A year of changes –
A new year of opportunities

This has been a year of changes for the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS). I have been given the opportunity to highlight some of the more significant events of the past year. On a research front, we have established a national clinical trials group. This has been discussed for several years at the national level, and it is finally coming to fruition. The driving spirit behind this accomplishment has been the Past-President of the CTS, Dr Louis-Philippe Boulet, with the support of the Canadian Lung Association. There are great hopes that this group will be able to tackle clinical questions pertinent to all regions of Canada. For individuals interested in offering suggestions or learning more about this initiative, please go to the CTS Web site at <http://www.lung.ca/cts/home.html>.

This leads into discussion of another change at the CTS. The CTS Web site has been developed, and we are now becoming linked to other parts of the national and international thoracic community. The Web site development has been guided by the incoming president of the CTS, Dr Helen Ramsdale, and Ms Valoree McKay at the CTS office. This Web site should give members of the CTS, and nonmembers, as well, a better look at the workings of the CTS. The site will develop over time, and will become a valuable asset for coordinating education and research across the country.

Since September 11, 2001, there has been a momentum within Canada toward closer ties with the United States. We had previously initiated a closer collaboration with the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP). Although the climate in North America was not conducive to large meetings, the CTS held its first meeting in collaboration with the ACCP in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in November 2001. This meeting occurred at a time in which the United States Attorney General had warned the population of further impending strikes. Despite these terrible events and high levels of anxiety, the meeting in Philadelphia was successful. The educational program, guided by the program chair, Dr Darcy Marciniuk, was very well received. Some of the highlights of the program included review lectures, ranging in scope from basic (cellular responses to acute lung injury) to applied (new trends in bronchoscopy). This is just a sampling of an excellent program, and there were many others who contributed to its success. This meeting also saw the continuation of the Christie Lectureship, with Dr Fred Hargreave giving this lecture. He joins a long list of outstanding Canadian researchers who have delivered this honour lecture. Finally, this year in Philadelphia, we saw an editorial change within the Canadian Respiratory Journal. Dr Norman Jones stepped down as the Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Respiratory Journal after a decade-long tenure. He has taken the Journal from its inception to its current state. The Journal has, under his direction, become the main voice for the Canadian thoracic community. Dr Nick Anthonisen has agreed to take over the editorial duties. As a community, we are fortunate to be able to draw from such a depth of expertise.

Over the coming year, I hope to keep our community informed about the progress of the clinical trials group, as well as other CTS initiatives. In addition, over the coming year, I will be writing in much more detail about the plans for the 2002 CTS annual meeting, slated for San Diego, California in November, in conjunction with the ACCP.

From all of the staff and the executive of the CTS, I wish you all a productive and joyous coming year.

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President, Canadian Thoracic Society