

**The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and the  
Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF)**

**Release of Abstracts - Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW)  
February 27 – March 1, 2004 Banff Alberta**

Striving to improve the health of Canadians and advance medical research, a series of abstracts will be released during the CAG-CDHF conference February 27- March 1 in Banff, Alta. This is the ninth year of the conference, co-hosted by the two organizations.

The progress and commitment of both organizations culminates at the annual scientific conference and general meeting, CDDW.

Digestive diseases cost the Canadian health care system more than any other disease category, including cardiovascular and cancer. Digestive diseases are very common: 29% of Canadians suffer from indigestion (dyspepsia), 15% suffer from irritable bowel syndrome, twenty thousand Canadians are diagnosed with colon cancer each year and approximately one third of those will die from the disease. Government funding in the gastroenterology field has decreased over 25% in the last decade.

From the abstracts that will be presented highlights include:

- Earlier this month, CAG released new national guidelines for the screening of patients for colorectal cancer and these will be formally presented at CDDW
- A report on Walkerton, Ontario residents shows the effects of E.coli still impacts resident's lives
- The impact of patient gender on the type of colon screening they receive
- Results of a study on the use of wireless capsules to photograph a patient's intestines – the capsule endoscopy
- The connection between geography, ethnic background and IBD in children

The CAG was founded in 1962, and continues to actively and successfully promote the study of the digestive tract in health and disease, through education, research and the practice of gastroenterology in Canada.

The Association is built on broad principles and includes over 1,000 members of different disciplines: physicians, surgeons, paediatricians, radiologists and basic scientists. The CAG continues to fulfill its mandate by attracting, training and retaining the best and brightest to the Gastroenterology field in Canada.

The CDHF, established in 1994, is a registered charity dedicated to support further education and awareness surrounding digestive health and disease for Canadian patients and public. Together these affiliated organizations are committed to excellence in management of patients with digestive diseases.

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