

REPORT to the Board of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons

September 2014

Name of Committee: Program Committee

Name of Chair: Dr. Morad Hameed & Dr. Simon Bergman

CAGS Vision: *The Canadian Association of General Surgeons is the voice of the specialty of General Surgery in Canada.*

CAGS Mission: *The Canadian Association of General Surgeons promotes the training, education, continuing professional development, thoughtful practice and research essential to the provision of the exemplary surgical care Canadians expect and deserve.*

CAGS Objectives:

- *CAGS contributes to the content and processes of all general surgery residency training programs to enhance residents' career development.*
- *To provide the facility for every CAGS member to fully meet their individual CME requirements and re-certification obligations.*
- *CAGS will effectively advocate all issues relating to the specialty of general surgery across Canada*
- *CAGS contributes to the health of Canadians through the promotion of general surgery research.*

1) Committee goals for the 2015 year that will support the CAGS vision, mission and objectives:

The Program Committee will continue to provide high quality educational opportunities to CAGS members through the planning of the 2015 Canadian Surgery Forum. The annual event will contribute to fulfilling CAGS members' CME requirements, but also enhance resident career development, provide a venue for discussing current issues in general surgery, and promote general surgery research.

2) Committee activities that have supported the CAGS vision, mission and objectives:

The 2014 Canadian Surgery Forum has supported the CAGS vision, mission, and objectives in many ways. It has promoted the training, education, and continuing professional development of hundreds of surgeons and residents through symposia, debates, panel discussions, postgraduate courses, plenary sessions, featured lecturers, Breakfast with the Professor roundtables, and more. These activities have provided the facility for CAGS members to meet their CME requirements, as they could obtain over 30 credits through their participation. The event has also promoted surgical research through poster and podium sessions, and the new CJS Editor's Choice Awards sessions, where the best research projects from CSF and CSRF are highlighted. These sessions

also contributed to residents' career development, as they gave them the opportunity to present their work to the surgical community and receive valuable feedback.

3) Recommendations to the CAGS Board that will assist the Committee in performing its activities and achieving its goals for 2015:

Throughout the planning of the 2015 CSF, the collaboration of other CAGS Committees will be essential. For example, the management of Conflict of Interest and industry relations will require a continuous partnership with the CPD Committee.

4) Please list any long-term (2015 – 2025) goals that your committee has identified:

The Program Committee will strive to produce an annual educational opportunity for CAGS members that is both relevant and of excellent quality. We hope to attract high attendance numbers each year and receive involvement from many participating societies and industry partners. We will continue to foster these beneficial relationships throughout the growth of the Forum over the next ten years.

2014 Canadian Surgery Forum Report:

Registration

- Registration for this year's CSF reached **749** as of September 12.
- PG Courses: The Advanced Endoscopy Course, Ultrasound Course, and STARTT Course are all **SOLD OUT**. The General Surgery Review Course is almost sold out, with 72 registered out of a possible 80 spots. This is almost double compared to last year's registration for this course.
- Presidents' Dinner: The Dinner is **SOLD OUT** at 225 guests.

Branding

The CSF received a fresh new look this year, with a complete rebranding of the logo, website, mobile App, and publications. Feedback has been very positive, not only from members but industry partners who prefer the new modern feel of the Forum.

Theme

The theme for this year's Forum is: **“Healthy Docs are Happy Docs: Promoting health, wellness, and career longevity for today's surgical professionals”**.

This health and wellness theme has been incorporated throughout the Forum, from healthier food and beverage options, to morning yoga, and outdoor running sessions.

Program

The Program Committee has planned an amazing educational program again this year. New highlights include:

- ERAS session, a topic of current interest which combines CSCRS and Allied Health;

- New CJS Editor's Choice Awards, which highlights the best research submitted to CSF and the best of the CSRF;
- Presidents' Dinner, including Surgical Jeopardy, which will be taking place on the Friday evening this year with a more casual and fun approach.

Many groups collaborated on joint sessions this year, which will both increase attendance at each session and increase educational value.

The final program is now available on the new mobile App. A paper copy will also be distributed to all attendees at registration.

Partners and Exhibitors

Over \$220,500.00 has been raised in partnership and exhibitor revenue. Many new organizations are participating as exhibitors and/or partners this year, such as GE Healthcare, BMO Harris Private Banking, Pinnacle Integrated Health Centres, Cynosure, Medical Futures Inc., and Novadaq.

Conflict of Interest

The CSF adopted a new, innovative Conflict of Interest policy this year. All presenters were required to declare any conflicts by not only submitting a form to CSF, but also including a slide at the beginning of their presentations and verbally declaring to the audience. Poster presenters were asked to place this slide in the bottom right corner of their poster and to declare verbally to the judges. Throughout the CSF, session chairs and judges will be monitoring declarations and keeping a log, which will be used by CSF to report back to speakers after the Forum. Those who did not comply will receive a statement from CSF and may not be invited back to speak.

2015 CSF

The 2015 Forum will be held in Quebec City, from September 17-20. Planning will begin with the Program Committee and Steering Committee meeting on Saturday, September 20.