



CSCC

The Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists

Three Montrealers were the primary movers in organizing the founding meeting of CSCC in Montreal, Quebec on Oct. 17, 1956. These three, Drs. William S. Bauld, Edward H. Bensley and Abram H. Neufeld invited Dr. David B. Tonks, then at the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa, to be the keynote speaker because they knew of his work on quality control. This meeting occurred very soon after the IFCC's IV International Congress of Clinical Chemistry in New York City Sept. 9-14, 1956 which some of the Canadians attended. The list of laboratorians across Canada invited to the Montreal meeting comprised 65 individuals, and 39 of these, chiefly biochemists and pathologists, were present. In addition to those named above, another five were voted in by a show of hands to form the organizational committee (including notably Dr. Sanford H. Jackson of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario). Dr. Tonks agreed to serve as chairman of the next meeting held in Ottawa in October, 1957, and it was at the Ottawa meeting (now referred to as CSCC's First Annual Meeting) that the CSCC was officially formed on a motion from Dr. James R. Beveridge of Kingston, Ontario. Seventy-two persons were accepted as members following that meeting.

Dr. Bauld expressed two prime objectives for CSCC – "to raise the standards of performance of clinical chemistry and to raise the professional status of clinical chemists". Work on the first objective began immediately with Dr. Tonks and his Committee on Quality Control sending to every CSCC member in 1958 a 16-page document entitled, "Quality Control in Clinical Laboratories". Voluntary inter-hospital clinical chemistry surveys spread across Canada over the next several years and gradually moved to mandatory surveys led by the separate provincial governments. (In Canada, health matters are a provincial responsibility, not federal).

CSCC's second objective, regarding professional status, was also acted on by early consecutive Councils, leading to a certification program which became official in 1964, and certification by examination has been the recognized path since then for the postdoctoral training of clinical chemists. It was not until 1986, however, that CSCC created the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (CACB), thirty years

after CSCC's founding. The CACB carries the responsibilities of accreditation of training programs and candidates, and for curriculum, examinations and continuing education.

From its beginning CSCC not only held an annual national conference in various cities across Canada, but also participated in joint section or national meetings with the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC). CSCC has also jointly hosted with AACC the triennial International Congress of Clinical Chemistry mounted by IFCC when held in North America, namely in Detroit in 1963, Toronto in 1975, San Francisco in 1990, and Orlando in 2005. CSCC has a rich history of participation too in the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), particularly at the time that Dr. Tonks provided great leadership in the formation of its Division of Clinical Chemistry. Many CSCC members have served on IFCC Committees (e.g. Dr. Matthew J. McQueen of Hamilton, Ontario on the Scientific Committee prior to his term as President of IFCC) and on Expert Panels and in other capacities within both IFCC and IUPAC. Dr. J. Gilbert Hill served for some time as IFCC Archivist until centralization of the archives in Nancy, France.

In all respects, with the guidance of a long succession of Councils from its first President, Dr. Bensley, to its current President, Dr. David Kinniburgh of Calgary, Alberta, CSCC has grown steadily as a very active Society with publication of its international journal *Clinical Biochemistry* since 1967, a bimonthly newsletter *CSCC News* more or less since the Society's very



L to R 1st row: Sherry Perkins, Lynn Allen, Connie Prosser, Albert D. Fraser
2nd Row: Jim Wesenberg, Jean-Claude Forest, Lee Wright
3rd Row: Arlene Crowe, Richard Pearce, Matthew McQueen
4th Row: John Nixon, Paul Desjardins, David Seccombe, Kent Dooley, John Krahn



inception, and a widely read and interactive website www.csc.ca; its professional business management has been provided since 1987 by Elizabeth Hooper, Executive Director at CSCC's head office in Kingston, Ontario. In 2006 CSCC celebrated its 50th anniversary with a memorable annual national conference held in Victoria, British Columbia, and the showing of a special historical video prepared by Mr. David R. Tonks of Mississauga, Ontario, the son of CSCC's beloved Dr. David B. Tonks who helped found CSCC in 1956.

CSCC Presidents at the 50th anniversary celebrations. The Presidents were presented with hockey jerseys emblazoned with 'Team CSCC'. Their name and the year of their Presidency is on the back of each jersey. CSCC Presidents continue to receive their jersey at the end of their term of office and all Presidents wear the jersey to the annual conference's Opening Reception and for special occasions such as the presentation of an Honorary Membership.

