

President's Report (July 2002)

It has been a pleasure serving as President of the Canadian Society of Animal Science this past year. I'd like to sincerely thank the members of the 2001/02 CSAS executive for their cooperation, dedication and hard work over the past year. A special thank-you to outgoing executive members Karen Beauchemin, Helene Petit, Mike Dugan and Janice Bailey for their dedication to societal operations. I want to welcome Christine Girard, Duane McCartney, Robert Berthiaume, Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, Doug Yungblut and Alan Iwaasa to the executive for the 2002/03 term. It is important to recognize these individuals for their willingness to donate their time and energy to ensuring the success of our society. The duties of the executive will likely expand in future years as the society moves to take a more active role in the organization and execution of our annual meeting.

With these new members and our past accomplishments, our society is positioned to meet the challenges that are facing the Canadian Society of Animal Science. Our annual meeting has continued to generate a small profit and we have increased our assets in the symposium fund in anticipation of taking an even larger role in the sponsorship and organization of the annual general meeting. Our annual meeting continues to be our premier event within our society and it is extremely important that the quality and attractiveness of this meeting is maintained. I am confident that the meeting in Quebec City will be a huge success and John McKinnon and Phil Thacker are well on their way to planning the 2003 CSAS meeting in Saskatoon. Our new directors-at-large, Doug Yungblut and Alan Iwasa have been appointed to assist the Saskatoon organizing committee.

The web site has dramatically improved our ability to communicate with society membership. The web site has also increased our international recognition as Animal Scientist's from several foreign countries have been to our site and expressed an interest in joining the Canadian Society of Animal Science. As the web site is our primary means of communication, it is extremely important that members update us with regard to any changes in their email address.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Helene Petit who has maintained the society in financial order for the past three years. This is one of the most demanding positions on the executive and as it is not easy to ensure that presidents do not go on wild spending sprees when they take over the reigns of power. A big thanks to Helene for preventing our presidents from venturing down this road that is frequently traveled by other politicians.

I would also like to thank Mike Dugan for his outstanding efforts as this year's Honours and Awards Chair and his successful procurement of Elanco as a sponsor of our "Award for Technical Innovation in Enhancing Production of Safe Affordable Food". I also want to recognize Shannon Scott for her tireless commitment to membership recruitment. With the continued decline in livestock research in Canada, maintaining a constant membership is a daunting task. In our efforts to maintain membership numbers, I have attached a recruitment poster that I would ask that you print out and post in your department. This poster is best printed by saving it to your hard drive and printing it using Adobe Acrobat or the jpeg file with Word. Please post this poster in your department and encourage new members to sign up when ever possible. The membership form is available on our web site www.csas.net and can be printed,

filled out and faxed to the AIC office (613) 594-5190.

I want to also complement Mick Price and Janice Bailey for their efforts to establish a "Biographies" section in the Canadian Journal of Animal Science to recognize the "Giants" of Canadian Animal Science. This section will tastefully recognize those individuals that have made a truly remarkable contribution to Canadian Animal Science. The first of the biographies is scheduled to appear in the December issue of the journal.

It is with great confidence that I turn over the leadership of CSAS to Shannon Scott, an individual that is truly committed to the society's success. Our society continuously faces new challenges and Shannon has the leadership skills to dissect and solve these issues as they arise. In life there are few honors, but for me one of these will most certainly be to have served as president of CSAS.

Tim McAllister
President, CSAS