Dear Colleagues,

Well it has been a busy and exciting first six months of my term!

For most of Canada, it has been a cold finish to the winter. The spring is finally here and, as always, we are expecting “the worst allergy season in history”. One of these years the media will get it right.

We started the year off in great fashion with a well-organized, well attended, and greatly appreciated CSACI reception in San Francisco. I would like to thank Louise and JP Tremblay for organizing our successful reception. We are grateful to all of you that were able to attend the event. The other important occasion that occurred in San Francisco was our midterm Board of Directors meeting for the Society. At the meeting, we were able to lay out the plans for moving forward with a number of major projects.

Over the last several years, the Society has been able to establish a reliable financial base and consistent volunteer force to move ahead with several important projects.

First of all, under the leadership of Dr. David Fischer, we have completed a position statement on the benefits of the newer antihistamines over the older sedating ones. We will see this paper published very soon in our journal. As well, we are working on position statements on penicillin allergy and early infant feeding. Over the years, our position statements have been well received and often well referenced.

The CSACI has never published fully graded guidelines documents. Currently, we are nearly midway through the preparation of the Canadian Food Oral Immunotherapy Guidelines. Drs. Phillipe Begin and Edmond Chan have worked tirelessly on this major initiative. We believe that our guidelines will provide a pragmatic clinical approach to this promising therapy. On the topic of rhinitis Drs. Jaclyn Quirt, Sean Mace, and Bill Moote are organizing the first Canadian Rhinitis Guidelines in over decade.

An even bigger potential project is the National Food Allergy Action Plan. In collaboration with Food Allergy Canada, the CSACI has initiated an effort to establish food allergy as a condition that should be noticed by our Government and funding bodies. A number of CSACI members are contributing their time and expertise to the preparation of an Executive Summary that will outline the key areas in food allergy that require attention. We hope to convince the federal government that a National Food Allergy Action Plan is important for Canadians. At the end of May (during Food Allergy Awareness Month), Jennifer Gerdts, from Food Allergy Canada, and I will be in Ottawa to present this initiative to government officials. We are optimistic that the National Food Allergy Action Plan will lead to worthy educational and research projects in Canada.

One pillar of the CSACI is the preparation and delivery of education to our members. One of our Society’s new initiatives is an educational retreat for our residents. In September, we will have our inaugural Fellow in Training Retreat in Toronto. All allergy graduating residents and those in their PGY-5 year in 2019-2020 will be invited to the retreat to review pragmatic topics in allergy that may not be covered at their programs. It will be a great time to network with their colleagues as well.
... The previous iteration of the Supplements was very popular with residents and students across the country. Together, these papers became an unofficial textbook for allergy in Canada.

In the next few months, we will be printing and providing hard copies of these papers in a magazine format to all CSACI members, CIA program directors and the medical schools in Canada.

As I don’t have space in this letter to discuss the plethora of exciting projects that the Section Chairs are in the midst of executing, I would encourage you to review the Section Chairs’ overviews in this Newsletter.

As you can see, the CSACI is moving forward with a number of exciting projects. These large endeavours and the more routine daily activities of the CSACI would not be possible without the ongoing efforts and insightful ideas from the CSACI executive, Drs. Tim Vander Leek and Anne Ellis, and the CSACI Executive Director, Louise Tremblay and Alexi Campbell.

**Finally, mark your calendars for the following important meetings:**

1. This year’s Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on October 23-27 in Montreal which will be outstanding!  
2. The 2020 CSACI ASM in Ottawa, Ontario, hosted at the Shaw Conference Centre from October 21-25.  
3. The 2021 CSACI ASM hosted in Banff, Alberta at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel from October 27-30.  
4. The 2022 CSACI ASM will be hosted in Quebec City at the Quebec Convention Centre from September 21-25. We hope to see you at these events!

Dr. Harold Kim, CSACI President
Food allergy and anaphylaxis Report

Dr. Upton and Dr. Abrams, along with other CSACI members, have continued work with Food Allergy Canada (FAC) with regards to patient advice for food allergies and anaphylaxis. They are members of the newly formed Medical Advisory Board for Food Allergy Canada and look forward to working to support food allergic patients even more in the next few years by increasing government engagement in allergy.

Dr. Upton is now Food Allergy Canada’s “Ask the allergist” and helps to address questions important to patients.

Dr. Upton has been working with Dr. Doug Mack and Dr. Anne Ellis on CSACI guidance on care of patients post anaphylaxis. She also been working with other CSACI members with regards to epinephrine safety issues.

Drs. Abrams and Upton have continued medical reviews of CSACI food allergy and anaphylaxis related documents. They are contributing to CSACI documents about safety practices in the office with respect to anaphylaxis risk and are working on the CSACI oral immunotherapy position document.

Both Dr. Abrams and Upton are passionate about food allergy prevention and getting the word out for early introduction of food to prevent food allergies through media and articles. Dr. Abrams was recently an author of the Canadian Pediatric Society updated guidelines for food introduction to infants, which should go a long way in bringing this important intervention to wider practice. They are also working with Dr. Elana Lavine, Pediatrics CSACI chair, to shed light on other food allergy prevention strategies including exploring the evidence for the use of emollients. Both Dr. Abrams and Upton are continuing their academic work. In addition to their food allergy work, they strive to improve the management of drug allergy with recent articles and posters at meetings. Dr. Upton continues her trials on food allergy intervention and epidemiological exploration of allergy.

Planning continues for the CSACI Montreal meeting and we anticipate strong speakers on food allergy and anaphylaxis issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Drs. Julia Upton, Section Advisor and Elissa Abrams
Immunology Report

Spring is a busy but exciting time for Immunologists. The Clinical Immunology Society’s Annual Meeting has just wrapped up in Atlanta and the Primary Immune Deficiency Treatment Consortium meeting is coming up soon in New York. Besides the wealth of new knowledge obtained, these two events represent a great opportunity for Canadian Immunologists to network with colleagues across the country and with those in the United States and elsewhere. Following the momentum originating from our gathering in Toronto during CIS 2018, the “2nd Canadian Immunologists dinner” was held during this year’s CIS Meeting on April 5th. It was a smaller group this time but with very good representation of the Immunology centres across Canada. The main topic for discussion was the collaborative multi-centre project originated from recent teleconferences among the Immunologists group. Stay tuned for more news on this and other Canadian immunologists’ initiatives.

In other news, I am very happy to announce that, as of May 6th, all newborns in Alberta and the Northwestern Territories will be screened for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency. These are the two latest Provinces to do so, following Ontario in 2013 and the Maritime Provinces in 2016. The goal is to continue to advocate for the implementation of NBS for SCID in the remaining parts of the country to be able to promptly identify and treat every child born with this otherwise fatal group of disorders.

Also, get ready for the CSACI Annual Meeting in Montreal this Fall. The Immunology Section Breakout session will feature Dr. Fabien Touzot from le Centre de recherche du CHU Sainte-Justine. Dr. Touzot is an expert in gene therapy/editing for primary immunodeficiencies and other hematological pathologies.

Finally, the CSACI Immunology Section is looking for a fresh new face to lead it for the next few years. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact me.

See you all in Montreal!

Dr. Luis E. Murguía-Favela
Section Advisor
**Asthma Report**

**Goals for 2019**

Perform a needs assessment with members to better understanding current practices in asthma treatment and barriers in treating patients.
- Understand the current scope of practice of allergists in caring for patients with asthma
- Understand challenges faced by allergists in the diagnosis and management of asthma

Develop educational resource on use of biologics in the treatment of asthma.
- Develop a tool (guideline, position statement, etc.) on the use of biologics in treatment of asthma. Include a decision-making tool - e.g. “patients with X features may be best treated with Y.”

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Andy O’Keefe
Section Advisor

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**Allied Health Report**

**Goals for 2019**

- Feasibility of an Anaphylaxis Educator Program:
  Speaking with various individuals in CSACI board of directors to discuss the feasibility of developing an anaphylaxis educator program, similar to the asthma educator program.
- Interprofessional Collaboration in Allergy – Position Statement:
  Position statement describing the roles of different healthcare professional groups in provision of allergy care.
- Increase AH speakers at annual meeting plenary sessions:
  AH wanting to be more involved in the main meeting rather than having a separate session that is relevant to them.

**Meetings/Teleconferences and Progress to date**

1. Discussion with Harold Kim re: anaphylaxis educator program next steps
2. Confirmation of 2 possible nurse/educator collaborators for anaphylaxis educator program
3. Interprofessional practice position statement - received confirmation from 3 possible collaborators (nurse, allergist, psychologist)

Ms. Sara Johnson and Dr. Lianne Soller
Co-Section Advisors
Rhinitis and Sinusitis Report

Goals for 2019

Establish first annual FIT Immunotherapy retreat:
- The first annual FIT immunotherapy retreat will occur Sept 6-8, 2019 at the ALT hotel in Toronto. The focus of this retreat will be case-based approach to prescribing and administering SCIT with hands-on practice in administration of injections. There will also be a portion of day 1 dedicated to SLIT and VIT. We will incorporate small practical sessions on patch testing, administering SCIG and administering biologics as per needs assessment from both residents and program directors.

Rhinitis guidelines – establish working group and start process
- The process of establishing updated Canadian Rhinitis Guidelines is underway. A list of names has been submitted to the CSACI. We have been brainstorming areas/questions to focus on in these guidelines. We are having a difficult time recruiting a guidelines expert, though we do have some leads.

Increase attendance at rhinitis and sinusitis section meeting
- There has been a past push by Dr. Mace to increase attendance to the rhinitis and sinusitis Section meeting by incorporating more talks on immunotherapy. This will be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jackie Quirt
Section Advisor

CPD REPORT

The CPD Committee had a teleconference in November 2018 to discuss the recommendations/suggestions from the Royal College (RC) accreditation report. The first steps needed are formalizing a budget and operational plan that are specific as per RC accreditation report as well as evaluate Section 3 opportunities in AAAAI content (journal, virtual courses) and our Journal. A CPD Committee member has volunteered to review AAAAI course offerings to determine if they meet Section 3 accreditation standards.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lori Connors, CPD Chair
**Pediatric Report**

**Goals for 2019**

Completion of a position statement on early emollient usage for the prevention of atopic dermatitis and other allergic disease:

- There is a growing body of research supporting the role of early skin care to prevent atopic dermatitis, and thus possibly to reduce the risk of subsequent food allergy. Our organization would publish a statement that emphasizes the low-risk nature of such an intervention and the multiple possible benefits, and review both published studies and those studies which are underway but not yet concluded.

Progress to be made on a standardized form for use in both private/public daycare programs across Canada:

- Daycares provide multiple meals/snacks to preschoolers at an age when food allergies present. Allergic reactions may occur in daycares when new foods are presented (e.g. sesame, legumes, fish) and/or when identified allergens are provided by accident to children with previously diagnosed food allergies (milk, egg, wheat, others); these examples are not provided in any particular order but as illustrative examples. Current forms vary from daycare to daycare and may contain outdated or erroneous information, i.e. asking for prediction of what specific symptoms a child may manifest, counseling for the use of first-generation antihistamine for “mild” reaction. A standardized template may be helpful for daycares to use in order to reduce misinformation and/or delayed use of epinephrine in these settings.

**Meetings/Teleconferences and Progress to date**

1. Contact between the pediatric section advisor and the anaphylaxis section advisor; sharing of literature and creation of a first draft of the position statement. The first draft has been completely written and referenced and awaits editorial suggestions from the CSACI executive.

2. This goal was met with mixed reviews from the CSACI board/executive at the November teleconference and I was instructed to wait until publication of another publication from the CSACI in early 2019. It was suggested that at that time, I draft a proposed form and submit it to the board to review.

The template was submitted in time for the April teleconference and discussed, with positive response from the executive and board. I was encouraged to draft a template for a Daycare Food Allergy Form and also a brief position statement addressing these concerns, which are both underway.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dr. Elana Lavine**

**Section Advisor**
FIT REPORT

Dear FITs,

We are in the process of discussing the next year’s FIT Symposium. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to send me a message at info@csaci.ca.

Also, as many of you already know, we will elect a new junior FIT representative during the next FIT Symposium and Dr Keelia Farrell will be your senior representative.

We wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating FITs! Please take a few moments to realize and celebrate your accomplishments! It will be a pleasure to see you at the next meeting in Montreal!

Please enjoy this summary of the activities from the FIT Portfolio.

Explanation of Activities

1. CSACI FIT SESSION SURVEY – HALIFAX, 2018
The fellow in training (FIT) program is an essential part of the program at the CSACI Annual Meeting. This program provides the fellow in training access to a variety of topics that are important for them and their transition from fellow to staff.

At the 2018 CSACI Annual Meeting a survey was carried out to elicit feedback from Canadian FITs regarding the FIT Program. Below is a summary of the feedback.

Source of data:
• Verbal feedback from FIT Symposium at the Annual Meeting in Halifax 2018;
• Paper Survey FIT Session 2018.

Results:
We were lucky enough to have 27 participants who filled the survey (see annex at the end of the document)

- 25/26 appreciated the panel discussion
- 24/25 thought that we should have a question and answer session each year

As for the training settings,
- 3/26 fellows train only in clinics
- 19/26 do most of their training in the hospital
- 4/26 train in both settings (clinics and hospital)

In the survey, fellows responded that they see in average seven cases of anaphylaxis per year. Also, 21 out of the 27 that completed the survey would be interested in participating in a simulation workshop on anaphylaxis.

Continued on page 8
Finally, 20 out of the 27 plan on attending the meeting next year.

**Requested topics for FIT Symposium:**

- **Transition to Practice Advice**
  - Billing codes
  - Career opportunities
  - Challenges to new practices
  - Time management

- **Clinical Topics**
  - Angioedema – Urticaria
  - Drug Challenges
  - Biologics in Allergy - New biologics

**Clinical Topics - continued**

- Drug Allergy – Penicillin
- How to order venoms + SLIT + SCIT
- Immunology - Immunodeficiency in community
- Immunotherapy - Venom IT
- Ocular Allergy
- Eosinophilic Esophagitis
- Panel discussions on clinical scenarios

2. **FIT RETREAT**
   *(For more details, see report from Dr. Quirt – Rhinitis and Sinusitis Report)*

3. **CSACI Annual Meeting – Montréal, 2019**
   Our goal in planning the content of the FIT session is to meet the needs as outlined by the FITs in the survey described above.

**CSACI 2019 FIT Symposium in Montréal - Planning in Progress**

**Thursday, October 24, 2019**
- 0715-0800 FIT OSCE Breakfast and Orientation
- 0810-1000 OSCE
- 1015-1315 FIT Symposium Workshop and Lunch

**Friday, October 25, 2019**
- 1915-2100 FIT Reception *(Location to be determined)*

Thank you very much for reading our report. If you have any feedback, advice, questions or concerns, please feel free to approach the FIT team at any time.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Ana-Maria Copaescu, Senior FIT Representative

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**Senior FIT Representative**
Ana-Maria Copaescu, MD, FRCPC
PGY5 Clinical Immunology and Allergy
Université de Montréal

**Junior FIT Representative**
Keelia Farrell, MD
PGY4 Clinical Immunology and Allergy
University of Halifax

**CSACI FIT Program Co-Supervisor**
Zainab Abdurrahman, MD, FRCP (Pediatrics), FRCP (Clinical Immunology and Allergy), Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct) of Pediatrics, McMaster University

**CSACI FIT Program Co-Supervisor**
Andrew O’Keefe, MD, FRCPC
Clinical Assistant Professor
Memorial University
As the weather across Canada finally warms up…we here at the CSACI are gearing up for our next Annual Scientific Meeting, this time located in beautiful Montréal, QC. It will be held at the Hotel Bonaventure which is located right next to the VIA Rail station and is also quite close to the pleasures of the Vieux Port (Old Port) district. It’s a vibrant city with lots to offer in terms of culture, restaurants, parks and architecture with a fabulous sense of joie de vivre.

Our Planning Committee has come up with many excellent topics with speakers from Canada, the US and Europe. The Program will be posted on our website soon and will feature topics themed around: Food Allergy/OIT, Updates on Biologic Agents, and Anaphylaxis. Additionally, we are trying a new format: The Workshop, which will feature interdisciplinary talks between Allergists/Immunologists and other specialists in a case-based format.

Some of your old favourites will be back including: a Pro/Con debate, a Year-In-Review session, the FIT Bowl, and Section 3 sessions. With the Meeting being hosted in ’la belle province’ we are aiming to offer some ‘Q & A’ sessions both in English et en français.

You can catch up with your colleagues and have an enjoyable evening at social events like the CAAIF Gala and the Annual CSACI dinner with networking opportunities available throughout the Meeting.

The Call for Abstracts just went out, and further Program information, registration details and hotel accommodation information should be forthcoming soon…so watch your e-mail inbox.

We’re looking forward to seeing you all in Montréal this fall! À la prochaine!

Dr David Fischer,
2019 Program Chair
We are pleased to announce the CSACI Abstract Competition.

Submission Deadline:
Friday, June 28, 2019

The Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) invite you to submit an abstract for their 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from October 23 to 27.

The CSACI will award prizes for the top poster/presentation in seven categories:
- Allergic Rhinitis/Asthma
- Immunology
- Food Allergy/Anaphylaxis
- Urticaria/Angioedema;
- Other Allergy/Immunology
- Case Reports
- Allied Health

ALL ABSTRACTS MUST ADHERE TO THE ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

THREE STEPS TO COMPLETE YOUR SUBMISSION:
1. Abstract Submission
2. Consent to Publish (for Case Reports)
3. Author Disclosure Form (All first/presenting authors)

NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

TRAVEL GRANTS

Travel grants are available to Fellows-in-training enrolled in Canadian programs of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Basic Science Trainees involved in significant Allergy/Immunology research and Allied Health professionals who are members of the Allied Health section of CSACI.
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2019

MOC ACCREDITATION
SECTIONS 1 AND 3

Again, this year, the CSACI is hosting several scientific sessions eligible for Section 1 and 3 credits.

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOPS ON EOE AND RHINO-SINUSITIS
❖ Dilemmas in Rhino-sinusitis
❖ The True Role of Food in Eosinophilic Esophagitis: Diagnosis and Management

IMMUNOLOGY AND BASIC SCIENCE STREAM
❖ Challenges in Diagnosis of Immunodeficiency
❖ Dilemmas in Genetic Assessment of Immunodeficiency Patients

Follow the CSACI Annual Scientific Meeting on Twitter

While in Montréal, use #CSACI19 when you tweet to participate in onsite conversations & share what you are learning with colleagues

2019 CSACI Annual Scientific Meeting APP

Access everything you need for the Meeting right from your phone or tablet!

Search for abstracts and authors, learn more about the meeting sponsors and exhibiting companies, find your way around with easy to view floor plans. You can even plan, store and update your schedule with the online program!

Answer pre and post test questions for specific sessions directly through the app and claim your section 3 credits!

Want to win a gift card but tired of filling out the exhibitor passport? Back by popular demand this year, the CSACI Trivia Game…stay tuned for more details.
Thank you to our sponsors*

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*At time of print

More sponsorship opportunities are available – please contact the CSACI Head Office for more info
Dr. Harold Kim recently gave an interview with Chatelaine. Read a recent article on How Climate Change Is Making Us Sick - Pollen production is on the rise: Link: https://www.chatelaine.com/health/health-effects-of-climate-change/

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New “Allergy Check” tool helps to assess the likelihood of having a food allergy
VANCOUVER, BC, May 1, 2019 – Allergy Check, a new assessment tool that guides users through the likelihood of having a food allergy with just a few clicks, has launched as an app on allergycheck.ca.

The app is intended to help patients and parents understand whether specific symptoms may be caused by a food allergy and whether further advice from an allergist is recommended. Investigators at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Digital Lab at BC Children’s Hospital collaborated to create Allergy Check, with support from Food Allergy Canada and the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI).

CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS:

1ST Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) 2019 Summer Studentships in Allergy and Immunology Research

We are pleased to inform you that the CSACI has bestowed six (6) awards for the First Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) 2019 Summer Studentships in Allergy and Immunology Research.

And the winners are:
- Sarah Almas, University of Alberta
- Christianne Blais, University of Saskatchewan
- Anna Branch, University of British Columbia
- Tatjana Brauer-Chapin, Dalhousie University
- Joella Ho, Western University
- Paul Spill, McMaster University

We would like to thank the 22 individuals who applied. We congratulate them all on their high caliber of work and wish them much success in this and other research endeavors.

I would also like to thank Dr. Harissios Vliagoftis (Chair), Dr. Sandy Kapur, Dr. Christine McCusker, Dr. Kyla Hildebrand, Dr. Julia Upton and Dr. Andy O’Keefe who helped in reviewing these submissions.

Dr. Harold Kim
CSACI President
CIRQUE SPECTACULAIRE

CAAIF GALA AND AUCTION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019
6:30 PM
LE WINDSOR BALLROOMS
1170 RUE PEEL

TICKETS $250
Tax receipt for maximum allowable amount

Please visit www.allergyfoundation.ca
to purchase tickets

FEATURING:
Cirque performance by the Russian Bar Trio
Live Auction
50/50 Draw

GALA ET VENTE AUX ENCHÈRES DE LA FCAAIF

LE JEUDI 24 OCTOBRE 2019
18h30
SALLES DE BAL LE WINDSOR
1170, RUE PEEL

BILLETS 250 $
Reçu d’impôt pour le montant maximum autorisé

Visitez le www.allergyfoundation.ca
pour acheter des billets

EN VEDETTE :
Spectacle de cirque par le Barre Russe Trio
Vente aux enchères
Tirage molié-molié

Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation (CAAIF)
Fondation canadienne d’allergie, d’asthme et d’immunologie (FCAAIF)

All funds raised goes directly towards research in allergy, asthma and immunology.
Tous les fonds amassés vont directement à la recherche en allergie, asthme et immunologie.
Request for Applications

CIHR-ICRH/CAAIF/AZ Canada/AllerGen Emerging Researcher Awards in Allergic Asthma
This is a collaboration between the CIHR-Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (CIHR-ICRH), Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation (CAAIF), AstraZeneca Canada and AllerGen. The goal of this exciting funding opportunity is to support Canadian Allergists, Clinical Immunologists, MD clinician scientists and basic scientists working in translational research to pursue academic research in allergic asthma.

Research Areas
All research proposals received must be relevant to the area of allergic asthma.

Funds Available

- The total amount available for this funding opportunity is $400,000 enough to fund approximately 2 awards. The maximum amount per award is $100,000 per year for up to two (2) years for a total of $200,000 per award.
- Of this $100,000, applicants may request:
  o Salary contribution: up to a maximum of 75% per annum, including fringe benefits;
  o Research Allowance: a minimum of 25% per annum.

Application deadline August 16, 2019

For more information, please visit the Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation website.
Join us on a journey into the world of a baby’s gut microbiome. Meet some microbial superheroes and learn about how discoveries from the CHILD Cohort Study are helping us to understand allergies, asthma, obesity, and everyday health and wellbeing, especially during childhood.

allergen-nce.ca  |  childstudy.ca