

CAG Newsletter

Bulletin d'information de l'ACG

Winter/hiver 2009

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President's Remarks

First, I want to thank everyone who has expressed good wishes to me as I take up this post. I especially thank those who have offered to assist in supporting CAG - I will be calling on you! Thank you also to those who have agreed to serve on the executive and the Board. You are a fantastic group! I look forward to working with you. To the executive, with whom I have already had much contact - I could not ask for better people.

The London meetings were a great success - Thank you to Julie McMullin and all of the hard-working people who helped her. Successful meetings are truly motivating and inspiring. I can report that Barbara Payne and her group in Winnipeg are well on their way to hosting an equally stimulating conference this fall. CAG cannot function without the outstanding efforts of its members.

As I learn about the inner workings of the organization (Thank you to Past

President, Sandi Hirst, for her ready availability to assist with my many questions), one of my first priorities is to ensure financial viability by operating within our means, then, implementing strategies for enhancing our resources. CAG, like other gerontological organizations internationally, has seen a drop in membership in recent years. We seem to be more or less stable at approximately 500 members. This is despite the fact that there are now many of us who work in, study and research various aspects of gerontology in multiple and diverse settings. With the growth and maturing of the field, there has simultaneously been a proliferation of organizations, conferences and interest-groups focused on specific aspects of gerontology. CAG is distinctive in offering a broad spectrum of interests within gerontology and is therefore multidisciplinary, multi-focal, and interactive.

While our membership might increase,



President Neena Chappell

this cannot be assumed. There are though, other ways in which organizations such as ours can thrive. We want to do what we do well, and then grow. What would you like to see CAG doing? What are you prepared to do for CAG? We welcome your ideas (accompanied by what resources are required and likely sources).

I look forward to taking this journey with you.

Executive Director's Report

At the end of November I had the opportunity to attend GSA's 61st Annual Scientific meeting and compare notes with the new Executive Director, James Appleby. His message to share with CAG members acknowledges the strong educational and scholarly foundations that we have built in North America over the past decades.

GSA's goals for 2009 will build on three pillars: image, influence, and income. As our big sister organization,

GSA faces similar challenges and structural changes over the days ahead, and as CAG members, we also need to pay attention to our goals which could be said to mirror those south of the border.

Give some thought in 2009 to ways in which CAG's visibility nationally can be influenced and how to strengthen our image and draw upon our significant resources. It has been my pleasure to serve as CAG's Executive Director

and remind you that all member donations are tax deductible and can now be made directly on our website www.cagacg.ca.

Brenda M. Elias



Executive Director
Brenda Elias

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Message de la Présidente

Premièrement, j'aimerais remercier tous ceux qui m'ont envoyé leurs encouragements à mon acceptation du poste. J'aimerais surtout remercier tous ceux qui font des efforts afin d'assurer le bon fonctionnement de l'ACG – c'est vous qui serez mon appui!

Mes remerciements à ceux qui ont été d'accord de siéger au Conseil d'administration et au Comité exécutif – vous formez un group merveilleux et j'ai hâte de travailler avec vous. Pour ce qui est du Comité exécutif avec les membres avec lesquels j'ai déjà eu beaucoup de contacts - je ne pourrais pas avoir de meilleurs collaborateurs.

Le congrès organisé à London fut un grand succès – un grand merci à Julie McMullin et à toutes les personnes qui l'ont aidée. Chaque congrès couronné de succès est à la fois une source de motivation et

d'inspiration. Je vous assure que les préparations pour un prochain congrès très stimulant - cette fois organisé sous la supervision de Barbara Payne et son groupe à Winnipeg - sont en bonne voie. L'ACG ne pourrait pas fonctionner sans l'effort remarquable de ses membres.

Au fur et à mesure que je me mets à l'aise avec le fonctionnement de l'organisation (et maintenant je remercie l'ancienne présidente Sandi Hirst de sa disponibilité à répondre à la multitude de questions que je lui ai envoyées), une de mes premières priorités est d'assurer la viabilité financière en opérant dans la limite de nos moyens, et puis, d'implémenter de diverses stratégies afin d'assurer la croissance de nos ressources. L'ACG, tout comme les autres organisations internationales de gérontologie, a souffert pendant

ces dernières années une baisse du nombre de membres. Nous sommes plus ou moins stables avec un nombre d'environ 500 membres. Et cela même s'il y a beaucoup d'entre nous qui travaillons, étudions ou conduisons des recherches dans divers cadres et établissements. Avec l'expansion du domaine, il y a eu simultanément une prolifération des organisations, des conférences et des groupes d'intérêt spécialisés en aspects spécifiques de la gérontologie. L'ACG se distingue en appuyant une multitude d'intérêts à l'intérieur du domaine et par conséquent en facilitant une interaction multidisciplinaire et multilatérale.

Même s'il est possible que le nombre de membres de l'ACG augmentera, on ne peut pas prendre cela comme acquis. Il y a pourtant d'autres modalités dans lesquelles une organisation comme la nôtre



Présidente Neena Chappell

pourrait prospérer. Tout d'abord, avant de grandir, tout ce qui nous sommes en train de faire doit être bien fait. À quoi vous vous attendez de la part de l'ACG ? Comment pourriez-vous apporter votre contribution au développement de l'ACG ? Nous apprécions vos suggestions (accompagnées par les ressources requises pour l'implémentation et les sources disponibles).

Dans l'attente de travailler avec vous,

Message de l'Administratrice Générale



Directeur exécutif de Brenda Elias

À la fin de novembre, j'ai eu l'occasion d'assister à la 61e Réunion scientifique annuelle de la Gerontological Society of America [la Société américaine de gérontologie, ou la GSA], et de comparer mes notes avec celles de son nouveau Administrateur Général, M. James Appleby. Dans son message aux membres de l'ACG, il reconnaît les bases solides éducatives et académiques que nous avons établies en Amérique du Nord au cours des dernières décennies. Cet accomplissement important mérite d'être célébré et, avec le 40e anniversaire de la fon-

dation de l'ACG qui approche, c'est une occasion idéale de la faire!

Les objectifs fixés par la GSA pour l'année 2009 sont basés sur les trois piliers suivants: l'image, l'influence, et le revenu. Organisation de l'ACG, la GSA devra faire face, dans les jours à venir, à des défis et des changements structureux qui ressemblent à ceux auxquels le conseil d'administration de l'ACG sera aussi confronté. Il nous faudra donc penser à fixer des objectifs qui reflètent ceux de nos collègues de l'autre côté de la frontière.

En 2009 réfléchissons à la meilleure façon d'accroître la visibilité de l'ACG à l'échelle nationale; de consolider notre image; et à la manière dont nous pourrions servir de nos ressources importantes. Il me fait plaisir d'exercer la fonction d'Administratrice Générale de l'ACG et je vous rappelle que les dons des membres de notre association sont déductibles des impôts et peuvent être faits par le biais de notre site Web www.cagacg.ca.

Report on the 37th ASEM

Thank you to all of those who participated in and attended the 37th Annual Scientific & Educational Meeting that took place in October 2008 in London, Ontario. The conference would not have been a success without your support and we look forward to seeing you all next year in Winnipeg! We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those CAG members who were awarded recognition at the annual general meeting that took place at the ASEM.

~ Award Winners ~



Distinguished Member Award for outstanding work and commitment to the CAG: Neena L. Chappell, President 2009.

Neena L. Chappell, PhD, FRSC, Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology, Professor of Sociology at the Centre on Aging, University of Victoria. She was founding Director of the Centre on Aging at the University of Manitoba (1982 - 1992) and first Director of the Centre on Aging at the University of Victoria (1992 - 2002), developing both into world-class research facilities while ensuring accessibility to the community. For over 30 years, she has been a leader in gerontological research, focusing on issues around aging (caregiving, social support, dementia care, health services, healthy aging, Chinese and China) and health and social policy. Her research can be characterized as partnerships with other researchers in the social sciences and with non-researchers in government and community agencies.

Dr. Chappell promotes relevance and scientific rigour. She conducts large quantitative studies, small in-depth qualitative studies, publishes policy papers, and commentaries on the current societal situation. She argues for recognition of the positive aspects of aging as well as recognition of problems and challenges.

She has written more than 300 academic articles, chapters, reports, and written or edited 9 books.

Dr. Chappell has lectured internationally and is frequently sought out by committees and the media.



Evelyn Shapiro Mentoring Award for dedication to the field of gerontology knowledge dissemination: Victor Marshall.

Outstanding in his field, Victor's research interests and publications are in the area of aging and the life course with particular attention to work and health, healthy aging, public policy, and social theory. Forty of his 150 publications are co-authored with students or former students, and in 2002 he received the Distinguished Mentor Award of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section, Gerontological Society of America.

He is currently in his 14th year as Chair of the Gerontological Advisory Council of Veterans Affairs Canada. He is a founding member of CAG and received its Distinguished Member Award in 1998, as well as being a CAG selection to receive the Governor General's Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2002. He was the second editor of the Canadian Journal on Aging and served the CAG as chair of its research committee, chair of the Social Sciences Division, and Vice-President. He is the only CAG member who has attended every scientific and educational meeting since the founding of the association in 1971.



Donald Menzies Bursary for excellent academic merit: Paulette Hunter.

Paulette is currently enrolled in the Ph.D.

program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Regina, where she completed her Master's thesis research ("A Clinical Trial Evaluation of a Pain Management Program for Seniors with Dementia") under the supervision of Dr. Thomas Hadjistavropoulos.

She is presently being funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to conduct research on the subject of personhood in dementia. She has already produced one peer-reviewed publication and her work has been presented at national and international conferences.



Marjory Boyce Bursary awarded to an individual who has a strong connection with the community and a commitment to life-long learning: Caroline Thomson.

son.

Caroline Thomson holds a BA in Psychology and is currently completing her Master's of Social Work (Clinical Gerontology) at the University of Calgary. Caroline's research interests include: caregiving, aging and health, and the social aspects of aging. Her graduate thesis will explore the role of culture in the caregiving experience, with Daniel Lai as her supervisor.



SC-CÉ Executive Committee Members

- Anthony Kupferschmidt (President)
- Angela Johnston (Vice-President)
- Sophie Sapergia (Secretary-Treasurer)
- Jessica Jalbert (Distribution List Manager)
- Susan Jurczak, (Newsletter Coordinator)
- Chris Gonsalves (Website Manager)
- Sean Keays (Immediate Past President)

Greetings from the SC-CÉ! We would like to welcome and thank two new Student Representatives who took on this very important role this fall:

- **Sherbrooke University:** An-

nabelle Boucher, PhD Candidate, Department of Gerontology

- **University of Waterloo:** Rebecca Genoe, PhD Candidate, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies (Aging, Health and Well-being)

If your campus does not currently have a Student Representative, this could be a great opportunity for you to take on this very rewarding role. Contact Angela Johnston at ajohnsto@sfu.ca to learn more.

There is a new face on the SC-CÉ Executive Committee. Stacey Stuart has been elected as our new SC-CÉ Secretary/Treasurer. Stacey is a PhD student in the Department of Health Studies and Gerontology at the University of Waterloo. Congratulations and welcome Stacey!

The SC-CÉ would like to extend a special thank you to outgoing Executive Committee Members, Sophie Sapergia (Secretary/Treasurer), Jessica Jalbert (Distribution List Manager), and Susan Jurczak (Newsletter Coordinator). We wish you the best of luck with your future endeavours!

This year's Annual Scientific and Education Meeting (ASEM) ran from October 23-26, 2008 in London, Ontario. As in previous years, the SC-CÉ Book Display fundraiser proved popular and successful. 363 books were available in total, including 208 different titles from 33 different publishers. Over \$700 was raised and 8 free SC-CÉ memberships were awarded. Our thanks go out to Bonnie Purcell who chaired this event. Your efforts and hard work are most appreciated, Bonnie!

The SC-CÉ is currently recruiting a chair for next year's Book Display. If you love books this is a great opportunity to get involved with the SC-CÉ. If you are interested or want to learn more, contact us at scce@cagacq.ca.

Speaking of next year's ASEM, it's never too early to start planning to attend. We hope you can join us in Winnipeg, Manitoba from October 22 - 24, 2009. Further information on the ASEM can be found on the CAG-ACG website at www.cagacq.ca.

If you would like to learn more about the SC-CÉ or how you can become involved please contact us at scce@cagacq.ca or visit www.cagacq.ca/studentconnection/.

A Partnership Today for Nursing Excellence

Sandra P. Hirst RN, PhD, GNC®, Director, Brenda Stafford Centre for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary

Canada is experiencing a rapidly expanding aging population. Both the absolute number of older adults and their percentage in its total population are increasing dramatically. This rise in numbers of older adults in Alberta and in Canada demands a response from nurse educators in general, and from the Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary, in particular. Yet, to many students, the learning and subsequent workplace appeal is the perceived excitement of the ER or the ICU; care of the older adult is not considered by most to be appealing or exciting.



Excellence in Gerontological Nursing (BSC) is a joint venture between these two organizations. The Foundation has earmarked \$1.1million for the five year project, making it the largest donation ever received by the Faculty.

On October 1st, in recognition of United Nations International Day of Older Persons, the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary and the Brenda Stafford Foundation announced a unique partnership in nursing care for older adults. The Brenda Stafford Centre for Excel-

The BSC was created to develop the Faculty's commitment to improving the health, quality of life, and delivery of superior nursing care to older adults. This mandate moves from idea to reality through a series of initiative in three key areas: education, research, and practice.

The Objectives of the Centre

1. To prepare future generations of gerontological nurses.
2. To help focus attention on the importance of LTC facility-based gerontological nursing care.
3. To generate and disseminate gerontological nursing research about evidence-based practice for older adults living in LTC facilities.
4. To promote academic excellence in the FN by increasing the expertise and commitment of the faculty, staff and students to the care of older adults.
5. To position the Centre for Excellence as a local, provincial and national leader in gerontological nursing within LTC facilities.

The partnership is not only exciting because there is no other like it in Canada, but also because of the win-win benefits. On the education side, it will create more theoretical and clinical opportunities and financial support for students. They will find out the rewards of working with

this population are immense and far-reaching. Restructuring of clinical teaching will occur to maximize students' experiential learning and critical thinking skills specific to gerontological nursing care. Dedicated clinical instructors will be assigned to supervise students undertaking learning activities at the Stafford facilities. Research opportunities for graduate students and faculty will be available.

One of the strengths of the BSC is its emphasis upon building partnerships to promote its work. For example, it is embedded in a strong supportive and interdisciplinary network, most noticeably with the National Initiative for Care of the Elderly (NICE) (see: <http://www.nicenet.ca/>).

The Faculty of Nursing is very grateful to the Brenda Stafford Foundation. They have recognized the critical shortage of nurses in this field and have a strong commitment to promote quality care for older adults living in long term care facilities.

News & Upcoming Events

Gerontological Society of America



The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) hosted their 61st Annual Scientific Meeting in November 2008 in National Harbor, Maryland.

The focus of this year's event was *"Resilience in an Aging Society: Risks and Opportunities"*, and it was a very successful experience for professionals in the field of gerontology to come together to learn and meet others from around the world.

Our own Neena Chappell, President, and Brenda Elias, Executive Director, had the opportunity to attend this gathering and brought back much knowledge and optimism for the CAG.

Take a look at the group shot on the left!

From a CAG Member...

Our members are very talented!

Please take a minute to read Kevin Willison's newest publication:

Willison, K.D. (2008). Advancing Integrative Medicine through Interprofessional Education. *Health Sociology Review*, 17 (4): 342-352. Visit: <http://hsr.e-contentmanagement.com/archives/vol/17/issue/4/>.

A new Website for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – AG's Partner

In order to better serve the research community, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research has just launched a newly re-designed Website. This user-friendly site provides centralized access to health news, research, and funding information. Website navigation and organization is greatly improved, with a specific focus on

the needs of researchers. We invite you to take full advantage of this innovative website architecture by bookmarking www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca.



Save the Date!

Cognitive Aging: Research and Practice

The 19th Annual Rotman Research Institute Conference

When:

- Pre-Conference Session—Sunday, March 8, 2009
- Conference—Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Where: The InterContinental Centre Hotel, 255 Front Street West, Toronto Canada

For additional information, please visit www.rotman-baycrest.on.ca. You may also direct queries to (416) 785-2500 ext. 2363 or pferreira@baycrest.org.

7th World Conference International Society for Gerontology

When: May 27-30, 2010
Where: Marriott Pinnacle Hotel, Vancouver

Host organization: Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University. Make sure to watch for further information at www.sfu.ca/grc/isg/2010.



6th International Congress on Vascular Dementia

When: November 19-22, 2009
Where: Barcelona, Spain

The Sixth International Congress on Vascular Dementia 2009 will showcase new developments in the area of dementia with special attention to cerebrovascular diseases and cerebral blood flow. This leading vascular dementia congress, will be an opportunity to deliberate on large and small vessel brain diseases and how they contribute to cognitive decline. The overlap with Alzheimer's disease will be a central issue, as will be the white matter changes frequently seen in dementia. For more information, please consult <http://www2.kenes.com/Vascular/Pages/Home.aspx> or email vascular@kenes.com.