

## GLOBAL HEALTH CRISES REQUIRES HUMANITARIAN ACTION: ORBINSKI



Members of Vancouver's University Community Children's Choir perform at the Opening Ceremonies Tuesday

Humanitarianism becomes a political issue when politics fail to respect human dignity, keynote speaker Dr. James Orbinski told participants during the Opening Ceremonies Tuesday afternoon.

"Dignity begins, first and always, in seeing the sameness of oneself in the other," said Dr. Orbinski, former international



Dr. James Orbinski

president of Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF). When human dignity is denied, through genocide or through global health inequities, "change requires a commitment to evidence, to reason-based knowledge, and to understanding the nature of politics, however imperfect they may be."

In an MSF career that brought him to Rwanda, Zaire, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Peru, Dr. Orbinski saw horrifying instances of genocide, famine, war, and pandemic disease. Those experiences convinced him that "human suffering doesn't take place in a political vacuum, and it doesn't take place without causes and conditions." The basic principle of equity requires that people in similar situations be treated similarly, and when that doesn't happen, "equity in global health is not simply a humanitarian question. It's also a deeply political question."

Dr. Orbinski recounted conversations with a nine-year-old girl who had seen her parents killed during the Rwandan genocide, and with a 20-year-old man in South Africa who knew he was dying of AIDS due to the high cost of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs). He told delegates that hope comes when health professionals and

citizens take action, and encourage others to do the same.

"By exploring alternatives with the right kind of engagement and the right kind of politics, we can find solutions," he said.

Earlier in the session, CPS President Dr. Ken Henderson traced the transformation of Canadian paediatrics in the last two decades, and even in the last two years.

"So much has changed in the country, in paediatrics, in the way we do business," Dr. Henderson said. "Children, youth, and their



Dr. Ken Henderson

families need more from us than ever before, to make sure kids aren't short-changed in what is really a health human resources crisis."

Advocacy has long been a core activity for the organization. Dr. Henderson described the Model of Paediatrics: Rethinking health care for children and youth and Are We Doing Enough?, both CPS tools that help members advocate for change in their communities and nationally. "Governments have come to expect the status report," he said. "Key decision-makers take it seriously, and many of them are eager to work with the CPS to improve their ratings."

## Something for Everyone

Dr. Jeremy Friedman, chair of the 2010 CPS Annual Conference Committee, said this year's program provides a "one-stop shop." The conference promises to appeal to everyone by offering evidence-based updates, providing CME, and giving participants lots of opportunities to meet and socialize.

Roundtable meetings, a new concept this year, will provide opportunities to discuss topics like electronic health records and integrated care outside the office. Also new this year are the trainee clinical case competition and the Child and Youth Health Lecture Series.

An enticing social program includes dinner at the Vancouver Aquarium and the annual Practice What You Preach fundraiser for the Healthy Generations Foundation. Returning this year are the popular Goldbloom Journal Club and Paediatric Update.

With conference attendance increasing, and overwhelming positive comments, the committee is not tinkering with the conference formula, but "merely fine-tuning it," said Dr. Friedman. "We want every participant to leave feeling satisfied, energized, and having learned a whole lot of new things while enjoying themselves."

## DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICIAN AWARD HONOURS OUTSTANDING COLLEAGUES

The 2010 Distinguished Community Paediatrician Award was presented on Tuesday at an awards dinner. This award recognizes paediatricians who act as role models through their far-reaching involvement in the field of community paediatrics.

This year's recipients are Dr. Moshe Ipp, a community practitioner, staff paediatrician at Toronto's SickKids Hospital, and professor of paediatrics at the University of Toronto; and Dr. Gary Smith, a community practitioner and the program medical director at Orillia's Soldiers Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Ipp has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in community-based paediatrics, teaching, and research.

The Distinguished Community Paediatrician Award "puts community paediatrics on the map," said Dr. Ipp, noting that it represents the recognition of "the total well-being of children."

Dr. Smith is a well-respected authority in community paediatrics in both his region and across the country. He receives this award in recognition of his active involvement in academia and his research contributions in areas such as diabetes, asthma, and child abuse.

Dr. Smith noted that "community paediatricians are the glue that holds together paediatric intervention."



## Emerging Issues: Transitioning to Adult Care, Paediatric Travel Care

Advances in technology and knowledge mean children and youth with chronic and life-threatening conditions are living longer than ever before, with many surviving into adulthood, said Dr. Lynn Straatman. "However, most adult physicians are not equipped to deal with these conditions."

In the context of identified research priorities, Dr. Straatman and fellow panelists will examine the transition from adolescent to adult health care for young patients and their families.

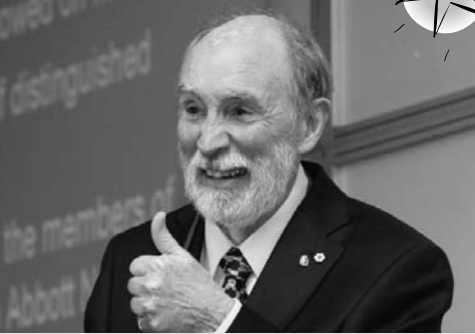
"Paediatricians need to plan early for the future of patients," she said.

In another session, Dr. Charles Hui and Dr. Susan Kuhn will discuss the growing number of children and youth who travel, and the need for paediatricians to familiarize themselves with the principles of pre- and post- travel care.

"These aspects are not taught in paediatrics," said Dr. Hui.

Key to pre-travel care is identifying high-risk groups, particularly those visiting friends and relatives. Dr. Hui and Dr. Kuhn will also highlight personal protective measures to prevent malaria, and will discuss artesunate, the optimal therapy for severe malaria.

## Tonkin Wins 2010 Ross Award



Dr. Roger Tonkin

Dr. Roger Tonkin of Gabriola Island, B.C. reflected on a lifetime of service as he accepted the 2010 Alan Ross Award at yesterday's opening ceremonies.

Dr. Tonkin acknowledged Dr. Ross himself as an influence on his career, along with Drs. Geoffrey Robinson, Sydney Israels, Robert Haggerty, and Jack McCreary. Each played a pivotal role in his professional path, which incorporated population and community paediatrics, and an overarching concern for all children and youth, "not just those in hospitals or clinics."

Dr. Tonkin said his years of experience have shown him the resilience of children and youth, the wisdom of families, the hazards of dogma, and the value of positive approaches. He urged participants to keep in mind that change comes slowly, and that most professional career paths are "shaped for you, not by you."

## Question of the Day

"What factors would make you suspect horizontal transmission of Group B Streptococcus in a neonatal nursery and how would you confirm possible horizontal transmission?"

To find the answer, visit the Trainee Clinical Case poster located in the Stanley Park Foyer (2<sup>nd</sup> level).

## Help Desk

**Registration** (Bayshore Ballroom Foyer)

Open 0700-1700

**Conference Office** (Thompson Room)

Open 0800-1700, Monday to Saturday

**Child Care Services** (Prospect Room)

Open 0700-1830

Delegates may arrange child care by contacting Kiddiecorp at 858-397-8909.

**Internet Café**

Stanley Park Foyer (2<sup>nd</sup> level). Please limit your time to 10 minutes during busy periods.

**Speaker Handouts** (Chehalis Room - 2<sup>nd</sup> level)

Open 0800-1700

Delegates can print and download speaker handouts they require.

**Session Pre-registration**

Pre-registration is required for roundtable discussions and co-developed symposiums only. Non-registered delegates will be admitted 10 minutes after the session starts. There is no advance selection for seminars and workshops.

**Media Room** (Fraser Room)

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

**Practice What You Preach**

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to register at the Healthy Generations Foundations booth.

**50% Off Membership!**

Attention non CPS-members: Join the CPS during the annual conference and receive 50% off membership dues for 2010. Visit the CPS booth for more information.

## Today's Highlights

(See program for location details)

**Poster Sessions 1 & 2** (with health breaks)

**Don't miss out on the latest in paediatric research:**

- Platform Abstract Presentations A (1330)

- Poster Sessions 1 & 2 (0830 & 1500)

**Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Lecture** (1030)

**Mix & Mingle Reception:**

Community paediatrics as a career choice (1900-2000)

(Residents & Community Paediatrics Section members only)

**Residents Advocacy Update** (2000)



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