

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

## **Scientific Affairs Committee**

**November, 2007**

The Scientific Affairs Committee (SAC) is currently working on a number of projects. The committee responded to a request from NSERC for input on the International Review of the Discovery Grant Program and the Grant Selection Committee Structure Review. We forwarded our review to CSBBCS. The CSBBCS president responded "I received your note to NSERC...it is interesting to note how close we are in our advice to NSERC."

The SAC worked with the CPA Section on Students in Psychology to develop a PowerPoint presentation (and brochures) on graduate school and careers in psychology. This presentation will be available to download from the CPA web site. Scientific Affairs is also working with our student board member (Kelly Smith) and campus representatives to disseminate this package to campuses across the country. The student section is also in the process of translating this material into French.

On behalf of the SAC, I attended a reception for the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. One of psychology's own, Endel Tulving, was inducted. The tribute to Tulving stated that, "No single cognitive scientist has made a greater impact on the understanding of human memory than psychologist Dr. Tulving. His theories now guide the whole field of memory research." It was a pleasure to represent CPA (with the company of Dr. Ian Nicholson) at this event.

I have had some discussions with members of Council from the College of Psychologists of Ontario regarding some changes to the registration process that may affect academic psychologists. I will continue to follow up with this to ensure that academic psychologists are well represented.

In the June meeting, the committee concluded that the most pressing priorities for the SAC are: (a) to promote a culture within CPA that supports the integration and acceptance of all dimensions of basic and applied research within CPA and (b) to work to increase funding to support university-based research. During the teleconference (October 3, 2007), discussion ensued regarding how to implement some of these goals.

We discussed the possibility of working with the Convention Committee to organize a SAC-Sponsored Workshop or Conversation Session (e.g., a grants writing workshop for new faculty members). The Committee is also working to increase basic science in our conference program. We are also drafting a letter to CIHR re: the Randomized Clinical Trials committee.

We have also been thinking about strategies for increasing public awareness of the importance of psychological science. In order to influence the government's stance on research grant funding, we need to influence the general public. There is a need for CPA to translate and disseminate research knowledge for the public. Part of the problem is that psychologists are often not trained in knowledge translation and mobilization (should this be part of the curriculum of graduate training e.g., in the form of brown bags, method courses, etc.?). We have also discussed the idea of putting together a workshop on how to interact with the media. The committee also discussed the possibility of encouraging the CPA Awards Committee to develop an award for knowledge translation.

Another important issue has to do with retiring faculty and what our organization should be doing to deal with this imminent crisis in academia (for example, should the CPA board strike a task force to examine this issue?).

On behalf of SAC, I joined the Scientific Committee (Canada Liaison, CPA) of the World Congress on Neck Pain and was involved in reviewing abstracts for the convention.

Finally, we will be responding to another request from CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC for input from the community on ethics consultations. The deadline for responses is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Given the number of such ethics consultation reviews, the committee is wondering if there are any data on the efficacy of these consultations (e.g., are REBs receiving fewer ethical complaints as a result? Would efficacy data actually influence policy?).

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Chair