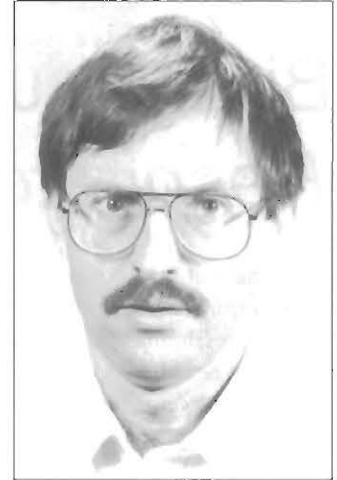


Welcome to the *Canadian Respiratory Journal*



It is with pride and honour that I introduce the first issue of the official journal of the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) – the *Canadian Respiratory Journal*. This new journal has risen from a long history of excellence in respiratory research in Canada.

On a per capita basis, Canada has the strongest respiratory research community in the world. The importance of respiratory research in Canada is exemplified by the fact that one of the five biomedical Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada is the Respiratory Health Network of Centres of Excellence. This network, which brings together over 60 outstanding respiratory researchers from across Canada, is presided over by one of the world's most prominent respiratory researchers, Dr Peter Macklem. Between 1965 and 1978, out of the 1000 most cited scientists, three were respirologists, two of them Canadians.

A number of Canadians have held and continue to hold international leadership roles in respiratory medicine. For example, the only non-American president of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) was Dr Clarence Guenter, a Canadian. Over the years, Canadians have contributed excellent research material in respiratory health. The participation of Canadians to the ATS annual meeting has always been outstanding. In 1993, 345 Canadian papers were presented at the San Francisco ATS meeting.

The medical section of the Canadian Lung Association (CLA) was formed in 1948. From this section, the CTS was started in 1958, two years before the formation of the ATS. The society has, since its foundation, greatly encouraged and contributed to respiratory health research. From 1963 to 1982 funding was made available from the CLA for the CTS to fund both research grants and fellowships. In 1982, in view of the great need to train new researchers, the funding was channelled to fellowships only, the provincial association continuing to support research projects. In 1993 the CTS joined forces with the Medical Research Council (MRC) to introduce joint CLA/MRC fellowships for eight new young trainees each year (to a maximum of 20 trainees at a given time), and to sponsor a new scholarship program. Over the past 20 years the CTS and CLA have helped train 139 respirologists and basic science researchers. Of these, many have become world renowned researchers, including Moira Chan-Yeung, Jim Dosman, Paul Man, Manel Jordana and Douglas Bradley.

Besides providing funding for fellows and scholars, the CTS plays an active role in continuing medical education. The society holds its annual scientific meeting jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of Canada and publishes position papers on a variety of respiratory health issues. In collaboration with the CLA, the CTS is also embarking on an asthma education and research program, addressing social issues such as smoking cessation, environmental air quality and the recent resurgence of tuberculosis.

Over the past few years it became obvious to the CTS leadership that a voice was needed to communicate research knowledge to other interested Canadians and to the world at large. It was felt that a Canadian respiratory journal was not only feasible, but with the level of excellence of Canadian respiratory research, the journal would become very successful. Special recognition for his contribution to the founding of the *Canadian Respiratory Journal* must be given to my predecessor, Dr David Cotton, president of the CTS in 1992-93. His conviction for the need of this journal, his continuous drive and his abilities to lead others in this venture are responsible for the realization of this step forward in Canadian respiratory research.

With an outstanding world renowned editorial board and a respected publishing company, we feel very confident that Canadian and international researchers will take interest in reading the *Canadian Respiratory Journal* and pride in submitting to it world class manuscripts for publication.

Yvon Cormier, MD
President, Canadian Thoracic Society



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