



UPDATE FROM THE CACAP EXECUTIVE

Remembering the Past and Developing a Bright Future

Jordan Cohen, Secretary, CACAP

We have just begun a new Lunar year, represented by the Asian zodiac symbol of the tiger. Happy New Year to all our members and their families that celebrate this new beginning. The tiger represents strength, courage, and resilience. After the year we have had dealing with the surges in mental health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great symbol moving into this year. New years often prompt us to reflect on the past. Many colleagues were lost over this past year due to the pandemic and other health causes. A meeting with the Awards Committee discussed options on how we can memorialize our deceased members and decided to create a memorial page on the CACAP website cacap-acpea.org/. I am in the process of organizing this with Dr. Matthew Morrissette who is our Communications Committee Chair. Thanks to Dr. Wade Junek, who has spent extensive time creating a review of the history of our organisation. Please look to this review being posted to our website in the near future. This discussion also provides me an opportunity to remind all members to consider nominating a colleague for one of the CACAP Awards for 2022 please see our website's Awards page cacap-acpea.org/explore/awards/ for additional information). The deadline for submissions is May 31st.

Our Academy has been very busy on the advocacy front. The Advocacy Committee produced a statement for children and youth returning to school during the pandemic www.cacap-acpea.org/explore/advocacy. CACAP provided feedback on the Canadian Psychiatric Association's statement on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). CACAP has provided a "Call to Action on Child and Youth Mental Health" to Minister Bennett and we have reached out for a meeting. Our Academy is looking to collaborate with regional representatives on advocacy at the provincial

level. Our President recently had support from Senator Stan Kutcher in our approach to advocate with government. CACAP and AACAP are hoping to have Dr. Kutcher provide an educational session on advocacy at our upcoming annual meeting.

As CACAP continues to grow, we need to address equity, diversity and inclusion. This means ensuring we have representation on our board cacap-acpea.org/explore/executive-board/ that reflects the diversity of our country; that we advocate for working environments that are fair for everyone to prosper in; and ensure that we are representing the needs of our diverse society for children, adolescents and young adults who struggle with their mental health. Dr. Jana Davidson is in the process of drafting policy in this area.

I am so pleased to welcome, Dr. Lind Grant-Oyeye, as our new JCACAP Clinical Editor! Dr. Grant-Oyeye is a New Brunswick child and adolescent psychiatrist experienced in writing grant proposals. She has a master's in health management and has a creative writing background. Plans for the journal include consolidation of the Arts, Literature and Nature section of the journal as well as ensuring the clinical side of the journal has a significant presence. She will work with the Research Editor to coordinate the presentation of complex clinical cases and the practical application of research.

In an effort to move forward with more regular educational and collaborative opportunities for members outside of the annual scientific meeting, a working group has been established to create a national seminar series. The group is reviewing feedback from recent annual conferences to ensure potential seminar topics are aligned with members'

wants in continuing professional development. This will be a videoconference across the country similar to our annual scientific meeting, with opportunities to interact with members and speakers. We hope to be innovative with this series, using different learning formats including interactive discussions and panels. The seminars will provide education on scholarly topics as well as mentorship, advocacy, the arts, physician health, professional development and trending societal topics. Thank you to Dr. Leanna Isserlin and members of the Membership Committee for moving this process forward.

This fall we partner with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (October 17-22) in Toronto for our annual conference. cacap-acpea.org/learn/conference/. This will be the first in person conference since the pandemic and will be a wonderful learning experience and time to finally reconnect in person. Thanks to Dr. Raj Rasasingham and the entire Conference Committee and the Research and Scientific Program Committee for their hard work in making this a successful conference. The new role of Conference Committee Co-Chair has been established and will be mentored by the present Chair and eventually lead

the Committee. Members that are interested in this position are asked to please contact the CACAP office cacap-acpea.org/explore/contact-us/ or Dr. Rasasingham directly.

Our executive and board continue to be involved in strategic planning and continue to work on building objectives with accountability in areas of focus (education, collaboration, advocacy and membership).

With all of this work occurring within our organization, there have been requests from many of our Committees to have additional assistance. Under the guidance of our General Manager, Elizabeth Waite, we are investigating employing an administrative assistant to help support our organization.

So, as we continue into this year of the tiger, I wish you all good health and wellness. May this year bring prosperity and rejuvenation to our members, their families, our partners in healthcare and the patients and families whom we serve.

Jordan S Cohen, Secretary, CACAP