

Canadian Psychological Association

# PSYience Update



## From CPA's Science Directorate

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Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 2 of *PSYience Update*—a newsletter to keep you up-to-date on activities undertaken by the CPA on behalf of psychological science.

It was a busy summer for the Science Directorate. Highlights of activities include submitting briefs on behalf of CPA and the CCR to the House of Commons Finance Committee as part of the 2015 pre-budget consultation, meeting with representatives from NSERC and SSHRC, giving presentations on

science advocacy, and working on a survey to capture information on all of Canada's psychologists—to name a few. Read more in the following pages.

At any point, if you have any input for the Science Directorate, please don't hesitate to be in touch with CPA's Deputy CEO and Science Director, Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker, by phone (613-237-2144 or -1-888-472-0657 ext. 323) or by email at [executiveoffice@cpa.ca](mailto:executiveoffice@cpa.ca).



## CPA's Journals and Fact Sheets

Take some time to review the latest issues of CP, CJEP and CJBS. CP's latest issue was a special issue on science in psychology.

The CPA is pleased to announce the posting of two new fact sheets:

1. Pain in Children with Cognitive Impairments who are Non-Verbal
2. Suicide

Numerous fact sheets are in development and/or under review including ones on: children's pain; anger, cancer, post-traumatic stress

disorder, bullying, substance abuse, hiring better applicants using personality assessments, and choosing a graduate school—to name a few.

See the list of current fact sheets by visiting: <http://www.cpa.ca/psychologyfactsheets/>.

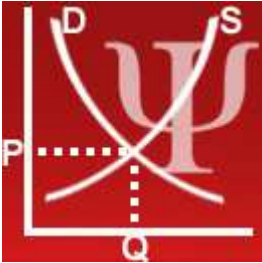
The membership is welcome to submit a fact sheet or suggest a topic via email ([factsheets@cpa.ca](mailto:factsheets@cpa.ca)).



### Inside this issue:

Need, Supply and Demand Summit	2
Granting Agencies	2
Canadian Consortium for Research	2
Consultations and Research Projects	3
Committees and Collaborations	4
Supporting Psychology's Young Scientists	5
Welcome and Thank You!	6

## Need, Supply and Demand



Following the Need, Supply and Demand Summit which the CPA hosted in Ottawa in November 2013, the CPA has continued to be active on this portfolio.

Highlights from the Summit were presented in an editorial published in the May 2014 Special Issue on Access to Psychological Services in *Canadian Psychology*. A presentation on information from the Summit was given at CPA's Convention

in Vancouver in June. Click here for further information on the Summit and to view the presentation: <http://www.cpa.ca/supplyanddemand/summit>.

CPA's CEO and DCEO will speak on the issue at upcoming conferences in October: Canadian Health Workforce Conference (in Ottawa) and Improving Access to Psychotherapy (in Montreal).

CPA Head Office staff (Lisa

Votta-Bleeker and Melissa Tiessen) continue to work with the APA's Doctoral Employment Survey to create a Canadian version, which will be circulated across Canada in early 2015.

The CPA will be pursuing meetings with CIHI, Statistics Canada, and the Council of Ontario Universities to discuss psychology-specific data collection in Canada.

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For more information on CPA's Research Activities, visit: [www.cpa.ca/researchers](http://www.cpa.ca/researchers)

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## Meetings with NSERC Representatives

The CPA regularly seeks opportunities to meet with representatives from the granting agencies. In late June, Dr. Votta-Bleeker met with representatives from NSERC (Pierre Charest, Eniko-Megyeri-Lawless). Key issues arose during the discussion:

**Budget 2014 and new Centres of Excellence.** University Presidents will be key to process—

psychology departments will need to advocate to get psychology-specific proposals submitted.

**Open Access.** No requirements as to where articles are to be deposited—concept is here to stay.

**Requirement of HQP in Grants.** No intention of removing HQP requirement as training new researchers is part of their mandate.

**Master's Scholarship Allocations.** They stand by the harmonized process and feel it has worked well. Allocations were based on average of quota received from the last 3 years. Concerns should be brought to one's university scholarship liaison officer.



## Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR)

Dr. Votta-Bleeker continues to serve as Chair of the CCR. In July, the CCR submitted a submission to FINA s as part of the 2015 pre-budget consultation. Recommendations focused on increased funding to the base budgets of the granting councils;

increased support for students through graduate scholarships, full-time internships and post-graduate training, across a diversity of disciplines and settings, particularly high-demand fields; and an investment in Canada's national research capacity and

public science.

In the coming months, the CCR will pursue meetings with MPs to discuss its pre-budget submission and host its 3rd annual breakfast with the funders at the CPA Head Office on Wednesday December 3, 2014.

## Meetings with SSHRC Representatives

In late June, Dr. Votta-Bleeker met with Dr. Ted Hewitt at SSHRC. There was concurrence with NSERC's comments re: issues pertaining to the new Centres of Excellence, Open Access and the Master's Scholarship Allocations. Other issues discussed were as follows:

### **Need, Supply and Demand.**

Aware of difficulties finding faculty positions and need for information on non-traditional

career paths. He supported the idea of CPA collecting psychology doctorate employment data.

### **SSHRC Grant Amounts.**

Acknowledged that SSHRC amounts from government have decreased over the years. Re-affirmed that SSHRC does not claw back on proposed budget amounts. SSHRC will be looking at its grant amounts.

**Budget 2015.** Their submission will focus on digital scholarship,

high-performance computing, repositories, and training/data analytics.

**Health-research Funding.** General rule is that if health is the dependent variable in a proposal, it goes to CIHR; if health is an independent variable, it fits within SSHRC's mandate.

**SSHRC Committees.** Individuals interested in sitting on a committee or being a reviewer, should inform their institutions.



As part of its objectives to promote the science, practice and education of psychology, CPA is involved in a number of advocacy and government relations activities on behalf of psychology as a discipline and its members.

## Collaborations

In 2015, the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (CSBBBCS) and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) will be hosting their annual conferences in Ottawa at the same time as CPA's Annual Convention. The CPA is pleased to announce that it will be co-sponsoring the Science and Ap-

plication Plenary Speaker and a mixer event with the CSBBBCS at the CPA Convention. The CPA will also be co-sponsoring a speaker at the CFHSS's Congress.

This year's convention will also host the 3rd North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference. The focus of discussions during this

conference will be adapting psychology to the client, adapting to the organizations that correctional and criminal justice psychologists work for, and adapting to the systems that this field serves with the goal to protect society and to improve the quality of life of individuals who are far too often marginalized.

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*For a complete listing of CPA's Committees and Task Forces, visit: [www.cpa.ca/aboutcpa/committees](http://www.cpa.ca/aboutcpa/committees)*

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## Congratulations to CPA Fellow Dr. Anne Wilson

CPA Fellow and Laurier Psychology Professor Anne Wilson has been named an inaugural member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

Dr. Wilson currently holds a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Social Psychology; she will join researchers and academics from

across Canada to make up the first cohort of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Dr. Wilson's work is primarily focused on self and identity over time, studying the way people remember and revise the past and how they predict and plan

for the future. Recently, she has paid particular attention to studying how people interpret the timing and risk of possible future events, which has implications for people's present behaviours in domains as diverse as health, exercise, academic procrastination and environmental sustainability.



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## Science Advocacy

In June, Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker gave a presentation on Science Advocacy to the Canadian Council of Deans of Science. She will give a similar presentation in November to the Canadian Council of University Biology Chairs.

Science advocacy continues to be a key area of focus for the Science Directorate. In the coming year, some new and planned activities for the Science Director include: 1) Assisting in the development and analysis of section-identified surveys; 2) Pursuing meetings with MPs in order to highlight the importance of psychological science; 3) Revising and distributing the Doctoral Employment Survey with the APA; 4) Exploring issues related to open access, repositories, and impact factors as pertains to psychological science; 5) exploring new opportunities for networking among CPA members and affiliates; and 6) reaching out to University Research Officers and Department Chairs to gather information on psychological research in Canada; and 8) pursuing meetings with MITACS to discuss fellowship possibilities for psychologists.

We also hope to explore innovative ways of highlighting the research of our members and its import to public policy. Please consider sending the Science Directorate (via [executiveoffice@cpa.ca](mailto:executiveoffice@cpa.ca)) any information on your current research or recent key findings so that we may begin noting the psychological science being conducted throughout the country.



Visit our website, at:

[www.cpa.ca](http://www.cpa.ca)

## Thank You!

The CPA and Science Directorate would like to thank all members of the Scientific Affairs Committee who agreed to stay on for another year. Your commitment and input on all matters related to the advancement of psychological science are very much appreciated.

We also extend our thanks to Dr. Valerie Kuhlmeier for her service as a committee member of Scientific Affairs. Dr. Kuhlmeier has stepped down from the committee. We thank you for the input you provided and wish

you all the best for your sabbatical.

*The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. With almost 7,000 members and affiliates, CPA is Canada's largest association for psychology.*



