

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

Scientific Affairs Committee

February, 2007

In February 2007, John Service and Bob Vallerand will be meeting with SSHRC president, Chad Gaffield, to discuss various issues. The Scientific Affairs Committee provided input in preparation for this meeting and looks forward to hearing how our input was received.

In the fall, Alan Bernstein, President of CIHR, responded to the International Review Panel's (IRP) Report and invited feedback from the research community. Scientific Affairs had responded to the initial request for feedback in December 2005. Judging from Dr. Bernstein's report, CPA's recommendations (e.g., that CIHR is too biomedical in its focus and has not lived up to its legislated Parliamentary mandate to be appropriately inclusive of the behavioural and social sciences) did not have direct impact. Scientific Affairs will continue to reinforce to CIHR the importance of psychological research and knowledge. INMHA is also seeking feedback on its second strategic plan. The Scientific Affairs Committee will be responding to this request. Another way to inform CIHR about the importance of psychological research is through the CIHR fact sheet initiative which is still under development.

The CIHR is also recruiting members to fill voluntary membership positions on Institute Advisory Boards and the Clinical Research Initiative's Steering Committee. We have been working to try to encourage some of our esteemed colleagues to apply for these positions.

One general issue pertaining to all three national granting councils includes the accountability of research funding and 'value for money' regarding the granting councils' activities. Although it is important that our grants programs evaluate outputs, we need to be very careful that value-added is not simply assessed in terms of immediate economic or commercial gain. We must continue to reinforce to government the importance of basic science in psychology. In their submission to the Standing Committee on Finance, NSERC appropriately stated that "Knowledge, created through investments in R&D, is the basis for adding value."

I reported in a recent *Psynopsis* column how well psychology fared in the report of the State of Science and Technology in Canada. Given that Knowledge translation is an important buzz word across the three national research councils, it may be wise for CPA to consider further strategies for the dissemination of psychological research.

In January, 2007, Health Canada solicited the opinions of Canadians regarding the proposal to establish a mental health commission in Canada (a key recommendation of "Out of the Shadows at Last: Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addiction Services in Canada"). One recommendation was to increase funding for CIHR (in particular, that \$25 million be allocated to the Institute for Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions). We will need to advocate that these monies do not become swallowed up entirely by biomedical and pharmaceutical research and that an adequate proportion of these funds be allocated to behavioural health research.

We have completed work with the CPA Section on Students to develop a PowerPoint presentation (and brochures) on graduate school and careers in psychology (see attached material). I will be working with Kelly Smith to disseminate this package to campuses across the country.

Finally, on behalf of Scientific Affairs (and persuaded by our beloved Executive Director), I have joined the Scientific Committee (Canada Liaison, CPA) of the World Congress on Neck Pain.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. A. Dozois
Chair