



## From funding to foresight: How the CUA is strengthening research and guiding AI use

The CUA recently held two important initiatives: a Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Foundation (CUASF) retreat to ensure long-term sustainability of critical genitourinary research funding in Canada, and an artificial intelligence (AI) policy workshop to explore the evolving role of AI within the organization.

### CUASF RETREAT

One of the CUA's strategic priorities is to be a voice of urologic research in Canada. In support of this objective, the CUASF has achieved remarkable success, particularly in the past year, awarding more funding than ever before in its history — totalling \$1,090,000 in research grants. The CUASF supports a broad range of initiatives, including clinical research, translational science, and quality improvement projects. These opportunities are designed to support both academic and community urologists, recognizing that meaningful advances in patient care can emerge from diverse practice settings across the country. To build on this momentum and ensure continued success, a group of key stakeholders convened to discuss strategies to sustain the fund's viability and support future growth. Five strategic priorities were identified.

- 1. Research awards:** Review and refine research funding, including award amounts, duration, target applicants, evaluation criteria and followup mechanisms.
- 2. Financial sustainability:** Develop processes and mechanisms to ensure long-term financial stability.
- 3. Mentorship:** Support and evaluate implementation of the pilot mentorship program.
- 4. Partnerships and advocacy:** Strengthen research through strategic partnerships and collaborations.
- 5. Promotion and knowledge translation:** Enhance communication strategies and increase awareness of the CUASF.

By strengthening funding structures, fostering mentorship, and expanding partnerships and

knowledge translation efforts, the CUASF is well-positioned to continue advancing urologic research in Canada.

### AI POLICY WORKSHOP

As AI becomes increasingly integrated into daily practice and professional workflows, it is essential for the CUA to understand how these technologies may influence organizational efficiency and productivity. Although this workshop represented an early exploratory discussion, the long-term objective is to develop clear policies to guide internal and external use of AI tools within the organization.

The primary objective of integrating AI internally is to enhance workflow efficiency, consistency, and organizational capacity while upholding high professional standards. AI tools can support administrative functions, content development, knowledge translation, literature synthesis, and internal communications, enabling staff and board members to devote more time and expertise to strategic priorities. Importantly, AI should be adopted as an assistive technology that augments — rather than replaces — human judgment and professional expertise. Its use must remain aligned with the organization's mission, values, and governance principles.

We also recognize limitations and challenges associated with AI adoption, including risks related to data privacy and security, intellectual property protection, overreliance on automated outputs, and the potential erosion of critical appraisal if adequate human oversight is not maintained. Addressing these concerns will require clear policies, staff education, defined accountability, and ongoing evaluation.

By acknowledging potential pitfalls and implementing AI thoughtfully and transparently, the CUA can responsibly leverage emerging technologies while safeguarding trust, credibility, and the integrity of its mission.

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