



CAPL Newsletter

October 2013

Message from the President – Dr. Paul Fedoroff



Greetings and Happy New Year! This is the first CAPL newsletter of the New Year but the last one before our annual meeting. This will be CAPL's 19th annual meeting and it will be an historic one. It will begin with CAPL's tradition of an invitational presentation by the President of the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA), this year by **Dr. Michael Teehan**. I have had the pleasure of attending CPA meetings with Dr. Teehan and hearing him speak and can guarantee a highly entertaining and educational talk about Psychiatry from both the National and Nova Scotian perspectives. Continuing the theme of multiple perspectives, Dr. Teehan's presentation will be followed by a panel presentation including former President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL), **Dr. John Bradford** and the current President-elect of AAPL, **Dr. Graham Glancy**. The business meeting has been moved to a more civilized time (9:30 - 11:00) in order to allow time for an election of the new CAPL executive, presentation of the new CAPL logo and the new CAPL website. This will be the first time the CAPL executive will be elected in a contested election and is just one indication of CAPL's maturation. Full details about the annual meeting are available at http://www.capl-acpd.org/pages/forms/Brochure_CAPL.pdf.

Over the past year, CAPL has worked closely with the CPA to respond to the Not Criminally Responsible Reform Act. The House of Commons initially passed it on June 19, 2013 as Bill C-54. However it was stalled when the Federal government was prorogued from September 17, 2013 to October 16, 2013. Unfortunately the bill has come back as Bill C-14. An Op-Ed signed by **Dr. Paul Fedoroff** on behalf of CAPL and the CPA was published on December 12, 2013 in the Hill Times, which is a bi-weekly Parliamentary newspaper. It that article I explained that NCR offenders are not Dangerous Offenders, a misconception that may partially explain why the Bill has not received even more criticism than it has already received. Quoting from Andre Picard who commented on Bill C-14 in the Globe and Mail, November 28, 2013: "This is public policy making at its worse: A law that panders to and fuels prejudice, criminalizes mental illness and creates more problems than it solves."

CAPL will appear with the CPA at the up-coming Senate hearings concerning Bill C-14. Bill C-14 will be on the agenda and certainly a topic of conversation at the Annual Meeting.

Another important topic for all CAPL members is the Jury Verdict and Recommendations for the "Inquest touching the death of Ashley Smith", December 19, 2013. The Inquiry has made 104 recommendations. CAPL together with the CPA are currently drafting a letter of response that should be available in time for the Annual Meeting where a panel including **Drs. Graham Glancy, AG Ahmed, and Gary Chaimowitz** is scheduled to discuss the "Anatomy of an Inquest. Part 1". CAPL members should feel free to send any comments or concerns about these or any other issues to **Pam Hicks**, our very capable and dedicated Administrator at capl@cpa-apc.org.

CAPL continues to invite new members and will be creating a new committee on Military Forensic Psychiatry (See **Dr. Isabelle Cote's** article in this newsletter). Sub-specialization is now here but continues to be a hot topic. The Annual Meeting will have a panel including Program Directors **Drs. Dominique Bourget, Johann Brink, Alberto Choy, Lisa Ramshaw, and Joel Watts**.

CAPL is now receiving requests from researchers hoping to contact CAPL members. Attached is a request from a research group that is doing important work on the management and care of sex offenders. Please have a look below and consider participating.

Of course I could go on but let me just finish by assuring you CAPL has had a good year and is looking forward to a bright future. If you don't believe me, come to Lake Louise March 2-5, 2014 and see for yourself!

Survey request

The Institute for Sex Research and Forensic Psychiatry of the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany (Director, Prof. Peer Brinken) in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Richard Krueger (Columbia University) is currently conducting a study about the legal statutes and personal attitudes concerning sex offender treatment of people from different professions who are involved in the management and care of sex offenders. Therefore, we would be really thankful if you could find some time to participate in our study and fill out our online questionnaire.

To get to the questionnaire just click on the following link: http://ww3.unipark.de/uchh_fak3_petemanna168/

It will take around 15-20 minutes to fill out the questionnaire. The ethics committee of the chamber of psychotherapists of the City of Hamburg, Germany has given its approval for conducting the present study.

Subspecialty Update - Dr. Gary Chaimowitz



This has been another momentous year for Forensic Psychiatry in Canada. In September of this year 109 candidates ultimately wrote the very first Forensic Psychiatry examination. I am pleased to report that we had an extremely high pass rate and wish to congratulate the many physicians who successfully challenged the examination. We now have almost 100 Royal College Certified Forensic Psychiatrists in Canada for the very first time. We would like to acknowledge all who wrote, taking by all reports a fairly strenuous examination.

We also would also like to congratulate the Examination Board consisting of chairs John Bradford and Graham Glancy, members Pierre Gagné, Roy O'Shaughnessy and Mansfield Mela who worked long and hard to come up with a rigorous, challenging and fair examination. They are also I am sure quite relieved that they can now get rid of the body guards surrounding them since the day of the examination.

So we have our first large group through. I anticipate there will be a few more people currently practicing in the area of Forensic Psychiatry who will write the examination next year. We are very excited as more programs have been accredited to offer PGY-6 Fellowship training. These programs include the University of Toronto, the University of Ottawa, the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia. Several other programs are preparing applications for Forensic Residency training accreditation.

There are a couple of other issues that we are focusing on as a committee, along with the other two subspecialties. We are attempting to get the Royal College to extend the period of time that the unaccredited fellowships would count as training towards being able to write the examination. You may be aware that many programs do not have officially funded PGY6 positions as yet. Some programs have been able to borrow positions to start offering residency training, but many other ones are jeopardized by the absence of funding. For that reason, we are hoping to keep the unaccredited training programs at least as viable options for another few years.

In addition, there has been some recent confusion as to how long the period of time whereby people in practice after five years will be able to write the examination. It appears that the subspecialties believed that that was an indefinite opening, in other words as long as you are working in Forensic Psychiatry at least fifty percent of the time and met a number of other criteria, after five years you would be able to write the examination. The Royal College is suggesting that that is not indefinite. This is an area of ongoing discussion between subspecialties and the Royal College. Fortunately both the Psychiatry Chairs in Canada and the Canadian Psychiatric Association have joined with us in trying to clarify these rules and ensure that the new subspecialty of Forensic Psychiatry in Canada is in no way jeopardized. Along with the birth of the subspecialties and a vibrant subspecialty committee in Forensic Psychiatry at the Royal College and Examination Board, our relationship with CAPL has strengthened. We now have these two viable and strong organizations stewarding Forensic Psychiatry in this country, one dealing with certification, accreditation and examinations and the other the professional organization/national specialty society. There is a strong link between the two groups with a representative from CAPL sitting on the Royal College Specialties Committee and a representative from the Royal College sitting on CAPL.

We are looking forward to a relatively busy next few years as some of the programs that have been up and running for some years will now need to be reviewed and go through an accreditation process.

Update from the Quebec section of CAPL - Dr. Joel Watts



After the stress, hard work and dedication paid by those who wrote the first Canadian Forensic Psychiatry Exam, all of our members received an early Christmas present by learning of their passing grade. Our congratulations to all CAPL members who wrote and succeeded at the exam.

As the country hunkers down for the winter months, the Quebec chapter has been busy as of late, perhaps as a way to ward off the Siberian cold fronts passing through Eastern Canada! Our executive committee has had frequent meetings this fall and winter. We also had our largest attendance of members at our bi-annual dinner gathering in November. We have been mobilised by public debate in the Quebec media about the quality and professionalism of forensic expert evidence.

The ongoing saga of the Turcotte case and a high profile class-action lawsuit involving psychiatric expert testimony in Quebec City during the month of October, in particular, contributed to this phenomenon. After the president of our provincial psychiatric association weighed in denouncing the system of psychiatric experts in the courts as broken, CAPL-QC realised that we needed to act. Our executive met several times, consulted members and drafted a response to provincial association (to which we are also members) requesting a meeting with the president. We have since met with our provincial association's president and vice-president.

We also learned that the *Collège des médecins du Québec* (CMQ, our provincial licencing authority) asked an internal working group to revisit a guide on the practice parameters for third party expert medical evaluations (including forensic psychiatric assessments). A second letter was drafted to them, again outlining the existence of CAPL-QC, our expertise and our interest in collaborating with them on these issues. We were invited to present the CMQ with our ideas about how to examine the quality of an expert's work and the way that medical experts are solicited to give opinions before the courts. After again consulting with our members, a memoire was drafted and we presented our ideas to the working group at the CMQ. This included answering their questions and promoting the role that our subspecialty can play in continuing education activities to our generalist colleagues who are at times solicited to do this work (sometimes with little experience) and to court personnel alike. We have also asked the CMQ to accelerate the formal recognition of Forensic Psychiatry as a title. In Quebec, CMQ regulations dictate that we cannot use this title until they recognise it, even if we have fulfilled the requirements laid out by the Royal College.

The development of the only francophone PGY-6 Forensic Psychiatry Training Program (University of Montreal) is moving forward. The documents requesting accreditation have been submitted to the Royal College and we will receive a response regarding possible accreditation in the spring. We are keeping our fingers crossed that a first cohort of francophone fellows will be able to begin their training soon. This will add to a bumper crop of fellows across the country in 2014-2015, as Edmonton has been accredited and Toronto and Ottawa have accepted candidates to begin training in July.

The government in Quebec has asked key stakeholders to come up with a plan to organise the provision of forensic psychiatric services in the greater Montreal area. Dr. Renée Fugère will be presenting the development of this plan during the francophone program of the upcoming Annual Meeting in Lake Louise. CAPL-QC members have long been preoccupied by the organisational structure and provision of our services in the province and hope to see the fruition of such plans province-wide one day.

Best wishes and hope to see you in Lake Louise!

Military Forensic Committee - CAPL

Dr. Isabelle Cote - Chair, Military Forensic Committee

The Canadian Forces have been much in the news lately with reports of suicides of soldiers. The impact of soldiers' access to care has been an ongoing issue raised by our government, other parties and various organizations. The CPA in particular has been involved in promoting treatment of operational stress injuries. It has also been working with military and civilian psychiatrists in establishing a CPA Military and Veterans Section. The first meeting of this new section took place in Montreal on September 28, 2013, co-chaired by Col. Rakesh Jetly and Dr. Don Richardson. More will be said about that at the next CPA meeting. Those wanting to gain further knowledge about military matters should not miss the annual conference of the Canadian Institute of Military and Veterans Health Research (www.cimvhr.ca) this fall. In terms of CAPL, two papers on veterans involved with the law will be presented at the annual conference at Lake Louise. The Military Forensic Committee is still recruiting interested members.

Member Recognition

Dr. Gary Chaimowitz has recently received the Heavy Lifting Award from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. This award is given to acknowledge the disciplines that have worked through a high volume of PER-sub applications, developing a manageable and consistent process to review potential candidates while using the available resources of the Royal College.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Chaimowitz on this award.

2014 CAPL FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION

Hy Bloom - Chair, Awards Committee

The Awards Committee of the Canadian Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (CAPL) is pleased to announce that Dr. Sébastien Prat (Fellow, Hamilton) has been awarded the 2014 CAPL Fellowship.

Dr. Prat is a remarkably accomplished clinician who obtained training and then certification in Forensic Medicine in France. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Tours.

Dr. Prat has authored and co-authored a number of articles relevant to various aspects of forensic psychiatry. He has a particular interest in sex offenders and internet pornography. He has also published articles in Forensic Pathology.

Dr. Prat's topic, to be presented at CAPL's annual conference being held in Lake Louise between March 2nd, and 5th, 2014, is entitled "A comparison between pedophilic and non-pedophilic child pornography offenders".

International Academy of Sex Research

Dr. Fedoroff has been elected to be President Elect of the IASR and will become President in June 2014 at the next meeting in Dubrovnik Croatia. The International Academy of Sex Research (IASR) is the premier Academy of Researchers in the field of sexuality in the world. CAPL members are invited to apply for membership if you have 3 or more publications in the area of sexuality. Further information about the IASR is available at <http://www.iasr.org/CMS/>

If interested, please send your CV and letter of interest to Dr. Fedoroff via Pam Hicks at: capl@cpa-apc.org

New Members

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to CAPL who have joined since the last newsletter.

Dr. Deanne Breitman Dr. Sam Iskander
Dr. Gunter Lorberg Dr. Benjamin Bordoff
Dr. Jean-François Vachon

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CAPL Administrator

Pamela Hicks

CAPL Executive

Paul Fedoroff, President
Gary Chaimowitz, Immediate Past President
Johann Brink, Vice-President
Sandy Simpson, Secretary
Joel Watts, Treasurer

RCPSC Specialty Committee

Gary Chaimowitz, Chair
Brad Booth, Vice-Chair
Johann Brink
Renée Fugère
Mansfield Mela
Scott Thériault

RCPSC Examination Board

John Bradford, Chair
Pierre Gagné
Graham Glancy
Roy O'Shaughnessy

Past Presidents

Renée Fugère, 2006 - 2008
John Bradford, 2005 - 2006
Dominique Bourget, 1999 - 2005
David Orenburg, 1997 - 1999
Graham Glancy, 1993 - 1997
John Bradford, 1989 - 1993

For our Next Issue...

Please submit your articles, interesting facts or information you would like to have inserted in our next newsletter our new

CAPL Administrator

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