

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- The 2014 annual conference, in review
- CACMID's new board members

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A Note from the President



In 1997, I attended my first CACMID annual conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, and was introduced to a community of technical and clinical experts, friends and colleagues, that were committed to promoting the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Canada. Our community continues to grow and the annual conference, hosted in collaboration with AMMI Canada, represents one of our greatest successes as a national association and our longstanding dedication to supporting education and scholarship.

As a member, you should be aware that the CACMID Board is constantly working to sustain and develop the strengths of the association. I have been fortunate to follow and learn from my predecessors and look forward to working with our new Board members as well. Importantly, I want to congratulate Heather Adam and Matt Gilmore for their efforts and

shared accomplishments over the past couple of years working on the executive as President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. They renewed our bylaws to comply with the new federal requirements for Not-for-profit organizations and developed a strategic plan for the association to follow for the next several years. We are grateful to Greg Tyrrell for his strong leadership and many contributions to CACMID, having committed six years of service on the Executive Board. I would also like to welcome Jessi Minion, who joins the executive as Vice President, and our new members of council, Christine Turenne, Vanessa Allen, Greg German, and Titus Wong.

In 2013, CACMID's strategic plan was approved and a governance model was adopted at the AGM in Victoria to motivate the creation, operation and success of our five strategic initiatives; these being education, clinical community, scholarship and research, expert consultancy, laboratory guidelines and working groups. Champions have been identified to lead the education and the scholar-

ship and research initiatives but we are still looking for interested members to lead other priorities. This plan will be a key focus for the Board and all CACMID members are welcome to participate in the working groups for these initiatives.

One of the critical priorities for the Board this year will be to identify the needs of our membership and improve the visibility of CACMID to the microbiology and infectious disease community. We know that in the past few years, the technologist and student demographics attending the annual conference and other CACMID educational events has decreased. Certainly, local economic pressures have likely contributed to recent attrition of member participation. Travel grants are available to our trainee and technologist members attending the annual conference and we encourage members to apply and participate in the scientific program. Enhancing the educational resources available on our website and other virtual learning opportunities will be other avenues to consider for us as we work to

2014 Awardees

Mark Wainberg was the gracious recipient of the John G. FitzGerald-CACMID Award (Outstanding Microbiologist).

**AMMI Canada Poster Award
Daisy Yu Yang**

SP39: "Evaluation of Antimicrobial Prescribing in Hospitalized Solid Organ Transplant Recipients Through Serial Real-Time Point Prevalence Audits"

**CACMID Poster Awards
Inna Sekirov**

SP28: "Carbapenemase Producing Organisms in BC, 2008 – 2013"

Alyssa Golden

SP04 : "Characterization of Penicillin-Resistant (PRSP) and Mul-

ti-Drug Resistant (MDR) *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (SPN) in Canadian Hospitals, 2007-2012"

**CCM Poster Awards
Marisa Wan**

SP14: "C the DIFFerence: Strategies for Improving Early Appropriate Isolation in Suspected *C. difficile* Cases"

Aiah Khateb

SP24: "Replacing the Staphylococcal Protein A (*spa*) Gene Alters its Biological Characteristics, Behavior and Virulence in a High-Virulence Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA) Strain USA300"

**CCM Dr. Kenneth Rozee Memorial Poster Award
Chelsea Himsworth**

SP08: "Prevalence and Characteristics of *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* spp. in the Feces of Wild Urban Norway and Black Rats (*Rattus norvegicus* and *Rattus rattus*): Implications for Public Health"

**Dr. Susan King Paediatric Abstract Award
Brett Burstein**

SP #22: "Emergency Department and Inpatient Management of Febrile Infants Under Six-Weeks of Age: Perceived Utility of Respiratory Virus Testing".

**Congratulations to
all the 2014 Award
Recipients!**



John G. FitzGerald-CACMID Award. Recipient: Dr. Mark Wainberg. Presented by Dr. Heather Adam



CACMID Poster Award. Accepted on behalf of Inna by her colleague. Presented by Dr. Heather Adam



CACMID Technologist Poster Award. Recipient: Alyssa Golden. Presented by Dr. Heather and Ryder Adam

A Note from the President con't



strengthen the value of CACMID membership.

As many of you will know, the Victoria conference was very successful and well attended. Many thanks to the planning committees and the AMMI Canada Secretariat for volunteering the time and energy required to coordinate the event. A summary of the program from the Scientific Planning Committee is attached and our congratulations to all of the CACMID and AMMI Canada award winners. Dr. Mark Wainberg was the recipient of the John G. Fitzgerald award following what has been a tremendous career to date and remarkable contributions to the field of microbiology and infectious diseases. Poster presentation awards in the student competition were awarded to Alyssa Golden for her poster (SP04) entitled, 'Characterization of penicillin-resistant (PRSP) and multi-drug resistant (MDR) *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in Canadian Hospitals, 2007-2012', and to Inna Sekirov for her poster (SP28) entitled, 'Carbapenemase producing organ-

isms in BC, 2008-2013'. To see the complete list of awardees, including winners of AMMI Canada, CCM, and CFID sponsored awards, go to <http://www.cacmid.ca/2014/05/awards/>

And finally, the preparations for the 2015 annual conference are well underway and we look forward to seeing you in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, from April 15th-18th. Registration details will be available in the Fall, as will a call for nominations for the John G. Fitzgerald CACMID award for Out-

standing Microbiologist. The 2015 meeting will mark 10 years of collaboration between CACMID and AMMI Canada hosting a high quality conference. We are in the final stages of renewing our agreement with AMMI Canada, which will move to a 5 year plan and facilitate longer term planning. Our goal is simple - to preserve the annual delivery of a premiere microbiology and infectious disease conference while being cost efficient and stewards of the generous support received from our collaborators and industry partners.

Enjoy your summer and don't hesitate to engage your CACMID Board members – we work for you!

Kind regards,
Jeff Fuller, FCCM, D(ABMM)
CACMID



2014 Annual Conference, in Review

April 2-5, 2014

Victoria, BC

You came from near, you came from far, you came by floatplane, and you came by car. Tulips and rhododendrons, sailboats and harbour seals – Victoria welcomed delegates to the 2014 AMMI Canada – CACMID Annual Conference with open arms. For those of us who live in parts of the country with 9 months of winter (yes, it's May and snowing in Edmonton today as we write this newsletter!), it was a welcome change to have rain instead of snow, flowers instead of dirt and raincoats instead of parkas!

With 389 delegates and 161 exhibitors attending, this year's conference made history in one of Canada's oldest

cities and famed hotels: the Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Convention Center. Everyone agreed that the venue was perfect – from the central location, to the view of the harbour, from the meeting facilities to the catering!

The Plenary sessions delivered updates on antimicrobial stewardship, emergent infections, and hot topics in microbiology and infectious diseases from the past year. On Thursday April 3, speakers for the Antimicrobial Stewardship plenary shared success strategies for implementing stewardship programs in hospital and identified gaps in the 'one health' concept related to antibiotic

resistance and veterinary practices. Did you know that you can buy cephalexin in the local pet store?! The presentations from both human and veterinary points of view made us realize that solving the problem of increasing antimicrobial resistance requires more than just controlling antimicrobial use in medicine. The Plenary on Emerging Infections on Friday April 4 gave us up to date reviews on emerging respiratory viruses and tick-borne diseases in Canada as well as an in depth look at the Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network and its role in international surveillance. The third Plenary, delivered on the last day of the Conference, was the always-popular "What's Hot" sessions. This year, we heard updates not only on Adult and Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, but on Infection Control as well.

The State of the Art Lectures provided attendees with a glimpse into the world of MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia and a debate on wheth-



The 2014 AMMI Canada-CACMID meeting was a great success. We hope you enjoyed it! If you missed it, we hope you'll join us in 2015.



er or not screening for antibiotic resistant organisms should be a mandatory part of hospital based infection control programs. The third State of the Art Lecture enlightened attendees with new and novel ways to use human waste (yup, you heard right!), with description of the elegance of the human gut microbial ecosystem and how it can be used to enhance health! The Special lecture provided a compelling and concerning picture of the impact that climate and environmental changes are going to have on infectious diseases.

Of course, the Clinical Vignettes were always a crowd favourite and our discussants this year, Drs. Gerald Evans and Mark Miller, had the audience rolling in laughter – very entertaining, and educational, indeed! The cases presented were excellent.

At the Trainee's Day, attendees learned about CV development, career opportunities and the art of physician – industry interaction. The CCM Workshop reviewed laboratory trials and tribulations with

diagnostic automation and the QM Seminar hosted a series of lectures reminding us that quality of care relies on continuity between the bedside and the bench. And still, there were so many other highlights –oral and poster presentations, breakfast and lunch symposia, the Exhibit Hall and the Closing Dinner. There truly was something for everyone.

Yes, the cold weather in the rest of the country may have had some

influence on getting you to Victoria, but you made it clear, once again, that the quality of our Canadian infectious diseases/microbiology conference is well worth the trip and participation. The next meeting will be held in Charlottetown, PEI April 16 – 18, 2015. We are already starting to work on next year's program. We encourage you to submit your ideas to the Scientific Planning Committee or, better still, volunteer to help plan our next meeting – after all, this is YOUR meeting. We want to make sure the program meets your needs.

One final note – Innovation Academy will return in 2015. We look forward to your submissions!

Sincerely,

Isabelle Chiu MD, FRCPC
SPC Co-Chair, AMMI Canada

Jeff Fuller, PhD, FCCM
SPC Co-Chair, CACMID

We are very happy to inform you that following the members' approval of the Articles of Continuance and updated bylaws at the Annual General Meeting, CACMID has been awarded a Certificate of Continuance (regarding transition) under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

Please remember,

- We are always happy to receive feedback or content suggestions for the newsletter.
- The most up-to-date CACMID news can always be found on the website: www.cacmid.ca
- We are accepting nominations for this year's John G. FitzGerald-CACMID Award (Outstanding Microbiologist) until January 2015.

Meet the CACMID
Board

Current CACMID Board

A number of changes were made to the CACMID board at the Annual General Meeting. The current CACMID board members include:

President, Dr. Jeff Fuller

Clinical Microbiologist, Alberta Health Services
Associate Professor, University of Alberta Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Vice-President, Dr. Jessica Minion

Medical Microbiologist, Division Head of Microbiology & Infection Control, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan

Past President, Dr. Heather Adam

Clinical Microbiologist, Diagnostic Services Manitoba
Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, University of Manitoba

Secretary Treasurer, Dr. Matthew W. Gilmour

Clinical Microbiologist, Diagnostic Services Manitoba
Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, University of Manitoba

Meeting Secretary/Director, Dr. Paul N. Levett

Assistant Clinical Director, Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory

Directors

Meghan Dey

Laboratory Technologist (Microbiology), EORLA / ALREO Site: The Ottawa Hospital

Dr. Vanessa Allen

Chief, Medical Microbiology, Public Health Ontario Laboratories

Dr. Titus Wong

Medical Microbiology, Vancouver General Hospital

Dr. Christine Turenne

Director of Bacteriology, Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory

Dr. Greg German

Medical Microbiologist, Health PEI, Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Contact information for the CACMID board members is available on our [website](#).

2015 Conference



The 2015 CACMID-AMMI Canada Annual Conference will be held in lovely Charlottetown, PEI between April 16th and 18th, 2015, with pre-conference workshops on April 15th. The meeting will be located at the [Delta Prince Edward](#) and [Prince Edward Island Convention Centre](#).

The Scientific Planning Committee is well on their way to planning another fabulous meeting. We hope you plan to attend! Details of the program will be available shortly. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Please note that educational grants to support travel to the annual conference will again be available to technologists and clinical microbiology fellows (trainees).



CACMID

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CACMID operates under the following Mission Statement:

We advance the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Canada through education, scholarship, advocacy and the promotion of best practices.