



# CSACI Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1 - Winter 2009

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It will be a difficult task to follow in the footsteps of our two preceding Presidents, Susan Wasserman and Chuck Frankish, who have done so much for our Society.

Our specialty is more vibrant and our Society more focussed because of their work. And I think that it needs to be. As Dr. Johnson said, "When a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully". We have more than two weeks but we are threatened by two processes, only one of which we can modify, these being death and retirement and diminishing recruitment.



Fortunately, the education of medical students in the field of Allergy has recently elicited an indication of concern from WAO and the problems of recruitment to subspecialties like ours has come to the notice of the Royal College. However we hold our future in our own hands, for with allergic diseases increasing, if Allergists lack the manpower to care for these patients, those not trained in our discipline will replace us. So we need ideas, ideas on how to raise the profile of Allergy & Immunology in the Medical School curriculum, both from the viewpoint of training future physicians and increasing recruitment to the subspecialty. The Society has established a Manpower Committee chaired by Susan Wasserman. I would ask you all to think about our problem and forward your ideas on how to solve it to Susan or to myself.

I thank you all for allowing me the honour of becoming the President of the Canadian Society of Allergy & Immunology.

*Richard*

Dr. R. Warrington, CSACI President

**Do you have feedback,  
concerns or suggestions?  
Share them with the  
membership!**

**Send your comments to  
CSACI at:**

**774 promenade  
Echo Drive**

**Ottawa, ON K1S 5N8**

**Tel: 613-730-6272**

**Fax: 613-730-1116**

**E-mail: [csaci@rcpsc.edu](mailto:csaci@rcpsc.edu)**

# INTEREST SECTION REPORTS

## IMMUNOLOGY

### Overview of advances in Immunology and Immunodeficiency

Advances in basic and clinical immunology in 2007. Chinen J, Shearer WT. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2008 Jul;122(1):36-41. Review

Recently identified factors predisposing children to infectious diseases. Arkwright PD, Abinun M. *Curr Opin Infect Dis*. 2008 Jun;21(3):217-22. Review.

### Screening for Immunodeficiency

Wisconsin first state to screen all newborns for 'bubble boy disease'. Katcher ML, Brokopp CD. *WMJ*. 2008 May;107(3):113.

### New genes causing Severe Immunodeficiency

Reticular dysgenesis (aleukocytosis) is caused by mutations in the gene encoding mitochondrial adenylate kinase 2. Pannicke et al. *Nat Genet*. 2009 Jan;41(1):101-5. and Human adenylate kinase 2 deficiency causes a profound hematopoietic defect associated with sensorineural deafness. Lagresle-Peyrou C, *Nat Genet*. 2009 Jan;41(1):106-11.

A DNA-PKcs mutation in a radiosensitive T-B- SCID patient inhibits Artemis activation and nonhomologous end-joining. van der Burg M, *J Clin Invest*. 2009 Jan;119(1):91-8.

The actin regulator coronin 1A is mutant in a thymic egress-deficient mouse strain and in a patient with severe combined immunodeficiency. Shioh *Nat Immunol*. 2008 9(11):1307-15.

Mutations in CHD7 in patients with CHARGE syndrome cause T-B + natural killer cell + severe combined immune deficiency and may cause Omenn-like syndrome. *Clin Exp Immunol*. 2008 Jul;153(1):75-80.

### Treatment and Outcome of Immunodeficiency

Development of cancer in patients with primary immunodeficiencies. Salavoura K, *Anticancer Res*. 2008 Mar-Apr;28(2B):1263-9. Review.

Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation for primary immune deficiency diseases: current status and critical needs. Griffith LMJ *Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2008 ;122:1087-96.

Cognitive and behavioral abnormalities in children after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for severe congenital immunodeficiencies. Titman P, *Blood*. 2008 Nov 1;112(9):3907-13.

Insertional mutagenesis combined with acquired somatic mutations causes leukemogenesis following gene therapy of SCID-X1 patients. Howe SJ, *J Clin Invest*. 2008;118(9):3143-50 and

Insertional oncogenesis in 4 patients after retrovirus-mediated gene therapy of SCID-X1. Hacein-Bey-Abina S, *J Clin Invest*. 2008 Sep;118(9):3132-42.

**Dr. Eyal Grunebaum,**  
Section Head

# INTEREST SECTION REPORTS

## PEDIATRIC SECTION REPORT

The Pediatric Section had a very successful meeting at the recent annual meeting of the CSACI. There was discussion about confusion that continues to occur among patients, pharmacists and referring physicians about the proper dosing of epinephrine auto-injectors. It was agreed that there is a need for a brief consensus statement from our group clarifying the proper dosing of epinephrine auto-injectors.

There was discussion about recent changes made in recommendations regarding the early introduction of foods into an infant's diet. There was recognition and discussion of the work that has recently been done in the U.S. and Europe in this regard, culminating in the recent publication of the update of the AAP maternal and infant feeding guidelines. It was felt that there is also a need for a concise statement from our society. The statement would be useful as a position statement, but also as a potential resource for patients.

Other topics were also discussed at the meeting, including issues surrounding the prescription of epinephrine auto-injectors for children with isolated systemic cutaneous symptoms after a venomous insect sting. During the meeting, a short discussion or "needs assessment" was performed to determine potential topics for upcoming annual meetings of the CSACI.

Dr. Tim Vander Leek  
Section Head

## RHINOSINUSITIS

Dr. Silviu-Dan is the new section chair. Rhinosinusitis Section at the CSACI annual meeting had a town hall meeting discussion on sublingual immunotherapy moderated by myself and the option of a position statement/guidelines is to be considered.

Dr. Eric Leith  
Past Section Head

## IMPORTANT DATES

- ◆ MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC) DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31, 2009
- ◆ ALLERGEN FOURTH ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 14 -18, 2009, OTTAWA, ON
- ◆ AAAAI ANNUAL MEETING - MARCH 13-17, 2009, WASHINGTON, DC
- ◆ CSACI MID-TERM CANADIAN DINNER - MARCH 14, 2009 - WASHINGTON, DC
- ◆ CANADIAN RESIDENT FELLOW COMPETITION - April 26 – 27, 2009
- ◆ CSACI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING - OCTOBER 22– 25, 2009, HALFIAX, NOVA SCOTIA
- ◆ AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY - NOVEMBER 6-11, 2009, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

# INTEREST SECTION REPORTS

## **ALLIED HEALTH - Annual Meeting in Hamilton October 2008—Report**

CSACI Allied Health members enjoyed an educational weekend in Hamilton learning from various specialists in the field of Allergy and Immunology. Our general sense is that this conference was particularly applicable to the level of the Allied Health member with more focus not only on what is happening in research but how does the research translate for patients, families and expectant mothers. A general theme of this meeting was the impact that allergic disease has on patients and their families. There was both a sense of optimism for the future treatment of allergic disease and also a need for health care professionals to do more to educate, particularly patients in the area of compliance with regular medication use and the area of anaphylaxis. Here is a summary of the weekend highlights.

### **Rhinosinuitis**

Dr. Baroody (University of Chicago)

Saline irrigations are thought to improve mucociliary transport which is impaired in sinusitis

Treatment:

- ◆ Anti-inflammatory Rx is most important / Role for antifungal Rx seems minimal; and
- ◆ Little evidence for other adjunctive Rx

### **Immunotherapy**

Dr. Bowen gave a lively presentation on immunotherapy challenging members to “GO for the CURE!” Immunotherapy was discussed as currently the only therapy aimed at modifying the underlying disease process of asthma. Immunotherapy was a hot topic at this conference and the general sense is that we will be seeing more of it in the future. There was discussion on the use of Sublingual immunotherapy and the use of combo immunotherapy versus one allergen immunotherapy.

### **Anaphylaxis**

Anaphylaxis Canada discussed Anaphylaxis in the Community setting which was followed up by a hands on demonstration of both EpiPen® and Twinject™. In a Canadian Study demonstrating use of an Auto Injector the pass rate was surprising low... Pass rate for Parents 37% - Health care professionals 25% - Teacher 12%. A suggestion from the audience was to have families practice administering their expired Auto Injector into an orange in the presence of their Health Care Provider. Some of us felt this may decrease anxiety around administering an Auto Injector and others felt anxiety may be increased after seeing the needle.

Things that have been learned from anaphylaxis fatalities are:

- ◆ People who died often had previous allergic reactions
- ◆ Teens and young adults more at risk
- ◆ People also diagnosed with asthma are at greater risk
- ◆ There was a delay in getting epinephrine
- ◆ Accidentally ate a food thought to be safe

Anaphylaxis more commonly occurs at home. Out of 148 reactions to peanut 59 (40%) occurred at home where we think children should be the safest. There is room for improvement in increasing the safety of people with food allergies.

### **Food Allergies**

Dr. Jonathan O'B Hourihane (Ireland) discussed practical issues families ask about.

- ◆ A Quality of Life survey was mentioned where people living with Type I Diabetes rated a higher quality of life than people living with food allergies.
- ◆ There was a theme discussed regarding what should we tell expectant mothers who want to prevent food allergy. Generally the consensus was leaving the mother alone to do what she would normally do because we don't have enough evidence to make recommendations.
- ◆ Some things that the mother can be told is that breastfeeding for the first 4-6 months is beneficial.

Continued .../5

# INTEREST SECTION REPORTS

## ALLIED HEALTH - Annual Meeting in Hamilton October 2008 - Report (cont'd)

### Atopic Dermatitis

Dr. Judy Wismer spoke about eczema therapies and an important question for patients about their eczema and asking patients, "How is your itch? Not how is your rash?"

### Asthma

Dr. Mark Greenwald discussed how GINA guidelines of optimal control differ from our current guidelines for asthma control in his talk The Asthma Control Goal Post...Not a Moving Target!

- ◆ The current state of asthma control, patient perceptions about asthma and the practical application of asthma control were discussed.
- ◆ ICS are currently the best treatment for asthma but there is no evidence that we can modify the disease of asthma by use of ICS.

Dr. Lemanske (University of Wisconsin) spoke of different wheezing phenotypes in children i.e.. transient, non-atopic and atopic asthmatics. He suggested that inflammation probably begins in early life and referred to research that suggests that although early use of inhaled corticosteroids decreases symptoms, they do not alter the course of asthma once they are discontinued.

### Poster Discussion

This year, the poster viewing was followed up with a poster discussion symposium. This allowed a casual interactive approach that provided helpful feedback and an open forum discussion that seemed to be well received by those in attendance. Posters submitted included a small number from Allied Health professionals.

Nancy Ross and Rashma Chooniedass  
Co-chair volunteers

For more Allied Health News, please visit the [CSACI website](#)

## CSACI CANADIAN DINNER

Come and meet your colleagues at the **CSACI Canadian Dinner to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Madison Hotel, Washington DC**

**Cost: \$60 for CSACI Fellows and Members**  
**\$60 for guests**  
**\$125 Corporate Member**

(Includes a delectable assortment of appetizers, four course gourmet dinner and wine)

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2009  
Reception: 19:00 - "Dolly Madison Ballroom"  
Dinner: 20:00 - "Dolly Madison Ballroom"

**For tickets or more information – please contact:**

CSACI Head Office  
Phone: 613-730-6272  
Fax: 613-730-1116  
E-mail: [csaci@rcpsc.edu](mailto:csaci@rcpsc.edu)

**OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CSACI.CA](http://WWW.CSACI.CA)**

**TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE AAAAI MEETING  
ALSO AVAILABLE.**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT  
THE CSACI WEBSITE.**



# CAAIF NEWS

**The CAAIF non-profit summit** at the recent CSACI annual meeting was a success with over 15 groups having an opportunity to discuss their recent areas of interest and share mutual areas of concern and networking partnerships.

Through generous donations by registrants, the **CAAIF fundraising dinner and silent auction** on the Friday evening of the CSACI annual meeting raised over \$20,000 . Ms. Sara Shannon (Sabrina's mother) was honoured for all of her contributions to awareness of anaphylaxis and allergic diseases.

AAIA were thanked and acknowledged for their contribution to CAAIF from monies raised at the AAIA Run and also a generous donation for a CAAIF/AAIA research award.

We look forward to ongoing contributions to CAAIF and thank all those who have donated to CAAIF and to those who will continue to support research of allergic and immunologic diseases.

Sincerely, Dr. Eric Leith Chair CAAIF

## CAAIF Awards

The CAAIF and the **Allergy/Asthma Information Association - Atlantic Canadian Allergy**, forwarded a cheque for **\$7,000**, which represented the funding for the Peanut Allergy Research in Canada for the project entitled "Filaggrin and Epidermal Differentiation Complex Gene Mutations in Peanut Allergy" by **Dr. Yuka Asai** (Resident) (under the supervision of Ann Clarke) from the Divisions of Allergy/Clinical Immunology and Clinical Epidemiology at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Center.

The CAAIF also awarded a cheque for \$10,000, which represents the funding from the **CAAIF Research Grant Competition** for the project entitled "T-regulatory function in children with food allergies" by **Dr. Bruce Mazer** from the MUHC-RI c/o Montreal Children's Hospital.

## **2008 ALLERGY/ASTHMA INFORMATION ASSOCIATION (AAIA) AND CANADIAN ALLERGY, ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY FOUNDATION (CAAIF) AWARD FOR ONTARIO RESEARCH IN FOOD ALLERGY**

The goal of the Program is to **encourage basic scientific research** in the mechanisms underlying food allergy. **The research is to be carried out in Ontario, Canada** as the funds were raised by the AAIA in Brampton, Ontario under a program regulated by the Ontario Alcohol and Gaming Commission.

**VALUE OF THE AWARD: \$65, 000.00**

**DEADLINE: March 31, 2009**

***The funds must be expended in the province of Ontario, Canada.***

## **2009 CSACI MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Keeping your membership current will help maintain a strong society.

♦ **We would ask you take a moment to review the enclosed membership renewal invoice.**

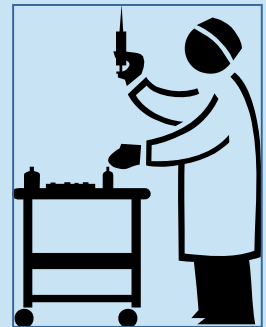
We value your membership and know you will continue to support the CSACI.

Unfortunately, the online dues payment is not yet available - we will keep you posted.

Louise Tremblay, CSACI Manager

## **IMMUNOTHERAPY MANUAL**

Prescribing and administering allergy injections are important activities performed by every practicing allergist. In spite of this, the teaching experience around allergy injections has been an identified educational gap in Canadian Allergy/Immunology training programs. This year, a CSACI committee, co-chaired by Drs. Susan Waserman and Harold Kim, is in the process of designing a manual of immunotherapy, with a focus on the practical “how to” aspects of “allergy shots”. Drs. Bill Moote, David Fisher, Charles Frankish, Sean Mace, Mark Greenwald and Eric Leith are other members of this committee and will share their practice insights. The manual should be ready for the next academic year and will hopefully become a valuable resource for both trainees and teaching faculty.



*Stay Tuned!!*

Drs. Susan Waserman and Harold Kim

## **ANAPHYLAXIS IN SCHOOLS & OTHER SETTINGS, SECOND EDITION**

Plans are underway for the second edition of the consensus guidelines, *Anaphylaxis in Schools & Other Settings*, which will include input from twelve national healthcare organizations with an interest in anaphylaxis. The proposed changes submitted by the participating organizations will be reviewed by the principal authors in the first quarter of 2009.

Approved changes will be incorporated into the English and French versions of the guidelines document and the companion websites, [www.allergysafecommunities.ca](http://www.allergysafecommunities.ca) and [www.securite-allergie.ca](http://www.securite-allergie.ca). The second edition of the consensus guidelines is currently planned for release in Fall 2009.

# CSACI NEWS

## CSACI Annual Meeting: Hamilton, October 23 to 26, 2008

The 68th Annual scientific meeting of the CSACI took place from Thursday October 23rd to Sunday October 26th. The meeting was packed with informative sessions on rhinosinusitis, asthma, food allergy, and immunodeficiency. The inaugural FIT symposium opened the meeting on Thursday afternoon. Sunday morning was a literature review. A world class faculty of international and national speakers was organized by Dr. Susan Waserman and the Annual meeting planning committee. There were 374 registrants for the meeting.

Planning is already underway for the upcoming annual meeting in Halifax, NS. Plan to attend and experience Halifax and its renowned maritime hospitality.

**Keep the dates: October 22 to 25, 2009, Halifax, NS.**

Dr. Charles Frankish, 2009 Annual Meeting Chair

## 2008 CSACI Award Recipients

**Bram Rose Memorial Lectureship – Dr. Jonathan O’B Hourihane**  
**David McCourtie Memorial Lectureship - Dr. William Moote**  
**CSACI Award for Research in Immunology – Dr. Richard Warrington**  
**The Jerry Dolovich Award - Dr. Robert Schellenberg**

## CSACI / CAAIF ANNUAL MEETING



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**Top Left - Dr. Leith receives a cheque for \$15,000 from the AAIA**  
**Top Right - Dr. Frankish presents the “Gavel” to the new CSACI President, Dr. Richard Warrington**  
**Left - Dr. Frankish presents the David McCourtie Memorial Lectureship to Dr. William Moote**  
**Right - Dr. Frankish presents the Jerry Dolovich Award to Dr. Bob Schellenberg**

