

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

Scientific Affairs Committee

November 2006

The Scientific Affairs Committee is comprised of 10 members from across the country. The composition of this committee is well balanced in term of geography, gender, and representation to each of the three major granting councils in Canada.

There are a number of important issues that psychology faces with respect to three of our national funding councils (SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR). SSHRC recently announced its new president, Dr. Chad Gaffield. It will be important to learn what his specific priorities are and to highlight the significant contributions of psychological science to society and to the advancement of knowledge. The Scientific Affairs Committee will continue to advocate for psychological science – both basic and applied – to ensure that our discipline is optimally positioned in all areas of science.

In September 2006, the Canadian Consortium for Research presented a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. Three recommendations were made:

1. to create a dedicated federal/provincial transfer mechanism to increase operating funds for post-secondary education;
2. to increase support for basic research (in particular to increase funding for SSHRC to rectify the asymmetry of existing funding allocation); and
3. to invest in government research infrastructure and human resources related to science.

Another important issue related to both science and practice involves the Mental Health Commission. One recommendation was to increase funding for CIHR (in particular 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.

The CIHR fact sheet initiative continues to move forward. A few fact sheets are still outstanding but we hope that this process will be completed by December, 2006.

We are continuing to work with the CPA Section on Students to develop a PowerPoint presentation (and brochures) on graduate school and careers in psychology. The purpose of this initiative is to educate undergraduate students about the many exciting careers in psychology and also to let them know what the job market is currently like. We intend to have this ready for dissemination by January 2007. Related to student involvement, I also hope to have student representation on the Scientific Affairs Committee.

Additional goals for the Scientific Affairs Committee were forwarded to CPA head office in August in preparation for strategic planning.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. A. Dozois
Chair