

World Congress of Gastroenterology Meeting, Canada, September 9 to 14, 2005



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Richard N Fedorak MD FRCPC
*President, World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Canadian
Organizing Committee*

Philip M Sherman MD FRCPC
*Vice President, World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Canadian
Organizing Committee; President, Canadian Association of
Gastroenterology*

By now you have heard that the Canadian Bid Federation has succeeded in winning the bid to hold the next World Congress of Gastroenterology meeting in Montreal in September 2005. The Canadian Bid Federation, which worked on behalf of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and its members, is indeed proud to have brought this meeting to Canada and is assured that it will provide an enormous dividend for Canadian Gastroenterology.

Having secured the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 meeting, the real work now begins! To initiate the process, the CAG has constituted the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Canadian Organizing Committee (Table 1). This committee will work with the CAG and the Organisation Mondiale de Gastro-Entérologie (OMGE) and the Organisation Mondiale D'Endoscopie Digestive (OMED) (the two parent bodies that co-host the World Congress of Gastroenterology Meeting) to develop and stage an enormously successful meeting.

The CAG is fortunate in that four of its senior members also serve on committees of the OMGE and OMED. Doctors Robert Bailey, Grant Gall, Norman Marcon and Alan Thomson hold executive positions in these two parent organizations and will be able to assist the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Canadian Organizing Committee in its liaison with the OMGE and OMED.

The OMGE and OMED have selected two meeting planners to support the development and implementation

of the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 meeting. Congrex, a meeting planning company from the Netherlands, has participated in two previous World Congress of Gastroenterology meetings and will provide invaluable insight. CGI, a meeting planning company from Montreal, was also selected by the OMGE and OMED. CGI is well known to the CAG because its current owners were instrumental in planning and organizing the Canadian Digestive Disease Week meetings from 1996 to 2002, and will provide strong leadership relative to local issues and the scientific program. Indeed, these two companies have already demonstrated their willingness to work hand-in-hand with the CAG and the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Canadian Organizing Committee.

In addition to the plethora of details surrounding the holding of a meeting for 15,000 delegates and their families, Canada is responsible for designing and implementing the entire scientific program. Doctors Stephen Collins and Richard Hunt have kindly agreed to co-chair the Scientific Program subcommittee and develop what promises to be a stellar evidence-based program.

Since the bid was secured in February 2002, there have been two meetings of the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Canadian Organizing Committee and its subcommittees. Each of the subcommittees has developed a series of specific objectives and terms of reference. These subcommittees will now embark upon engaging gastroenterologists from across Canada and around the world to

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TABLE 1
World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Canadian
Organizing Committee

Directors and Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs	
President	Richard Fedorak
Vice President	Philip Sherman
Treasurer*	Dilip Patel
Vice Treasurer	Lawrence Worobetz
International Advisory Committee*	Grant Gall
Scientific Program Committee (Canadian)*	Richard Hunt, Stephen Collins
Social Program Committee*	Robert Bailey
Young Clinicians Program and Fellows Program Committee*	Alan Barkun, Gary Levy
Publications Committee	Lloyd Sutherland
Press and Congress News Committee	Michel Boivin, Hugh Chaun
Public Awareness Committee	Eldon Shaffer, Mary Perdue
CAG Liaison Committee	Philip Sherman, Desmond Leddin
Associated Society Liaison Committee	Alan Thomson, Sander van Zanten
Information Technology Committee	Malcolm Champion
Canadian Industry Liaison Committee	Richard Hunt

* Required by Organisation Mondiale de Gastro-Entérologie

assist them in meeting these objectives. We encourage you to join any one of these subcommittees and to participate in building the best World Congress of Gastroenterology meeting ever.

Exciting developments that have occurred thus far in the construction of the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 meeting are outlined below:

- The American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) has agreed to hold its mid-year postgraduate course on the Saturday and Sunday immediately before the start of the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Meeting.
- The International Course on Therapeutic Endoscopy has agreed to hold its 2005 meeting during the World Congress and to incorporate it directly into the World Congress of Gastroenterology Meeting. This will add an exciting new dimension of world-class live endoscopy to the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Meeting.
- Like the AGA, the Interamerican Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and the Interamerican Association of Gastroenterology (the endoscopy and gastroenterology parent organizations of the Americas, respectively) have agreed to incorporate their postgraduate courses into the mainstream of the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2005 Meeting. Once again, this will serve to truly make this a meeting of the Americas.
- The Young Clinicians Program Committee is well on its way to ensuring a stellar program for young clinicians and fellows.
- Hotel accommodation has been secured in Montreal at incredibly competitive rates.
- Negotiations are underway to ensure that Canadian gastroenterologists can attend the World Congress 2005 meeting with an extremely attractive registration fee. Stay tuned for more information in this regard.

There are many more developments currently underway, and, as the meeting development unfolds, this column will continue to inform the CAG members of the progress.



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