



CANADIAN PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY

CPS **news**



May/June 2011

Provinces and territories urged to screen all newborns for hearing loss

OTTAWA—All provinces and territories should provide universal newborn hearing screening (UNHS), says the Canadian Paediatric Society in a position statement published in the May issue of *Paediatrics & Child Health*.

“Neonatal hearing loss is one of the most common congenital conditions,” said Dr. Hema Patel, a paediatrician in Montreal and author of the CPS position statement. “When we diagnose a hearing impairment early, it has a significant lifelong effect on the neurological development and learning potential of the child.”

Up to three in 1,000 babies are born profoundly deaf. Another three in 1,000 have serious hearing loss. Most hearing-impaired children are healthy and are born to hearing parents.

“The ability to accurately detect hearing loss in newborns and to re-establish hearing is one of the major advances in paediatrics in the last 20 years,” said Dr. Patel. “It’s not surprising that most developed nations have well-established infant hearing screening programs.”

While several jurisdictions have universal newborn hearing screening, many parts of Canada do not.



When newborns are tested, a diagnosis is usually at three months or earlier, with intervention by six months. Children with hearing impairment who have early intervention can be expected to develop to their full potential. In unscreened children the average age at diagnosis is 24 months old.

Diagnosing hearing loss as early as possible also appears to be cost-effective. A recent Quebec report suggested that a province-wide screening program would

result in a net savings of \$1.7 million, largely through savings in education and training.

The full statement can be found by visiting www.cps.ca and following the link to Position Statements. 🌱

Attention NRP instructors

For information on the 2011 NRP changes and recommendations, visit our website at www.cps.ca/nrp.



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First public member joins CPS board

Janet Austin, a longtime advocate for children and families in British Columbia, joins the CPS as the first member of the Board of Directors who is not a paediatrician.

Ms. Austin is currently Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Vancouver, which serves 60,000 people each year. Previously, Ms. Austin held leadership roles at Big Sisters of B.C. Lower Mainland and B.C. Housing. She has been recognized with several awards and been included in the the WXN (Women's Executive Network) list of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women.



Ms. Janet Austin

A crusader for optimal early child development

Ms. Austin came to know of the CPS through her work with the Council for Early Child Development, recently chaired by CPS board member Dr. Robin Williams. Ms. Austin has advocated for policy changes that will lower what she calls "unacceptable" child vulnerability rates in B.C.

"It's very important to look at how we can create the conditions for healthy child development at a population level, through the systems and social policy we create," she said, citing data that show nearly 30% of B.C. children reach age six developmentally vulnerable.

"If we want to shift public understanding and increase investment in early child development, we also have to make human capital arguments about what child vulnerability means for the economy," she continued, pointing to analyses that say

the cost to the provincial economy of *not* addressing this issue is 10 times B.C.'s total debt load.

Public member role more common

"We have a lot of work aimed at policymakers as well as parents," said Marie Adèle Davis, CPS Executive Director. "We already have non-physician representatives on our Action Committee for Children and Teens (ACCT) and other groups, so we felt it was important to have a public voice at the board table."

Ms. Davis added that more and more professional organizations are bringing on a public member, seeing it as part of good governance. She said Ms. Austin is an excellent fit.

"She's in a service provider role, but has also sat on other boards, while being very much an advocate," she said. "These experiences will all be very helpful to us as an organization." 🌱

B.C. Director reappointed

Dr. William Abelson of Prince George, B.C. will serve a second three-year term on the Board of Directors, beginning in July 2011, representing British Columbia and Yukon.

National training program on WHO Growth Charts in the works

The Canadian Paediatric Society is working with Dietitians of Canada to develop a training program to help primary care providers use the new WHO Growth Charts Adapted for Canada.

The goal of the project, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, is to promote consistent practices in monitoring growth and assessing patterns of linear growth and weight gain in infants, children and adolescents.

A National Advisory Committee—including Dr. Valérie Marchand, chair of the CPS Nutrition and Gastroenterology Committee—will guide the project. Other organizations represented on the committee include the College of Family Physicians of Canada, Community Health Nurses of Canada, the Canadian Obesity Network, and NutriSTEP.

Along with the other collaborating organizations, the CPS has formed a reference group to provide input into a national needs assessment, review elements of the training package, and pilot test resources. The members are Drs. Krista Baerg (Saskatoon), Heidi Carlson-Reid (Moncton, N.B.), Dan Flanders (Toronto), Véronique Pelletier (Montreal), Jeffrey Simons (Prince Rupert, B.C.), and Tracey Williams (Truro, N.S.).

The training package will use a self-instructional modular approach and will build on and add to the resources already available through Dietitians of Canada (www.dietitians.ca/growthcharts) and the B.C. Ministry of Health Services Training Program (www.health.gov.bc.ca/women-and-children/children-and-youth/WHO-standards.html).

Materials will be available later this year. For more information on the WHO Growth Charts, visit www.cps.ca/english/publications/cps10-01.htm. 📄



CPSP reporting goes electronic

Starting this fall, the more than 2,500 paediatricians and paediatric subspecialists who report monthly to the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program will have a new option for submitting their data to the program.

That's when the CPSP launches its electronic reporting system. The new online system is easier, faster and more flexible. Currently being pilot-tested with more than 50 participants, eCPSP will link program staff with participants and researchers more effectively and efficiently.

In its first phase, the new system will allow CPSP participants to submit their monthly report by clicking a hyperlink they receive by email. They will also have instant access to case definitions, full protocols and up-to-date study statistics online.

Participants needing to submit detailed case reports will still receive those questionnaires by mail, only sooner than before – making it easier to remember details. In eCPSP's second phase, there are also plans for the detailed questionnaire to be available online.

“Transmitting the data electronically also helps CPS in its advocacy role,” said CPS Medical Affairs Director Dr. Danielle Grenier. “The sooner we learn about a potential public health concern, the sooner we can take action.” 📄

Electronic reporting is optional

The CPS will soon contact all participants to ask whether they would like to switch to online reporting. Those who opt out will still be able to receive their report forms by mail.

Questions? Please contact the program at cpsp@cps.ca.

New Maintenance of Certification program launched

Planning to submit your learning hours to maintain your certification with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada? The next time you do, you'll be greeted by a streamlined new program with an easier-to-use system for logging hours and tracking your progress.

The Royal College recently launched a redesigned Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program, the continuing professional development program serving its nearly 30,000 Fellows, as well as continuing education participants.

The program redesign follows a comprehensive, evidence-informed evaluation that the Royal College carried out in 2007, including nearly 5,000 comments from members.

A new key feature is a revised credit system, arranged under three learning sections

instead of the former six. Each offers a rich menu of activities that count for credit under the program.

Dr. Susan Tallett, Chief of Education of the SickKids Learning Institute and chair of the CPS Education subcommittee, is on the College's professional development committee. "The substance of the MOC learning content is very much as it was before," she said, "But the way the learning options are grouped in the program has been simplified."

More intuitive layout and logging system

"People have always accounted for time spent in learning as they maintain their certification each year. But the way the program lays out how the learning happens and what credit options exist should make it easier for physicians to receive credit for

what they are already doing, and encourage them to pursue new opportunities," Dr. Tallett said.

Also redesigned is the MAINPORT system that Fellows and CPD participants use to log their progress with the College.

"That's been a very important piece," Dr. Tallett said. "It's a much better site with more support systems within it. It's really going to make it much easier and intuitive for fellows to track and document their learning." ✨

CPS members benefit

Have your credits for CPS education activities transferred automatically to your MAINPORT account. Simply provide your Royal College ID number and your CPS membership number when you register.

Annual conference events

Nominations for vice president 2012-13: Candidate(s) for 2012-13 CPS vice president will speak during the Annual General Meeting on June 17 from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m., in the Palais Room of the Québec Hilton.

Breakfast with the CPS Board of Directors: Meet your provincial/territorial board representative over breakfast on June 17 from 8 to 9 a.m., and learn more about the CPS.

Book drive: Help promote literacy by donating a new book for children or youth. Donations to the book drive will be distributed through schools, community organizations and child care centres in Quebec City through the Literacy Foundation's Gift of Reading program. Bring books to the CPS booth anytime during the Annual Conference.

Multi-Specialty Walk-in Clinic

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The Multi-Specialty Walk-in Clinic, located in Mississauga, Ontario is looking for a Paediatrician to staff its busy out-patient medical clinic. Established in 1988, our clinic was one of the first multi-specialty walk-in clinics in the GTA. Since that time, we have continued to provide care for walk-in patients from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week – including holidays. This position offers a top-end competitive salary, flexible hours and no on-call.

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Ross Award recognizes member of ‘founder generation’

Dr. Noni MacDonald is already well-known within the paediatric healthcare field and beyond. Now, she can add to her list of achievements receipt of the 2011 Ross Award, the highest honour given by the CPS.



Dr. Noni MacDonald

Dr. MacDonald is a professor of Paediatrics and Computer Science at Dalhousie University—including five years as Dean of the faculty of medicine—with a clinical appointment in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at the IWK Health Centre. Before moving to Halifax in 1999, she spent 18 years at her alma mater, the University of Ottawa, and at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Throughout her academic career, she has also been active as a researcher, teacher and curriculum advisor.

Dr. MacDonald is a longtime member and former chair of the Infectious Diseases and Immunization Committee, as well as Founding Chair of the Paediatric Investigators Collaborative Network on Infections in Canada (PICNIC) and founding editor of *Paediatrics & Child Health*.

Remarkable impact in a range of subject areas

She has been able to extend her expertise into a wide range of other paediatric areas—including health informatics, maternal-child health, advocacy for automobile lap belt legislation and most recently, an effort to examine the health impact of caffeinated energy drinks.

It’s this breadth of experience and impact that stands out for Dr. David Scheifele, a colleague and one of her nominators for this award. As two of Canada’s first paediatric infectious disease specialists—the “founder generation”—they have worked together for

more than 30 years. Even in those early days, Dr. MacDonald distinguished herself by taking on research questions others might have avoided.

“When she started to practice infectious diseases at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, she took on the care of cystic fibrosis patients, something none of the rest of

us newly-minted paediatric infectious disease people would think of doing,” Dr. Scheifele said.

While most specialists stick to a particular path, he continued, Dr. MacDonald has managed to embrace entirely new challenges at different periods of her career. “The idea of taking on a deanship of a faculty of medicine is a daunting prospect for most of us,” said Dr. Scheifele. She was, in fact, Canada’s first-ever female dean of a medical faculty.

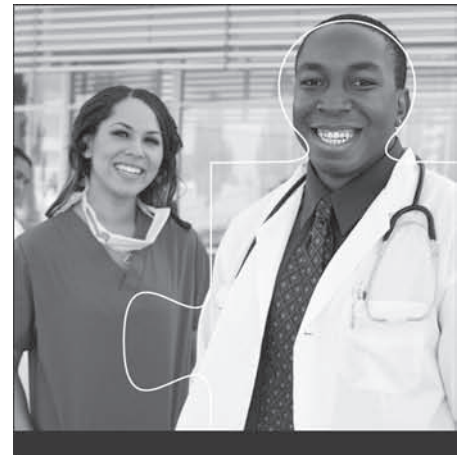
“She was brave enough to take it on for a number of years, also jumping in to work collaboratively with folks in adult infectious diseases and learn about sexually transmitted infections,” Dr. Scheifele continued.

Dr. MacDonald has applied great discipline in balancing her work and personal life.

“Her efficiency is astounding,” said Dr. Scheifele. “She insisted that she did not take work home with her. She managed to do all that needed to be done in the course of a day. It was a long day, started early and finished late, but evenings were reserved for family time.”

In tandem with nurturing her professional life, Dr. MacDonald and her husband raised a son and a daughter. 🌱

Thanks to Abbott Nutrition, which provides an unrestricted grant for this award.



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Meet this year's award winners

Join us in congratulating your colleagues who have been recognized this year with an award from CPS. They will mark the occasion during a ceremony at the Annual Conference.

To learn more about all CPS grants and awards, visit www.cps.ca.

Young Investigator Award

Dr. Geoff Ball

Dr. Ball is being recognized for his work to understand and prevent childhood obesity.



Dr. Ball holds assistant or adjunct professorships in three departments at the University of Alberta. He also established and directs the Pediatric Centre for Weight and Health at Alberta Health Sciences. Since he joined the university in 2004, Dr. Ball has obtained \$1.4 million in peer-reviewed grants as either principal or co-investigator, and has also garnered independent salary support.

According to colleague Dr. Susan Gilmour, "Having a clinician-scientist committed to the advancement of research, knowledge translation and the clinical realm...is significant and very important not only for the children of the Edmonton region and Alberta, but for the paediatric population nationally."

Thanks to McGill University, Department of Pediatrics for sponsoring this award.

Noni MacDonald Award

Dr. Ziad Solh

A study of how paediatric hospitals model and promote healthy environments will be honoured with the Noni MacDonald Award, which recognizes an outstanding article published in *Paediatrics & Child Health*.



Dr. Ziad Solh was the lead author on *Practising what we preach: A look at healthy active living policy and practice in Canadian paediatric hospitals*, which was published in *Paediatrics & Child Health* in December 2010.

The study suggested the need for hospital-based policy to foster and encourage healthy lifestyle modifications in Canadian paediatric hospitals. A pan-Canadian task force also published a compendium of ideas called *Healthy Active Living Policy and Practice in Canadian Academic Pediatric Health Centres: Working together to promote practice change* (available at www.caphc.org).

Dr. Solh is a fellow in pediatric hematology and oncology at McMaster University. Fellow author Dr. Kristi Adamo is currently a research scientist with the Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute.

The paper is the result of a national collaborative effort between the CPS and the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres.

Thanks to Pulsus Group Inc. for sponsoring this award.

Michel Weber Education Award

Dr. Jonathan Kronick

As "an outstanding teacher, mentor, and innovator in resident education and evaluation," Dr. Kronick "has inspired countless paediatricians from across the country to search for ways to educate and evaluate competency in paediatrics," said Dr. Kathryn Keely, a community paediatrician in Ottawa. Dr. Kronick was Head of Pediatrics at Dalhousie University, where he has held other senior positions and assisted in the Dean's office.



His distinction as an educator is largely due to Dr. Kronick's ongoing work with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. During his nine years chairing their examination board, he spearheaded improvements to the Royal College's

certification process through extensive collaboration among a large and diverse group of Canadian child and youth health professionals.

Thanks to CHU Sainte-Justine and la Fondation CHU Sainte-Justine for sponsoring this award.

Distinguished Community Paediatrician Award

Dr. Denis Leduc

Dr. Leduc "exemplifies the 'gold standard' of community based pediatric practice," in the words of Dr. Barry Pless, Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics, Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University.



Along with his work as a community paediatrician, Dr. Leduc combines the role of associate professor of paediatrics at McGill with clinical responsibilities within the McGill University Health Center which include being director of pediatric services of the newborn nursery at the Royal Victoria Hospital. With 37 published papers, he has also collaborated as a researcher. Dr. Leduc holds several volunteer roles, including those as a member of several CPS committees, and is past president of both the CPS and of the Healthy Generations Foundation. Dr. Leduc is co-editor of *Well Beings: A Guide to Health in Child Care*.

Distinguished Neonatologist Award and Geoffrey C. Robinson Award

Dr. Reginald (Reg) Sauve

This year, a double honour goes to Dr. Reg Sauve, Professor of Pediatrics and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary, who is being recognized both as a subspecialist and for his research contributions.



Dr. Sauve is director of the Alberta Children's Hospital Perinatal Follow-up Program and a neonatologist at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary.

Dr. James Kellner, Head of Pediatrics at the University of Calgary, called him "an early leader in the organization of Neonatology in Alberta," who has contributed to training hundreds of pediatricians and neonatologists. Dr. Sauve has been part of several CPS committees, including the Nutrition Committee.

Along with his teaching and practice, Dr. Sauve has maintained a long-term research focus on the areas of perinatal epidemiology and neonatal follow-up. He is a recognized international expert in neonatal follow-up, with 170 peer-reviewed publications. According to Dr. Michael Whitfield, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia, Dr. Sauve is a "multi-talented renaissance neonatologist."

Thanks to the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Section for sponsoring the Distinguished Neonatologist Award, and the BC Children's Hospital Foundation for sponsoring the Geoffrey C. Robinson Award.

Membership awards

Membership awards will be handed out during the Annual General Meeting in Quebec City.

Life Membership

Life Membership honours people who have made significant contributions to the CPS and to child and youth health over many years:

- **Dr. Emmett Francoeur**, Montreal, Que.
- **Dr. Danielle Grenier**, Gatineau, Que.
- **Dr. Denis Leduc**, Montreal, Que.

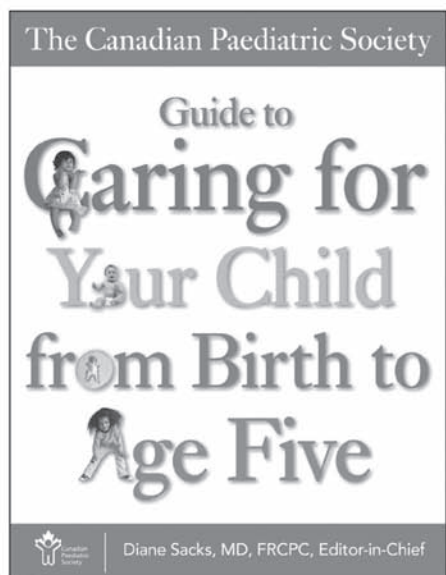
2011 Member Recognition Award

Dr. Dorothy Moore, an infectious diseases specialist at The Montreal Children's Hospital, is being recognized for her role in developing CPS position statements, publications, and information for families and caregivers.

Honorary Member

Honorary membership will be awarded to **Sid Stevens**, co-founder of Sun Youth Organization, which helps disadvantaged Montrealers.

The Definitive Resource for Canadian Parents



From the Canadian Paediatric Society, the foremost association on child and youth health and development, comes a complete and comprehensive guide for parents. Led by Dr. Diane Sacks, one of Canada's most recognized paediatricians, an expert editorial advisory board of volunteer paediatricians from across Canada reviewed all content in this book.

This definitive resource incorporates the latest research and recommendations from the country's leading experts for child health and safety.

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Guidance for physicians on palliative care decision-making

OTTAWA – The Canadian Paediatric Society wants to help health care providers faced with difficult end-of-life decisions, with a new paper on withholding or withdrawing artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH). The CPS says that withholding or withdrawing ANH is both legally and ethically acceptable as part of a palliative care plan.

“The discussion on whether to withhold or withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration is happening more and more,” said Dr. Ellen Tsai, chair of the CPS Bioethics Committee, and author of the new CPS practice point published in the March issue of *Paediatrics & Child Health*. “It’s a difficult topic, one where physicians are being asked questions by both parents and their health care colleagues. They need guidance to navigate the complexity of the issue. Saying we don’t withhold or withdraw ANH isn’t a sufficient response anymore.”


ANH refers to nutrition or hydration that is delivered by artificial means, such as via a feeding tube or intravenously. Legal and

ethics experts say there is no difference between withholding or withdrawing ANH versus other therapies that sustain or prolong life. The CPS makes clear that any decision should be based solely on the benefit to the child, while considering the child’s overall plan of care.

“Food and drink evoke deep emotional and psychological responses, and are associated with nurturing,” said Dr. Tsai. “But artificial nutrition and hydration is not about providing food and fluids through normal means of eating and drinking. It should be viewed the same as any other medical intervention, such as ventilatory support.”


The CPS hopes to stimulate discussion on the issue with health care professionals and provide the impetus for more hospitals across the country to develop their own policies.

To read the full document visit www.cps.ca 



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