

The GOC News

Volume 5 Issue 3
 Fall 2005

GOC Presidential Medal awarded to Dr. John A. Carmichael and Dr. Michel Roy

By Dr. Diane Provencher

For the second consecutive year, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada (GOC) is rewarding not only one member, but two for their influence in gynecologic oncology in Canada. Last year's recipients, Drs. Garry V. Krepart and Denny DePetrillo, were warmly recognized by then GOC President Dr. Robert Lotocki. Of note, the GOC Presidential Medal was only instituted in 2004. This year, the GOC is honouring two men that were involved right from the early days of our Society: Dr. John A. Carmichael and Dr. Michel Roy.

had never heard of him. Supported by his wife Catherine for all these years, Dr. Carmichael has been a great asset to the Society. He was a member of the first ad hoc Committee of Oncology,

He later (1980) assumed the inaugural Presidency of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada. For his helping "giving birth" to the GOC Society, we were very proud to award Dr. Carmichael with the GOC Presidential Medal.



Left to right: Mrs. Denise Roy, Dr. Michel Roy, Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung, Dr. Diane Provencher, Mrs. Catherine Clifton Carmichael, Dr. John A. Carmichael

Dr. John Carmichael is Past-President of GOC (1980-1982). As candidly put by Dr. Barry Rosen, Dr. Carmichael is to be congratulated especially since "nobody knows you"! The translation says that Dr. Carmichael has been away from the gynecologic oncology scene for so long that most of the current members of the Society

created by the SOGC in 1974 (President: David Boyes; Members: Robert C. Fraser and John A. Carmichael) and in 1977, became President of the Committee of Oncology (Members: Dr. David Popkin and Dr. Denny DePetrillo).

now influences how one practices gynecologic oncology in Canada. Thank you for sharing with us our 25 years of excellence in women's cancer care, and congratulations to our two medal recipients.

Dr. Michel Roy: GOC could not be in Québec City and not feel the radiant Michel Roy! His international contribution to gynecologic oncology, his charisma and determination for the well being of women affected by cancer, along with the indefectible support from his wife Denise, made him the perfect candidate for the Presidential Medal.

The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada now influences how one practices gynecologic oncology in Canada. Thank you for sharing with us our 25 years of excellence in women's cancer care, and congratulations to our two medal recipients.

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The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada
 La société des gynécologues oncologues du Canada

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The GOC acknowledges the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada for their continued support of our Society.

Welcome New Members

The Executive of the GOC extends a warm welcome to our new members who were voted into the Society at the June 2005 Annual Business Meeting: Ilan Bruchim, MD – fellow-in-training, associate member, Montréal, QC • Martin Chasen, MD – medical oncologist, associate member, Montréal, QC • Peter Craighead, MD – radiation oncologist, active member, Calgary, AB • Sarah Finlayson, MD – fellow-in-training, associate member, Vancouver, BC • Jan Hauspy, MD – fellow-in-training, associate member, Toronto, ON • Wendy Hicks Boucher, BScN – nurse, associate member, Ottawa, ON • Te-Hsi Lin, MD – fellow-in-training, associate member, Montréal, QC • Patrick Petignat, MD – fellow-in-training, associate member, Montréal, QC

GOC's 25th Anniversary Meeting a Great Success!

By Dr. Mark Heywood, AGM Programme Chair

This year's anniversary meeting was not surprisingly a great success. Thank you to our wonderful Québec hosts who ensured cloudy skies so that attendees stayed focused on the academic agenda and were not tempted to play in the wonders of beautiful Québec City and environs.

The meeting itself was preceded by an excellent laparoscopy course put on by Drs. Plante and Roy, which many GOC members, juniors, seniors and Fellows attended. Thank you indeed. The GOC meeting started Saturday June 18th, in the afternoon, with the first Scientific Session which focused on cervical cancer and vulvar dysplasia, and produced the second place winning paper ('Pregnancies are Safe after Radical Trachelectomy for the Treatment of Early-Stage Cervical Cancer'), by Dr. Marie Plante, et al. This was followed by the Annual Business Meeting and then off to Le Parlementaire Restaurant for the fun and games of the 25th Anniversary Gala, reported separately, but oh wasn't a great time had by all!!

Sunday morning, despite the late evening before, GOC members were up with the sun for the 4th Annual GOC Run for Her Life, followed by breakfast and the Poster viewing. Congratulations to Dr. Helen Steed (Fellow from Edmonton, sorry Toronto!) for the best paper entitled "Cytotoxic Activity of Gemcitabine in the SKOV-3 Human Ovarian Carcinoma Cell Line and Quantitative Real Time PCR of Nucleoside Transporters" and to all the other fine poster presenters.

The remainder of Sunday was hectic indeed, with the two GOC symposia, the SOGC-GOC International Symposium, and two further Scientific Sessions. The first of the symposia was on Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy, presented by Dr. Robert

Edwards from Pittsburgh, PA. This was an excellent review of the topic by Dr. Edwards, who has immense personal experience with the methodology. I wonder how many GOC members or Canadian sites have switched from intravenous to the intraperitoneal route to date? The shortest Scientific Session followed with only two papers presented in fine fashion by two Toronto Fellows, Drs. Kieser and Giede.

A dash downstairs for the SOGC-GOC International Symposium on "Colon Cancer: A Forgotten Component of Women's Health" had Dr. Linda Rabeneck, a Professor of Gastroenterology in Toronto, and Dr. Katharina Kieser, Gyn Oncology Fellow in Toronto, present to a full house. There was plenty of time for questions and answers and a thoroughly interactive and educational session was achieved.

A stroll back to the top of the Hilton for lunch and the final Scientific Session which focused on ovarian cancer, and produced the best paper, "Ovarian Cancer Risk and Polymorphisms in BRCA-Associated Mismatch Repair Genes – A Case-Control Study", by Dr. Ian Harley (a pleasant and oh so quiet and shy Fellow from Toronto, or Belgium).

The day and meeting closed with an emotional presentation from Dr. Christophe Pomel, "Laparoscopy in Gynecologic Oncology – from Explorative Laparoscopy to Laparoscopic Pelvic Exenteration. How Far Can We Go?" He was a fitting end to an exceptional meeting, being both emotive and motivating us to move beyond our current abilities in Minimally Invasive Surgeries.

Thanks to all for a wonderful 25th anniversary meeting!

4th Annual Run for Her Life™ Draws Record Registrations!

By Dr. Joan Murphy

The festivities of the GOC 25th Anniversary Gala held just across the street had barely wound down when set-up for the 4th Annual GOC Run for Her Life was under-

way. With kind help from the Running Room, many volunteers from the Centre d'information sur le Cancer and with the roller-blading local host, Dr. Marie Plante in the lead, 100 stalwarts gathered in the courtyard of the conference hotel in what seemed to be the very early hours of the morning. Over a beautiful and historic course among the Plains of Abraham (...but I thought plains were flat?!), runners and walkers were treated to a journey through Canadian history

and a glorious vista of Québec City, and each with a souvenir pedometer that many have continued to put to good use to monitor their daily activity. Competition, which has heated up every year of the event, was fierce. The fastest times were posted by Nicholas Half, Charlie

Simpson and François Giraudet in first, second and third place respectively. Is it a coincidence that none of the GOC partygoers were in the top three?



Proceeds of \$2,510 were presented to the CIC on Friday September 16, 2005. (L to R): Hélène Caouette Desmeules, CIC volunteer, Anne-Andrée Cloutier, GlaxoSmithKline, Jocelyne Dubreuil and André Paradis, CIC volunteers

d'information sur le Cancer, sponsors, in particular GlaxoSmithKline who have supported this event since its inception. We look forward to seeing you ready to Run for Her Life next June in Vancouver!

Proceeds of the event topped \$2,500 and as in past Run for Her Life events, have been contributed to a local patient centered cancer care initiative, in this case the Centre d'information sur le Cancer.

It was a great physical start to what was to be an excellent intellectual day – the GOC wishes to thank all organizers, participants, volunteers from the CHUQ and the Centre

SOGC Recognized for their Support of the GOC

At the 25th Anniversary Gala, a Recognition Award was presented to the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada for their contributions to the GOC. It was recognized that over the last several years, the SOGC has worked with the GOC both in terms of providing support as well as infrastructure to allow the Society to continue to develop. It is in recognition to these contributions and the plans for the future that the President of the GOC, Dr. Diane Provencher, presented an award to Dr. Mark Heywood, in lieu of Dr. André Lalonde who could not attend.

We wish to thank the SOGC and are grateful for their ongoing help.



Introduction to Communities of Practice Project - CoP in Ovarian Cancer Working Group Struck

By Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung

The GOC, in its attempt to influence and impact care at the federal and provincial levels, struck a working group in ovarian cancer called CoP in Ovarian Cancer Working Group. It is comprised of 20 individuals who will be coming together over the next year or two to map out a work plan of how GOC can impact ovarian cancer, and how we can help our membership address the issues in ovarian cancer both in terms of creating networks, providing processes for uptake of new information and knowledge, and increase participation in activities relating to ovarian cancer (i.e. clinical trials, surgery). The initial meeting is to be held in Istanbul on September 25, 2005. Outcomes of that working group will be shared at a later date. The CoP in Ovarian Cancer Working Group is done in partnership with Schering Canada and we thank them for their support of this program.

Call for Abstracts

GOC 27th Annual General Meeting - June 23-25, 2006 - Vancouver, BC

The deadline for submissions is January 23, 2006

To submit electronically or for a paper application, visit the SOGC website at www.sogc.org, or the GOC website at www.g-o-c.org. The GOC electronic system will be functional in early fall 2005.

Academic Corner

Recent Publications

Bernardini M, Lee CH, Beheshti B, Prasad M, Albert M, Marrano P, Begley H, Shaw P, Covens A, Murphy J, Rosen B, Minkin S, Squire JA, Macgregor PF. High-resolution mapping of genomic imbalance and identification of gene expression profiles associated with differential chemotherapy response in serous epithelial ovarian cancer. *Neoplasia*. 2005 Jun;7(6):603-13.

Choi SH, Shapiro H, Robinson GE, Irvine J, Neuman J, Rosen B, Murphy J, Stewart D. Psychological side-effects of clomiphene citrate and human menopausal gonadotrophin. *J Psychosom Obstet Gynaecol*. 2005 Jun;26(2):93-100.

Dinniwell R, Lock M, Pintilie M, Fyles A, Laframboise S, Depetrillo D, Levin W, Manchul L, Murphy J, Oza A, Rosen B, Sturgeon J, Milosevic M. Consolidative abdominopelvic radiotherapy after surgery and carboplatin/paclitaxel che-

motherapy for epithelial ovarian cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2005 May 1;62(1):104-10.

T. Le, L. Hopkins, M. Fung Kee Fung. Quality of life assessment during adjuvant and salvage chemotherapy for advance stage epithelial ovarian cancer. *Gynecol Oncol*, 2005 Jul;98(1):39-44.

Plante M, Renaud MC, Hoskins IA, Roy M. Vaginal radical trachelectomy: a valuable fertility-preserving option in the management of early-stage cervical cancer. A series of 50 pregnancies and review of the literature. *Gynecol Oncol*. 2005 Jul;98(1):3-10. Review. (Lead article)

Roy M, Plante M. Laparoscopically assisted radical vaginal hysterectomy. *Best Pract Res Clin Obstet Gynaecol*. Jun;19(3):377-86, 2005

News from the Centres

Calgary

- Dr. Pamela Chu has recently joined the Dept. of Gynecologic Oncology at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. Dr. Chu completed her medicine, obs/gyn and gynecologic oncology training Winnipeg. She spent the last year in France training in radical laparoscopic surgery.

Ottawa

- The Gynecologic Oncology group at The Ottawa Hospital welcomes Dr. Johanne Weberpals to the team. Dr. Weberpals began her gynecologic oncology fellowship training in Toronto and completed the last year in Québec City.

Montréal

- After a successfully three-year fellowship training in gynecologic oncology at CHUM – Hôpital Notre-Dame, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Obaid returned to his University in Saudi Arabia to work as a

teacher, researcher in the medical field and to perform as a fulltime consultant in gynecologic oncology.

We will all keep a good souvenir of Dr. Al-Obaid, because of his human side and all his qualities. He was appreciated not only by the residents and medical students but also by the paramedical staff, nurses, etc.



We all wish him all the success that he deserves.

- The Division of Gynecologic Oncology will be soon receiving two new fellows in its program. Dr. Nour El-Etreby, from Egypt, will be starting his fellowship training in October 2005. Dr. Arash Rafii, from France, will be starting in November 2005.

Québec

- The 14 gynecologic oncologists of the Province of Québec have formed a new group: "Le Regroupement des Gynécologues-Oncologues du Québec". Michel Roy (President), Walter Gotlieb (Vice-President), Philippe Gauthier (Secretary), and Paul Bessette (Treasurer) were elected to the Executive Board.
- After the departure of Dr. Marie Plante for a sabbatical in Vancouver, Dr. Jean Grégoire has joined the division. He will also continue his Masters in Epidemiology at Laval University.

- Dr. Marie-Claude Renaud has been named President of the Education Committee for the Society of Canadian Colposcopists.

- The Post-Graduate course on Laparoscopy and Radical Vaginal Surgery held in June in Québec was a frank success with 51 registrants: 29 from Canada (15 fellows), 12

from the USA, and 10 from Europe. The live demonstration from the OR included: radical vaginal hysterectomy with sentinel nodes and laparoscopic lymphadenectomy (2 cases), laparoscopic radical hysterectomy, retroperitoneal lymph node staging, laparoscopic staging for early-stage ovarian cancer (2 cases), laparoscopic lymphadenectomy and staging for endometrial cancer in an obese patient.

Saskatoon

- Dr. Christopher Giede, MD, FRCSC, Gynecologic Oncologist, has joined the medical staff of the Saskatoon Cancer Centre as a consultant. Dr. Giede completed his Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Toronto in June 2005. Dr. Giede is an Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan.

Montréal Ovarian Cancer Initiative

By Dr. Diane Provencher

I am proud to introduce you to the Montréal Ovarian Cancer Initiative (MOI), a new and exciting project in the fight against ovarian cancer. MOI represents a unique collaboration between two leading research groups, one from the University of Montréal's Teaching Hospital CHUM directed by Dr. Diane Provencher, and the other from the Jewish General Hospital, headed by Dr. Walter Gotlieb. Aside from raising funds in support of research that will focus on new strategies based on molecular biology in the clinical management of ovarian cancer, MOI seeks to heighten awareness by providing women with the information necessary to make the best choices to ensure their gynaecological health. For



Hy Diamond and Doris Brick

more information you can visit our web site at: www.infomoi.org.

Smoked meat against Ovarian Cancer!

Mr. Hy Diamond, owner of the famous Montréal Deli Schwartz's insisted on moving forward the cause of ovarian cancer. This effort is for Doris Brick, the woman with whom he has shared his life for over 50 years now, who is affected by ovarian cancer and by Alzheimer's disease. She is even too sick to realize what he is doing for her and for the other Montréal women fighting against ovarian cancer.

On September 15th, Schwartz's became the general quarter where physicians, students, volunteers helped Mr. Diamond and his family for the cause. All the proceeds of the day will be donated to MOI.

Photos printed with permission courtesy of Mr. John Zimmerman, Montréal, Québec



Jack Trottenberg, Hy Diamond, Diane Provencher, Walter Gotlieb et Monroe Charlap

Dr. John Jeffrey steps down as Chair of Department at Queen's, appointed Vice-Dean at Queen's

By Dr. Peter Bryson

Dr. John Jeffrey stepped down after 10 years as Head of the Dept of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Queen's University on June 30th, 2005. He is succeeded by Dr. Mike McGrath.

John graduated from Medicine at Queen's in 1978 and completed his residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology in 1983 under the mentorship of Dr. John Carmichael. He went on to do a two-year fellowship in Gyn Oncology with Dr. Garry Krepart and Dr. Bob Lotocki in Winnipeg, and then moved to Halifax in 1985 to begin his career with Dr. Bob Fraser. He returned to Queen's in 1993 and became Department Head in 1995. John's unfailing work ethic and inherent sense of fairness helped him build a very cohesive and productive department with a strong residency training program, and national and international recognition in all the subspecialties. He has been a member of the Executive of the NCIC Gynecology Clinical Trials Group, is currently Chair of the SOGC/GOC/SCC Policy and Practice Guidelines Committee, and is a member of the Royal College Specialty Committee in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Not one to shy away from any challenge, John has been appointed to the position of Vice Dean - Clinical in the Faculty of Medicine at Queen's University.

I'm sure I speak for the entire GOC community in congratulating John on a job well done and best wishes in his new position.



Asia-Oceania Research Organization in Genital Infection and Neoplasia (AOGIN) Report

By Dr. Laurie Elit

The inaugural meeting of the Asia-Oceania Research Organization in Genital Infection and Neoplasia (AOGIN) was held in Sabah, Malaysia July 18-20, 2005. Globally, about 50% of the cervical cancers occur in Southeast Asia. Thus key opinion leaders from 22 countries (217 attendees) met to share information on the status of cervical cancer screening in each country, novel information on HPV testing and the HPV vaccine.

Keynote speakers included Henry Kitchener who has been instrumental in revolutionizing cervical screening programs in England where an organized program has now led to an excess of 80% coverage. He has been able to access novel technologies within this system. Jack Cuzik presented information on economics and shared how the most important principle in screening is to use the most sensitive test infrequently.



Xavier Bosch provided information on HPV prevalence in women and issues in men globally. Ian Frazer, who discovered the VIP basis of the vaccine shared on this and therapeutic vaccines. I was invited to present on "Clinical Algorithms for Cytologic and Histologic Diagnosis of LSIL" and "Molecular Markers".

Prior to attending this meeting, a few of us also presented at the "Cervical Cancer - Not Yet Beaten and at What Cost" meeting in Sydney, Australia on July 16, 2005. At this meeting, I spoke on the management issues around dealing with LSIL.

Approximately 5 years ago, Drs. Jeffrey Tan, Suzanne Garland, Michael Quinn, Elizabeth Heard and I were involved in formulating a vision for AOGIN. It was exciting to see the dream become a reality.

25th Anniversary Party – What a Night!

By Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung

The 25th Anniversary Gala of the Society was truly a memorable evening. For the first time in the Society's history, we had a black tie event and to have it on such an auspicious occasion in such a magnificent setting such as the Québec legislature led to a truly regal and marvelous evening. It was great to see all the men in their tuxedos and the women all dressed out in elegant evening wear. The early evening was hallmarked by having 2 caricaturists who took very insightful



adaptations of our members, some of which were the cause of much levity. The cocktail reception was held in the Grand Hall, and we then moved to Le Parlementaire in the upper part of the legislature for the dinner and evening. We were treated to a slide show of approximately 200 pictures recounting the olden days of GOC to the music of Fame. It was really impressive to see how we have changed over the years and the candid photos provided a unique sense of "family" that we share and the bond created over the years. The ceremony focused on the presentation of the Presidential Medals (segment captured elsewhere in this newsletter). Following the medal presentation, there were short speeches of what GOC meant to the recipients and what it would

mean in the future. Groups of young members, middle aged members, older members and extra old members also shared their feelings of what GOC meant to them. It was through these very touching moments that members expressed deep affection for the camaraderie, friendship, leadership and mentorship that the Society has been for them and the sense of strong commitment to a vision to continue to grow the Society. After a delightful meal, we witnessed probably one of the most amazing spectacles the GOC has ever seen, that is live karaoke by individuals such as Dr. DePetrillo, who sang Can't Help Falling in Love, Dr. Marie (Rocker) Plante who performed J'entends Frapper, and group songs including My



Way, Girls Just Want to Have Fun to name a few. Lively groups entertained us and the dance floor was completely packed until 2am. Probably one of the best tributes to the excitement of the evening was from the members of the band Orchestre Mélodie who felt totally energized by the partygoers and complimented us on being one of the best groups they have ever played for. The evening was MC'd by Dr. Peter Bryson and Dr. Mark Carey organized the karaoke. Altogether, the evening was a great success. The pictures attached to this are testimony of that.

A Few Words from the Recipients of the GOC Presidential Medal

Dr. John A. Carmichael

"Madam President, Members of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada and guests. I am truly honored to be a recipient of The President's medal.

I must admit to being very surprised, after all these years, to receive a call from President Diane, informing me of this award.

I must admit to being doubly surprised, when, upon meeting Barry Rosen a week or so later he enthusiastically congratulated me and then added that what was so good about this award is that "nobody knows you!!!!"

This made me pause until I realized what he was saying was that I had been away from the scene for so long that most of the current members of the Society had never even heard of a John Carmichael!!!!

I would like to say, Madam President that as honored as I am to be the recipient of this award, in recognition of what I might have contributed to

the development of GOC, I am acutely aware that societies such as ours do not just happen, do not just suddenly come into being because of the efforts of a person or group of persons deciding at a certain point in time that such and such a society should be established. GOC is no exception.

Our Society started with a seed planted by a few gynecologists many years ago, most of whom never dreamt that what they were doing would ultimately develop into a formal national body, the Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada.

This seed was germinated by a subsequent small group of gynecologists who without any special gynecologic oncology training (except perhaps an extra period of general surgical training), declared an interest in, and willingness to assume responsibility for a surgical component to the management of gynecological cancer.

This was largely a new concept, certainly in Canada. We were new boys on the block and viewed initially with some degree of suspicion.

We had to convince our radiotherapy colleagues and then our own colleagues that there was an important surgical component to the management of gynecological cancer.

We had to convince our own colleagues that by creating the subspecialty of gynecological oncology we were not creating a small group of super surgeons who were going to take away all the benign gynecologic surgery from our colleagues

It was a slow process.

Our recognition was greatly hastened in the early and mid '70s when there began to arrive back in Canada, obstetrician gynecologists who had, post fellowship, received formal training in the subspecialty of gynecologic oncology. This helped bring greater recognition of our discipline, from our own colleagues, from the radiotherapists, from our general surgical colleagues and from that other new breed of subspecialists, the medical oncologist.

Our goal was further enhanced when

APOG in 1974 struck a committee to define the subspecialty of gynecologic oncology and when the NCIC formed its clinical trials group and included ovary as one of its tumor sites. Both these events identified and brought together gynecologists from across the country who had a shared interest in the management of gynecologic cancer.

Out of all of this blossomed the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada.

And so Madam President, while I will always wear this medal with pride, I will regard this honor as a tribute to all those who sowed and germinated the seed that resulted in the creation and early development of our Society.

Therefore may I say, from all of us, gynecologic oncologists of the past, to all of you, gynecologic oncologists of the present, for this award, I/we thank you very sincerely---- Merci"

Dr. Michel Roy

"I would like to thank the Executive of

Continued on page 6

GOC's 25th Anniversary Gala: Thanks to SOGC!

During the 61st Annual Clinical Meeting of the SOGC in Québec City, The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada (GOC) celebrated its 25th anniversary at a black-tie event at the Québec National Assembly Hall and Le Parlementaire restaurant. The evening was hosted by our always so elegant Master of Ceremony, Dr. Peter Bryson. This event allowed GOC to honour two of our members: Dr. John Carmichael, one of the founding members of GOC and Dr. Michel Roy, also known as an international star in gynecologic oncology.

This event was also a very special moment because through the testimony given by several of our members, we traced the early days of SOGC, our mother Society, where serious concerns about gynecologic oncology cases were voiced. Indeed, women affected by gynecological cancer were not receiving much attention in the early days of SOGC until 1952. This led to the incorporation of The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada in February 1980 without share capital under the laws of Canada.

Even today, our goals and objectives remain:

1. to improve the care of patients with gynecologic cancer;
2. to advance knowledge and improve the standards of education and practice in gynecologic oncology;
3. to encourage research in gynecologic oncology;
4. to cooperate with other organizations and individuals interested in oncology.

Our membership today comprises 100 active members, 32 associates members,



12 international members, 13 emeritus and 4 honorary members, all interacting in multi and interdisciplinary modes.

We hope to maintain our ties with SOGC as we are now a "young adult" Society ready for mature exchanges but still full of developing energies.

Diane M. Provencher, MD - Proud to be the President of GOC.

Recipients of the GOC Presidential Medal

(Continued from page 5)

the Society for having decided to award me the GOC Presidential Medal. This Society, which is having its 25th anniversary this year, is still very important for me. I say "still" because for the first six years, when I was working alone as a gyn-oncologist in Québec, GOC was my most important link to my colleagues from the rest of Canada. It was founded by a group of friends namely Denny DePetrillo, Lou Benedet, Bob Fraser, Gary Krepart, Lee Brown, David Popkin and John Carmichael, who also received the Presidential Medal tonight, and a few others, in order to meet not only to discuss our difficult cases, but also to strengthen the friendship between all of us. Today, it has grown to a more mature scientific entity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the people who have been important in my professional life. During my training in Los Angeles, Dr. Duane Townsend, who taught me colposcopy and Dr. C. Paul Morrow, who continues today to be a good advisor to me. Internationally, the most important individual has been Professor Daniel Dargent who passed away recently. I owe him the new turn I took with laparoscopic and

radical vaginal surgery, after a sabbatical in Lyon in 1990-91. In Canada, Jean-Paul Latour from McGill was a strong influence during my residency programme, in my decision to do colposcopy and gynecologic oncology as a sub-specialty (even if it did not exist as such at that time). There is David Popkin, whom I assisted for his first radical hysterectomy at the Royal Victoria hospital in Montréal, after he was back from the United Kingdom. Denny DePetrillo has been very influential for me, and has been a good friend for more than 30 years now. The first time I met him in Los Angeles, I was struck by the easy way he was handling not only medical cases but also the social and personal problems of the staff. He has always been a good consultant for my difficult cases early in my settling in Québec City and a good advisor for me. He even came one day early for a meeting in Québec to help me do my first vaginal graft during a pelvic exenteration. I also had the honour to be his best man for his wedding to Jennifer. In return, I think that I was a good advisor for him when he decided to become a father once more during his forties.

Another important person in my professional life has been Dr. Marie Plante. I recruited her in 1993, and within one year of her arrival in Québec, she

changed the gynecologic oncology section of our department. Furthermore, she gave a new dimension to my career.

She is a good example of how young capable recruits should work with senior members of a department. She never pushed me to do things. Instead, she pulled me.

It was my choice to follow or not to follow her. With her stimulation, I elected to progress with her and it was the best decision of my career. Early on, research and publications have improved significantly and, at the end, care to our patients has also improved.

Finally, one important person has been always there: my wife, Denise. She accepted to move to Montréal, then to Los Angeles, and finally came back to Québec. When my older son was six years old, we already had moved seven times. Later on, we took two sabbatical years in Lyon, France. My professional life was certainly not easy for her. I am happy that she never quit.

Once again, thank you for this important award you gave me and I wish our Society a long life and more years of success."

Mark your Calendar!

GOC meetings:

6th Annual Continuing Professional Development Meeting (In conjunction with the NCIC spring meeting) - April 28, 2006, Montréal, Québec. Details and registration information will be available later this year.

GOC 27th Annual General Meeting (In conjunction with the SOGC's 62nd Annual Clinical Meeting)

- June 23-25, 2006* (dates to be confirmed), Vancouver, BC

Other meetings:

• **SGO – 2006 Meeting on Women's Cancer** – March 22-26, 2006 – Palm Springs, California

• **11th Biennial IGCS Meeting** – October 14-18, 2006 – Santa Monica, California

• **FIGO World Congress** – November 5-10, 2006 – Kuala Lumpur