News from the incoming President

I thank the membership for being selected as your President. I am honoured and look forward to an exciting year. The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) is an exciting and vibrant organization. I assume the Presidency with some trepidation as I am following on the heels of the outstanding work of committed previous Presidents, including the excellent job done by Dr Steven Collins. Dr Collins deserves a vote of thanks for his outstanding leadership over the past year; he, I believe, has taken the Association to a new level and has set the foundation for exciting new endeavours in the future. Dr Collins—on behalf of all CAG members, thank you for a job well done.

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

I am pleased that this report is published in The Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology, which, as announced by Dr Collins, is now the official journal of the CAG. All members of the Association will receive the Journal free of charge. The Journal will be a vehicle for publication of newsletters, announcements and abstracts for our annual meeting. We all appreciate the effort and leadership provided by Drs ABR Thomson and CN Williams as the founding Editors-in-Chief, and we are pleased that they have agreed to remain as Editors-in-Chief. The Editorial Board, headed by the Editors-in-Chief, has absolute control over the scientific and editorial content of the Journal. The completion of an agreement among the CAG, the current Editors-in-Chief and the publisher, Pulsus Group Inc, is in keeping with the direction provided by the members of the Association in 'needs analysis'. We look forward to a strong and exciting partnership.

CANADIAN DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK

The most exciting and major issue for the upcoming year is the establishment of a Canadian Digestive Disease Week. As reported by Dr Collins, under his Presidency an Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Dr Thomson, was struck to evaluate the feasibility of a Canadian Digestive Disease Week. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the CAG move to a separate Annual Meeting in the format of a Canadian Digestive Disease Week. The proposal was discussed at the annual Governing Board Meeting, approved, and then presented, discussed and approved almost unanimously at our Annual Business Meeting in September. With the approval of the proposal by the membership to develop a Canadian Digestive Disease Week, an Implementation Committee has been struck and planning initiated for the meeting. The Implementation Committee consists of:

- Chair of Finance Committee;
- Chair of Practice and Affairs Committee;
- Chair of Endoscopy Committee;
- Secretary of the CAG; and
- Representatives from the Gastrointestinal Fellows' Program—Dr Thomson and Dr Gary Levy, who is also the Vice-President.

In addition, Dr Robin McLeod has been added as an ad hoc member to represent the surgical interest. It is expected that Dr Levy, as well as representing the position of Vice-President of the CAG, will also be able to provide input to ensure appropriate development and communication with the Canadian Association for Study of the Liver (CASL).

The catalyst and the foundation for developing a Canadian Digestive Disease Week was based on the popularity and the success of the annual postgraduate course for gastrointestinal residents initiated and pioneered by Drs Levy and Thomson. The Canadian Digestive Disease Week will consist of four components:

- Trainees' Program;
- Practitioners' Program;
- Science Program, including Young Investigators' Program; and
- Social Program.

The intent is to have sequential components of the program. The week would start with the program for the gastrointestinal fellows. This program would gradually interdigitate with the program for practitioners. The Scientific Program would be concentrated in the last two days of the week (Friday and Saturday) while the Social Program would run throughout the week. The Annual Dinner would be on the Saturday evening. The Implementation Committee will meet in December in association with the Executive Meeting. The plan is to develop a general outline of the program. The Scientific Program will largely be directed by the Research Committee with input from the CASL. The Practitioners' Program will require input from the Education Committee, the Endoscopy Committee and the Practice Affairs Committee, again hopefully with input from the CASL. The attempt for this portion of the week is to ensure that the content is of direct relevance to practising gastroenterologists. The Gastrointestinal Residents' Program will be arranged as before. Hopefully the final program will be established by March 1996 for the March 1996 meeting.

The development of a Canadian Digestive Disease Week is an extremely exciting undertaking and we look forward to wide participation from the membership. During these exciting but somewhat difficult times, I ask for your ongoing support and guidance.

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