The CUA was proudly represented at the AUA meeting this April in Chicago. For the first time, we had a CUA booth in the exhibit area. According to feedback from our staff, there was a lot of traffic and interest in the association by attendees.

Two of our members were honoured by the AUA with prestigious awards. Dr. Mostafa Elhilali received the first-ever AUA Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is a testament to Dr. Elhilali’s outstanding profile and leadership in the international urological community. Dr. J. Curtis Nickel received an Award of Merit for his huge contributions to the study of prostatitis and benign prostatic hyperplasia. That these awards were given to Canadians shows a remarkable degree of generosity and inclusiveness by the AUA, and emphasizes the close collaboration between our 2 countries in the field of urology. It also, of course, reflects on the high esteem with which Canadian urology is held by the AUA. These men deserve our hearty congratulations.

In the last issue of CUAJ, I discussed the CUA strategic planning process. This process has resulted in a formal Strategic Plan, which has been ratified by the CUA executive. The plan sets out priorities for the association for the next 5 years, and includes many action items and benchmarks for the next year. It proposes several new initiatives and directions for the CUA. The document will be distributed to all CUA members in the near future. The CUA executive would appreciate your input. We hope to incorporate your suggestions and present a final version of the document for member approval at the June meeting in Toronto. Stay tuned!

There are several other new developments. We have established an Annual Meeting Planning Committee to provide continuity, historical memory and guidance to the meeting organizers. We expect this group to facilitate the planning of the CUA Annual Meeting in a major way. We have also established a new online members-only section on the CUA website. We encourage you to have a look — www.cua.org. This site has a lot of potential, including job postings and a discussion board.

The members-only section of the website was introduced in December 2008 to allow online payment of dues. Members can also print out CUA Patient Information Brochures and be notified of any CME accredited course announcements and classified ads. In the future, we will host survey modules and a membership directory.

Last but definitely not least, we are looking forward to the Toronto CUA meeting and expect great things! The meeting has something for everyone: new research, updates on many subjects of interest to practicing urologists, provocative and inspiring faculty, and a great social program. Kids can take advantage of a wonderful day camp at Harbourfront or a trip to Canada’s Wonderland. We’ve lined up the best that Toronto has to offer for partners, including a visit to the Royal Canadian Yacht Club on Toronto Island with a talk by a famous female medical world traveler, Dr. Gillian Thomas, the opportunity for self indulgence (always a good thing) at a top-notch spa and a visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum or the new Art Gallery of Ontario. We hope you’ll come and bring your family! Ursula and I look forward to seeing you in Toronto.

Reference