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## **Scientific Affairs Committee Report**

November, 2010

With one exception, the Scientific Affairs Committee (SAC) is comprised of the same members as last year, representing research related to each of the three major granting councils in Canada. The exception is that a new student representative has joined the committee this year. I believe that the SAC consists of a strong team of individuals who are invested in promoting psychological science and knowledge.

The committee had a face-to-face meeting at the convention in June and a teleconference in October.

One ongoing issue that the SAC faces involves the fall-out from the granting councils' restructuring. Last year, CPA launched a letter-writing campaign (with considerable follow-up) to address concerns specific to NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR. NSERC had revised the Scholarship and Fellowship eligibility criteria such that students in clinical psychology programs were no longer eligible for funding. NSERC responded to our advocacy efforts by agreeing to fund clinical students with the following proviso: (a) the content of an applicant's research must fall within the mandate of NSERC and (b) his or her supervisor must hold an NSERC Discovery grant. CPA has requested that NSERC remove the latter criterion; however, the agency is not prepared to do anything for 2 years at which time they will look at the data and reevaluate. The SAC intends to gather information on the number of students affected and who might be "falling through the cracks." We are also looking into the possibility of surveying health-related SSHRC researchers to determine how they perceive the transition to CIHR. We are also in the process of gathering data and contacting CIHR to get a better sense of how they might be accommodating the increase in applications.

One of our main goals over the coming year will be to develop advocacy papers that highlight the importance of psychological research aimed toward the public and/or government. During the fall teleconference, the committee spent some time discussing the possible format, focus, goals and target audience for these advocacy papers. The committee also wondered, in addition to such things as press-releases, whether the CPA Board would be willing to consider supporting a paid advertisement campaign. Lisa and I will be meeting to develop a plan for the advocacy papers. One idea, for example, would be to write one-page summaries that focus on psychological science (such a summary could also highlight research support for psychology in Canada relative to what is allocated in other countries).

Many of the additional science-related goals and achievements are outlined in Lisa Votta-Bleeker's AED report. I would like to mention again how fortunate CPA is to have such an excellent staff member serving in the capacity of Science Directorate and moving the science agenda forward.

David J. A. Dozois, Chair