

Glaucoma Research Society of Canada 2006 Annual Meeting Highlights

The Year in Review

On Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at its 10th Annual General Meeting, Margaret Rodrigues, President of the Glaucoma Research Society of Canada (GRSC) reported on the progress the Society made over the past year.

Most significantly, she noted that the GRSC increased its research grants – awarding 12 grants totaling \$130,000.

Thanking members for their continued generosity, Margaret outlined how their donations help researchers with seed money or start-up funding for testing and proving their ideas. Reflecting this, “*We Support New Ideas*” is the Society’s new slogan.

The new slogan was one of the results of an extensive Strategic Planning process that the Board undertook. Another result is its new Mission Statement “*Generating new knowledge about detecting, treating and curing glaucoma through innovative research*”.

The goals outlined in the strategic plan include:

- increasing the amount of funds raised to support glaucoma research
- increasing the quality and quantity of Canadian peer-reviewed research
- increasing public awareness of the need for glaucoma research and the Society’s fundraising role
- making the Society Canada sustainable

Margaret noted that the Society continues to work with the National Broadcast Reading Service (NBRS). Because of this connection, Dr. Graham Trope was able to make a Canada-wide broadcast about the Society.

Margaret gave special thanks to CNIB staff for hosting the AGM, to Impressions Catering, and to all the volunteers.



President Margaret Rodrigues and Treasurer Harold Wu at the AGM



Volunteers welcome members and guests to the 10th Annual General Meeting



Director Brian Monrad and Administrator Barbara Ullmann greet attendees



Dr. Robert J. Campbell presented research in the use of eye drops for glaucoma

AGM Feature Presentation Stresses Proper Use of Eye Drops to Treat Glaucoma

Dr. Robert J. Campbell, Assistant Professor specializing in glaucoma and anterior segment surgery at the Department of Ophthalmology, Queen's University presented an important talk entitled "*Glaucoma Medications: Getting them out of the bottle and into an eye*" at the GRSC's 2006 AGM.

His presentation stressed that consistent and proper use of glaucoma medications have a huge impact on treating this disease. He outlined reasons why patients often fail to adhere to their doctors' instructions on using eye drops including:

- administration difficulties
- side effects
- forgetfulness
- inconvenient dosing frequency
- travel/being away from home
- depression
- lack of family/social support
- cost
- refill problems
- poor communication with physician.

Dr. Campbell's presentation also included a discussion of adherence and administration aids.



GRSC members listen to keynote presentation

Award Presentations

At the AGM, Board Chair Margaret Rodrigues and Dr. Graham Trope thanked the following individuals and companies for their generous donations and support:

- Merck Frosst Canada
- Pfizer Canada
- Allergan Inc.
- Richard Martel (The Brown Book Co.)
- Martin Chasson, CA
- The John David and Signy Eaton Foundation
- Henrietta Kostman
- Michael Claener
- Dr. Blair Fearon
- Ruth Josephson.



Ruth Josephson received an Award for her six years of service on the GRSC Board



Director and Past President Albert Waxer with Award recipient Michael Claener



Dr. Blair Fearon received an Award for his 12 years of service on the GRSC Board

Dr. Graham Trope, Dan McNeill, Allergan Inc., Mark Smith, Pfizer Canada Inc., and Tony Cranney, Allergan Inc.



Question Period

Dr. Rob Campbell, Dr. Fredrick Feldman, Dr. Blair Fearon and Dr. Graham Trope fielded questions about glaucoma from members.

Members get answers from the distinguished panel



Dr. Fredrick Feldman



Dr. Gregory Jarvis



Antonios Papadopoulos and Dr. Graham Trope

Volunteers

A special thank you to Meaghan Sullivan, Amanda Hart, Margaux Whillans-Brown, Elly Porter, Robert Ullmann and Dejana Milinkov who helped make GRSC's 2006 AGM an outstanding success.

