There is a tremendous amount of concern these days about the sustainability of the various medical disciplines. Internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, and most subspecialties (neurosurgery being a notable exception) are predicting major manpower problems in the foreseeable future.

Our subspecialty here in Canada is no exception. The majority of our membership are 50 years and older. At our present rate of residency training, there will be insufficient numbers of new trainees to replace the retiring physicians. As a result, assuming no change in our present situation, there will be a dwindling number of allergists and clinical immunologists per capita over the next 10 to 15 years. This is at a time when there is an increasing incidence of atopic disorders and an increased demand for allergy assessments.

What can be done to ensure the sustainability of our subspecialty? Recruitment of residents to the field of allergy and immunology is a top priority. To do this, we need to ensure that medical students and residents are aware of our subspecialty. This can be achieved through medical school lectures, short-term electives of medical students and residents in our offices, and the NREP program. In collaboration with the CMA, we have developed a detailed specialty profile to be provided to all medical students in order to inform them about our subspecialty.

With increased awareness of our subspecialty, increased applications to our five allergy and immunology programs in Canada should follow. Our first goal is to fill all of our residency positions in our five existing Allergy programs.

What can you do to help in this cause? Be a spokesman for our subspecialty, discussing the field of allergy and immunology with your young patients who are considering medicine as a career. Welcome a medical student or resident into your office for a short-term elective. Point out our specialty’s No. 1 ranking in “contentment with work/home balance”.

The CSACI board has established a task force, chaired up by Dr. Susan Waserman, to look at all aspects related to the sustainability of our subspecialty.

Together we can ensure that CSACI is a strong and vibrant subspecialty for many years to come.

Dr. Charles Frankish
IMPORTANT DATES

◆ XXVI Congress of the European Allergology June 9-13, 2007 Gotborg, Sweden
◆ 13th International Congress of Immunology Aug 21 - 25, 2007 Rio De Janiero, Brazil
◆ CSACI Annual Meeting September 27 – 30, 2007 - Edmonton, Alberta (Westin Hotel)
◆ XVIII World Congress of Asthma Oct 14 - 17, 2007 Guadalajara, Mexico
◆ American College of Allergy Asthma and Immunology Nov 9 - 14, 2007 Dallas, TX
◆ World Allergy Congress Dec 2-6, 2007 Bangkok, Thailand
◆ American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Mar 14 – 18, 2008 Philadelphia, PA

The Allergy Asthma Information Association (AAIA) and the Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation (CAAIF) are pleased to announce the $60,000 AAIA Award for Ontario Research in Asthma, Allergy or Anaphylaxis. Deadline for submissions is May 4, 2007. Please note that this award is open to Ontario residents only.

The 2006 CAAIF Research Award winner is Dr. Bruce Mazer from McGill University. Applications for the 2007 Research Award will be published shortly.

For more information regarding grants and awards, please visit the CAAIF website at: www.allergyfoundation.ca

Proceeds go to support allergy, asthma and anaphylaxis research and education.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters will be sent to the membership quarterly. If you would like to receive future newsletters by email, please indicate this by emailing csaci@rcpsc.edu. Those who indicate no preference will continue to receive the newsletters by mail.