



CUASF: An indispensable contributor to urologic science in Canada

The Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Foundation (CUASF) has been a marquee initiative of our association, and it is important to highlight and celebrate its remarkable 50 years of successes and ongoing contributions.

Established in 1973 as a separate entity from the CUA, the CUASF has played a pivotal role in advancing urologic science in Canada. Over the past half-century, the CUASF has awarded more than 100 prestigious scholarships and grants, nurturing the research careers of numerous young urologic investigators. This success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our past and present CUASF administrative and scientific chairs, as well as the positive working relationship with the CUA board.

What makes the CUASF truly unique is its ability to foster research in our most junior members within a relatively small society. Unlike larger organizations, the CUASF has provided a personalized and supportive environment for early-career investigators to thrive. This approach has paid dividends for the health of our specialty in Canada, contributing to the international recognition of Canadian urology research as some of the best in the world.

The CUASF has been instrumental in supporting early-career investigators, with the CUA contributing over \$5 million to the fund. This financial backing has facilitated some pioneering urologic research, launching the academic careers of many CUA members who have become key opinion leaders. We all should be proud of the

CUASF's unique position as a vibrant granting agency in Canada, supporting initiatives such as Early Investigator Research Scholarships and strategic partnerships with organizations like the SIU, Bladder Cancer Canada, Kidney Cancer Canada, the Canadian Men's Sexual Health Council, and Procure.

Attracting research funding for early-career investigators is an uphill battle, and the CUASF acknowledges the vital role that associations and advocacy groups can play in supporting and promoting clinician-scientists. The CUASF remains committed to fostering a thriving urologic research community in Canada. We are expanding our mentorship program, forging relationships with other granting bodies, and promoting inclusivity through initiatives aligned with the CUA's equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility policy.

Although the fiscal position of CUASF is strong today, the bottom line is that research dollars are becoming scarcer and, of course, inflation impacts research alongside everything else. We've arrived at a sustainable fund for 2024, but if our goal is to continue advocating and supporting urologic research in Canada for the next 50 years, we will need to consider how to generate further modest growth and search out other key partners to allow future investigators to compete in an increasingly complex research environment. In the meantime, please visit cuasf.org to explore our website, engage with us on social media, and support the CUASF's vital mission by clicking the "Donate Today" button.

Neal E. Rowe¹,
D. Robert
Siemens²
¹CUASF Chair,
Administrative Council;
²CUA President

Cite as:
Rowe NE, Siemens DR.
CUASF: An indispensable contributor to urologic science in Canada. *Can Urol Assoc J* 2024;18(2):9. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5489/cuaj.8702>

Pour la version
française, voir cuaj.ca

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