

**Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance  
Annual General Meeting Summary  
October 12, 2006  
Toronto, Ontario**

**Attendees:**

Christian Blyth	3M Canada
Mary Carson	Do Bugs Need Drugs (by phone)
John Conly	Foothills Hospital, Calgary
Nora Boyd	Bluewater Health
Paul Hasselback	Interior Health
Greg Horsman	Saskatchewan Health (by phone)
Jim Hutchinson	Eastern Health
Gloria Keays	Provincial Health, Alberta
Xianghi Li	Veterinary Drugs Directorate (by phone)
Scott McEwen	University of Guelph
John Pilla	MUMS
John Prescott	University of Guelph
Richard Reid-Smith	Public Health Agency of Canada

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The CCAR Annual General Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm with John Conly in the Chair. A quorum was confirmed (13 out of 27 regular members). Dr. Conly welcomed attendees and introductions followed.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM**

**MOVED THAT** the minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.

**Moved Nora Boyd / Second Scott McEwen / Carried**

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

*a. Review of year-end statement*

Treasurer Nora Boyd provided a review of the year-end financial statement (to March 31, 2006). Discussion points included noting that the Committee's cash flow was positive and that tracking to the PHAC budget was now being done on a quarterly basis. A spreadsheet was circulated which outlined the re-imbursment claims made so far to PHAC as well as remaining funds available.

**MOVED THAT** the year-end financial statement to March 31, 2006 be accepted as presented.

**Moved Nora Boyd / Seconded Jim Hutchinson / Carried**

Nora also provided an update on financials to September, 2006 as well as a review of the 06/07 budget.

*b. Appointment of Auditor*

Nora Boyd and Jane McIvor recommended that Rebecca Lem with Rolfe Benson Chartered Accountants be appointed as CCAR's auditor for the 2006/07 fiscal year. Background information on Rebecca and the firm of Rolfe Benson was briefly reviewed.

**MOVED THAT** Rebecca Lem be appointed the auditor for the 2006/07 fiscal year.

**Moved Nora Boyd / Seconded John Prescott / Carried**

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jane McIvor provided a report on activities and priorities of the Committee over the past year as well as current initiatives that were in various stages of development.

- Relating to administration, Jane reported on the process of transition from Rick Walter, including new accounting procedures and a revision to the amount within the budget for executive director resources. CCAR directors are currently working with PHAC representatives to identify additional projects that could be funded using the surplus. Work also includes laying a foundation to request continued funding.
- Relating to current activities but noting that more detailed reports would be provided later on the agenda, Jane reported on the recent completion of the CA-MRSA Guidelines and the distribution and media plan. She also provided an update on the public awareness and education campaign being developed with the Coaching Association of Canada and the Bugs and Drugs initiative to develop a PDA version of the book recently published by Susan Fryters and Edith Blondel-Hill. Additional activities included the summarized version of the report on an International Report Card (currently submitted for peer review); CEQA-AGAR guidelines (currently stalled due to working group's absence); and preliminary discussions with Veterinary Drugs Directorate regarding joint projects to promote proper use of antibiotics with farm to fork stakeholders.
- Upcoming activities and priorities discussed included assisting Nora Boyd with finalizing the Hygiene and Asepsis Best Practice Guidelines for Long Term and Community Care; an update on CCAR activities to be published with CJIDD; pursuit of the warning label on prescriptions; investigation of additional partnership opportunities; increasing membership; continued development of the website; and working with the board to confirm/refine vision, mission and mandate.

Jane noted that she was very grateful for the opportunity to work with CCAR and looked forward to assisting members.

**4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Jane McIvor circulated a contact sheet of the membership list of CCAR and reported on the following breakdown of members:

- Not-for-profit professional societies – 14 (including one observer status)
- Industrial associations – 3
- Government agencies – 10
- Associate members – 52

Christian Blyth, 3M Canada was welcomed as a new Associate Member.

## 5. NOMINATIONS REPORT

Jane McIvor provided the following nominations report:

### **Directors with one more year to fulfill from a two-year term:**

Dr. Paul Hasselback  
 Dr. John Prescott  
 Dr. Scott McEwen

### **Directors whose terms expire this year:**

Ms. Nora Boyd	Dr. Greg Horsman
Dr. Edith Blondel-Hill	Dr. Jim Hutchinson
Dr. John Conly	Mr. Hugo Trudel*
Ms. Susan Fryters	*resigned in 2005

### **Directors who have agreed to let their names stand for 2006 to 2008 term:**

Ms. Nora Boyd	Ms. Susan Fryters
Dr. Edith Blondel-Hill	Dr. Greg Horsman
Dr. John Conly	Dr. Jim Hutchinson:

Christian Blyth was nominated from the floor.

### **MOVED THAT** the following directors be elected by acclamation:

Mr. Christian Blyth	Dr. Paul Hasselback
Ms. Nora Boyd	Dr. Greg Horsman
Dr. Edith Blondel-Hill	Dr. Jim Hutchinson:
Dr. John Conly	Dr. Scott McEwen
Ms. Susan Fryters	Dr. John Prescott

**Moved Jim Hutchinson / Seconded Paul Hasselback / Carried**

## 6. 2005/06 CURRENT ACTIVITIES REPORT

### *a. Bugs and Drugs PDA Version*

Jim Hutchinson reported that the working group had recently met to review background work done on the feasibility of turning the Bugs and Drugs Reference Book into a PDA version. The group had brought in Jay Mercer, Canadian Medical Association, who was able to provide great insight into the challenges and opportunities associated with this kind of project. Some of the issues that were raised and will need to be resolved included a strong recommendation to develop a business plan which would include contingencies for on-going and regular maintenance; a vehicle for distribution. Jay extended the offer to have CMA help where ever possible. He also noted that the working group should be thinking further ahead as they develop the PDA version so that it could easily be prepped for EMR (electronic medical records) format which is becoming increasingly popular.

Additional discussion included the recommendation to recruit Roger Thomas to the working group due to his experience with developing guidelines for PDAs. He would also bring the perspective of family physicians to the group.

Mary Carson suggested that an effective method of maintenance might be found through the use of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

John Pilla noted that he had some experience in the PDA market as well and would be willing to share additional insights. His earlier research into the market indicated that it was not cost effective at this stage due to the size of the demand. He did however note that EMR was a very promising new technology.

The timeline for this project was discussed and Jane was encouraged to move as quickly as possible to complete the background work of developing a business plan.

***b. Hand Hygiene and Asepsis Guidelines***

Nora Boyd circulated a draft of the Hand Hygiene and Asepsis Guidelines for Long Term and Community Care. The draft was based on a meeting last year and included input from representatives across Canada. Nora requested that the board provide input. The draft will be sent out as an attachment to this meeting's summary notes.

Discussion included a report that Alberta was also working on a hand hygiene guideline – Nora noted that hand hygiene was only one component of her document and is based on the core competencies from CHICA. Next steps for the document include formatting and a more user-friendly structure. It was also agreed that additional opinions and endorsements would be beneficial. Jane and Nora will work on getting endorsements from AMMI, CHICA, CCAMID, the PHAC National Infection Control Guidelines Committee (Lynn Johnston) as well as other relevant organizations, such as the Public Health Association and the Long-term Care Association (Ontario). Jane and Nora will also work on developing a timeline to take the draft to final format and distribution. It was estimated that the final version should be widely available by February, 2007. John Conly suggested that the budget also be reviewed to ensure adequate funding for printing and distribution.

***c. Surveillance – Agri-food sector update***

Scott McEwen reported that the 2004 Surveillance report from CIPARS was released in June, 2006 and available on-line. The intent of CIPARS will be to broaden farm surveillance by 2007.

The Veterinary Drugs Directorate has several initiatives related to antimicrobial resistance underway, including:

- Minor use/minor species – work is being done to improve and facilitate approvals of drugs used for minor species (e.g., goats, etc.).
- Extra-label drug use – this has a major impact on AMR and VDD is working to decrease the need for extra label drug use through measures such as reducing the backlog of drug submissions awaiting review and developing new policies and guidelines.
- Risk Assessment Committee within the VDD – the committee is currently working to incorporate risk management operations and develop components such as a drug categorization scheme. Research into other operations around the world is currently underway.

- Other initiatives being considered including labelling warnings on products to advise of proper use.
- VDD is also starting to request efficacy data from drug companies.
- Work on risk assessment and categorization is being done with a document likely evolving over time. This will ultimately influence how drugs will be used and will be helpful in estimating the effect on human health as well.

The feedback on the CIPARS report was very good but it was recommended that the timing for publication be tightened up. Richard Reid-Smith agreed and reported that VDD was trying to get the 2005 results posted on the web prior to Christmas. The goal in future years will be to publish the information within six months after year end.

Additional feedback on CIPARS included noting that it led to the movement on c.diff. MRSA is starting to be seen in small animals and it was recommended that CCAR get involved in addressing.

Scott also reported that efforts were being made to incorporate AMR into veterinary schools as a standardized education component. The CCAR board agreed that this would be a good project for CCAR's participation and contribution.

#### ***d. International Report Card***

John Conly reported that Craig Stephen had drafted a summarized version of the report produced earlier this year and has submitted for peer review. Feedback after posting on the CCAR website had been minimal.

#### ***e. Current Activities – CA-MRSA Guidelines***

In the absence of Clare Barry, John Conly and Jane McIvor reported that the guidelines were in the process of being published through CJIDD – the first copies off the press were made available at the meeting. Great appreciation and thanks were expressed for Clare's efforts on getting the guidelines to print. With endorsements received from AMMI, the Canadian Paediatric Society and CHICA, Jane McIvor will be working on getting as wide a distribution as possible. A press release and advisory has already been issued and agreements to have the publication posted on a number of websites have been secured. The editor of the Canadian Medical Association has accepted a summarized version of the guidelines and will be publishing.

There was discussion regarding the need for a central hub of communication once it was learned that BC had issued guidelines earlier this year. While the CA-MRSA Guidelines are more comprehensive, it was agreed that there should be attempts to coordinate efforts.

#### ***f. Current Activities – Coaching Association of Canada Public Awareness and Education Initiative***

Nora Boyd reported that work with the CAC is progressing and confirmed that CCAR will be staffing an exhibit at their upcoming conference in November. Materials that are being developed for this first phase include fact sheets that provide information on staph infections and best practices for hygiene in the athletic setting. Additional initiatives include the development of an on-line training module for coaches as well as posters and

an awareness campaign. It was recommended that a timeline be established to assist in moving the project along.

## **7. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

### ***a. Confirmation of Vision / Mission – Advocacy versus Leadership Role***

John Conly led a discussion regarding the future role of CCAR and whether the Committee should be placing greater priority on leadership over advocacy. The vision and mission of CCAR were reviewed:

*Vision – Canada will be an international leader in the prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance.*

*Mission – CCAR advocates for, facilitates and promotes programs related to surveillance, optimal antimicrobial use and infection prevention and control to limit antimicrobial resistance.*

It was generally agreed that CCAR was moving more toward a leadership role and there was consensus that this was the proper course of action. However, CCAR needs to prove that it has the momentum to be a leader.

A conference call will be scheduled to address the issue further and communicate the board's consensus with PHAC. Initiatives that will re-inforce this position will be discussed and considered.

### ***b. Future priorities***

Attendees were asked to provide input on activities they would like to see implemented by CCAR. Responses were:

- Emerging issues within the animal sector and the transfer to human health side.
- More collaboration between Public Health and Hospitals.
- A move toward community-based continuing medical education.
- Resurrection of The Surveillance Network – (*Background: 67 sites across Canada had been submitting susceptibility data which was open for searching. While it had been successful for seven years, Canada was dropped two year ago. The data is still there and is hugely valuable. It would be great to investigate whether the infrastructure could be obtained by CCAR.*)
- The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Drugs Directorate have been concerned about drug usage. CVMA recently received a grant to develop prescribing guidelines with the intention to move into an education piece.
- Coordination of activities – whether educational or research-based, there is a need to engage the communities and the need for greater communication to ensure that information is being used.
- Echoing the comments on the need for increased communications, there is a need in general for coordinating activities and promotion as well as identify the gaps in surveillance. A national picture of surveillance within the animal sector especially would be beneficial.
- The labelling initiative was seen to be very important as was active surveillance of CA-MRSA between the human and vet side to determine any links for humans to small animals.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### ***a. Outgoing Chair Remarks***

Noting his intention to step down as Chair, John Conly thanked the board for their support and recognized the contributions made by Rick Walter, including his work on establishing the Committee as an independent organization and securing the funding to further CCAR's mandate. The board agreed that a gift should be bought for Rick to be presented to him. John will arrange for a dinner in Rick's honour.

John welcomed Jim Hutchinson as the intended incoming Chair. He suggested that the Committee continue to make certain that there is an equal footing between the human and agri-food sides.

### ***b. Incoming Chair Remarks***

Jim Hutchinson thanked John for his years of dedication and efforts. He was enthusiastic about taking on the goals of the Committee and noted that the "green" issue of health care was a difficult one to argue against. While reviewing the priorities of CCAR and ensuring that the Committee becomes more visible and takes on a leadership position, Jim noted that there was a big opportunity for synthesis with the veterinary side and he was excited to be taking on this role. He wanted to view his upcoming term as an opportunity to rekindle enthusiasm for CCAR's goals.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED THAT** the meeting be adjourned.

**Moved Nora Boyd / Carried**