



CSACI Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2 - Spring/ Summer 2009

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A recent poll of the CSACI membership was carried out to determine the future of our journal **Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology (AACI)**. In that poll, the members voted not to pay an extra subscription fee to support the journal, but they did vote overwhelmingly in favour of an e-journal.



In discussions between the executive, the editors of **AACI** and **BC Decker**, the current publisher, it was decided not to accept the new contract proposal from **Decker** but to proceed instead to an **Open Access** format, which will have the added advantage of listing in **PubMed** and **PubMed Central**.

In making this decision, a strong factor was the cost per manuscript with the **BC Decker** contract, which would not include **PubMed** listing, and the opportunity to make the journal self-sustaining.

If our application is successful, the journal would then become an open journal, available to everyone, which carries with it an increased profile for our Society and a greater awareness of the journal in the allergy & immunology community. Many granting agencies are now insisting on open-access to spread biomedical information more rapidly and widely and we have had some potential authors hesitant to submit articles because we have not been open-access.

I consider that this change is a step forward for our journal, which will remain freely accessible to the members of the Society.

Richard

Dr. R. Warrington, CSACI President

ALLIED HEALTH

In March I attended the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Meeting in Washington DC through the generous support afforded by the CSACI. As expected the meeting days were packed with various topics to peak the interest of all who attended. From an allied health perspective I found the presentations discussing climate change, food allergy, updates on genetics, common factors between asthma and COPD, new strategies for food introduction, obesity, the latest information about atopic dermatitis, and eosinophilic esophagitis of particular interest.

Key Points of Interest:

Climate Change: Dr. Jeffrey Demain reported how climate change has impacted on Alaska. He claims over the next 100 years Alaska is projected to lose 90% of its historic tundra, altering vegetation growth, dramatically changing the ecosystem. The outcome will result in extinction of some animals and an increase in insects and pathogens. The speaker predicts more humans will have allergic reactions to insect bites. Pollen season will be extended and pollution will increase the allergenicity of the existing airborne inhalants.

Food Allergy: The protein structure of a food affects allergenic potential. Protein structure determines the way in which food proteins are altered by cooking procedures and digestion. Current research is investigating why some proteins, such as peanut protein, cause anaphylaxis whereas closely related foods such as pea are much less problematic.

Genetics: Genetics continues to be a major factor in disease complexity and clinical presentations. Dr. Alan Irvine presented a very interesting presentation on the "Genetics of Atopic Dermatitis." A genetic variant in Filaggrin may explain why some patients do not respond to usual treatment.

Obesity: Dr. Stephanie Shore from Harvard School of Public Health reported obesity increases the prevalence of asthma, the incidence of asthma, the severity of asthma, and diminishes asthma control. The possible

explanation is that obesity is associated with systemic inflammation; obesity effects lung mechanics and potentiates the development of co-morbid diseases. Unfortunately, many people are unable to reduce their weight.

Pediatrics and sleep disorders: Using intranasal budesonide treatment for children with mild obstructive sleep apneas syndrome improves apnea/hypopnea index, sleep pattern/quality, decreased adenoid size and improves oxygenation. The effects last for at least 8 weeks with over half the children studied enjoyed the return of normal sleep.

Eosinophilic Esophagitis: Over the last 10 years EE has become increasingly recognised in children and adults. Recommended reading: Furuta GT et al (2007) "Eosinophilic Esophagitis in Children and Adults: A Systematic Review and Consensus Recommendations for Diagnosis and Treatment" *Gastroenterology* 133:1342-1363.

The study of Asthma and Allergy is constantly expanding and changing with better understanding through research. Keeping reading and sharing.

Take a look at our own allied health section on the new CSACI website. Read an essay written by a young patient describing his life with anaphylaxis.

**Jo-Anna Gillespie RN,
Section Head**

INTEREST SECTION REPORTS

IMMUNOLOGY SECTION

UPCOMING IMMUNOLOGY MEETINGS

Date	Conference	Site
July 5-9, 2009	International Congress of Mucosal Immunology	Boston, Massachusetts
22-26 July, 2009	Frontiers in Immunology Research Network (FIRN)	Kona, Hawaii
26-31 July, 2009	AAI Advanced Course in Immunology	Minnesota, Minneapolis
July 30-August 1, 2009	Latin American Congress on Autoimmunity	Buenos Aires, Argentina
September 10-14, 2009	Clinical Immunology Society School in PID	Miami Beach, Florida
September 13-16, 2009	European Congress of Immunology	Berlin, Germany
October 4-9, 2009	4th International Conference on Autoimmunity: Mechanisms and Novel Treatments	Chania, Crete
October 15-17, 2009	1st Meeting of the Latin American Society for Primary Immunodeficiencies	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
October 22 to 25, 2009	Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology	Halifax, Nova Scotia
November 3-7, 2009	Latin American Congress of Immunology	Viña del Mar, Chile
November 5-10, 2009	American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology	Miami Beach, FL
November 18-20 2009	European Workshop on Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases.	Lisbon, Portugal
December 5-8, 2009	American Society of Hematology	New Orleans, LA
Feb 24-28, 2010	BMT Tandem Meetings	Orlando, Florida
February 26 - March 2, 2010	American Academy Of Allergy Asthma and Immunology	New Orleans, LA
May 5-9, 2010	7th International Congress on Autoimmunity	Ljubljana, Slovenia
June 24-28, 2010	Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS)	Boston, Massachusetts
August 22-27, 2010	International Congresses of Immunology	Kobe, Japan
October 6-9, 2010	European Society for Immunodeficiencies	Istanbul, Turkey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INTEREST SECTION REPORTS

IMMUNOLOGY (cont'd)

PUBLICATIONS

1. National Institute of Health- Investigations on Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (R01)- <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-206.html>
2. Canadian Immunodeficiency Society- <http://www.cisociety.com/files/research.html>
3. Sick Kids foundation National grants- <http://www.sickkidsfoundation.com/grants/default.asp>
4. MARCH OF DIMES RESEARCH PROGRAM- http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/691_14434.asp CGD research trust- http://www.cgd.org.uk/cgd/research/research_grants_available
5. The Dana Foundation for new investigators who are beginning careers in patient-based immunology research- <http://www.dana.org/grants/human/>
6. The sepsis seesaw: tilting toward immunosuppression Nature Medicine. 2009, 15: 496 – 497.
7. Decrease in phenotypic regulatory T cells in subsets of patients with common variable immunodeficiency. Clinical & Experimental Immunology. 2009, 156: 446 – 454.
8. Long-term outcome after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation of a single-center cohort of 90 patients with severe combined immunodeficiency. Blood. 2009, 113: 4114-4124.
9. FAS-L, IL-10, and double-negative CD4-CD8- TCR α/β + T cells are reliable markers of autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome (ALPS) associated with FAS loss of function Blood. 2009, 113: 3027-3030.
10. The genetic heterogeneity of mendelian susceptibility to mycobacterial diseases Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. 2009, 122: 1043-1051.

Dr. Eyal Grunebaum, Section Head



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Anne Ellis is the new
Section Head for Anaphylaxis and Adverse Reactions

CSACI MEDIA POLICY

CSACI Media Policy

CSACI has established the following Media Policy to ensure clear and factual communications in order to protect the interests of our society and our membership. This document applies to press releases, reports, articles, presentations at conferences, and any official communications with the media or in a public forum regarding CSACI.

Principles of CSACI Media Policy

1. Clarity.
2. Consistency.
3. Transparency.
4. Respect.

Media Policy

The CSACI is the voice of allergists in the country. Any public comment associated with the organization therefore reflects on public attitudes towards all allergists. Therefore, the CSACI must speak with "one voice".

The CSACI should have a series of policy documents/ position papers on key issues that are made available to all executive members and are used as the "talking points" for media interviews.

These documents evolve from policy resolutions/ positions of the CSACI, voted on by the elected representatives of the membership or the membership themselves. These resolutions therefore reflect the opinion of Canadian allergists and should be the basis on which all public comments are made by the organization's spokespeople.

The policy book need not cover, nor could it, every possible issue; but focusing positions on evolving hot topics is necessary.

Media requests for CSACI-specific comment must go through/be referred to the CSACI Manager or President to locate spokesperson, conduct prep and ensure consistency of messaging.

Note, this process need not take a long time, and obviously some common sense flexibility is required.

Individual allergists holding executive positions with CSACI are restricted from commenting publicly on their personal opinions on sensitive policy issues identified by the organization. Opinions must reflect the organization's position.

Personal opinions related to practice areas or research is not restricted - but the distinction that these are personal comments must be made to the reporter. If there is any concern that such comments could be interpreted as commenting on a sensitive CSACI policy area, it is advisable to consult the CSACI Manager or President.

While it is fine to ask to see your verbal quotes in writing in advance of publication this request is not always, or even often, granted. It is also not applicable to broadcast interviews. It is therefore advised to read from "the playbook", the organization's policy book.

There is also no guarantee that media will make the distinction that opinions are personal and not representative of the CSACI. Comments on sensitive CSACI policy issues should therefore be subject to the organization's policy book.

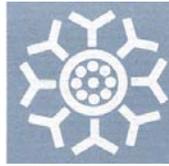
It is useful to think of the CSACI executive as a government cabinet. Members of the cabinet speak with one voice so there is not (usually) public confusion on important policy issues. The CSACI should strive for the same clarity.

When accepting an Executive position within CSACI, this media policy and the organization's policy book should be clearly understood and accepted.

Questions on this policy can be directed to the CSACI Manager or President.

Richard J. Warrington MB, BS, PhD, FRCPC
CSACI President

CANADIAN ALLERGY,
ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY
FOUNDATION



FONDATION CANADIENNE
D'ALLERGIE, D'ASTHME ET
D'IMMUNOLOGIE

CAAIF 2009 Research Grant Competition - DEADLINE JULY 24, 2009

The Canadian Asthma, Allergy and Immunology Foundation is a non-profit organization, established to improve the educational and research resources of the Canadian Allergy and Immunology community. The Foundation has a budget for a small number of start-up grants for research projects. We will provide up to \$10,000 total which can be divided between any number of grantees with a maximum per project of \$5,000. Projects must be of high relevance to the practice of allergy and immunology in Canada. The CAAIF research committee chaired by Dr. Allan Becker, will be overseeing the application review procedure.

The goals of the Foundation are to raise awareness for the following diseases: asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, food allergy and immune deficiency. Proposals therefore should be addressed to answering relevant questions related to one or more of these disease entities. Because of the limited nature of our funds, we seek applications aimed at supplemental funding for larger projects or for initiating pilot projects. It is not the goal of the Foundation to replace larger granting bodies; however, an innovative idea that needs preliminary work before a larger grant application can be made would be acceptable. Projects that are more appropriately aimed at the pharmaceutical industry (pilot projects using new or existing therapeutic agents) will not be considered.

The application process will include a short lay summary of the proposed work; a three page outline of the project and its relevance, and budget submission. Please keep in mind the modest size of the grant and define the budgetary use appropriately. As well, applications do not need to be exhaustive, but the innovation and applicability need to be highlighted.

CAAIF
Research Committee
C/O Secretariat
774 Echo Drive
Ottawa, ON K1S 5N8
caaif@rcpsc.edu

Applications received after the deadline will be considered in subsequent competitions. Successfully funded candidates will be contacted in October 2009. Please address any questions regarding the application process to the CAAIF secretariat at caaif@rcpsc.edu.



Dr. Eric Leith,
Chair, CAAIF



CAAIF LAUNCHES IT'S NEW WEBSITE

The new CAAIF website is now up and running. It will greatly increase our education capabilities and will provide a variety of services for CSACI Members as well as the general public.

Ideally the CAAIF website will foster knowledge transfer by sharing clinical practice guidelines from stakeholders in the allergy and immunology community.

"We are quite pleased with the new website and after a lot of hard work, we feel that the resources the site can offer will be a great asset to allergists, clinical immunologists, fellows-in-training and allied health professionals across Canada", said Dr. Leith.

The site has been developed by MEDIAFORCE, Dr. Eric Leith, Chair of CAAIF and Louise Tremblay. "We are quite pleased with the new website and after a lot of hard work, we feel that the resources the site can offer will be a great asset to allergists, clinical immunologists, fellows-in-training and allied health professionals across Canada", said Dr. Leith. "We have also tried to make the site as user-friendly as possible in an effort to ensure that all CSACI members will benefit from what the site has to offer".

Please share any comments, suggestions or feedback at anytime by e-mail to: caaif@rcpsc.edu.

Louise Tremblay, CAAIF Manager

CAAIF NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

Over the years the CSACI membership has consistently supported the Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation. CAAIF relies on contributions from the CSACI members which help maintain its annual activities, including the funding for a number of projects.

Given inflation, current donation provide little more than seed money for training, research, fellowships, studentships and grants. If we are to be in a position to offer more we will have to "dig a little deeper".

Your donation will help build and sustain funding for CSACI Fellows-in-Training as well as introduce medical students to the specialty of allergy, asthma & immunology.

If you would like to help support, please visit the CAAIF website at: www.allergyfoudation.ca. or call (613) 730-6272 or visit www.allergyfoundation.ca

YOUR DONATION IS 100% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Thank you for making a difference!

Dr. Eric Leith,
Chair, CAAIF

CSACI NEWS

Do you have feedback on the CSACI website, newsletter, concerns or suggestions?

Share them with the membership!

Send your comments to:

CSACI

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Ottawa, ON K1S 5N8

Tel: 613-730-6272 * Fax: 613-730-1116 *

E-mail: csaci@rcpsc.edu

Welcome to Why Risk It - A Site for Canadian Youth at Risk for Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis Canada has launched of new teen website: <http://www.whyriskit.ca>.

Check out the first website of its kind in Canada dedicated to providing resources and tools for pre-teens, teens and young adults living with severe allergies.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **CSACI Annual Scientific Meeting -**
October 22– 25, 2009 -
Halifax, Nova Scotia
- **American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology -** November 6-11, 2009,
Miami Beach, Florida
- **EAACI European Pediatric Allergy & Asthma Meeting -** Venice - Italy,
November 12 – 14, 2009
- **World Allergy Congress, Buenos Aires,**
Argentina - December 6-10, 2009

IMPORTANT DEADLINES - CSACI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

- ♦ **Deadline for Hotel Reservations -**
September 5, 2009
- ♦ **Receipt of Travel Grants -**
September 8, 2009
- ♦ **Early Bird Registration -**
September 25, 2009



CSACI NEEDS YOU!

ASTHMA INTEREST SECTION HEAD NEEDED

As Section Head you play an important role in the society and to the functioning and operation of the CSACI.

The success of CSACI is entirely dependent on the volunteer work which is done by members like you. The Board meets twice a year: at the Annual Scientific Meeting and at the Mid-Term Meeting to review the activities of the committee. We ask that you liaise with your committee members and chair an Interest Section meeting during the CSACI Annual Meeting.

For more information, please contact the CSACI Head Office.

CSACI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

SAVE THE DATE - October 22-25, 2009

JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES IN HALIFAX FOR THE 2009 CSACI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

THE PREMIER ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY EVENT OF THE YEAR

Come and join us at this year's annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology in Halifax. International and Canadian speakers will share their expertise and insights as they cover the wide spectrum of clinical and basic sciences. The event promises to be an exciting, informative, and enjoyable experience. Plan to stay until the end, Sunday closes with a debate: *"Is Oral desensitization of foods ready for prime time?"*

**Dr. Charles Frankish, Chair,
2009 Annual Meeting Program
Committee**

For more information regarding the meeting, please visit the website at www.csaci.ca
or
contact the
CSACI Head Office at
613-730-6272 or at csaci@rcpsc.edu

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The CSACI Abstract Presentation, which is a competition open to CSACI Trainees, AllerGen Trainees, and any Investigators interested in presenting research or clinical case presentations in the fields of allergy, asthma and/or immunology.

Poster viewing Session Sessions will be held at the Halifax World Trade and Convention Centre. Authors must attend their poster display during the assigned sessions:

- ◆ Friday October 23 from 15:15 to 15:45
- ◆ Saturday, October 24 from 10:45 to 11:15 and 14:15 to 14:45
- ◆ A timetable will be forwarded in early September

Final Poster discussion will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 17:30 to 19:30

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT
OF ABSTRACTS
Monday, July 27, 2009**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ABSTRACTS
TO:
CSACI@RCPSC.EDU**

The Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology would like to gratefully acknowledge the following companies for their unrestricted educational grants:

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