



## CACAP EXECUTIVE UPDATE

As I write this, the 2021 holiday season is underway and we are in the midst of the COVID-19 omicron variant surge rolling across the country. By the time you read this, 2021 will be a memory and the impact of omicron will be better understood. Our resilience is continually tested in this pandemic. We know that those we care for are struggling more than ever as the emergency departments struggle to keep up with young people in crisis. CACAP members continued and increased efforts to support children and youth experiencing mental illness is laudable.

Over the past two years the need to take care of ourselves has become paramount so that we are better able to care for our families and loved ones as well as our patients and their families. Please take moments for yourself to recharge and rejuvenate. Take time to reach out to colleagues who may be struggling. Your continued commitment to your patients and your colleagues is greatly appreciated. Engaging with a supportive community enhances our resilience, and we are so grateful for the members who are a part of the CACAP community.

CACAP continues to evolve as a member driven organization. The executive and board have dedicated significant effort in the development of a new strategic plan over the past several months. Key priority areas include advocacy, education, collaboration, and membership. The strategic plan will be finalized through the spring and provide many opportunities for members to participate in assisting CACAP achieve its goals through to 2025.

In response to members interest in additional education opportunities through CACAP, the development of a national seminar series is underway with the establishment of a working group guided by the CACAP Education Committee. There is much excitement as we look forward to a joint conference with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Toronto October 17-22, 2022

allowing us to reconnect with colleagues and friends in a rich learning environment. We anticipate great representation from clinicians and researchers from across Canada in the scientific program. The call for papers closes on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and the late new poster submission deadline is June 7, 2022.

Leveraging the creation of a new federal Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, CACAP has communicated what we believe is necessary to address the gaps in mental health care to the new federal Minister. The creation of this ministry appears to be a signal that the federal government is prioritizing the mental health of Canadians. We will continue to represent child and adolescent psychiatrist's perspectives, needs and interests through increased advocacy in the new year.

On behalf of our members, the CACAP executive and board provided feedback to the updated CPA position statement on medical assistance in dying (MAiD) as it pertains to mental illness and mature minors. Dr. Jana Davidson is the current CACAP representative to the CPA Board. We have continued to collaborate with the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) and very much appreciate the efforts of CACAP members Dr. Sophia Hrycko and Dr. Daphne Korczak who contribute to the CPS related to child and youth mental health.

As I complete my final year on the CACAP executive in 2022 I would like to express my gratitude to all of those I have had the privilege of working with over the past six years. The experience has been incredibly rewarding and provided me the opportunity to meet many amazing colleagues from across the country.

With gratitude,

**Jana Davidson, MD, FRCPC**  
Past President, CACAP