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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 Scholarship Foundation (CUASF) board met recently to set out its priorities for the next five years, as part of its regularly scheduled strategic planning exercise. As I prepared for the meeting, I came across some facts about the CUASF I thought the membership might be interested in:

- The CUASF was first established in 1973 as a separate entity from the CUA, as an affiliated charitable organization.
- It was created to foster high-quality urological research, especially focusing on early-career investigators.
- Over the years, the CUA has contributed over \$5 million to the CUASF to support grants for young investigators.
- The first awardee was Dr. John Trachtenberg from the University of Toronto, who was awarded \$15 000 in 1980.
- More than 100 scholarships and grants have been awarded since inception.
- In 2020, the Early Investigator Research Scholarship award amount was increased to \$50 000.
- Although a provision to allow a second year of grant renewal has always existed, less than 15% of first-year awardees have taken advantage of the opportunity or had their second year approved.
- The support provided has effectively helped launch the academic careers of many CUA members who have become key opinion leaders.
- CUA members can also support Canadian urological research by donating directly to the CUASF. Just click the **Donate Today** button on the homepage of [cuasf.org](http://cuasf.org) and a charitable donation tax receipt is sent immediately

The CUASF is currently and capably led by Dr. Christopher French, the Administrative Council Chair, and Dr. Anil Kapoor, the Chair of the Scientific Council. This past year, a member-at-large position was also created to allow a past scholarship winner to provide insight and feedback; Dr. Robert Hamilton has taken on this inaugural role. The foundation is supported in the corporate office by the highly organized and capable, Ms. Marfisa DeFrancesco, the CUASF Coordinator.

At the recent retreat, several new initiatives were discussed and will be explored, including:

- Expanding the mentorship program for young investigators matching their academic interests with those of more established researchers across the country.
- Applying the CUA's equity, diversity, and inclusion lens to all CUASF initiatives.
- Attempting to forge relationships with other granting bodies, including tri-agency groups, affiliate societies, and academic institutions, to allow matched funding opportunities.
- Revamping the website with an emphasis on acknowledging previous grant awardees and the results of their research, as well as attracting patient donations.

Stay tuned for more information on these and other strategies the CUASF team is considering in order to further enhance the important academic work it supports.

In closing, I would like to thank Drs. French and Kapoor for their outstanding leadership and vision. Their efforts, coupled with the hard work and dedication of Ms. DeFrancesco, have further elevated the profile and financial sustainability of the foundation as it nears 50 years of promoting Canadian urological research. The CUASF is a jewel the CUA membership should be very proud of!