

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

## **Committee on Scientific Affairs Annual Report 2010**

**Members:** Ken Craig, David Dozois (Chair), Anna-Beth Doyle, Janel Gauthier, Thomas Hadjistavropoulos, Jill Jacobson, Valerie Kuhlmeier, Wolfgang Linden, Clarisa Markel (Student Representative), Marian Morry, Morris Moscovitch, Valerie Thompson, and Keith Wilson

One of the most pressing issues for Scientific Affairs has involved the restructuring of the granting councils. NSERC and SSHRC will no longer fund research that has health as the intended outcome. Instead, all health-oriented research is to be submitted to CIHR for funding. The ramifications of these changes are potentially devastating as CIHR has not received additional funds to accommodate the increase in applications. Moreover, NSERC has decided to fund students according to program of study in addition to area of research. For example, a graduate student enrolled in a clinical psychology program who works with a research supervisor from neuroscience would not be eligible for funding because NSERC assumes that the career intention of clinical students is health-based. CPA staff has met with representatives from all 3 granting councils, attempting to advance CPA's position. A policy statement was written and letter-writing campaign (involving individualized letters to each of the tri-council agencies) was launched to deal with this issue (<http://www.cpa.ca/science/grantingcouncils/>). CPA continues to follow up.

In 2009, the CPA Board voted to approve the formation of the Science Directorate to coordinate, organize and bolster the advocacy activities undertaken on behalf of the science of psychology at the national, provincial and territorial levels. A resourced Science Directorate means that CPA's Scientific Affairs Committee can be more proactive and strategic in its advocacy objectives and have the operational support necessary for implementing and sustaining its activities. Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker has done an excellent job in this role and has collaborated well with Scientific Affairs. Dr. Votta-Bleeker's report of the Associate Executive Director will undoubtedly highlight some of these activities. Rather than reiterating them here, I will simply list some of them briefly:

- Report of the science survey, *Promoting the Science of Psychology: What Can CPA Do?* (released in September, 2009).
- Enhancing the CPA web site for science.
- Recruit Research Participants Portal (R2P2)

- Research Hub (intended to put students in contact with potential supervisors and researchers in contact with other researchers).
- Various advocacy efforts as well as research and media consultation requests.

The student representative from the Scientific Affairs Committee also completed an online survey asking, among other things, how CPA can optimally meet students' needs. The results from this survey were presented recently in *Psynopsis* (Spring, 2010) and will be used to guide the SAC's plans for advocacy and scientific education.

We have organized a joint Section for Students in Psychology/Scientific Affairs Committee workshop on grant writing. There will also be an advocacy workshop for science as part of the preconvention workshop.

Finally, CPA drafted a formal response to the federal budget. In the past, responses from CPA have been subsumed under the Canadian Consortium for Research.

The Science Directorate, in conjunction with the Scientific Affairs Committee, is also in the process of developing advocacy papers for science.

I would like to thank the members of this committee for their contributions over the past year.

David J. A. Dozois, Chair