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I hope this message finds all CCMG members well and looking forward to Spring.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting in Bromont, Quebec was a great success. Many thanks to Dr. Régen Drouin for organizing an exceptional scientific program in a truly beautiful venue. Thanks to the diligent work of the Scientific Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committees, the CCMG AGM has grown from largely a business meeting to a scientific meeting with world-class speakers and symposia addressing current issues that affect all of us in our daily work providing medical genetics services. Mark your calendars for this year’s meeting in Winnipeg, September 28 to 30, 2006, which promises to be even better as we once again meet with our genetic counsellor colleagues from the CAGC.

At the 2005 AGM, the continuing professional development (CPD) program for our PhD members was approved in principle and planning is underway to have this program in place by January, 2007. New by-laws covering the regulation of this program will be a key discussion item at the 2006 AGM and these will be published in an upcoming newsletter prior to the meeting for member review. This is an important and critical step forward for our college so I encourage all members to attend the 2006 AGM to participate in the discussion.

The Board continues to be active on a number of issues. I have been working, together with Drs. Tracy Stockley, Tanya Nelson and Sarah Dyack and several of our colleagues from the CAGC on a joint CCMG-CAGC statement concerning informed consent for genetic research. We have been supported in this endeavour by Health Canada and hope to have a document ready for member review before the AGM. In addition, I will be representing the CCMG at a symposium on Human Genetics Licensing sponsored by Health Canada, the BC Cancer Agency and Industry Canada in Vancouver later in March. The patenting of human genetic material has, of course, been a major concern of the CCMG for many years and, as a speaker at this symposium, I hope to bring these concerns to the forefront once again.

On a sad note, we informed you last month of the unexpected passing of Dr. John Hamerton. Having only been a CCMG member since 1996, I did not have the privilege of knowing Dr. Hamerton as well as many of you did. However, I can say that in my nearly 7 years of association with the Board of Directors of the CCMG, I found that we turned to Dr. Hamerton time and again for his help, advice and support and he always provided it generously. His death is a great loss to our college. To recognize Dr. Hamerton’s many contributions to the CCMG over the years, the Board and the Awards Committee made the decision to change the name of the recently established Distinguished Service Award to the Dr. John L. Hamerton Service Award. You will find details about this award and how you can nominate a worthy colleague in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Diane J. Allingham-Hawkins, PhD, FCCMG
BOARD MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

PRESENT: Drs. Diane Allingham-Hawkins (Chair), Gail Graham, Martin Somerville, Marsha Speevak, Angie Dawson, Ab Chudley, Kathy Chun (CCMG Secretary) and Ms. Rita Assabgui (CCMG Office)

REGRETS: Dr. Régen Drouin

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm Eastern.

2. Approval of the Agendas
   2.1 Consent Agenda
      2.1.1 Approval of Distinguished Service Award Terms of Reference and Nomination
      2.1.2 Approval of Fellow-in-Training Membership for Dr. Roberto Mendoza-Londono
      2.1.3 Approval of Referral of CPSP MCAD Study to the Biochemical Genetics Committee
      2.1.4 Approval of Awards Committee Nomination of Dr. Jan Friedman for the 2005 Founders Award
      2.1.5 Approval of Funding for Biochemical Genetics Examiners Meeting
         It was moved by Dr. Gail Graham and seconded by Dr. Ab Chudley that the consent agenda be approved.
         CARRIED

   2.2 Business Agenda
      It was moved by Dr. Gail Graham and seconded by Dr. Ab Chudley that the business agenda be approved.
      CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Board of Directors Teleconference of June 1, 2005
   One amendment was made in item 6.3 “Once” was changed to “one”.
   It was moved by Dr. Martin Somerville and seconded by Dr. Ab Chudley that the minutes be approved as amended.
   CARRIED

   3.1 Review of the Action List
      The action list was reviewed.

4. Business Arising
   4.1 Scheduling of Next Meeting
      The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2005 at 5 pm in Bromont Quebec.

   4.2 Treasurer’s Report
      Dr. Graham reported that the CCMG is on budget.

   4.3 Future Meetings
      4.3.1 Year 2005
      Ms. Assabgui reported that the meeting planning is on track. There are currently approximately 50 member registrants. The exhibitor space is full. Thanks to Dr. Somerville, Maintenance of Certification approval for the meeting has been received. Concerns have been expressed by a few members regarding the registration fee.
4.3.2 Year 2006
Dr. Dawson reported that the restaurant for the Founders Award Dinner has been booked. Exam rooms are being booked.

4.3.3 Year 2007
This issue was discussed in item 6.1

4.4 Genzyme Fellowship – Update
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that there was a competition and the fellowship was awarded to Dr. Chantal Morel. It was announced in the newsletter.

4.5 Website Translation
This item was deferred.

4.6 MOC Pilot Project for PhDs
Dr. Somerville reported that he plans to hold a committee meeting in Bromont. The committee will include the following representatives: two clinical reps (Drs. Gail Graham and Ross McLeod), two cytogenetics reps (Dr. Ron Carter and one other), two molecular reps (Drs. Ron Carter and Jillian Parboosingh) and one biochemical rep (Dr. Paula Waters).

Approval in principle will be sought at the AGM addressing the outstanding issues the membership asked to have addressed. Constitution and Bylaws Committee would work on the bylaw amendments needed to be approved at the 2006 AGM in order for the program to be implemented January 1, 2007. Material that was included in the August newsletter will be provided in the AGM package.

4.7 Cytogenetics Training Guidelines
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that she sent the Board comments to Dr. Jean McGowan-Jordan recently as they had not been sent following the previous Board discussion. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will request a response from the Cytogenetics Committee in advance of the AGM. The committee will be informed that the Board will not approve the guidelines until they are reviewed and discussed with the PEACE Committee.

4.8 Associate Membership Definition
The Board agreed that the proposed definition be brought forward to the AGM. The definition is:

b. is certified as a Geneticist or a Genetic Counsellor by the American Board of Medical Genetics, the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors, or the American Board of Genetic Counselors, or individuals whose professional activities relate to medical genetics.

4.9 CBAC Roundtable Discussions
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee minutes regarding the gene patenting issue are not available on website yet. The issue refers to intellectual rights for genetic materials. Five roundtable discussions were held over the winter. There were a number of CCMG participants, but no CCMG members on the committee.

4.10 DNA Banking Statement
Dr. Somerville reported that the draft will be reviewed by the Molecular Genetics Committee at the meeting in Bromont.

4.11 CSMLS - Clinical Placements for Canadian Medical Laboratory Technologists
Dr. Dawson reported that she contacted the CSMLS and is still working on this issue. Dr. Dawson will report back to the Board at the next meeting.
4.12 Linda Stevens Fund
Dr. Graham looked into the investment of the Linda Stevens Fund and reported that the CCMG is not spending more than the interest earned, so the principal is still invested. It is invested as part of the Royal College portfolio. It was noted that the yearly funding was increased to $5,000 as of 2004.

The Awards Committee had wanted to revise the policies and procedures to bring them to the 2005 AGM for approval, but the committee has not finalized the document at this point, so it will not be ready for approval at this year’s AGM. The committee was looking for guidance regarding the future of the fund given that the number of applicants is expected to remain high. The Board agreed that the fund should not be a competitive award. It was suggested that a limit be placed on the number of approved applications, but due to the difficulty in ranking the applications it was agreed that the funding should remain the same and that the funds received are more of a gesture of recognition on the part of the College. It was agreed that applicants can be declined funding if they have received funding in the past.

Dr. Dawson will report back to the Awards Committee that the Board feels that the award should not be competitive. Dr. Graham will provide some financial information, including the principal of the fund and the average investment yield received over the last five years and how much has been spent over the last five years to Dr. Dawson.

4.13 Genetic Medical History and Adoptees
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins explained that the Canadian Adoptees for Truth and Openness contacted the CCMG for medical expert opinion regarding opening adoption records. Their main concern is to ensure that the Ontario law does not include a disclosure veto which would allow the birth mother to withhold information. They requested specific input from the CCMG. The Board agreed that it was important to have such information and that it could be detrimental to not have it. It was agreed that this not be a CCMG policy but simply an individual opinion. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will draft a response for Board review.

5. For Reference
5.1 CHARGE Surveillance
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that she contacted Kim Blake to inform her that there would be a cost associated with advertising in the newsletter and that we would add a statement that it is advertisement and that the study is not being approved by the Board. Kim Blake has not been back in touch with the CCMG.

6. New Business

6.1 Annual Meeting with or without CAGC
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that there is sometimes disagreement with the CAGC regarding future meeting locations. The issue of whether to continue to meet with the CAGC was discussed. In addition to the shared meeting costs, it was agreed that the collegiality of the joint meetings is important. It was agreed that, in particular, networking with the CAGC at the annual meeting is very important. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will speak with Jennifer Fitzpatrick of the CAGC regarding the 2007 meeting and that the Board would be willing to meet in Vancouver instead of Victoria.

6.2 Readmission of Members Bylaw
The issue of whether to continue to require a former member wishing to rejoin the CCMG to provide letters of support from two members in good standing was discussed. It was agreed to keep the bylaw provision for readmission as currently written.

6.3 Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS)
Dr. Chudley explained that the CPSS approached him to find someone to participate in a user survey as part of their program evaluation. The Board agreed that the Chair of the Prenatal Diagnosis Committee be asked to participate as the CCMG representative. Ms. Assabgui will forward the e-mail on to the chair.
6.4 Collaboration with Health Canada re: Consent
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that Lori Engler-Todd, a genetic counselor working for Health Canada, has an initiative looking at consent issues in genetics. She is looking to get CCMG and CAGC involvement. It was suggested that the chair of Ethics and Public Policy be involved, in addition to the CCMG president. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will get in touch with Ms. Engler-Todd to determine what would be involved and what the document would be used to ensure the appropriate individuals are approached.

6.5 Bellagio Meeting – Genetics Knowledge for Population Health
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that Dr. Judith Allanson attended a meeting in Bellagio, Italy where they discussed public health implications of genetics. This is a multinational group including the Public Health Agency of Canada. Dr. Allanson requested a letter of support from the CCMG for the initiative and for looking at public health genomics issues. The issue of whether this would be an endorsement to use to encourage funding or whether they are requesting active involvement of the CCMG was discussed. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will contact Dr. Allanson and Dr. Mohamed Karmali to determine the level of involvement. It was agreed that the CCMG should be involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm Eastern.
BOARD MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

PRESENT: Drs. Diane Allingham-Hawkins (Chair), Régen Drouin, Marsha Speevak, Gail Graham, Martin Somerville, Ab Chudley, Mme Andrée Fortin-Bélanger (CCMG Office)

REGRETS: Drs. Angie Dawson, Kathy Chun (Secretary)

INVITED GUEST: Louise Boisjoli, Actelion (presentation immediately followed the Call to Order)

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1714 Eastern.

2. Approval of the Agendas
2.1 Consent Agenda
2.1.1 Approval of Reinstatement of Dr. Valérie Désilets as a Regular Member

It was moved by Dr. Marsha Speevak and seconded by Dr. Régen Drouin that the consent agenda be approved.
CARRIED

2.2 Business Agenda
It was moved by Dr. Régen Drouin and seconded by Dr. Ab Chudley that the business agenda be approved with the following additions:
4.3.4 Year 2008
6.8 Turnaround Time for Laboratory Testing
6.9 Retention of Diagnostic Specimens
6.10 Application for Associate Membership for Dr. Marc Tischkowitz
6.11 Application for Fellow-in-training Membership for Dr. Christine Armour
CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Board of Directors Teleconference of September 7, 2005
It was moved by Dr. Marsha Speevak and seconded by Dr. Gail Graham that the minutes be approved.
CARRIED

3.1 Review of the Action List
The action list was reviewed.

4. Business Arising
4.1 Scheduling of Next Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 0800 in the Shefford Room at Chateau Bromont in Bromont, Quebec.

4.2 Treasurer’s Report
4.2.1 Financial Report to July 31, 2005
Dr. Graham reported that the finances are on track.

4.2.2 2006 Budget
It was moved by Dr. Ab Chudley and seconded by Dr. Régen Drouin that the 2006 budget as adjusted be presented to the membership for approval at the AGM.
CARRIED
4.2.3 Auditors
It was moved by Dr. Gail Graham and seconded by Dr. Ab Chudley that Collins Barrow LLP be appointed auditors of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists for the year ending December 31, 2005.
CARRIED

4.3 Future Meetings
4.3.1 Year 2005
It was reported that attendance is good for a non-exam year.

4.3.2 Year 2006
The exams will be held on Tuesday September 26th and Wednesday September 27th before the conference. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the CAGC. The Scientific Program Committee will meet to discuss the logistics of the exams and scientific content and will communicate with Dr. Angie Dawson to inform her regarding scheduling. The Board meeting will be held September 27th, with committee meetings September 28th and scientific sessions on September 29-30.

4.3.3 Year 2007
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins was in contact with the CAGC and reported that the CCMG is willing to meet with the CAGC in Vancouver and that there is a desire to maintain the collegiality. The CAGC is looking at dates in November. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will discuss with Vancouver members whether they would be willing to organize the meeting. The preferred dates for CCMG are November 21-25, 2007.

4.3.4 Year 2008
The CAGC has selected St. John’s NL for the 2008 meeting. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins contacted Dr. Bridget Fernandez to determine whether they would be willing to host the exams in St. John’s, NL. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will follow up with the CAGC. CCMG’s preferred dates are late October.

4.4 Website Translation
Dr. Drouin will follow up on this issue when his term on the Board ends.

4.5 MOC Pilot Project for PhDs
Dr. Somerville reported that the MOC Committee will meet prior to the AGM and he will provide a report to the membership during the AGM.

4.6 Cytogenetics Training Guidelines
The guidelines were sent to the Cytogenetics Committee. The Board will meet with the co-chairs prior to the AGM to resolve outstanding issues and proposed changes if the committee is not able to come to a consensus at their committee meeting.

4.7 DNA Banking Statement
Dr. Somerville reported that the Molecular Genetics Committee is meeting on September 29th and will discuss this issue.

4.8 CSMLS - Clinical Placements for Canadian Medical Laboratory Technologists
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins provided a report from Dr. Angie Dawson. Dr. Dawson contacted CSMLS regarding the report. She suggested that this item be placed in the newsletter to solicit comments regarding ways to increase quality and quantity of clinical placements. The item is on the AGM agenda. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will review the report.

4.9 Collaboration with Health Canada re: Consent
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins was in touch with Laurie Engler-Todd from Health Canada. They are pleased that the CCMG is interested in participating in the process. They would like three individuals from
each CAGC and CCMG, including the presidents. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will approach Dr. Laura Arbour and the chair of the Molecular Genetics Committee to ask if they would like to participate.

4.10 Bellagio Meeting – Genetics Knowledge for Population Health
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins contacted Dr. Karmali and is waiting for a response to determine the level of involvement anticipated by the CCMG.

4.11 Canadian Medical Protective Association
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will provide information to the membership at the AGM. It has been included in the newsletter already.

4.12 Changes to Examinations Algorithm
Information will be provided to the membership at the AGM.

4.13 Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee/Intellectual Property Protection of Genetic Materials
The reports have not yet been released. The CCMG has participated in these meetings discussing gene patenting. Once the reports have been finalized they will be brought to the attention of the membership through the newsletter.

4.14 CMA Committee on Conjoint Accreditation of Technologist Training
Dr. Drouin attended the meeting as CCMG’s representative. He agreed to remain the CCMG liaison. Dr. Drouin will provide an update to the membership at the AGM.

4.15 Future Annual Meetings and the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors
This item was discussed in item 4.3.

4.16 Distinguished Service Award
Dr. Hubert Soltan will receive the first Distinguished Service Award. He will not be attending the AGM. The certificate will be forwarded to Dr. Soltan and the award will be announced at the AGM.

4.17 Linda Stevens Memorial Fund
The Awards Committee feels that it is time to consider the Linda Stevens Fund to be a competition. Dr. Graham reported that a summary was prepared by the secretariat regarding revenues and expenses for the Linda Stevens Fund since 1998. Due to interest rates it is not feasible to increase the disbursements. The Board agreed that the intention of the fund was not to be a competition but to facilitate educational initiatives in genetics and any change should be done only after consultation with the Linda Stevens Family. There used to be a Linda Stevens Award as well as the Travel Fund but that changed in the mid 90s. The Awards Committee will discuss this issue at their committee meeting. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will attend the committee meeting.

5. For Reference
There were no items for reference.

6. New Business
6.1 Actelion Briefing – 30 minute timed item for 5:00 pm
Mme Louise Boisjoli, Director, Health Policy from Actelion provided a briefing regarding their lobbying efforts regarding orphan drugs. Dr. Chudley will bring the presentation to the Biochemical Genetics and Clinical Practice Committees inviting them to communicate with Actelion to see if they can play a role in advocating for an orphan disease drug review process.

6.2 Credentials Committee – Support
The issue of potentially providing administrative support to the Credentials Committee was discussed. Dr. Lewis suggested a web-based system be created. It was suggested that candidates provide their documentation by e-mail in PDF format as opposed to web forms. The issue of the need for submitting logbooks was discussed. It was suggested that the logbook procedure be streamlined to a
single page with a single signature for the training program director. The Royal College does not require the submission of logbooks. It was suggested that the documentation be sent to the Secretariat to distribute instead of the chair of the Credentials Committee. Dr. Speevak will bring this issue to the PEACE committee regarding consistency of procedures and will report back to Dr. Lewis.

6.3 RCPSC Meeting with NSS Representatives
Dr. Graham attended the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Annual Conference and attended some business meetings on behalf of the CCMG. A number of initiatives were discussed.

6.4 Federation of National Specialty Societies of Canada AGM
Dr. Graham attended the FNSSC AGM on behalf of the CCMG during the Royal College Annual Conference. The development of the FNSSC was outlined. Dr. Graham reported that there is value in remaining members of the FNSSC. The FNSSC is becoming the voice for specialty medicine. The membership dues will increase for 2006 from $1.50 to $2.50 per active member so the fees will increase for the CCMG from $250 to over $400. Dr. Graham will provide an update at the AGM.

6.5 Fellowship Certificates
The Board agreed that the certificates should be modified so that they include the sub-specialty under the certificant’s name.

6.6 Clinical Practice Committee Membership
The Clinical Practice Committee had asked to have their terms of reference modified before ratifying the committee membership. The terms of reference were approved by the Board on June 1, 2005 but the committee list was not presented to the Board for approval.

6.7 Membership Information – PhDs and MDs
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins explained that there have been requests regarding the number of MDs and PhDs in the CCMG. The information can be collected on the database but is not current and would need to be updated. In addition a program would need to be created to extract the information for reports and the cost of developing such a program is being determined. The Board suggested that the demographic information for age distribution also be updated to determine future attrition rates. It was suggested that the membership dues form be modified to collect this information. The Board suggested they review the membership list and identify MDs and PhDs.

6.8 Turnaround Time for Laboratory Testing
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that benchmarks exist for what was considered a reasonable time for patients to wait for results of testing for cytogenetics, but not for molecular genetics. It was suggested that if benchmarks are set for both cytogenetics and molecular genetics they can be used in lobbying efforts. Dr. Somerville will raise this issue at the Molecular Genetics Committee meeting. For MSS in Ontario, the benchmark is 5 or fewer working days. Cytogenetics uses calendar days instead of working days, and this is difficult to meet when dealing with weekends. It was suggested that this distinction be addressed. Dr. Drouin will bring this issue to the Cytogenetics Committee.

6.9 Retention of Diagnostic Specimens
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that there is a differentiation between labs regarding the retention of diagnostic specimens. The issue of consent for anonymized samples and what research ethics boards will approve was discussed. A statement from the CCMG may have some influence. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will discuss this issue with the Ethics & Public Policy Committee.

6.10 Application for Associate Membership for Dr. Marc Tischkowitz
Dr. Tischkowitz’s application was received but one letter of support had not yet been received. It was agreed that Dr. Tischkowitz’s application for associate member be approved pending receipt of the second letter of support.
6.11 Application for Fellow-in-training Membership for Dr. Christine Armour

It was agreed that Dr. Christine Armour be approved as a Fellow-in-training member of the CCMG.

The meeting was adjourned at 2000 Eastern.
1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 0825 Eastern. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins welcomed the new Board members Drs. Judy Chernos and Bridget Fernandez and the new Secretary Dr. Mary Shago.

2. Approval of the Agenda
It was moved by Dr. Gail Graham and seconded by Dr. Ab Chudley that the agenda be approved with the appropriate amendments.
CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 28, 2005
3.1 Review of the Action List
This item was deferred.

4. Business Arising
4.1 Scheduling of Next Meeting
The next Board of Directors meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday January 18, 2006 at 1300 EST.

4.2 Treasurer’s Report
There were no issues to report.

4.3 Future Meetings
4.3.1 Year 2006
There were no issues to report.

4.3.2 Year 2007
The dates for the 2007 meeting are not yet confirmed. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins spoke with Dr. Sylvie Langlois. She did not anticipate any problems with Vancouver hosting the meeting. Dr. Langlois will likely be the local organizer. Dr. Diane Allingham- Hawkins will confirm the dates after meeting with Jennifer Fitzpatrick from the CAGC.

4.3.3 Year 2008
The dates for the 2008 meeting will be also confirmed following Dr. Allingham-Hawkins’ meeting with Jennifer Fitzpatrick. The most suitable dates would be October 22-26. There were discussions regarding the possibility of holding exams on the weekend and starting the conference on the Monday. Concerns were raised that this may be too disruptive for members, as it would take a major part of the work week.

5. For Reference
There were no items for reference.

6. New Business
6.1 Responsibilities of Board Members/Orientation Package
Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins highlighted the responsibilities to the new Board members.

6.2 Election of Slate of Officers
Dr. Gail Graham agreed to remain the Treasurer. Dr. Ab Chudley was named President-Elect.
6.3 Board Representatives to Committees
The Board Representatives to Committees for 2005-2006 are:
Accreditation of Centres – Dr. Bridget Fernandez
Annual Meeting Committee – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
Awards Committee – Dr. Gail Graham
Biochemical Genetics – Dr. Ab Chudley
CAGC / CCMG – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
Clinical Practice – Dr. Ab Chudley
Constitution & Bylaws – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
Credentials Committee – Dr. Bridget Fernandez
Cytogenetics Committee – Dr. Judy Chernos
Education – Dr. Gail Graham
Ethics & Public Policy – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
Examinations – Dr. Marsha Speevak
Molecular Genetics – Dr. Martin Somerville
Nominations – Dr. Gail Graham
PEACE Committee – Dr. Judy Chernos
Prenatal Diagnosis – Dr. Ab Chudley
Scientific Program Committee – Dr. Martin Somerville
Sponsorship Committee – Dr. Martin Somerville
CCMG/CFAS/SOGC Liaison – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
CMA Joint Accreditation of Technologist Training – Dr. Régen Drouin
COMGO Liaison – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
IFHGS Liaison – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
ICHG Liaison – not discussed
ICLMC Liaison – Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins
MOC Liaison – Dr. Marsha Speevak
Royal College Liaison – Dr. Gail Graham

It was suggested that the chair of the Examinations Committee not be the Board representative for Credentials so that chair of exams is not influenced by discussions of candidates as this may be perceived as unfair.

6.4 Nominations for Committee Members
The Nominations Committee held a meeting but the final list is not yet available. Dr. Gail Graham will follow up.

6.5 Business Arising from the AGM

6.5.1 Associate Member Definition
The bylaw amendment was approved by the membership. The revised bylaws will be sent to Industry Canada for approval.

6.5.2 Maintenance of Certification Program
It was noted that when the bylaws are reviewed the processes for readmission should differentiate between members withdrawn for non-compliance with MOC and those who withdraw for other reasons. Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins will send the information from the AGM to the chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee.

6.5.3 Genetic Counsellors and Delegated Acts
This issue was raised at the AGM. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will discuss this issue with Jennifer Fitzpatrick from the CAGC to find out if they have an initiative working across the country to see where the CCMG and CAGC can work together.
6.5.4 Linda Stevens Fund
The Awards Committee had discussions regarding the distribution of funds. The committee feels that small amounts disbursed are not very beneficial, and that there should be a minimum amount given per recipient. The committee had a number of suggestions regarding criteria and distribution models. The funds are currently divided amongst applicants with a valid funding request. Two distribution models differing from the current mode of distribution were proposed: i) an amount allocated for each training centre or ii) every trainee receiving funds in the last year of study. After some discussion, the Board of Directors proposed the following criteria apply to recipients of the fund:
- Applicants can only receive funds once
- Maximum of $500 provided (however, flexible according to funds available)
- Approved training opportunities: Bar Harbor Course, training at another centre or attending a national or international meeting and submitting an abstract
- Must be a Fellow-in-training member of the CCMG
- Would receive free registration for the CCMG annual meeting if they submit an abstract

Dr. Graham will forward the proposed criteria to the Awards Committee for review.

The Awards Committee also made suggestions to encourage donations, including a special event at next year’s annual meeting, as well as modifying the membership dues form with a check box for donations ($25, $50, $100, or other) as opposed to a blank line. It was suggested that a line or two be added to describe the fund for members who may not be very familiar with it. Names of donors could be published in the newsletter in acknowledgement. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will follow up with the CCMG secretariat.

6.5.5 Committee Reports

Accreditation of Centres – The committee will be doing a number of site visits. It was noted that the process of accreditation is very slow.

Annual Meeting – There was no report.

Awards – The committee asked that the CCMG encourage members to nominate members for the Founders Award, Distinguished Service Award and Honorary Fellowship. An e-mail blast reminder will also be sent out.

Biochemical Genetics – The committee did not meet as only the Board rep was in attendance.

CCMG/CAGC – Dr. Allingham-Hawkins will meet with Jennifer Fitzpatrick this afternoon.

Clinical Practice – The clinical practice guidelines were reviewed and will be forwarded to the Board shortly. The committee recommended a 3 year fellowship as opposed to the existing 2 year program, in line with that of the Royal College. This has resource issues within training programs, but the committee feels that the standards in order to practice clinical genetics must be maintained. It was suggested that instead of a 3-year program, the exam be modified so that there are two streams of training– pediatric and adult genetics. This would address the fact that trainees are coming from Pediatrics or Internal Medicine perspectives. The committee will recommend that the training program for PhD medical geneticist be eliminated. The committee is reviewing the CF testing practice guidelines.

Constitution and Bylaws – The meeting was cancelled.

Credentials – All but two applicants met the credentialling requirements.

Cytogenetics – The committee reviewed and endorsed the NCCLS guidelines for FISH. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins explained that the committee recommendations must come to the Board for approval before being considered CCMG policy. The Board met with the co-chairs regarding the
training guidelines. The guidelines will be revised based on the CanMEDS format and addressing the case numbers and kinds of cases.

**Education** – Dr. Janet Buchanan will become chair of the committee. Dr. Graham is a member of the committee as well as the board representative. It was decided that two more members were required. The committee is working on FAQs for the website. The website does not contain a description of the CCMG as the national specialty societies for MDs and PhDs working in genetics, and the committee will work on that.

**Ethics and Public Policy** – the committee provided an update at the AGM.

**Examinations** – The written exams will take place May 2, 2006. The oral exams will be on September 26-27, 2006 (and the 25th if necessary). The Jewish high holidays are on September 24 and 25, which may cause problems. Candidates will be adjusted as needed. The Muslim holidays should be noted for future years. The biochemical genetics section of the exam committee is composed of two lab members, but no MD members. The committee will approach an MD biochemical member to assist with the exams as an ad hoc member of the committee. The biochemical genetics members will meet in Toronto to revise the exam. The committee would like to change the terms of reference to include three members of biochemical genetics. The committee will revise the terms of reference and bring them to the Board for approval. The committee suggested that every subcommittee should have one member who has been through the process. The committee recommended that in the final year of the chair’s term, the incoming chair should co-chair to become familiar with the process. The general exam database needs to double in size. Dr. Speevak will continue the task of expanding the database beyond her term as chair. It was suggested that a workshop be held at a future meeting to design exam questions. It was also suggested that the subspecialists be asked to submit questions.

**Molecular Genetics** – The committee is looking at guidelines. They are looking at benchmarks and turn around times. They are developing disorder specific guidelines. They are currently working on Fragile X and will submit them by the next Board meeting. The committee is also working on hemochromatosis and cystic fibrosis. The committee is working on DNA banking issue. The committee is planning on revising the training guidelines and including molecular pathology.

**Nominations** – The committee is still working on the list.

**Prenatal Diagnosis** – The committee is looking at a paper that Dr. Anne Summers put together on aneuploidy. This will be joint with the SOGC. The paper will make several recommendations regarding screening for aneuploidy in Canada. The committee discussed linking articles on webpage, including SOGC clinical practice guidelines. Dr. Chudley raised the issue that there is an overlap with SOGC as they have a genetics committee and the CCMG has a prenatal diagnosis committee and perhaps a joint committee should be considered. Dr. Langlois will discuss this issue with the SOGC. This would also enable a legal review of policy statements. Concerns were raised that there is a need to review the policy statements posted on the website. The Board discussed the need to vet documents. Dr. Chernos will ask a lawyer/ethicist colleague for an opinion regarding the need for a legal review of guidelines or policy statements.

**PEACE** – Dr. Judy Chernos is the new chair of PEACE. The registration deadline for examinations will be changed to March 1st for candidates and April 1st will be the ultimate deadline. Candidates who do not register by that date will not be able to take the exam that year. The issue of the training evaluation forms that trainees use to evaluate training was discussed. The committee agreed that a template of what a program director should use be posted on the website. The trainee should give it to the program director, not the CCMG. It was noted that the accreditation requirements should be amended to include evidence that a system of trainee evaluation of the program is in place. Dr. Speevak will contact the chair of the Accreditation of Centres Committee. The committee wants to facilitate the review of training guidelines so that
there is a similar format. Dr. Graham will provide CanMEDS framework documents as well as the rotation-specific objectives to Drs. Speevak and Chernos. They will then be sent to the committee chairs indicating that the Board and PEACE Committee would like training guidelines to follow that format. The committee also would like input from the subspecialty committees regarding requirements for trainees from other disciplines rotating through their own disciplines.

**Scientific Program** – The committee suggested continuing the same format as this year, so three days for 2006. Three topics were proposed: Genetics on the Prairies, Non-invasive prenatal diagnosis, and Deafness. Speakers for each session were proposed, and Dr. Michael Hayden was proposed as the keynote speaker. The committee will need to coordinate with the CAGC.

**Sponsorship** – The committee would like to maintain same base of corporate sponsors and then expand. It was suggested that the molecular directors be contacted for input on companies that should be contacted. Dr. Régen Drouin will identify potential cytogenetics sponsors. The feedback from this year’s sponsors was positive and many have already verbally committed to next year in Winnipeg.

6.5.6 Private Insurance Coverage for PhDs
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins asked Dr. Judy Chernos to investigate and report to the Board at a later time.

6.6 Exam Year Procedures
Dr. Speevak noted that it would be helpful if the dates for the AGM are forwarded to the Examinations Committee and the local organizing committee as soon as the contract is signed.

It was moved by Dr. Gail Graham and seconded by Dr. Ab Chudley that the meeting be adjourned at 1105 Eastern.

CARRIED
1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Gail Graham and seconded by Dr. David Rosenblatt that the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2004 AGM (published in the February 2005 Newsletter)

Dr. Philip Welch noted that under Section 11 the penultimate paragraph it is stated that "approximately half of the committees submitted their reports on time" and that this is incorrect. Dr. Welch stated the line should read that "approximately half of the committee reports submitted were on time". There were no objections to the revision.

Dr. Welch noted that there was no mention under other business of the breast cancer patent issue. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins noted this item will be discussed under item 9.5 CBAC Round Table Discussions.

It was moved by Dr. Ab Chudley and seconded by Dr. Beth Spriggs that the minutes be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. President’s Report

Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins thanked the local organizer of the 2005 meeting, Dr. Régen Drouin for his efforts. There were a record number of sponsors this year.

Dr. Allingham-Hawkins welcomed the new members of the CCMG:
Fellow-in-training members: Dr. Roberto Mendoza-Londono and Dr. Christine Armour
Associate members: Dr. Jeffrey Pollard and Dr. Marc Tishkowitz
Dr. Michael Hayden was conferred and accepted honorary membership in the CCMG.
Dr. Howard Newcombe, a longtime CCMG member passed away earlier this year.

The first Genzyme CIHR CCMG Award went to Dr. Chantal Morel for her Biochemical Genetics Fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Dr. Allingham-Hawkins noted that a number of initiatives are underway and that members have been working hard on behalf of the CCMG on issues such as Maintenance of Certification and gene patenting.

Dr. Allingham-Hawkins also thanked members of the Board: Drs. Ab Chudley, Marsha Speevak, Gail Graham, Martin Somerville, and especially Angie Dawson and Régen Drouin, whose terms have now been completed. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins also thanked Dr. Kathy Chun for her efforts as Secretary for the past three years and welcomed her successor Dr. Mary Shago as the new Secretary. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins thanked Rita Assabgui and Andree Fortin-Bélanger from the Secretariat for their support. Ms. Assabgui could not attend the meeting this year due to her convocation for her Certified Association Executive designation which is taking place in Charlottetown.

4. Secretary’s Report
Dr. Kathy Chun was unable to attend the meeting but provided a report which was read by Dr. Allingham-Hawkins. Dr. Chun expressed that her term as Secretary was a rewarding and worthwhile experience. She thanked the presidents she worked with, Dr. Ross McLeod and Dr. Diane Allingham-Hawkins, as well as the Board members. Dr. Chun also thanked Rita Assabgui at the CCMG Secretariat for her support and wished Dr. Mary Shago all the best as she begins her term as Secretary.

5. Treasurer’s Report
5.1 2004 Audited Statement - Motion to Approve
Dr. Gail Graham presented the 2004 audited statement. She noted that the audit is unusual as the fiscal year end for the CCMG was changed from November 30 to December 31. Questions were asked regarding why the 2004 annual meeting was a loss. Dr. Graham explained that since there was no scientific program no registration fees were collected but expenses including secretariat time, catering, printing and travel were still incurred.

It was moved by Dr. Sylvie Langlois and seconded by Dr. Teresa Costa that the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists’ audited statement for the year ending December 31, 2004 be accepted.
CARRIED

5.2 2006 Budget
Dr. Graham outlined the financial report to July 31, 2005. It was noted that for the Linda Stevens Fund the management services funding was higher because a review of funding was requested. The costs of $1,200.38 will be absorbed by the CCMG as opposed to the Linda Stevens Fund.

The proposed budget for 2006 was outlined. Revenues were estimated low and expenses high. Questions were asked regarding the revenues and expenses for the annual meeting. Dr. Graham explained that no amounts were budgeted as the meeting is anticipated to be revenue neutral and that the registration fee will be reflective of costs. Questions were raised regarding whether there is a specific goal for the fund balance. In general the goal is to accumulate one year’s expenses.

Questions were raised regarding whether the 2005 annual meeting will be a surplus or deficit. It is anticipated that the meeting will be revenue neutral.

It was moved by Dr. Suzanne Lewis and seconded by Philip Welch that the preliminary budget as presented for the year ending December 31, 2006 be accepted.
CARRIED
5.3 Motion to Approve the Auditors for 2005
It was moved by Dr. Ab Chudley and seconded by Ross McLeod that Collins Barrow LLP be appointed auditors of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists for the year ending December 31, 2005.
CARRIED

6. Motion to Approve the Actions of the Board as Detailed in the 2004-2005 Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Directors, as Published in the February 2005, May/June 2005 and August 2005 Newsletters
It was moved by Dr. Jan Friedman and seconded by Dr. Teresa Costa that the actions of the Board as detailed in the 2004-2005 minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, as published in the February 2005, May/June 2005 and August 2005 Newsletters be approved.

Dr. Welch asked for clarification on item 4.8 from the June 1, 2005 Board meeting. Dr. Arbour reported that the Ethics and Public Policy Committee reviewed the Act. It has not been tabled yet but the issues outlined in the act have very little relevance to the practice of medical genetics.

Dr. Welch noted that the June 1, 2005 meeting item 6.8 noted that the Ethics and Public Policy Committee considered bringing in Dr. Knoppers to comment on the protection of personal information for an honorarium of $200. However the Board noted that they were making $1,500 available which conflicts with this information. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins explained that the Board discussed the issue further and amended the amount available to $1,500. Dr. Welch suggested that the minutes be amended accordingly.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Motion to Receive Standing Committee Reports, as Printed in the August 2005 Newsletter
It was moved by Dr. Bridget Fernandez and seconded by Dr. Sarah Dyack that the standing committee reports be received.

Dr. Welch noted that only two committee reports were submitted late which was an improvement over 2004, but 11 reports were not received. Dr. Welch commented that it is unacceptable for a national organization to have only half of committee reports submitted on an annual basis. It was noted that the CCMG is a voluntary organization and it is difficult to enforce the requirement to submit annual reports. Some committee chairs had not made reports to the board but anticipated doing so after their committees had convened at the Annual General Meeting. It was proposed that the Board representatives contact the committees prior to the Annual General Meeting for information on their activities. It was suggested that new chairs be given information on what is expected. A reduction in the number of committees might lessen the overall workload and facilitate more timely reporting, and it was noted that this suggestion has also been made in the past. The suggestion to reduce the number of committees was put forth as an idea to consider, but not as an official motion.

MOTION CARRIED

8. Motion to Ratify the Election/Acclamation of the Board of Directors
It was moved by Dr. Régen Drouin and seconded by Dr. Harriet Feilotter that the acclamation of the Board of Directors be approved.
CARRIED

9. Items for Discussion
9.1 Associate Member Definition
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that a new proposed definition was developed in response to member comments from the 2004 AGM. The proposed definition is:

b. is certified as a Geneticist or a Genetic Counsellor by the American Board of Medical Genetics, the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors, or the American Board of Genetic Counsellors, or individuals whose professional activities relate to medical genetics.
It was moved by Dr. Ron Carter and seconded by Dr. Martin Somerville that the proposed definition be approved.

Questions were raised regarding the privileges of associate members and whether associate members can be listed as FCCMG. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins replied that associate members are not eligible to use the FCCMG designation.

Questions were asked whether the addition of associate members could alter a centre’s accreditation with respect to service or training. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins replied that it could not as an associate member did not qualify as a member to meet the requirements as a training centre.

Dr Der Kaloustian suggested that the word ‘significant’ be added. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins noted that the CCMG is trying to be as inclusive as possible. The approval process was outlined. Applicants are required to submit two letters of support from members and the Board evaluates the application, so approval is not automatic.

Dr. Friedman expressed concerns regarding the wording. It was suggested that the wording be changed to “non-CCMG certified individuals whose professional activities relate to medical genetics” and deleting everything previous to that.

It was moved by Dr. Ron Carter and seconded by Dr. Patrick MacLeod that the associate member definition be amended to read:

b. non-CCMG certified individuals whose professional activities relate to medical genetics.

CARRIED

9.2 Maintenance of Certification for PhDs

Dr. Martin Somerville reported on the proposed Maintenance of Certification program for PhDs. Drs. Peter Bridge and Elizabeth Winsor worked on the pilot project leading to discussions at last year’s AGM. A number of concerns were raised at the last AGM. An ad hoc committee was formed to address these issues. The program would apply to full members who are PhDs. Members who are taking part in another comparable program will be exempt.

The cost would be $200 annually. The issue of compliance was also addressed. The Royal College would administer the program. They would track participation, and would apply same audit process as they do for Royal College members, which is a random sample of 3% every year. Non-compliance would also involve the CCMG as all correspondence would be copied to the president of the CCMG. There is a process in place to assist the participant in becoming compliant, and there are numerous chances to comply.

The proposal is that non-compliant members will ultimately be informed by a letter from the CCMG President telling them they are no longer entitled to use the FCCMG designation. Re-examination would be required to become a Fellow again.

Members would be required to follow an MOC program in the country where they are licensed and practicing. It was noted that it is a five year cycle and there is a minimum number of hours required per year. Situations where a member requires a professional break are addressed by the Royal College. The pilot project participants noted that the system was not too onerous, but that opportunities for participating in section 1 credits are limited for those not in major centres. It was noted that there is a mechanism to have an activity accredited for section 1 credits. It was also noted that there are opportunities to submit personal learning projects for credits as well and therefore there are different ways to achieve the necessary hours.

Dr. Somerville noted that there is a need to approve the program in principle at this meeting and then bylaw changes needed would be developed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the next AGM with implementation January 1, 2007.
It was moved by Dr. Ron Carter and seconded by Dr. Gail Graham that the adoption of MOC requirements according to RCPSC as outlined be approved in principle.  

CARRIED

9.3 Canadian Medical Protective Association
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that this issue was published in the newsletter. For testing of samples done in Canada from outside of Canada, the CMPA will not cover the individual if they are sued outside of Canada. Most lab licenses are in the name of an MD, and they are at risk should a lawsuit arise. PhD lab directors are generally covered by HIROC through their hospital. The issue was presented to ensure members were aware of the risks.

It was noted that the GeneTests listings would be considered soliciting. It was suggested that a list be created for Canadian labs. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins explained that the Board has discussed this issue but felt that maintaining the list would be labor intensive and too expensive for the CCMG and therefore the Board decided to refer to the GeneTests listings.

The CCMG is not suggesting that members should not test out of country patients, but simply informing members of the potential risk of doing so.

9.4 Changes to Examinations Guidelines
Dr. Speevak explained that some changes have been made and approved by the Board and these changes have been posted on the website. Examination registration administration has been transferred to the Secretariat under the guidance of the Examinations Chair.

The Final Training Evaluation Form (FITER) will now be provided to the Examinations Chair prior to the oral examination in order to assist with borderline cases. The FITER will only be reviewed in these cases to demonstrate the performance of the candidate throughout training to identify those who have performed well but perhaps did not perform as well on the oral exam. A formal process has now been implemented and a FITER for exceptional candidates was developed. Candidates for the oral examination will be informed of these new requirements. Training program directors should ensure the FITERs are completed. The onus is on the candidate to make sure FITER is signed.

The Biochemical Genetics oral exam has been changed to match the other laboratory specialties. The oral exam is broken into parts, with a break in between. In one part candidates look at raw data and write a report. The second part is an oral question and answer session in front of a panel. The next biochemical oral exam will be in two parts as are the other specialties.

A late fee has also been implemented for oral exam candidates who miss the deadline. A $250 late fee must be submitted along with a letter explaining the circumstances. The approval of late registrations is at the discretion of the Examinations Chair. The late fee is intended to cover the costs of the additional workload of managing late registrations.

9.5 Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee/Intellectual Property Protection of Genetic Materials
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that the CBAC held a series of five round table discussions in the winter and early spring regarding intellectual property protection of genetic materials. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins, Dr. Somerville and Dr. Carter were present on behalf of CCMG and clearly recommended that genetic materials were different. The final reports have not yet been released. Information will be provided once available.

9.6 Federation of National Specialty Societies of Canada
Dr. Gail Graham reported on meeting of the Federation that took place in Vancouver last week during the Royal College Annual Conference. The FNSSC was created in 2004 and arose out of dissatisfaction regarding the CMA’s ability to advocate on behalf of specialties as opposed to family medicine. The Federation is a network of medical and surgical specialty societies in
Canada that is dedicated to providing accessible specialty care of a high standard within a comprehensive and coordinated health care system. It is based on a constitute assembly type model so all specialty societies have an equal vote. The Federation currently represents 42 out of 49 national specialties and ninety percent of the members were represented at the meeting. The Federation has made significant progress over the past year. Dr. Graham outlined some of the activities of the FNSSC.

The FNSSC membership fees will increase from $1.50 to $2.50 per active member. This would increase the CCMG’s membership fees from $250 to approximately $400. The Board recommended maintaining CCMG’s membership in the FNSSC.

It was suggested that the CCMG should only pay a membership fee based on MD active members and excluding PhDs. Dr. Graham will inquire about the options to pay a membership fee that would represent the MD members only, since the focus of the Federation does not include PhDs. It was noted that many of the initiatives are promoting quality health care in Canada and since PhDs are providing health care services, the PhDs still have an interest in what the Federation is doing and there is a benefit to members.

9.7 RCPSC Meeting with NSS Representatives
Dr. Graham noted that the Royal College is reviewing a core competency model for residency training in Canada. The goal is to provide residents with more flexibility in career choice, enabling exposure to other specialties before making their career choice. There will be a larger meeting of all specialty chairs to discuss the core competency model. The model will not be implemented until 2007 at the earliest.

Dr. Graham also reported on the RCPSC Specialty Committee in Medical Genetics. Program directors provided support for the development of a cross-Canada Telehealth program. The committee also discussed sending out a short survey to MD members to obtain statistics to report to Task Force II.

The Royal College has just published CanMEDS 2005 framework. Three roles in the framework have been revised: Manager, Health Advocate and Professional. The wording of the roles have been adjusted to address concerns of Royal College members.

9.8 CMA Committee on Conjoint Accreditation of Technologist Training
Dr. Régen Drouin reported that this is the first year that the CCMG was officially represented at this meeting, as the CCMG was simply an observer previously. The meeting took place in Ottawa in April. Dr. Drouin has an opportunity to speak with the president of the CSMLS to discuss the shortage of technologists. CSMLS has confirmed that it will not change the dual exam.

There are only two sites for training in Toronto and BC and there are none in French, which causes a problem. CCMG asked that additional training centres be considered. The CSMLS seemed responsive to this but the CCMG will need to pursue this issue. Dr. Allingham-Hawkins confirmed that this issue is being examined by CSMLS.

9.9 Future Annual Meetings and the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins explained that this year there was a decision to separate the CCMG meeting from the CAGC as the CAGC did not want the incur the extra expenses of coming to Bromont. The CAGC is holding its meeting in Montreal.

The Board feels it is important to maintain relationship with CAGC and will hold its next meeting with CAGC in Winnipeg and is in discussions with the CAGC for 2007 and 2008.

It was noted that there is no representative of CAGC on the Scientific Program Committee. Dr. Drouin will look at the terms of reference. It was suggested that the committee be considered a joint committee.
The issue of the rights and responsibilities of genetic counsellors was raised. The Board will look at ways to work with the CAGC on common issues.

9.10 Ethics and Public Policy Issues
Dr. Laura Arbour provided some background explaining the need for the CCMG to review certain federal acts. She noted that it is unprecedented that guidelines be developed without legal review. The Ethics and Public Policy Committee has been asked to review the Assisted Reproduction Act, the Health Protection Act and the Privacy Act. The committee was uncomfortable providing the summary of the Assisted Reproduction Act without some legal review.

The Privacy Act is an extremely complicated act and was not written specifically for health care. Most institutions have privacy rulings that need to be followed with respect to patient records. There are issues that are of concern including electronic records. Ethics committees of other organizations generally have an ethicist or lawyer as a member. The Ethics and Public Policy Committee thought that either a lawyer with an interest in genetics could be asked to sit on the committee, or an honorarium could be provided for legal review.

Both Dr. Knoppers and the BC privacy commissioner were asked to participate on the committee, but declined due to other commitments. Ms. Mireille Lacroix, a colleague of Dr. Knoppers agreed to participate and respond to specific questions. Her responses are academic information and not legal advice. The committee decided that four questions would be prepared and published in the newsletter, as well as Ms. Lacroix's answers. The questions were published in the last newsletter. Dr. Arbour invited members to submit questions or issues to her. Ms. Lacroix is responding to the first set of questions for an honorarium of $500. If there is sufficient interest a second set of questions will be submitted. Once the Ms. Lacroix's response is received it will be published in the newsletter as an academic opinion, not the position of the CCMG.

It was stressed that these issues should be discussed at the individual institutions and that members must follow the guidelines of their institution. Dr. Arbour noted that she hopes to have the answers reviewed by Dr. Knoppers and Dr. Tim Caulfield. The issue of standards of practice was discussed. It was suggested that the CMPA be approached regarding standards of practice.

Dr. Welch inquired about the possibility of lobbying for change in the legislation if it is determined that the practice of medical genetics may be negatively impacted. Dr. Arbour reported that it would be an obligation for the CCMG to lobby should that be the case.

9.11 Distinguished Service Award
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that the Awards Committee instituted the Distinguished Service Award this year in recognition of services diligently rendered to the CCMG that allowed the development and maintenance of a tradition of excellence in the CCMG. The first Distinguished Service Award has been awarded to Dr Hubert Soltan. Dr. Soltan was unable to attend the meeting but was very pleased and honoured that he received the award.

9.12 The Linda Stevens Fund
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that the Board and Awards Committee have been looking at the disbursement of the Linda Stevens Fund. At the present time the CCMG is disbursing more than it is collecting and there were concerns about this strategy over the long term. They are looking at strategies to ensure the spirit of the fund is maintained while ensuring that as many of the trainees as possible benefit from the fund. Members were urged to consider donating to the Linda Stevens Fund.

9.13 Nominations for the Founders Award, Service Award and Honorary Fellowship
Members were encouraged to submit nominations for the CCMG’s awards.
10. **Future Meeting Dates / Locations**
Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that the 2006 annual meeting will take place September 27-October 1, 2006 at the Delta Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The CCMG hopes to hold the 2007 meeting in Vancouver in conjunction with the CAGC. Dates for the 2007 meeting will be confirmed at a later date. The 2008 meeting suggestion from the CAGC is St. John’s, NL. Dr. Bridget Fernandez has been asked to look at the logistics for exams. The CAGC is favouring November dates for both meetings, but this is still being discussed.

11. **Other Business**
   11.1 **CCMG/Institute of Genetics CIHR Mixer**
   Dr. Allingham-Hawkins reported that the CCMG/Institute of Genetics CIHR mixer will take place Friday October 28, 2005 from 1800-2000 in the Murano Room at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Graham reported that a mentoring session will be held at the ASHG on Friday October 28, 2005.

12. **Motion for Adjournment**
It was moved by Dr. Janet Buchanan, seconded by Dr. Teresa Costa that the meeting be adjourned at 1707 Eastern.
   CARRIED
## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST 2005-2006

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<th>COMMITTEE</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
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<td>Accreditation of Centres</td>
<td><strong>RAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fernandez&lt;br&gt;Blumenthal&lt;br&gt;Bridge&lt;br&gt;Chong&lt;br&gt;Eydoux&lt;br&gt;Geraghty&lt;br&gt;Lewis (X-Credentials)&lt;br&gt;MacLeod&lt;br&gt;Roland</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td><strong>CURRENT YEAR’S (2005-6) LOCAL ORGANIZER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Past year’s (2004-5) local organizer&lt;br&gt;Next year’s (2006-7) local organizer&lt;br&gt;CAGC rep&lt;br&gt;CCMG President&lt;br&gt;Chair of the Scientific Program Committee&lt;br&gt;Secretariat</td>
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<td>Awards</td>
<td><strong>DYACK</strong>&lt;br&gt;Graham&lt;br&gt;Blumenthal&lt;br&gt;Dallaire (former chair)&lt;br&gt;Harrison&lt;br&gt;Innes&lt;br&gt;Martin, R</td>
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<td>Biochemical Genetics</td>
<td><strong>CLARKE J</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chudley&lt;br&gt;Applegarth&lt;br&gt;Chan&lt;br&gt;Chakraborty&lt;br&gt;Clarke, L&lt;br&gt;Potter&lt;br&gt;Rupar&lt;br&gt;Vallance</td>
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<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td><strong>ALLINGHAM-HAWKINS</strong> (President)&lt;br&gt;Chernos&lt;br&gt;Chudley (President-Elect)&lt;br&gt;Fernandez&lt;br&gt;Graham (Treasurer)&lt;br&gt;Shago (Secretary)&lt;br&gt;Somerville&lt;br&gt;Speevak</td>
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<td>Clinical Practice</td>
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<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
<td><strong>STOCKLEY</strong>&lt;br&gt; Somerville&lt;br&gt; Armstrong&lt;br&gt; Buchanan&lt;br&gt; McGowan-Jordan&lt;br&gt; Parboosingh&lt;br&gt; Ray R&lt;br&gt; Scott&lt;br&gt; Wei</td>
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<td>Nominations</td>
<td><strong>TESHIMA</strong>&lt;br&gt; Graham&lt;br&gt; Cox&lt;br&gt; Duncan&lt;br&gt; MacLeod&lt;br&gt; Nikkel</td>
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<td>Prenatal Diagnosis</td>
<td><strong>LANGLOIS</strong>&lt;br&gt; Chudley&lt;br&gt; Chitayat&lt;br&gt; Désilets&lt;br&gt; Farrell&lt;br&gt; Geraghty&lt;br&gt; Li&lt;br&gt; Nikkel&lt;br&gt; Summers (former chair)&lt;br&gt; Shugar (CAGC)&lt;br&gt; Tihy</td>
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<td>Program Directors and Chairs</td>
<td><strong>CHERNOS</strong>&lt;br&gt; Lewis (Credentials)&lt;br&gt; Ray P (Accreditation of Centres)&lt;br&gt; Speevak (Examinations)&lt;br&gt; Feilotter (Examinations)&lt;br&gt; Buchanan (Education)&lt;br&gt; CCMG Training Program Directors</td>
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<td>(PEACE)</td>
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<td>Scientific Program</td>
<td><strong>DROUIN</strong>&lt;br&gt; Somerville&lt;br&gt; Dawson (Local Organizer)&lt;br&gt; Evans&lt;br&gt; Friedman&lt;br&gt; McLeod</td>
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<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td><strong>DROUIN</strong>&lt;br&gt; Somerville&lt;br&gt; Dawson (Local Organizer)&lt;br&gt; Cox&lt;br&gt; Lemire&lt;br&gt; Melançon&lt;br&gt; Rupar</td>
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<td>CCMG/CFAS/SOGC Liaison</td>
<td><strong>ALLINGHAM-HAWKINS</strong></td>
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<td>Committee</td>
<td>Representative</td>
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<td>CMA Joint Accreditation of Technologist Training</td>
<td>DROUIN</td>
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<td>COMGO Liaison</td>
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<td>IFHGS Liaison</td>
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<td>ICHG Liaison</td>
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<td>ICLMC Liaison</td>
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<td>MOC Liaison</td>
<td>SOMERVILLE</td>
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<td>Royal College Liaison</td>
<td>GRAHAM</td>
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*Committee Chairs are in bold capital letters*

*Board reps are underlined*
NOTICE OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Since 2002, the CCMG has been investigating the feasibility of establishing a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program similar to the mandatory program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. At the 2005 AGM, members approved the proposal for such a program in principle and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee developing proposed changes to the bylaws to be discussed and approved at the 2006 AGM. The CCMG Secretariat has been working with the Royal College to develop this program, which will be known as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program. The Royal College’s Maintenance of Certification Program is for Fellows of the Royal College only. As a result, CCMG members will be participating in the Continuing Professional Development Program, which is identical to the MOC program, but is for non-Royal College Fellows.

Steps are being taken to develop the appropriate documentation, bylaw changes and communication mechanisms for the CCMG. If bylaw amendments are approved at the 2006 AGM and by Industry Canada, then the CPD program will be implemented on January 1, 2007.

This serves as notice that bylaw amendments will be presented to the membership in accordance with the bylaws for discussion and/or approval at the 2006 Annual General Meeting on September 30, 2006 in Winnipeg, MB. Further details will be provided in upcoming newsletters.
October 5, 2005

Dr. John Scovil  
President  
Federation of National Specialty Societies of Canada  

Dear Dr. Scovil:

As a representative of the CCMG (Canadian College of Medical Geneticists), one of the many FNSSC specialty society members, I've attended the FNSSC meetings, including the two most recent meetings in Vancouver. Part of the reason for this email is to congratulate you on the progress the FNSSC has made to date, particularly on such a restricted budget. On the basis of this progress, at the CCMG Annual General Meeting in Bromont Quebec last week, I recommended to our Board of Directors that we continue our membership in the FNSSC. We understand and support the fee increase from $1.50 to $2.50 per active member. Rita Assabgui is our CCMG secretariat, so we're fortunate to share with you such a capable Executive Coordinator.

The second reason for my email is that a question arose at our recent AGM that I was unable to answer. The CCMG represents PhDs in Genetics - for e.g. the directors of molecular genetics, biochemical genetics and cytogenetics laboratories - as well as MD clinical geneticists providing direct patient care. I suspect that this is also true for several of the other specialty societies. Do you know how many of the FNSSC society members fall into this category? If not, would you be willing to circulate this inquiry to the membership representatives? Do you see the FNSSC as a body representing PhD interests as well as MD?

With thanks and best wishes,

Gail Graham MD, MSc, FRCPC, FCCMG
March 8, 2006

Gail Graham, MD, MSc, FRCPC, FCCMG
Canadian College of Medical Geneticists
774 Echo Dr
Ottawa, ON K1S 5N8

Dear Dr. Graham:

Thank you for your e-mail dated October 5, 2005 to Dr. John Scovil regarding the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists (CCMG). My sincere apologies for the extreme delay in responding to your inquiry.

As noted in your e-mail, the CCMG is composed of both physicians and PhDs. I understand that there are concerns regarding the FNSSC’s dues structure, which involves a fee per active member of the member organization. Since the CCMG has both PhDs and physicians as active members, I can appreciate the nature of your enquiry regarding whether the FNSSC represents PhDs as well as physicians.

While the FNSSC represents specialty medicine and national specialty societies, the FNSSC bylaws state that only physicians have the right to vote. As a result, PhDs cannot officially represent the CCMG at the FNSSC.

Since PhDs are not eligible to vote at the FNSSC, it is reasonable that the CCMG only pay membership dues for active physician members of the organization. Members who cannot vote should not be required to pay dues.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of the CCMG to my attention. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Blake Woodside, MD, FRCPC
President
Federation of National Specialty Societies of Canada
NOTICE BOARD

CHARGE Syndrome Gene Research

We are currently conducting a research study on the presence of CHD7 gene (8q12) defects in individuals with CHARGE Syndrome. We are looking for Canadian-born individuals with CHARGE Syndrome and both parents, if possible. This study involves participants getting a simple blood test.

Please let your patients with CHARGE Syndrome and their families know about our research!

For more information, please contact us OR pass this information on to your patients with CHARGE Syndrome:

Dr. Kim Blake
Tel: 902-470-6499
Fax: 902-470-7216
Email: kblake@dal.ca

IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Ave.
P.O. Box 9700
Halifax, NS
B3K 6R8

Research supported by:

Please note: The CCMG has agreed to requests to disseminate information about research studies that may be relevant to clinicians and their patients but the CCMG does not investigate or endorse specific research projects.
Technical Specialist - Full-Time  
London Laboratory Services Group - Cytogenetics

London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) is one of Canada's largest acute-care teaching hospitals and is dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching and research. LHSC has pioneered many national and international medical breakthroughs. Located in London, Ontario, LHSC encompasses three sites, South Street Hospital, University Hospital and Victoria Hospital; two family medical centres; and the London Regional Cancer Program. LHSC is the home of the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario and CSTAR (Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics). The research arm of LHSC is Lawson Health Research Institute, which is partnered with London's other teaching hospital, St. Joseph's Health Care, London. LHSC is affiliated with The University of Western Ontario. Physicians and staff at LHSC number close to 8,000 and together they provide care for more than 600,000 patients each year.

Situated in beautiful London, Ontario, the “Forest City”, LHSC offers its staff and physicians the benefits of working at a leading edge healthcare facility combined with the advantages of modern suburban living. London is located in the heart of Southwestern Ontario, a short drive to sandy beaches, the renowned Stratford Festival, and the Greater Toronto Area.

This position is accountable to the Manager of the Pathology Laboratories and the Medical Leader for Molecular Pathology. This position is operationally focused to provide technical leadership in Cytogenetics. The Technical Specialist will act as an administrative resource to ensure the Cytogenetics Laboratory runs efficiently and effectively.

**Hours of Work:** 37.5 hours per week

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Currently registered with CMLTO in the appropriate discipline
- Effective organizational and leadership skills with the ability to work as a member of the team
- Advanced certification with CSMLS in Cytogenetics or equivalent qualifications acceptable to the hospital
- Demonstrated competence within Cytogenetics
- Demonstrated excellence in interpersonal relations, written and verbal communications
- Demonstrated problem solving and decision making skills in a variety of situations
- Ability to anticipate, confront, diffuse and resolve conflict situations
- Demonstrated flexibility, adaptability and ability to manage change in a dynamic environment
- Possess a broad perspective and an ability to think strategically
- Ability/willingness to implement new technology/automation
-Ability/willingness to streamline services for cost savings purposes
- Must show regional perspective in planning and operation
- Ability to demonstrate a customer focused attitude
- Demonstrated excellent computer skills

Your interest in this opportunity is appreciated. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Cathy Monchamp, Senior Recruitment Specialist  
Human Resources, 5th Floor PDC, University Hospital  
339 Windermere Rd.  
PO Box 5339  
London, Ontario N6A 5A5  
Fax: 519-663-3889  
humanres@lhsc.on.ca
The University of Western Ontario
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Faculty Position in Human Molecular Genetics

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at The University of Western Ontario, the London Teaching Hospitals and their affiliated Research Institutes have established a Program in Human Molecular Genetics. Its mandate is to coordinate research and teaching in human molecular genetics with an emphasis on understanding the molecular basis of disease and advancing treatment. We are seeking applications for a Research Scientist at the Assistant Professor level, tenure track stream. Outstanding applicants at a higher level may also be considered. The successful candidate will hold a primary appointment in the Department of Biochemistry and will also be cross appointed to the Department of Pediatrics. The scientist’s laboratory will be located at the new Children’s Health Research Institute Laboratories adjacent to the Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario.

Applicants must have a PhD and/or MD degree, several years of post-doctoral or independent research experience, and a strong publication record in the field of molecular genetics. Special consideration will be given to candidates with expertise in functional genomics, the regulation of gene expression, epigenetics or population genetics. He/she is expected to develop an independent, externally funded research program, and participate in the teaching of genetics at The University of Western Ontario.

Applications must include a curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, a description of research accomplishments, and an outline of future research plans. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applications and confidential letters of reference should be sent to:

Human Molecular Genetics Selection Committee
c/o Dr. Chris Brandl
Department of Biochemistry
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
The University of Western Ontario, London, Canada N6A 5C1
Phone: 1-519-661-2111 ext 86857 Fax: 1-519-661-3175
Email: cbrandl@uwo.ca http://www.biochem.uwo.ca

Positions are subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and Permanent Residents will be given priority. The University of Western Ontario is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.
Molecular Specialist
Department of Laboratory Medicine
Full Time Permanent Position

The Molecular Specialist works in collaboration with the Clinical Divisions of Laboratory Medicine to oversee the operation, as well as the development of and performance of molecular techniques. The successful candidate must possess a PhD in sciences with direct application to molecular techniques as they relate to human specimens, with preferably 2 to 3 years of recent and relevant experience in a laboratory environment. Eligibility for membership (or will achieve membership within one year) with the Association of Genetic Technologists and/or The American Society of Human Genetics, and/or other relevant association(s) are also required.

Please apply in writing giving complete resume and quoting Competition # 070/06 to:

Human Resources Advisor
Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation
PO Box 5200, Saint John, N.B. E2L 4L4
Tel: (506) 648-7501; Fax: (506) 648-6330
Email: bougi@reg2.health.nb.ca

We thank you for your interest, however, only those chosen for interview will be contacted.

Visit us at www.ahsc.health.nb.ca

Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation adheres to a Healthy Air Policy. Our properties are smoke-free and we encourage the use of scent-reduced products.
MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL is recognized nationally and internationally for its excellence in the provision of compassionate patient care, teaching, and research. Our Centres of Excellence are Women’s and Infants’ Health, Surgical Subspecialties and Oncology, Acute and Chronic Medicine, and Laboratory Medicine and Infection Control, which are complemented by the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute. We are a 462-bed, fully accredited health care and teaching facility affiliated with the University of Toronto. We are dedicated to discovering and delivering the best patient care, teaching, and research with the heart and values true to our heritage. Consider joining our dynamic team!

**Director - The Fred A. Litwin & Family Centre for Medical Genetics**

Mount Sinai Hospital's long-term goal is to create a Centre of Excellence in Medical Genetics, which will lead to the creation of a Department of Medical Genetics linking our existing Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics Program, the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, the Familial Gastrointestinal Cancer Registry, our expertise in pathology and laboratory medicine, and our research expertise in the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute with a newly formed adult genetics program.

We are searching for a clinical geneticist with a mandate to coordinate and catalyze our current activities to build towards an integrated Centre of Excellence which will provide clinical services as well as teaching and research. You will work closely with our dedicated geneticists, genetic counselling teams, and our medical/surgical specialists involved in genetic care. You will be expected to augment current strengths with your own adult genetics program towards the development of the Centre of Excellence.

You are certified or eligible for certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or have comparable qualifications. Ideally, you are recognized as a highly competent Medical Geneticist (and are recognized by the CCMG, RCPC or ABMG) with a proven track record of leadership. A visionary with excellent administrative skills and a strong collaborative approach, you will develop, plan, and manage this exciting program. You must be eligible for an academic appointment at the University of Toronto.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three referees to:

Chair, Search Committee for Genetics
Mount Sinai Hospital 600 University Avenue
Suite 335, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1X5
Fax: (416) 586-8787
e-mail: sharrison@mtsinai.on.ca

The Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto are strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcome applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

www.mtsinai.on.ca
Department of Human Genetics

Positions

The Department of Human Genetics at McGill University is currently seeking applications for several positions at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor. The Department of Human Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine was created to expand teaching and research in human genetics, and to promote the delivery of genetic health-care services. There are currently more than 50 faculty members in the department with broad interests, including genetic epidemiology, genomics and proteomics, identification of disease genes and pathogenetic mechanisms, and gene therapy. McGill University is the home of the Montreal Genome Centre, providing excellent infrastructure support for work in genomics and proteomics. The Genetics Community in Montreal is enriched by the many genetically-oriented research programs within the classical disciplines of biomedical science at McGill and at the three other universities in the city. Montreal is a cosmopolitan, multicultural city known for its high quality of life.

We are especially interested in applicants working in the following fields:

- Human Population Genetics and Genetic Epidemiology
- Mouse Genetics
- Disease mechanisms/animal models

Candidates will be considered for the new Canada Research Chairs, as appropriate.

Applicants should have a PhD and/or an MD degree, a minimum of 2 years postdoctoral experience and a record of accomplishment that demonstrates potential for independent research. Those with clinical credentials should have completed specialty training in Medical Genetics leading to certification. Qualified candidates should send a CV, the names of three references and a brief statement of research interests to Ms Fran Langton, Department of Human Genetics, Stewart Biology Building, 1205 avenue Docteur Penfield., Montreal, QC, Canada H3A 1B1, Telephone: 514-398-3600; Fax: 514-398-2430; email: fran.langton@mcgill.ca. In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. McGill University is committed to equity in employment.

Deadline for application: March 31, 2006
Are you up for the challenge?

Clinical cytogeneticist, Professional Services Department

The CHUQ

The Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec provides general, specialized and ultraspécialized care to the people of Quebec City and all of Eastern Quebec. Attractive career opportunities abound at the three hospitals and other institutions affiliated with the CHUQ; facilities renowned for the high-quality, excellent care and services they provide to their patients.

The CHUQ’s teaching hospital status and its unique expertise in numerous fields set it apart from other hospitals. Specifically, it is one of the largest transplant hospitals in Canada, a Nephrology and Oncology reference centre, the largest French-language health research centre in America, the only Quebec hospital to participate in Canada’s Cochlear Implant Program, and a hospital specialized in obstetrics and pediatrics. Working at the CHUQ means being part of a team renowned for its skills across Quebec, Canada and around the world.

Quebec City

Located on the banks of the St. Lawrence River at the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Quebec City has been charming visitors with its landscapes and history since its founding in 1608.

Easy to get to and situated in a choice geographic location, Quebec City boasts one of the best developed highway networks in Canada. Its international airport and public transit system make visiting this city even easier.

Set against a backdrop rich with history, Quebec City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is host to many entertaining events, including the famous winter carnival (for over 50 years), the summer festival, Fêtes de la Nouvelle-France, and more. Appreciated for its many cultural attractions, Quebec City is also the gateway to vast natural parks, golf courses and breathtaking ski hills—all just a few minutes outside of the city. And the bike paths that wind through the city are a cyclist’s dream!

The position

Working in a sector that is constantly changing, the successful candidate will be a key member of an interdisciplinary team striving to achieve the organization’s objectives.

In addition to your clinical tasks, you will assist in managing human, financial, material and information resources in the laboratory and your specialty sector, reporting directly to the head of Administration and under the functional supervision of the physician-geneticist.

In this position, you will play a role in fulfilling the laboratory’s mission, monitoring quality assessment programs, managing risk, training technical personnel, and preparing various material and equipment maintenance contracts. You will also conduct performance reviews of the personnel under your supervision.

Requirements

With a Ph.D. in genetics and CCMG certification, you have experience working in a research team in genetics or a related field. You are also capable of developing laboratory techniques, and although you will be working in a French-language environment, ideally you are bilingual (French and English).

Salary

$50,000-70,000 annually, plus a wide range of competitive employee benefits.

If you are interested

Please send your CV with a letter expressing your interest in the position from March 27th to April 13th, 2006 to the following address:

Concours cytogénéticien clinique
CHUQ – L’Hôtel-Dieu de Québec
Service de la dotation et des avantages sociaux
Édifice Collins, 1er étage
11, côte du Palais, Quebec, QC, G1R 2J6
AWARDS

The Awards Committee provides members with the opportunity to nominate their peers for a number of awards, as well as opportunities for trainees to apply for the Linda Stevens Memorial Fund. Please see below for further information.

DR. JOHN L. HAMERTON SERVICE AWARD

Sadly, the CCMG lost one of the founders of our College recently. In honour of Dr. John L. Hamerton’s many contributions to the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists, the Awards Committee, with the support of the Board of Directors, renamed the recently instituted Distinguished Service Award to the Dr. John L. Hamerton Service Award.

The award was renamed as a tribute to Dr. Hamerton who, in addition to being a founding member of the CCMG, assisted the College time and time again as chair of numerous standing and ad hoc committees, and providing advice to the Board of Directors throughout his many years as a distinguished member of the College.

The Dr. John L. Hamerton Service Award is conferred in recognition of services, diligently rendered to the CCMG over a reasonable period of time, that allowed the development and the maintenance of the tradition of excellence of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

The award will be given to a Fellow of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists who has made an outstanding contribution to the aims and objectives of the College in the area of service to the College. The Awards Committee will receive nominations from Fellows of the College accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae of the candidate and letters of support signed by two fellows. The letters of support may be addressed to the Awards Committee at any time during the year.

The deadline for receipt of nominations for an award to be made at the 2006 AGM is May 1, 2006. Letters of nomination received after May 1st will be considered for the following year.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FOUNDERS AWARD 2006

CRITERIA: Members of the CCMG who have made outstanding contributions to Canadian medical genetics will be considered. The award will be in recognition of an outstanding career in medical genetics in Canada or abroad. The contributions for which the members are being considered could be in any area of medical genetics: service, research, teaching, administration, other academic activity or scholarly activity.

EMERITUS MEMBER

Senior regular, or retired, members of the CCMG who have made exceptional contributions to medical genetics. The Emeritus Fellows may sit on committees, have a vote, but are not required to pay annual membership fees.

HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

Honorary Fellows will normally be senior members of the medical genetics community whose fellowship in the College will honour both them and the College. They normally should not be active in the practice of medical genetics at the time of their admission as Honorary Fellows but will normally have had a distinguished and sustained career in medical genetics, over a substantial period of time.

All nominations would normally be made by one regular or Emeritus Fellow of the College and would require a recent curriculum vitae of the nominee and at least two letters of support.

Please send your nomination(s) before May 15, 2006 to:

Dr. Sarah Dyack
Chair, Awards Committee
CCMG
774 Echo Drive
Ottawa, ON K1S 5N8
Fax: (613) 730-1116
E-mail: ccmg@rcpsc.edu
Linda Stevens Memorial Fund
Policy and Procedures

Policy:

The Linda Stevens Fund was set up by the late Mrs. Audrey Campbell (Linda's mother) and is named after Dr. Linda Stevens, who, while doing her genetics fellowship in 1982, died undergoing a heart catheterization procedure. The Fund was established to further the training of candidates to a CCMG Fellowship in one of the accredited genetic centres by participating in conferences, taking a course or undertaking training at other genetics centres. In so doing, the Linda Stevens Fund helps to ensure the continued experience in training CCMG Fellows. If the candidate plans to attend a meeting, he (she) will submit an abstract to be presented at that meeting. The Linda Stevens Fund will not be awarded to a candidate who has already completed the visit, course or any other scientific activity for which he/she seeks a reimbursement. Priority will be given to Fellows in training who have not had a previous award from the Linda Stevens Memorial Fund.

Procedures:

1. The amount of funding available is approximately $5,000 per year. Occasionally, if there are several applications, the Committee may divide the Fund equally among the candidates. Depending on the number of applicants and the funds available, the committee may increase or decrease the amount of funding for the session.

2. The application form for funding appears in the CCMG Newsletter or will be sent, when requested by individuals, by fax, mail or e-mail. The application requires details of the activity for which the request is being made, including a budget. If attending a conference, a copy of the submitted or accepted abstract, or a declaration that an abstract is being submitted is required.

3. The deadlines for submission of the application is May 1st*. Applications should be approved by the applicant's program director (signature on the application form) and sent to: The Chair, Awards Committee, CCMG, 774 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5N8 or by fax to (613) 730-1116.

4. The completed applications will be reviewed by the committee members and a decision regarding the distribution of the money will be reached before June 1st.

5. The applicants will be notified, by letter, after the committee has reached a decision.

6. Receipts are sent to the CCMG Secretariat at 774 Echo Drive, Ottawa ON, K1S 5N8, within one month after completion of the activity, as well as a summary letter, endorsed by the Program Director.

7. The money will be reimbursed to each applicant by the Secretariat once it receives receipts indicating the costs that were incurred for the course they took or conference they attended, and a copy of the presented abstract if applicable.

*subject to change
Linda Stevens Memorial Fund
Application Form

Applicant’s Full Name:

Address:

Tel:
Fax:
E-mail:

Genetic Centre:

Year of Training/Training Program:

Purpose and Destination of Travel:

Amount of Money Requested:

I have received a Linda Stevens Memorial Fund Award in the past: □ Yes □ No

Applicant’s Signature: Date:

Program Director’s Name (please print):

Program Director’s Signature: Date:
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to Dr. Kym Marie Boycott and Dr. Mary Ann Thomas, new Fellows of the CCMG who were certified in Clinical Genetics through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2005.

The Board of Directors approved applications for Associate Membership from Dr. Marc Tischkowitz and Dr. Suzanne Kamel-Reid.

The Board of Directors also approved applications for Fellow-in-Training Membership from Dr. Roberto Mendoza-Londono, Dr. Christine Armour and Dr. Jane Gillis.

Welcome to the CCMG!

À LA MÉMOIRE DE JOHN HAMERTON

C’est avec tristesse que nous avons appris le décès inattendu du Professeur John Hamerton, un pionnier de la cytogénétique humaine. Le docteur Hamerton s’est dévoué à l’enseignement et au développement de la génétique humaine au Canada et a contribué de façon exemplaire aux activités du Collège. Pendant quelques années, il a participé au cours gradué de génétique médicale de l’Université de Montréal et fut conférencier invité d’universités québécoises. Ses services ont été reconnus par le gouvernement canadien, le Collège royal des médecins et chirurgiens du Canada, dont il fut élu membre honoraire, et par plusieurs sociétés européennes et nord américaines. Au nom des associations des généticiens médicaux, de cytogénétique du Québec et des unités de génétique des universités Laval, McGill, Montréal et Sherbrooke, nous offrons nos plus sincères condoléances à son épouse, Madame Irene Hamerton et à sa famille.

Louis Dallaire,
Service de génétique médicale
Hôpital Sainte-Justine

Issue 1 – March 2006 - 45 - CCMG Newsletter
CANADIAN COLLEGE OF MEDICAL GENETICISTS – INSTITUTE OF GENETICS, CIHR MIXER

Stay tuned for information about this year’s mixer. Details will be provided as they become available.

RARE DISEASES – NEW PROGRAM

There is a new program from the Office of Rare Diseases in the US to facilitate transfer of genetic tests for rare diseases from research into clinical testing. The program is called Collaboration Education and Test Translation Program (CETT) and the website is [http://www.cettprogram.org/](http://www.cettprogram.org/). Please visit the website for further information regarding the program and requirements.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The membership directory is posted on our website and will be updated regularly.

*Please ensure that you provide the CCMG with any changes in your contact information, including address, telephone, fax and e-mail. Much of the information sent to members of the CCMG is sent by e-mail. It is imperative that you ensure that the correct e-mail address is on file.*
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 3, 2006</td>
<td>Genetics and Healthcare in the Amish and Mennonite Communities</td>
<td>Best Western Lamplighter Inn</td>
<td>Janice Little <a href="mailto:Janice.little@lhsc.on.ca">Janice.little@lhsc.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2006</td>
<td>The 14th Annual New Developments in Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics Symposium</td>
<td>The MaRS Centre Main Auditorium</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/seminars/ce/PDMG/default.htm">http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/seminars/ce/PDMG/default.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18-19, 2006</td>
<td>The 44th Annual Great Lakes Chromosome Conference</td>
<td>89 Chestnut St University of Toronto</td>
<td><a href="http://glccontario.tripod.com">http://glccontario.tripod.com</a></td>
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<td>September 27-October 1, 2006</td>
<td>CCMG Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>Delta Winnipeg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccmg@rcpsc.edu">ccmg@rcpsc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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# Contact Us

We welcome your comments and feedback. For more information on CCMG activities, please contact the CCMG office at:

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