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The CUA exists to promote the highest standard of urologic care for Canadians and to advance the art and science of urology.



The Canadian Urological Association Executive and corporate office staff met recently in Montreal to map out the upcoming year's work plan and discuss new initiatives. It was refreshing to be able to interact with friends and colleagues face-to-face, and amazing to witness how much more creative and productive a group can be when we are able to interact in person. The group was engaged, anxious to share ideas, and genuinely pleased to be together despite the current vagaries of pandemic-era travel. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it has highlighted how critical personal interactions are to our individual well-being and collective success. Although virtual platforms have permitted verbal and some visual communications to continue, they are not even close to being adequate surrogates. As with so many things, Albert Einstein was ahead of his time when he said, "I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots." We can't let that happen.

Many important projects were discussed in Montreal, and I will briefly outline two new initiatives that I hope will be of interest to CUA members.

To address the educational needs of the recently graduated urologist, a Young Urologist affiliate group (hopefully, we can come up with a catchier moniker) will be created to foster greater awareness of the interests of this increasingly large demographic of our membership. Upon formalization of the committee, the group will be asked to help the CUA organize CME projects that best serves their unique learning needs and will provide a portal for members to get involved with the CUA at an earlier stage in their careers. Further details will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Several needs assessment surveys of the membership have indicated the CUA should consider playing a more active role in advocacy for its members and the patients we serve. Suggestions of possible advocacy issues have included engaging in provincial fee code negotiations, assisting with resource allocation, workforce planning, and ensuring patient access to the most up-to-date diagnostic and therapeutic options. However, choosing a single "hot-button" topic of national relevance to serve as a platform and that the CUA could influence is difficult, given the provincial/regional/hospital-level variability in how decisions are made. After considerable debate about how the CUA could be most effective in the advocacy arena, the plan will be to develop a "State of Urology in Canada" blueprint, incorporating, where available, evidence-based information related to clinical practice addressing wait times, workforce projections, and the minimally accepted resource needs of a practicing urologist. With the assistance of the Health Policy, Community Urology, and Guidelines Committees, it is felt a document capturing this critical data could then be used by members in their efforts to advocate on their own behalf in a more effective way. Stay tuned for more information on this important work.

Finally, planning is well underway for our annual meeting in Charlottetown, PEI, June 25–27, 2022. Scientific Program co-Chairs, Drs. Stephen Pautler and Duane Hickling, and their energetic scientific program team have a terrific event planned with novel topics and world-renowned speakers. Mark your calendars and hope to see you there!