



Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences La Société Canadienne pour les Biosciences Moléculaires

December 19, 2011

Executive / Exécutif

President / Président
Dr. Jim Davie
University of Manitoba

Past-President / Président Précédent
Dr. Jean-Pierre Perreault
Université de Sherbrooke

Vice-President / Vice-Président
Dr. Arthur Hilliker
York University

Treasurer / Trésorier
Dr. Vincent Duronio
University of British Columbia

Secretary / Secrétaire
Dr. Randal Johnston
Calgary University

Councillors / Conseillers

Dr. Alba Guarne
McMaster University

Dr. Josée Lavoie
Université Laval

Dr. John Orlowski
McGill University

Dr. Jan Rainey
Dalhousie University

Dr. Frances Sharom
University of Guelph

Dr. Andrew Simmonds
University of Alberta

Bulletin Editors / Éditeurs du Bulletin
Dr. David Williams
University of Toronto
Dr. Reinhart Reithmeier
University of Toronto

Secretariat & CSMB Office:

Mrs. Wafaa H. Antonious
Canadian Society for Molecular
Biosciences
C/O Rofail Conference and
Management Services (RCMS)
17 Dossetter Way
Ottawa, ON K1G 4S3
Canada
Tel.: 613 421 7229
Fax.: 613 421 9811
Email: Contact@CSBMCB.ca

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the Society's activities as the President.

We have just completed a very successful Scientific Conference, conducted this year in partnership with the RiboClub in Orford, Quebec. Attendance was excellent with many national and international speakers devoted to the theme of RNA structure, regulation and function.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the Scientific Conference. David Williams completed his term as Past-President of the Society, Jean-Pierre Perreault moved from President to Past-President, I was appointed as President and Arthur Hilliker was appointed as Vice-President. Thank you to all for your dedication and service.

A new Constitution and Bylaws was approved and after consultation with the membership in which 200 responses were received, a new name for the Society was chosen. Pending the paperwork and approval from the various agencies, we will be known as the Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences. Over the years our original Biochemistry society has been augmented by joining with the Molecular Biology society, the Cell Biology society and most recently the Genetics society. We are now one of the largest scientific societies in Canada, with over 500 members, and our new name better reflects our inclusive nature.

We have several important goals over the coming year. First, we will continue to support excellent science through our annual Scientific Conference and through other national and international meetings that we co-sponsor (see our website for details). Second, we will maintain our efforts to grow our membership among researchers and trainees, who are eligible for a variety of awards that are described in the website. Third, we will keep the membership informed as we learn more about the century "C" change being planned by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, we will advocate vigorously in the areas of science policy, public awareness and research funding to help maintain a favorable environment for the research community. The pressures on funding are especially severe right now, and our membership in Research Canada will help to get the message distributed in Ottawa and elsewhere.

Please stay tuned as we learn more about these events. We welcome comments and concerns from the membership.

The 2012 Annual Meeting entitled “Epigenetics and Genomic Stability” will be held in Whistler, BC, from March 14-18. The meeting will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Penny Jeggo, a well-known researcher, from the Genome Damage and Stability Centre, University of Sussex. More information as well as the conference program is available online at http://www.csmbcb.ca/meetings/55th_Annual_Meeting.aspx.

Please note that the online registration is now open, and I encourage you to register now taking advantage of the early registration discounted fees.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our Society. We look forward to your continuing engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Davie".

Dr. Jim Davie
President, CSMB