

# CAG Education Committee\* – Update

A number of initiatives are underway. The development of the program for the Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW) 2002 started immediately after the last CDDW in Banff. A considerable amount of discussion has gone into developing a short list of symposium topics, which will reflect the learning needs of members of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG). You can review the first announcement for CDDW 2002 on our Web site at [www.cag-acg.org](http://www.cag-acg.org). Further program details will be posted on the Web site and mailed to members later this summer.

The committee feels that it is important to have a central event at the annual meeting that will anchor the rest of the educational events. We have, therefore, recommended that CAG re-establish the annual postgraduate course. Given that both the American Gastroenterological Association and the American College of Gastroenterology run successful annual courses, it is clear that the CAG annual course will have to offer something new and innovative if it is to compete. It has been said that it is the grasp of knowledge at the advancing edge that distinguishes subspecialists from generalists. The final format of the postgraduate course awaits the results of the needs assessment, but we intend to focus on advances, and be very interactive, case based and crisp in delivery.

You will have received by now an educational needs assessment. This was distributed to all members of CAG in June 2001. The needs assessment is critical not only because it will guide the development of CAG programs but also for accreditation of CAG programs for Maintenance of Certification (MOCERT) credits.

The Royal College has extended the deadline for submitting hours spent on the MOCERT Program in the year

2000. The final deadline for submitting your continuing professional development hours from both 2000 and 2001 is now January 31, 2002. For full details check: [http://rcpsc.medical.org/english/maintenance/newsbulletin\\_e.html](http://rcpsc.medical.org/english/maintenance/newsbulletin_e.html)

We are working on having the CAG approved by the College as the accreditor for Gastroenterology events. Hopefully we will be able to report success on this by the end of the year.

Dr Fedorak has developed and brought forward to CAG an initiative that will allow CAG-accredited events to be available on-line. It will be possible in the near future to access a number of digitalized educational events through the Internet. While physical attendance at meetings is often a pleasure, it is not always possible to attend. We hope that you will be able to see, and hear, the highlights of these meetings from home and get credit for doing so at the same time. Dr Fedorak will be introducing the program to the membership at CDDW 2002.

The education committee has taken under its administrative wing two specialized programs. Gastroenterology residents in training participate in a somewhat exhausting three-day meeting each year. It is designed to enable them to network, present their work (a condition of attendance) and acquire state-of-the-art knowledge. In addition, a successful program launched last year by Dr Robert Bailey and Dr Richard Fedorak aimed at attracting medical students and medical residents into Gastroenterology will continue next year.

The Education Committee hopes that you will mark your calendar for Montreal, February 2 to 5, 2002, for what we anticipate will be a meeting that will be well worth the trip.

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\*The committee consists of Dr D Leddin (Halifax) as chair, Dr Ron Bridges (Calgary), Dr Connie Switzer (Edmonton), Dr Flavio Habal (Toronto) and Dr Ford Bursey (St John's). Dr Paul Adams (London) represents the Hepatology community.

**Information and details for the 2002 Canadian Digestive Diseases Week meeting in Montreal, February 2 to 5, 2002, are available and regularly updated on the CAG Web site <http://www.cag-acg.org>**

