

CPS: WALKING THE TALK

Members should be proud of the work the CPS has done over the past year, said CPS President Dr. Joanne Embree in her opening address to the 86th CPS Annual Conference.

"The society has grown a great deal and has achieved a lot," said Dr. Embree. The CPS has been "walking the talk" and acting collectively and efficiently, as it did during the H1N1 outbreak, and dealing with concerns about melamine and the health implications for Canadian children. In such instances, policy makers rely on evidence-based information provided by the CPS for sound decision making.

Collaboration is a CPS hallmark when complex problems, such as Aboriginal child and youth health, must be addressed. The CPS's involvement with the Canadian Child and Youth Health Coalition exemplifies how real change comes when people work together.

In an effort to address paediatric human resources, the CPS has also developed a flexible model of paediatrics that outlines a different road to health care delivery. This model will make it clear "why you are so important to the health of Canadian child and youth health."

With its National Locum Service and increased access to online education, the CPS has become more responsive to member needs, and has also produced its first child health book for parents.

"We are also tenacious," Dr. Embree said. "We knock on doors and don't give up." Like marathon runners, she said, when "we hit a wall, we plod along, because children's health is worth it."

SPORTS BROUGHT INDEPENDENCE TO WHEELCHAIR ATHLETE

Despite losing the use of her legs in an accident when she was 13, "sport played a big role in bringing me back from a big accident to a normal and healthy life," said Chantal Petitclerc, world record holder and the world's most decorated wheelchair track athlete. "The confidence it built and the message it sent to everyone was that my life had not stopped and I had pushed the limits."

Pushing the limits is a way of life for Petitclerc. She likes to meet life's challenges head on . . . and roll right over them. She was introduced to sports and training during her teenage years as a way to develop her strength and stamina, and she took part in her first wheelchair race at 18. Although she came in dead last in that race, it sparked her lifelong love for wheelchair racing.

Since winning her first Canadian championship in 1989, Petitclerc has become the only Canadian athlete to win medals—many of them gold—at the Olympic, Paralympic, and Commonwealth Games, setting numerous records. She currently holds world records in five events. She's been racing over 20 years and is still going strong.

While Petitclerc has dedicated her life to high performance sports, she said health and sport should be a high priority for everyone. She said she worries when she sees children spending more time in front of a computer or a television than running and playing outdoors.

Petitclerc said that in her teen years, being healthy and strong meant being independent in her wheelchair—her athletic skills gave her a sense of belonging with her peers, and were the key to a healthy, normal life.



Dr. Victor Blanchette holding one of Chantal Petitclerc's Paralympic gold medals, and Petitclerc holding Dr. Blanchette's Ross Award.

Today's Highlights

(See program for location details)

- **Poster Session** (with breakfast)
- **The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Lecture**
- **Luncheon Symposiums**
 1. Disrupted sleep in children with ADHD
 2. Identifying treatable lysosomal storage disorders
- **Concurrent Seminars 2**
 1. Internet and new technology risks for children and youth
 2. Our role in ensuring health for all Canadian children and youth: Exploring the causes of poor health
 3. GERD: Is there consensus?
 4. Have you heard? Innovations in hearing: What you need to know in 2009
 5. Neurodevelopmental sequelae of preterm birth
- **Poster Session** (with health break)
- **Evening Symposium**
 1. The World Report on Child Injury Prevention: Relevance and implementation in Canada
 2. Emerging issues in infectious diseases
- **Residents Advocacy Dinner** (residents only)

HELP DESK

Registration

Located on the 4th floor Escalator Foyer
Open 0700-1700

Conference Office

 (Alberta Room)

Open 0800-1700, Monday to Saturday

Child Care

Delegates may arrange child care with Gigi's Sitting Service at 613-749-1295.

Internet Café

An internet café is available on the 4th floor Escalator Foyer. Please limit your time to 10 minutes during busy periods.

Seminar/workshop/luncheon reservations

Pre-registration is required and a code is listed on your badge. Non-registered delegates will be admitted 10 minutes after the session starts.

Media Room

 (Manitoba Room)

Staff will be available to assist journalists from 0900-1700.

Donor Ribbons

If you have donated to Healthy Generations in the past 12 months and have not received your donor ribbon, please stop by the Healthy Generations booth.

50% Off Membership!

Attention non-CPS members: Join the Canadian Paediatric Society during the annual conference and receive 50% off membership dues for 2009. Visit the CPS booth for more information.

DISTINGUISHED NEONATOLOGIST AWARD—DR. MARY (MOLLY) SESHIA

"No one can do anything in isolation," said Dr. Mary (Molly) Seshia. "It's all teamwork." Dr. Seshia said she is humbled and honoured to receive the Distinguished Neonatologist Award. "It is a prestigious award and it is humbling to know that my colleagues feel I merit this award."

Dr. Seshia began working in neonatology in Scotland "around the time of its birth as a specialty. I watched many babies die from hyaline membrane disease (HMD), before there was ventilator management for such newborns."

Dr. Dr. Seshia credits Dr. Forrester Cockburn, a consultant neonatologist who took a very proactive approach to managing of sick newborns, with inspiring and mentoring her. Dr. Cockburn was "a true mentor, vibrant and enthusiastic. . . . I became fascinated with how to improve [the babies'] care."

Her career led her to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Dr. Seshia worked under the direction of Dr. Jack Bowman—a world leader in the field of Rh alloimmunization—and Dr. Henrique Rigatto, who was working in neonatal respiratory.

"Each influenced my career in very different ways," Dr. Seshia said, "and perhaps it was the challenges in neonatology and my desire to participate in overcoming these challenges that led me to where I am today." Dr. Seshia said her work with these doctors helped her develop "a strong recognition of the value of teamwork, which is something I have always tried to promote."

She has also promoted the role of respiratory therapists in the care of neonatal patients—for which she was recognized in 1999. Describing the most rewarding aspects of her choice of career, Dr. Seshia said "Seeing the neonates recover from their illness, together with seeing the family when you have optimized the potential for their newborn infant."

HANDING OVER THE REINS

The CPS Annual Conference is the result of a lot of great work done by a lot of great people, and Dr. Paul Thiessen has been at the centre of that group as chair of the conference planning committee for the past six years. "It is a demanding job, but I have really enjoyed it. I don't give it up easily, but it is time to hand it over to someone else, to let them have their input."

Dr. Thiessen said he is pleased to see how much the event has grown and become stronger over the years. "We have more young doctors and residents attending than we did twenty years ago. It's great to see that change." Addressing all subspecialties is a challenge, he said, but doing so strengthens the conference's scientific aspect.

Dr. Thiessen commended the planning committee for the significant progress it made in holding sessions co-developed with industry as per the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons guidelines—"without compromising our determination to guide the scientific content of our program."

The CPS head office is conscientious, he said, "a powerful team; a delight to work with."

CPS thanks Dr. Thiessen for a job well done.

Ross Award recipient—Dr. Victor Blanchette

"Advances in medicine are team-based," said Ross Award recipient Dr. Victor Blanchette. "We should never forget that."

Dr. Blanchette's medical training and employment have taken him from his birthplace in Barbados to London, England, then Baltimore, Maryland. His move to Hamilton, Ontario was sparked by meeting Dr. Alvin Zipursky, whom he calls his mentor. Both physicians now work at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Blanchette credits his supportive family, from his parents to his wife and four sons—two of whom also became physicians—with providing the motivation for his achievements.

"The job of looking after children is really a privilege," he said, "helping to understand diseases and playing a small part in bettering outcomes in child health is a great personal satisfaction." Dr. Blanchette is grateful for the opportunity to have been involved in haemophilia work with colleagues in places like China and India.

The work is humbling, he says, because "we have so much to be grateful for in Canada, when you see places with much larger populations and what they don't have. It is important that our society give back to other parts of the world."

GERD: FINDING CONSENSUS

Dr. Eric Hassall's presentation will focus on the increased prescription of acid suppressing drugs for infants. "GERD is the new colic," he says, "and, therefore, any slightly unhappy baby is getting prescribed acid-suppressing medication." Though these drugs are effective and generally considered safe, a higher incidence of pulmonary and gastro-intestinal disorders results when acid is suppressed. Dr. Hassall will present data showing the benefits of non-pharmaceutical treatment of infants.

Dr. Benjamin Gold will discuss the extra-esophageal manifestations of GERD and the evidence for those manifestations that have legitimate association with GERD.

Our role in ensuring health for all Canadian children and youth: exploring the causes of poor health

"To prevent disease, to relieve suffering and to heal the sick—this is our work." Quoting Sir William Osler, Dr. David Butler-Jones, chief public health officer for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), says paediatricians and the CPS play an important role for the PHAC by identifying emerging patterns of diseases affecting children's and communities' health challenges, as well as the underlying factors related to health. Dr. Butler-Jones, together with Dr. Kellie Leitch, will examine a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to ensuring health for all Canadian children and youth. They will also explore the interconnected causes of poor health, including social conditions, the economy, and environment.

Conference Sponsors

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