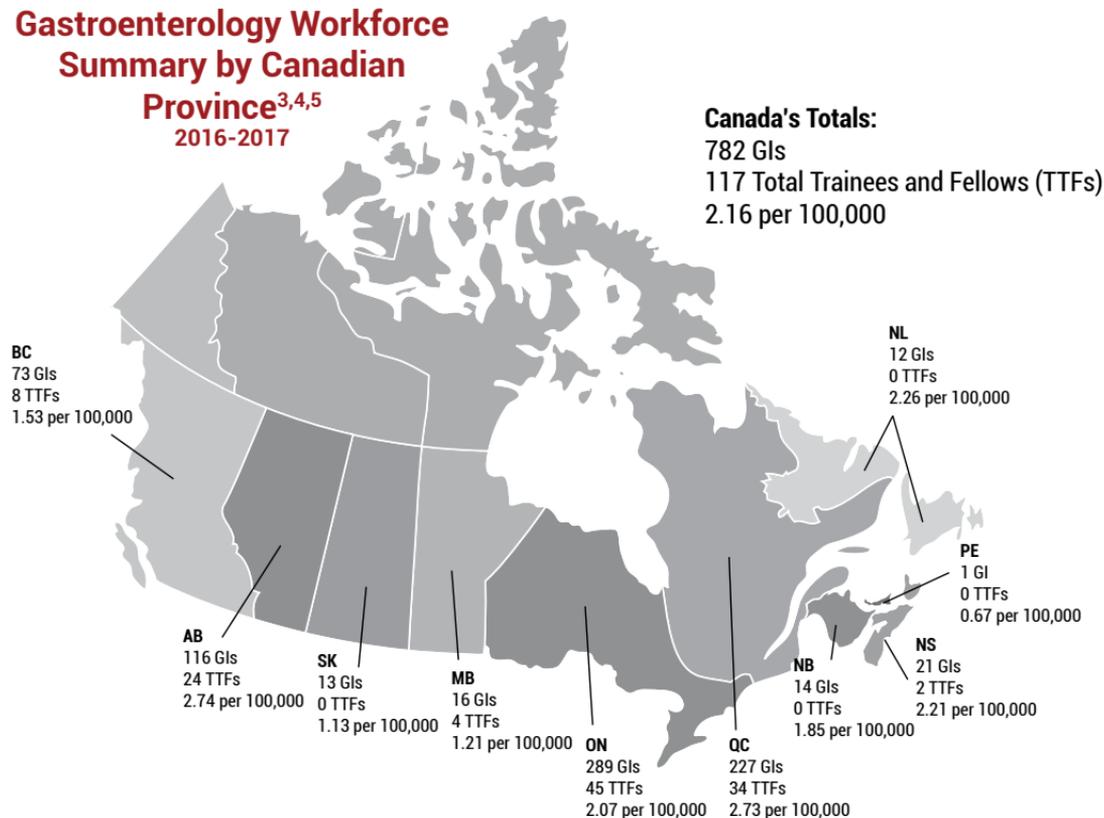
## GI WORKFORCE

In 2018, with collaboration from CAG members Drs. Leddin and Gillis, CAG published Gastroenterology Numbers in Canada: A Comparison of Human Resource Databases<sup>2</sup>. This paper summarized Canadian GI workforce trends and highlighted that six of the 10 provinces have fewer than two GIs per 100,000 population. It is hoped that this paper will assist in advocating for the GI workforce.

Three data sources were used to **illustrate** Canada's GI workforce. The sources used include the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), Canadian Institute of Health Information: Scott's Medical Data Base (CIHI-SMDB) for general number breakdowns, and Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry's (CAPER) for trainee and fellow counts.

**Data is updated annually on the CAG website.**

## Gastroenterology Workforce Summary by Canadian Province<sup>3,4,5</sup> 2016-2017



2 Leddin D, Cehovin A, Gillis C. Gastroenterology Numbers in Canada: A Comparison of Human Resource Databases [Internet]. JGAG. 2018 [cited 2018 Mar 20]; 1(2):87-91. Available from: <https://academic.oup.com/jcag/article/1/2/87/4845931>  
3 Number of Physicians by Province/Territory and Specialty, Canada, 2016 [Internet]. Ottawa: Canadian Medical Association; 2016 [cited 2018 Mar 20]. 2 p. Available from: <https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/advocacy/policy-research/physician-historical-data/2016-01-spec-prov.pdf>  
4 Buske L. Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, 2016-2017 [Internet]. Ottawa: Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry; 2017 [cited 2017 Oct 5]. 172 p. Available from: [https://caper.ca/~assets/documents/2016-17\\_CAPER\\_Census\\_en.pdf](https://caper.ca/~assets/documents/2016-17_CAPER_Census_en.pdf)  
5 Population by Year, by Province and Territory (Table) [Internet]. Ottawa: Statistics Canada; 2017 Oct [cited 2017 Nov 25]. 1 p. Available from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm>

JCAG

JOURNAL OF THE  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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# CLINICAL

## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) result in timely, high quality and evidenced-based recommendations. They:

- enhance the professional development of clinical members through education and dissemination of synthesized clinical research;
- improve patient care provided by members by providing focus on quality and evidence;
- create legislative environments that favour effective clinical practice;
- enhance the clinical care provided to patients with digestive disease by non-gastroenterologists;
- identify areas which require further information or research to improve clinical care.

CAG members can propose guideline topics through an annual process. The Clinical Affairs

committee selects guidelines to produce based on clinical need, expertise, and potential impact to GIs in Canada and internationally.

Guidelines that are developed by the CAG are held to an extremely high standard and have become internationally recognized, due to the rigorous process that is followed. Key to this methodology is the utilization of the GRADE (**G**radings of **R**ecommendations **A**ssessment, **D**evelopment and **E**valuation) approach to grading quality (or certainty) of evidence and strength of recommendations. Benefits of this high standard of guideline development serve not only the CAG and its members, but patients, healthcare providers and policy makers by providing quality evidence-based guidelines.

The CAG is currently training three members to be GRADE + Guideline Methodologists, who will add to the existing team.

The CAG thanks our GRADE and methodology

experts Grigorios Leontiadis, Paul Moayyedi, and Frances Tse for their dedication and the countless hours they volunteer to ensure our guidelines meet the highest standards.

## PUBLICATION UPDATE

**Published:** Management of Dyspepsia (*American Journal of Gastroenterology*), Management of Perianal Fistulizing Crohn's Disease (*Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Journal & JCAG*), Screening for Colorectal Cancer in Individuals with a Family History of Nonhereditary Colorectal Cancer or Adenoma (*Gastroenterology*), Assessment of Uninvestigated Esophageal Dysphagia (*JCAG*)

**Pending publication (under publisher review or accepted and waiting on publication):** Management of Luminal Crohn's Disease, Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Management of Pediatric Crohn's Disease

**In progress:** Management of Non-Variceal Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding, Management of Bile Acid Diarrhea

The CAG would like to acknowledge support of the above mentioned CPGs as follows: AbbVie, Allergan, GE, Janssen, P&G, Pendopharm, Pfizer, and Takeda with non-pharmaceutical support from CIHR and CPAC.

**CPG proposals (2) accepted for 2018/2019:** Immunization in IBD, and Maintenance of Competency in Colonoscopy



Congratulations to the High Risk CRC Committee on their publication in *Gastroenterology*!

# RESEARCH

Gastroenterology-related research is a flagship program within the CAG. 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.

The Research Program, offered by the CAG with the support of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and valued industry partners, provides exceptional opportunities for gastrointestinal researchers in Canada. As a key element of CAG Fellowships, CIHR - the Government of Canada's health research investment agency - provides matching funding for industry commitments.

Funding is available to CAG members at all training levels, including:

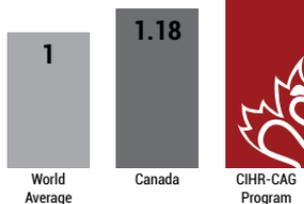
- Clinicians
- Postdoctoral PhD students and MD research fellows
- Gastroenterology residents
- Summer students

**Whether it is contributed by industry or government, all funding flows to researchers: CAG subsidizes all administrative fees.**

## The Impact over 10 years<sup>6</sup>



### Average of Relative Citations (ARC)



**71%  
of Award  
Recipients  
stayed  
in Canada**

6. Sherman PM et al. Can J Gastroenterol 2013;27:717-20]

# RESEARCH PROGRAM SPONSORS



Crohn's and  
Colitis Canada

Crohn et  
Colite Canada

abbvie



# ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

## JCAG: OUR SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

*The Journal of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology*, or *JCAG* is published in collaboration with Oxford University Press, is an open-access journal, published online with periodic print issues throughout the year. Dr. John Marshall (McMaster University) is the *JCAG* Editor-in-Chief.

### Benefits of publishing in *JCAG*:

- Streamlined Submission: no need to reformat articles for submission
- Fast Decision Times
- High Quality and Constructive Peer Review
- Access to a large audience of gastroenterological professionals

Two issues of the journal have already been published in 2018. *JCAG* has a total circulation of

7,500, which allows for very good visibility within the Canadian Gastroenterological community and beyond.

The most downloaded article is a review article: "Patient-ly Waiting: A Review of Patient-Centered Access to Inflammatory Bowel Disease Care in Canada." The second most downloaded article is one of *JCAG*'s guidelines: "Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Assessment of Uninvestigated Esophageal Dysphagia." *JCAG* also recently republished a guideline on Adult Crohn's Disease that was originally published in *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases*. We're optimistic that this republication will also draw a lot of readers to the journal and increase its usage.



# Canada-Global Rating Scale (C-GRS)

## Celebrating over 10 years in Quality Endoscopy



As of 2018, there are  
190+ sites registered

For more information please visit:  
<https://www.cag-acg.org/quality/quality-programs/c-grs>

# 2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year the CAG, through the Education Affairs Committee and Research Affairs Committee, makes available a number of prestigious awards to members of our Association. These awards recognize CAG members who have a commitment to excellence and to the art and science of gastroenterology.

## EDUCATION AWARDS

### Education Excellence Award

*Dr. Catharine Walsh, University of Toronto  
(shown in photo on right)*

### Young Educator Award

*Dr. Samir Grover, University of Toronto*

### Visiting Clinical Professorship

*Dr. Maitreyi Raman, University of Calgary*

## RESEARCH AWARDS

### Young Investigator Award

*Dr. Deanna Gibson, University of British Columbia*

### Visiting Research Professorship

*Dr. Premysl Bercik, McMaster University*

### Research Excellence Award

*Dr. Paul Moayyedi, McMaster University*

## NEW QUALITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

*(Coming Fall 2018)*

- Young Scholar in Quality Innovation Award
- Excellence in Quality Innovation Award



2018 Education Excellence Award recipient Dr. Catharine Walsh (right) and Dr. Kevin Waschke, outgoing VP of Education Affairs (left)

## FUNDING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The CAG passionately supports the development and maintenance of formal educational research component within Gastroenterology in Canada. Funding is provided for all levels of training (clinicians, gastroenterology residents, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate and summer students).

### EDUCATION FUNDING

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#### Clinician's Professional Enrichment Grant (CPEG)

*Dr. Ralph Lee, University of Ottawa*

#### Education Research Grant

*Drs. Zane Gallinger and Geoffrey Nguyen, University of Toronto*

*Dr. Samir Grover and Mr. Rishad Khan, University of Toronto*

### RESEARCH FUNDING

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#### CAG/CIHR Industry Research Program

*Dr. Eileen Crowley, Hospital for Sick Children,*

*Toronto  
Dr. Kirsten Ward Hartstonge, BC Children's Hospital*

#### PhD Scholarships

*Joanna Colleen Dionne, McMaster University  
Adam Shute, University of Calgary*

#### Resident Research Awards

*Liron Birimberg Schwartz, University of Toronto  
David M Rodrigues, Queen's University  
Evan Elias, University of Manitoba  
Jocelyn Jeong, University of Calgary*

#### Summer Studentship Awards

*Ivan Beck Memorial Summer Studentship Award  
(top ranked Summer Studentship Award)  
Thomas Tam Hoang, University of British Columbia*

*Jessica Leung, University of British Columbia  
Martin Danielov Pasev, University of Alberta  
Jeremy Jerasi, University of Alberta  
Eugene Mech, McMaster University  
Andrea Nunez, University of Calgary*

*Chen Hsiang (Kevin) Ma, University of Alberta  
David Tian, University of Toronto  
Lina Belmesk, Université de Montréal  
Amanda Liddy, Western University  
Maegan Sweeney, University of Toronto  
Keiko Marshall, University of Toronto  
Florence Bénard, Université de Montréal*

#### Research Workshop Grant

*Dr. Simon Hirota, Kananaskis Inflammation Workshop*

#### Latin American Studentship

*Vanessa Fernandes Rodrigues, University of Calgary*

# RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT: PAUL SINCLAIR

THANK YOU PAUL FOR  
**19 YEARS**  
OF DEDICATION  
TO THE  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF GASTROENTEROLOGY



Paul Sinclair (left) receiving his CAGF pin from Dr. Louis Liu (Chair, Admissions) at CDDW™ 2018 in Toronto, ON.

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW CAG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CINDY ROLL



Over the past twenty plus years, Cindy has held multiple key positions with our pharma partners including her most recent position as Vice President of Strategic Projects in GlaxoSmithKline. Cindy has developed a strong background in leadership, innovation and building high performance teams.

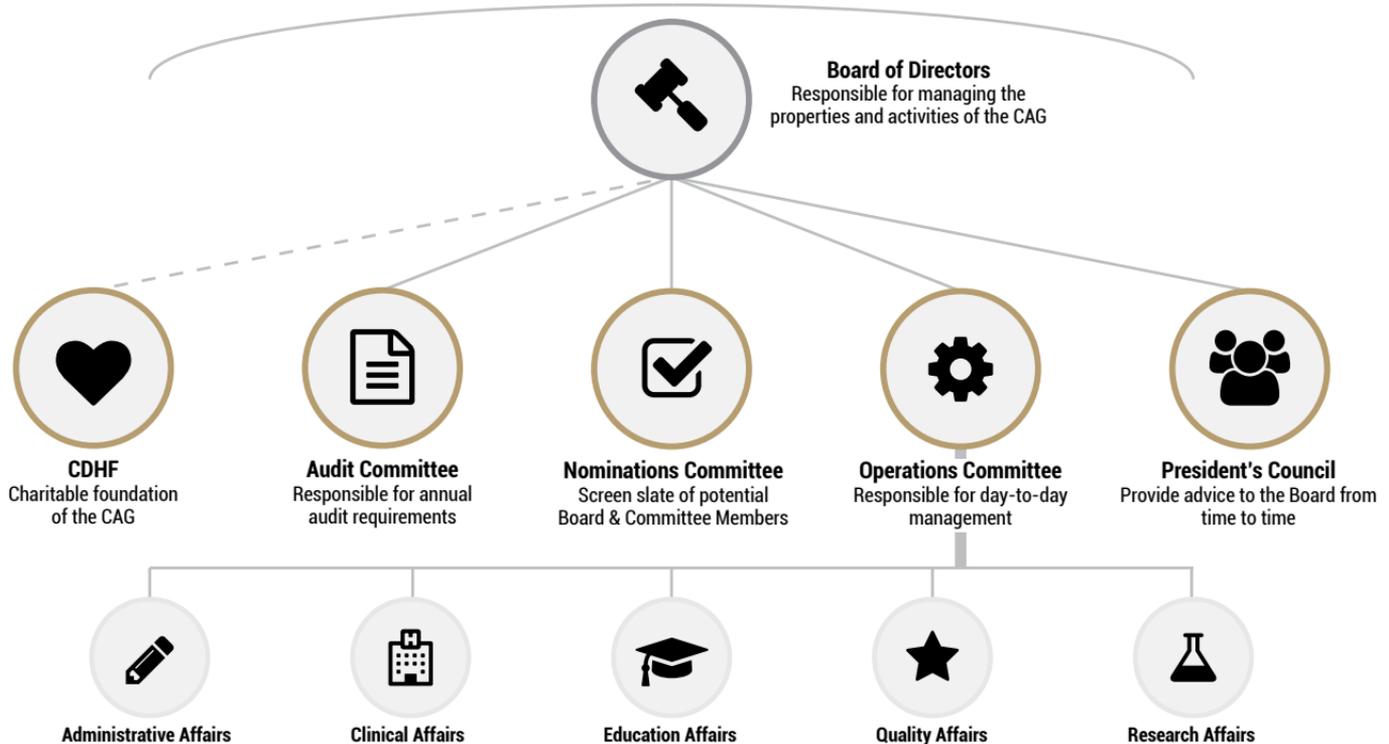
She is described by her colleagues as a visionary, motivational leader with exceptional implementation skills.

Please join me in welcoming Cindy to her new role!

Nicola Jones  
*CAG, President*

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

## CAG Members as Owners



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board directs the overall course of the organization through quarterly teleconferences and twice-yearly meetings. The mandate of the Board includes developing policies, monitoring operations, identifying and managing risk and the financial position of the Association, establishing members' dues, electing officers, and appointing committees.

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 via email at [general@cag-acg.org](mailto:general@cag-acg.org).

President (2018-2020)

**Nicola L. Jones, MD, PhD, FRCPC**

*University of Toronto, Toronto, ON*

President Elect (2018-2020)

**Kevin Waschke, MD, CM, FRCPC, FASGE**

*McGill University, Montréal, QC*

Past President (2018-2020)

**David Armstrong, MA, MB, BChir, FRCPC**

*McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*

VP Secretary (2016-2019)

**Carlo A. Fallone, MD, FRCPC**

*McGill University, Montréal, QC*

VP Treasurer (2017-2019)

**Elena Verdú, MD, PhD**

*McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*



## BOARD COMMITTEES

President's Council  
**Nicola Jones, Chair**

Nominations Committee  
**Carlo Fallone, Chair**

Operations Committee  
**Cindy Roll, Chair**

Audit Committee  
**Elena Verdú, Chair**

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Executive Director  
**Cindy Roll, Chair**

Administrative Affairs  
**Christopher Andrews, VP**

Clinical Affairs  
**Grigorios Leontiadis, VP**

Education Affairs  
**Charles Ménard, VP**

Quality Affairs  
**Paul Moayyedi, VP**

Research Affairs  
**Bruce Vallance, VP**

# ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

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.

*Christopher Andrews, VP*



## **Admissions**

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

*Louis Liu, Chair*

## **Diversity & Equity**

Identifies important issues related to equity and visible minorities for discussion and action.

*Laura Targownik, Chair*

## **Ethics**

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

*Louis-Charles Rioux, Chair*

## **Publications/Archives**

Is responsible for all the CAG publications/communications including the website and advising the journal editor, and oversees the archives.

*Jerry McGrath, Chair*

# 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 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.

*Grigorios Leontiadis, VP*



## **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.

*Steven Heitman, Chair*

## **Pediatrics**

Represents the interests of pediatric gastroenterologists and researchers.

*David Mack, Chair*

## **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.

*Frances Tse, Chair*

## **Regional Representation**

Serves as a channel of communication between the CAG and provincial/regional gastroenterology associations.

*Mark MacMillan, Chair*

# EDUCATION AFFAIRS

Professional education has long remained a priority and strength of the CAG. Given the scope and importance of its activities, Education Affairs is divided into several sub-committees, each with a specific mandate.

*Charles Ménard, VP*



2018 **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Gastroenterology Residents-in-Training (GRIT) Course**

A high-caliber, internationally-recognized, annual training program for gastroenterology/hepatology residents held in association with CDDW™.

*Robert Berger, Chair*

*Elyanne Ratcliffe, Junior Co-Chair*

*Geoff Williams, Evaluation Representative*

## **Lecture Series**

A monthly national webinar for gastroenterology trainees with presentations from national experts. After 11 years, this series concluded in 2018. The CAG Podcast will provide trainees with a more flexible, convenient option to access GI education in digestible bites.

*Nazira Chatur, Co-Chair*

*Maria Cino, Co-Chair*

## **Maintenance of Certification (MOC)**

Reviews and approves submissions for Section One and Section Three RCPSC accreditation of educational events.

*Brian Yan, Chair*

## **Program Directors**

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.

*Winnie Wong, Chair*

## **Scholars' Program**

Annual course preceding CDDW™ that encourages medical students and internal medicine residents to consider a career in gastroenterology.

*Herbert Brill, Co-Chair & Steven Gruchy, Co-Chair*

# QUALITY AFFAIRS

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.

*Paul Moayyedi, VP*



## **Innovation**

Evaluates how best to develop quality metrics and assess how effective they are at improving quality.

*Maida Sewitch, Co-Chair*

*Geoff Nguyen, Co-Chair*

## **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.

*Catherine Dubé, Chair*

## **Reporting**

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

*Peter Rossos, Chair*

## **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.

*Don MacIntosh, Co-Chair*

*Alaa Rostom, Co-Chair*

# RESEARCH AFFAIRS

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

*Bruce Vallance, VP*



2018 **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **CAG/CIHR/Industry Partner Research Program**

Partners and CIHR provide 1- 5 years of funding to junior clinicians and PhD scientists. The CAG appreciates the support from AbbVie, Allergan, Crohn's & Colitis Canada, PENTAX and Takeda for this program.

## **CDDW™**

Research Affairs reviews approximately 350 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 Crohn's & Colitis Canada, Ontario Association of Gastroenterology, and Shire for these award programs.

## **Research Topics in GI Disease Meeting**

Annual meeting held before CDDW™, where basic science and clinical trainees come together to present their research and network. The CAG appreciates the support from CIHR INMD and Crohn's & Colitis Canada for this program.

*Premysl Bercik, Co-Chair*  
*Nathalie Perreault, Co-Chair*

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee delivers a properly screened slate, as required, of potential Board members, VP Chairs of the Operations Committee, subcommittee Chairs and members according to Board determined criteria for membership by no later than the first Board meeting of each fiscal year.

*Carlo Fallone, Chair*



## PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Ron Bridges

Des Leddin

Derek McKay

Dave Morgan

Bill Paterson

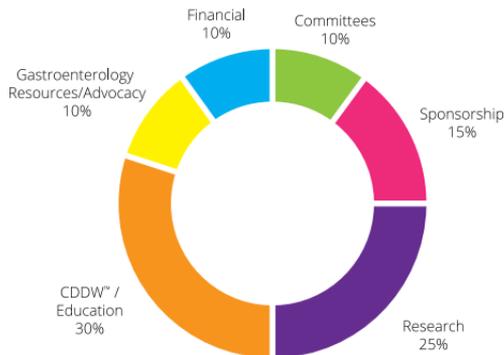
Dan Sadowski

Philip Sherman

John Wallace

# NATIONAL OFFICE

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, strategic planning and fundraising. National office responsibilities may roughly be divided into six broad categories.



## Annual Conference

For CDDW™ 2018, over 340 accepted abstracts were sorted and laid out for the final program and office staff liaised with the approximately 160 speakers and co-chairs to solidify the program which offered 77.25 hours of Section One accredited learning and up to 21.5 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. In addition, accredited 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 Spring 2018, 2 fellowships, 13 summer studentships, and 4 resident research awards were awarded, with 10+ continuing fellowships, other grants and trainee research awards. The Executive Director liaises with government agencies such as CIHR and our research sponsors to support these programs.

## Sponsorship

Since CDDW™ is run as a not-for-profit event, funds to run the Association are raised through corporate sponsorship. In 2018, 13 partners (acknowledged on the final page of this report), including 6 BENEFACTOR sponsors, have provided support to the CAG.

## 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™.

### **Gastroenterology Resources/Advocacy**

The office coordinates activities related to the CAG's digestive healthcare initiatives, which in 2017-2018 included the SEE™ Program and C-GRS.

### **Financial**

Strategic planning and fundraising efforts of the Executive Director have succeeded in raising over \$3 million in revenue in the 2017/2018 financial period.

## **CONTACT US**

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# THANK YOU

to our generous corporate sponsors

Canadian Association of Gastroenterology  L'Association Canadienne de Gastroentérologie

To learn more about becoming a member, please visit [www.cag-acg.org](http://www.cag-acg.org)

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888.780.0007 | [general@cag-acg.org](mailto:general@cag-acg.org)

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## ASSOCIATE

