



**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR ATHEROSCLEROSIS,
THROMBOSIS AND VASCULAR BIOLOGY**

**SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ATHÉROSLÉROSE,
DE THROMBOSE ET DE BIOLOGIE VASCULAIRE**

Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, October 27th, 2009
Room 5-6; Edmonton Shaw Centre**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Mark Hatton, at 5:00 pm; approximately 20-25 members attended.

1. Approval of the agenda:

Proposed by Dr. Bassam Nassar and seconded by Dr. Mary Richardson. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of the circulated minutes of the Annual General Meeting, October 2008

Proposed by Dr. Mary Richardson and seconded by Dr. Scott Heximer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Reports

3.1 The President's Report

Dr. Mark Hatton named five notable developments over the past year:

- 3.1.1. The bid for the International Atherosclerosis Society (IAS) meeting in Toronto in 2015. The CSATVB lost this bid because the preference was for a European city. A bid for the 2018 IAS will be considered in two years time.
- 3.1.2. Dr. Mary Richardson has worked (and is still working) hard to revise the bylaws. The current CSATVB constitution bylaws do not reflect our present practices and therefore are not suitable for our needs. Dr. Hatton thanked Dr. Richardson for her time working on all the changes and her exhaustive effort.
- 3.1.3. Arrangements for Edmonton meeting. Dr. Hatton thanked members of the local committee in Edmonton for their efforts to make the annual meeting such a huge success this year.
- 3.1.4. The relative inability to raise funds. The amount raised was \$60K. We hope to do better next year. We will be having our first meeting with a corporate donor, Pfizer Canada, on October 28, 2009.
- 3.1.5. Efforts to improve communication within Society using the website, in particular the information carried in the Newsletters agreeing with that given on the now-updated website, and the regular use of email to give more short-term information directly to Society members.

Finally, Dr. Hatton thanked all those on the Executive and Council and in the membership for their contributions to the Society, and indicated that we will continue to be positive.

3.2 The Treasurer's Report

Dr. Pierre Julien circulated the report/financial statement which is included. He reviewed the report starting with page 2. The report covers 2008-2009, and the year ends on May 31st, 2009. In his review, Dr. Julien indicated that the revenues were \$184K in 2008-9 but would be considerably less for 2009-10, \$40K plus \$20K since May 31. The expenses were reviewed. In total the expenses were \$165,881 in 2008-9 leaving an excess of revenue of approximately 18K. The Society's net assets are 530K and the investments are in blue color chips at 4-6% average interest. Dr. Julien made a motion to approve the report. Dr. Avrum Gotlieb seconded. Apart from a question by Dr. Pierre Douville regarding any limits for expenses, which are not applicable, there was no further discussion. The motion to approve the report was carried unanimously. Dr. Julien subsequently requested and made a motion for approval for retaining the Accountants, Blouin, Julien et Potvin, for 2009-10. Dr. Heximer seconded. The motion was carried unanimously

3.3 Finance Committee

Dr. Hatton reminded the meeting of the members of the Committee (consisting of the President, President-Elect (Dr. B. Nassar), Past President (Dr. Teik Ooi), the Treasurer (Dr. Pierre Julien) and one Councilor, Dr. Geoffery Pickering. Dr. Hatton indicated that we had contacted 14 possible corporate donors in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries over the year 2008-09. We had success with three of these corporations (Pfizer \$30K, AstraZeneca \$20K, Merck Frosst/Scherring \$10K). There are still four companies to hear from and two open possibilities for next year (Pfizer and AbCam). AstraZeneca will give us an answer about a donation for 2009-10 in two months after internal restructuring has taken place. Efforts to solicit donations from insurance companies and banks were not pursued in 2008-9 because too much private information was demanded.

3.4 Long Term Planning

Dr. Nassar stated that, as the next President, he would focus on the financial support. There were suggestions of preferences for symposia for next year: (1) Cardiovascular complications of diabetes mellitus; (2) Fatty acids and diabetes or obesity. Discussion regarding symposium topics ensued with broad ideas. Dr. Gotlieb suggested that we may wish to consider topics which are associated with the interests and product profile of a company and use this to pressure support.

3.5 Education Committee

Dr. Scott Heximer thanked everyone for contributing to a very successful meeting. The joint symposium with the Canadian Hypertension Society was successful and received good comments. He thanked Dr. Spencer Proctor for arranging the Trainee Workshop and the afternoon oral session for trainees giving posters. Discussion followed regarding the abstracts at the Edmonton Meeting; Dr. Heximer announced that ~ 77 abstracts were submitted to the CSATVB and that, of these, 94% were accepted for presentation.

Finally, Dr. Heximer thanked Dr. Michelle Bendeck for organizing a successful joint CSATVB/NAVBO Biomatrix Workshop (Whistler) in March, 2009, and for the forthcoming IVBM meeting in Los Angeles in 2010.

3.6 Ad hoc Communications

Dr. Mary Richardson, Chair and the Editor of the Newsletter, presented. The discussion regarding the Newsletter becoming an electronic edition only rather than a printed issue was presented and accepted due to the significant savings. Dr. M. Nabeel Ghayur's effort on the Newsletter and website, and with letters & emails was recognized. Next year, Dr. Mark Hatton will be the Editor and Dr. Richardson will become the Assistant Editor; Dr. Ghayur will remain the roving reporter. A question regarding how much of the newsletter was devoted to trainees was asked by Dr. Proctor. Dr. Richardson admitted there was no specific policy with respect to allocating space either to trainees or to regular members. Information about trainees varies from one edition to another, and hopefully any reporting about trainees meets the requirement for the time. Also, a question was asked about advertizing job opportunities in the Newsletter. Dr. Hatton admitted that response from Society members towards using the website or newsletter for job opportunities had been relatively poor over the years. There were comments from the floor and some discussion.

3.7 Trainee Advisory Committee

Dr. Rabban Mangat presented on behalf of Dr. Garry Shen. She commented that the Trainees' Workshop had been successful although some of the students would have liked more time and more private discussion with the three speakers. She agreed to write a few paragraphs for the spring Newsletter, 2010. A survey was taken at the Workshop requesting trainees to suggest future topics/speakers for a workshop in Montreal, 2010. These suggestions will be studied by the TAC.

3.8 Membership

There were 43 new applicants for membership, 4 resignations and 20 defaulters whose membership had been terminated. The new applicants had been approved by the Executive/Council. Dr. Julien made a motion to accept the applicants. The motion was seconded by Dr. Spencer Proctor. The motion was unanimously carried.

4. Election of New CSATVB Executives and Council Members and New Members to the Society

4.1 President Elect (2009-11)

Dr. Michelle Bendeck was nominated by the Nominating Committee to be President Elect for 2009 – 2011. There were no further nominees. Dr. Bendeck was unanimously elected.

4.2 Council membership (Three vacancies; 2009-12)

There are three vacancies on Council, Two Councilors who are due step down, Drs. Garry Shen and Charles Couillard, would like to stand for re-election. Dr. Murray Huff was nominated by the Nominating Committee to the third Councilor position. As no more

nominations were received from the floor, the three nominees were elected by acclamation.

4.3 Memberships Coordinator (2009-12)

Dr. Charles Couillard had agreed to continue as membership Coordinator if re-elected to Council; as he is now reelected to Council, Dr. Couillard will continue as Membership Coordinator.

4.4 Editor Newsletter (2009-12)

Dr. Mark Hatton was elected by Executive/Council for a three year period.

5. New Business

5.1 Special General Meeting to discuss to the proposed changes to the Society bylaws (Changes to the CSATVB Constitution)

At Dr. Hatton's invitation, Dr. Richardson presented an overview of the major revisions the Society is hoping to introduce:

- a. Removal of the terms "Board of Governors" and "Board of Directors" and introducing the term "Council" which will include "the Executive & Councilors".
- b. The term "Executive Committee" replaces "the Executive officers".
- c. Role of "Councilor" to be redefined (detailed by Dr. Richardson).
- d. Role of Executive Committee discussed
- e. The new role/definition of "Council" was discussed
- f. Removal of the term "Associate Membership" and introduced:
 - "Trainee membership": For Canadian or foreign students in full-time training and resident in Canada. Voting member [Whether privileges extend to Canadian students working abroad will be decided on a case-by-case basis.]
 - "Associate membership": The category should be restored and used for foreign members who are not resident in Canada; Non-voting member.
 - "Complimentary membership": For guest speakers who are not already members. Usually for a two-year period and with no payment of annual dues expected. Non-voting member.
 - Emeritus members are eligible to vote.
- g. Discussion on the "Standing Committees".
- h. Communication
 - Communication by Teleconference is acceptable.
 - Quorum can be acceptable by Teleconference.
- i. Corporation changed to Society.
- j. Bourinot's Rules of Order for the Annual General Meeting will be the same as those applied in the Canadian Parliament.
- k. Other minor changes were discussed

Dr. Richardson made a motion to accept the changes. This was seconded by Dr. A. Gotlieb. A considerable discussion ensued:

- Question from Dr. Julien regarding associates like foreign members, if paid up and in good standing they can be full members.
- Dr. Michelle Bendeck commented with debate regarding Canadian Science/Society
- Non Canadians are 'associate members' but cannot vote or make decisions.
- Scientific Excellence award to Canadian Scientists only.
- Dr. James Russell suggested that the Council should be permitted to create committees as needs be and not have to change the constitution every time a new committee is adopted or a standing committee is abandoned. The standing committees should reflect activity of Society. In contrast, Dr. A. Gotlieb supported having Standing Committees while Dr. Proctor supports Dr. Russell's suggestion on Committees and Dr. Gotlieb on Foreign Students and Members. Dr. Bendeck argued in favor of supporting foreign students to travel and present.
- It was further proposed that the approval of trainee members be restricted to students working in laboratories/universities in Canada or to Canadian students working abroad.
- Discussion of complimentary membership and student membership ensued.

As considerable dissent was apparent and time was passing, the motion to accept the changes to the bylaws was temporarily withdrawn until a future occasion. Dr. Richardson agreed to take into consideration the further changes that had been proposed and would create a new draft proposal for the Executive and Council to consider by e-mail. When appropriate, the final changes will be sent to Dr. Julien for submission to a constitution lawyer for rewriting in legalese, and finally submitted to the General membership for final approval in October 2010.

5.2 Future strategies to deal with Society funding

5.2.1 Increases to annual membership dues:

Dr. Hatton noted that the Council had approved that full membership dues be raised to \$50 for full members and to \$20 for trainees p.a. While there was no need for approval for this decision at the AGM, the intention was generally approved and unanimously passed.

5.2.2 The biannual Newsletter to be on-line (e-mail/website) only:

Dr. Richardson introduced the decision which had been adopted by the Council that the Society would save ~\$12000 p.a. by saving on printing costs. The meeting agreed unanimously that the Newsletter will now be only available online with no paper copy.

5.2.3 Other possible changes to financing our future scientific meeting:

Plans to continue with fund raising efforts were introduced by Dr. Nassar and these were generally approved.

5.3 Introduction of the new CSATVB President, Dr. Bassam Nassar

Dr. Hatton thanked the Society for the privilege of appointing him as President elect and then President four years ago. He admitted that he had enjoyed his time as the 'boss' but that now it was time for a much younger President to take the reins. He introduced Dr. Bassam Nassar, the new President, to the members. Dr. Nassar thanked the five previous presidents (Drs. Richardson, Russell, Gotlieb, Ooi and Hatton) he had worked with first as a member, then as Chair of the Education Committee until 2007 and more recently as President Elect (2007-09). Effort will be directed at fund raising to sustain our scientific program especially the symposia and student education.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Montreal, Quebec. The AGM will be on October 26, 2010 with time and location to be announced. The local Organizing Committee in Montreal will include Dr. Pierre Julien, Honorary President and Treasurer of CSATVB, and others to be announced.

7. Adjournment

There being no new business, a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Richardson. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.