

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Let me initiate my report by saying what an honour it is to represent the Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists as the current President. As CSCT has had strong, outstanding leadership in this capacity in the past, I will have big shoes to fill. Already the responsibilities and tasks seem to be mounting as advancements are sited, defined, challenged and obtained. I have a skilled team working with me who make up the Executive Board. Each member brings with her/him many years of work experience from different capacities and longevity of service however, they are always strategizing toward the improvement of CSCT initiatives and goals. Their names are listed under the Executive Directors and positions titles from which seat they hold.

Developments continue as we progressively move forward to more diploma programs being initiated in Canadian cities. This continual progressive quest for higher standards in education moves us forward to new developments and standards of practice for the field Cardiology Technology.

The two Ontario Cardiology Technology associations have joined and with the merger a new name has resulted the OSCT, Ontario Society of Cardiology Technologists. With this merger some additional membership funds have come to CSCT. CSCT decided at the Board level to distribute some of these additional funds to the provincial associations to assist them in defraying expenses. Each provincial cardiology technology association was sent \$2,000.00. CSCT wants to support these associations when feasible and applicable, as it is realized many provinces are working on legislation initiatives and other commitments that require additional funding for timely advancement.

The web site is continually updated with new information for our membership. You are encouraged to become familiar with the web site found at www.csct.ca. I may be contacted through the address listed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sarsfield
CSCT President



Provincial Directors & Education Coordinators October 2005 - October 2006

<u>Newfoundland</u> Violet Wight Jackie Kennedy	<u>Ontario</u> Marg Mount Colleen Greeley
<u>Nova Scotia/PEI</u> Lynn Sharpe Linda Gregory	<u>Manitoba</u> Judith Castro Wilma Ablang
<u>New Brunswick</u> Lynn Douglas Nancy Vallis	<u>Saskatchewan</u> Michele Tkach Vince Sopczak
<u>British Columbia</u> Ina Adams Gretchen Dunn	<u>Alberta</u> Marie Roblick Wendy Wilson



CSCT Executive October 2005-October 2006

President:	Karen Sarsfield
Vice-President:	Lynn Douglas
Treasurer:	Karen Schaus
Secretary:	France Nickel
Registrar:	Valerie Gilbert
Education Director:	Irene Williamson
Exam Chair:	Lynn Zinger

E-mail Addresses for the CSCT Officers

president@csct.ca
vicepresident@csct.ca
treasurer@csct.ca
secretary@csct.ca
registrar@csct.ca
education@csct.ca

Anything You Would Like to See in the Atrium?
Have Any Comments About Content or Layout?
How About Feedback?

Send It All To: secretary@csct.ca

EDUCATION REPORT Spring 2006

Hello Everyone
As predicted 2005 was a very busy year!!

Funding Received

It was a long haul but many thanks to Karen Schaus who persisted and took one more stab at applying for HRSDC funding and was successful. This was a long process, her dedication to the profession is overwhelming. Thank you Karen for all your hard work.

CSCT is now able to develop three new multimedia videos for the National Exam. This exam process adapts the traditional Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation (OSCE) to multimedia interactive video scenarios. Multimedia interactive video scenarios evaluate clinical skills such as judgment, problem solving, decisiveness, fact finding (documentation – store ECGs/rhythm strips during a procedure, etc.) and communication skills, etc.

The funding will also provide the development of a French version of the National Exam which should be completed in 2007.

This of course means a tremendous amount of work for the Exam Committee. I am extremely grateful that Lynn Zinger and Carol Griffin are on this committee with me. They are superior, diligent partners. Thank you for your extreme hard work and tremendous amount of time you put forth for the society and members.

New School Programs

We are happy to announce that two more schools have been accepted by the CSCT Board of Directors.

College communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick – Campus de Cambellton (CCNB)

This course is a 2 year college diploma program in-house. It is offered completely in French. The program will enroll approximately 16 students every two years.

Stenberg College

The college is based out of Vancouver and offers diploma programs in Health Care Human Services. The Cardiology Technologist In-House Program is approximately 10 months in duration and will enroll approximately 21 students. For more information please visit their web site at www.stenbergcollege.com

Exam Dates

The CSCT Board of Directors decided in June that due to security and preceptor training issues there will only be 2 exam dates per year. The exams dates will be the last weekend in April and September effective January 1, 2006. The Provincial Education Coordinator or designate will preside and handle all details regarding the exams. The Board of Directors will evaluate exam dates on a yearly basis and make changes as necessary.

Unsuccessful candidates must rewrite within 5 years of the initial examination date in order to obtain their credentials.

Specialty Exams

The Pacemaker Specialty exam is now called Cardiac Pacing and Device Therapy Examination please see the CSCT Hand Guide on our website for more information. Specialty Exams are offered at the same time as the National Registration Exam, the last weekend in April and September. At this time the Ambulatory Monitoring Specialty Exam is not being offered as the CSCT Exam Committee is assessing the possibility of using interactive videos to evaluate member's competencies.

OLD POLL

The CSCT wants to know what your opinion would be regarding receiving the Newsletter more frequently, though only online, via the website or through e-mail.

To send in your comments, address them to:
studentsurvey@csct.ca

With "Atrium" in the Subject line.

Thanks!

We will take your opinions, go through them, and let you know what's up at the next AGM!

DUES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Ever wanted to know what other Cardiology Techs are paying for their monthly dues?

BC - \$130
Alberta - \$165
Saskatchewan - \$100
Manitoba - \$105
Ontario - \$95
Newfoundland - \$100
Nova Scotia - \$120
New Brunswick - \$125

EDUCATION REPORT (cont.)

2005 Examination Results

April

26 candidates wrote, 15 CDI – 5 successful, 4 unsuccessful both portions, 3 Theory, 4 Interactive; 9 BCIT - 7 successful, 1 unsuccessful Theory and 1 Interactive. There were total of 11 rewrites - 6 successful Theory, 2 unsuccessful; 3 Interactive – 2 successful, 1 unsuccessful. 7 wrote ETT and 5 were successful. 1 candidate wrote the CSCT Pacemaker and Cardiac Device Therapy Certification exam and was unsuccessful.

June

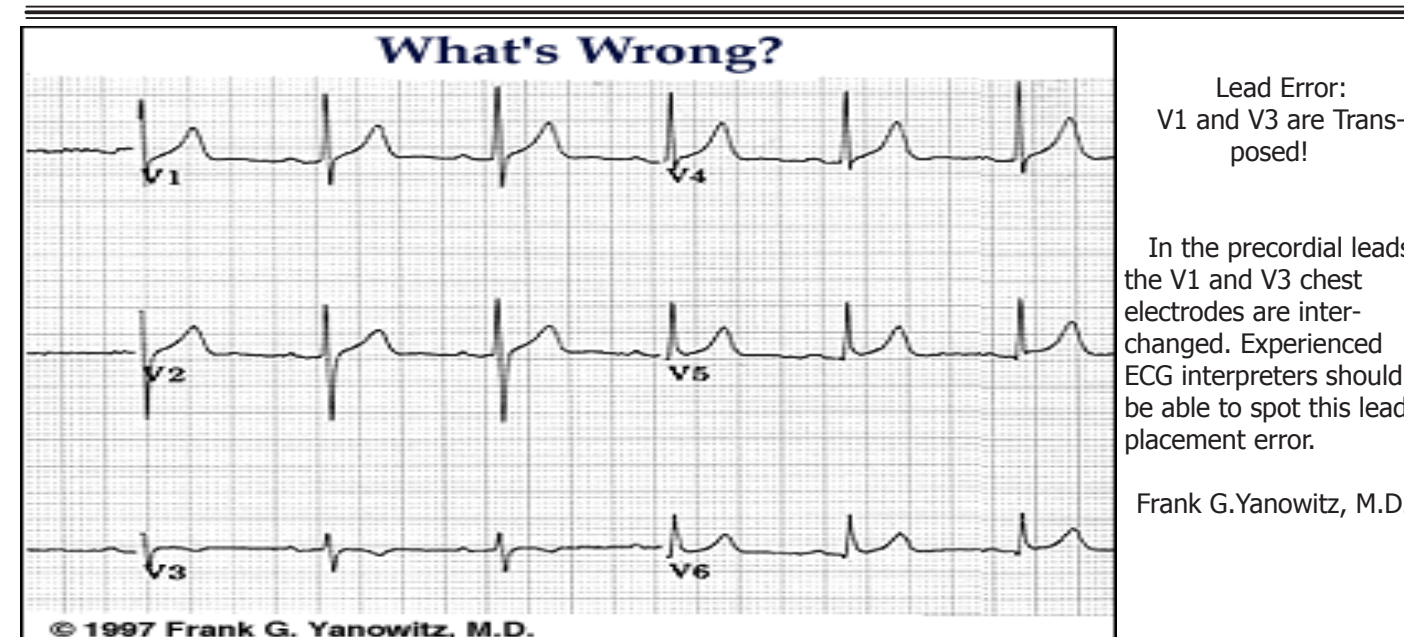
64 candidates wrote in total 29 Mohawk - 24 successful, 4 unsuccessful Theory, 3 Interactive; 21 CDI – 10 successful, 7 unsuccessful both portions, 4 unsuccessful theory; 5 BCIT successful, 2 unsuccessful Theory and 5 rewrites – 3 successful.

November

43 National Certification, 11 BCIT successful, 2 unsuccessful theory; 4 successful Mohawk, unsuccessful 1 Interactive; 17 successful CDI, unsuccessful 2 both portions, 2 theory, 1 Interactive and 15 rewrite, 9 successful candidates. There are 7 ETT 6 were successful.

Everyone have a good healthy year!

Respectfully submitted: Irene Williamson, CSCT Education Director & Lynn Zinger, CSCT Exam Chair



ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) AND THE HEART

Patients with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have been shown to have cardiac abnormalities.

These abnormalities include:

- * myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle)
- * arrhythmias
- * pericarditis (inflammation of the pericardium, the membrane that surrounds the heart)
- * pericardial effusion (fluid around the heart)
- * dilated cardiomyopathy
- * infections of the heart (which can include endocarditis)

If you need more detailed information, see:

- * Heart and Stroke Facts

See also in the Heart and Stroke Guide:

- * Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and (CPR)
- * Arrhythmias
- * Bacterial Endocarditis
- * Cardiomyopathy
- * Cocaine, Marijuana and Other Drugs

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- Program is recognized by the Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists

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424 YONGE STREET, SUITE 200
TORONTO, ON M5B 2H4

ADS in the ATRIUM? YES!

Registered Members and Non-Members are now able to place advertisements in the Atrium. Not only will the ad be seen by members upon receiving the Atrium, it will also be seen by everyone who accesses the Atrium via the website.

Advertising prices are as follows:

Members in Good Standing	
1/4 Page	\$100
1/2 Page	\$150
Business Card	\$50

All Others	
1/4 Page	\$200
1/2 Page	\$300
Business Card	\$100

Deadlines for advertising will be March 1st of each year.

To place an ad in the next newsletter, please send the information to: info@csct.ca



YOU CALLED FOR AN ECG?

When you call for an ECG, what do you really know about the person or profession you have paged? These people are **Cardiology Technologists**. You might recognize them with their carts as they wheel them down the hallways. They love to be called by their professional name - Cardiology Technologists - but will answer to ECG Tech and most other variations!

In addition to being responsible for provision of ECG service, the Registered Cardiology Technologists are capable of analyzing the tracings. When they are out and about in the hospital, they are not only well supposed to be minding their P's and Q's, but the PQRST on the tracing as well.

In the department, they apply ambulatory monitors, often referred to as holters. These monitors record electrical heart activity for 24 or 48 hour periods. The Technologists categorize the data collected, provide their initial impressions, and prepare the report for physician interpretation. Cardiology Technologists are also involved in stress testing, both in regular exercise tolerance testing nuclear cardiac testing, as well as cardiac event monitoring. The technologists perform ambulatory blood pressure monitoring as well.

All technologists must have CSCT Registration, which they receive after writing a detailed 6 hour exam. Many of the technologists are graduates of a CSCT recognized school, be it BCIT, CDI, Mohawk College, Stenberg College, or Red River College. Some have Medical Certificates, Kinesiology or other Bachelor Degrees, and some come with many years of experience in Cardiology or other medical fields. They are CPR certified, and collectively have taken a variety of educational enhancement courses, ranging from ACLS, to other post-secondary diplomas.

The next time you call for an ECG, you will know a little bit more about the Cardiology Technologist, who is on their way to handle your request.

Promote and Support your Professional Body in the WORKPLACE!

CSCT Logo is now available on T-shirts, sweatshirts and much much more!

For information please contact:
Michael G Mechan

Creative Marketing Resources
1455 Durham Street
Oakville, Ontario L6J 2P4

tel: 905-844-7787 fax: 905-844-3803



NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES (cont)

Nova Scotia

CTANS has met several times over the last year and have accomplished a lot of goals. We have had another successful Education Seminar held in Debert, Nova Scotia and was hosted by Colchester Regional Hospital. This was sponsored by GE, Medtronic and St. Jude and was well attended by 43 members. Our AGM is scheduled for May 6th and the meet and greet is being held on May 5th, both are being hosted in Halifax by the QE11.

All members are encouraged to try and attend the Education Seminar and the AGM as both will provide you with your mandatory CEU's and update your knowledge and teach you new skills at the same time.

We updated our Bylaws, Policies and Procedures and executive handbooks.

We are still working towards legislation for our province but due to low numbers as a profession we will have to be patient and wait for this process to move forward. These issues are tabled in order of priority and numbers. We will keep you informed and updated as we progress.

Look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Lynn Sharpe

OFF THE REGISTRAR

HELLO TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS. I KNOW FROM THE FEEDBACK YOU SEND ALONG WITH YOUR PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS TO OUR MEETINGS THAT YOU ARE STAYING IN TOUCH WITH THE GOINGS ON OF THE SOCIETY.

I APPRECIATE ALL OF THE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT ARE PASSED ON TO ME FROM THE PROVINCES. MY JOB IS CERTAINLY MADE EASIER WHEN WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH YOU. PLEASE KEEP ME UPDATED WITH ANY ADDRESS CHANGES, BOTH SNAIL AND ELECTRONIC.

YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS NOW REFLECT YOUR EDUCATION LEVELS. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO US BY YOUR PROVINCIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN VERY ENLIGHTENING AS WE NOW HAVE A DATABASE FOR ALL OF THE MEMBERSHIP. THIS WAS FAIRLY LABOR INTENSIVE FOR THE EDUCATION DIRECTORS AND I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION.

I WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE A DATABASE WITH EVERYONE'S EMAIL ADDRESS, SO PLEASE DROP ME AN E-MAIL WITH YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS. THIS WAY, I WOULD BE ABLE TO INDIVIDUALLY COMMUNICATE WITH YOU.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Gilbert
CSCT Registrar

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

BC

Greetings to all from all CTABC members in British Columbia. There are presently 266 members in good standing and 89 not in good standing. Of the members in good standing, there are 18 members that are inactive, 1 life member and the remaining 247 members are active.

We here in BC have been busy with carrying out the business of our provincial society. In particular, we have been very active with preparing the CTABC's AGM, to be held in Victoria on Vancouver Island, this year between April 28 and 30th, 2006. We are planning one and one-half days of education seminars. Please visit our website at www.ctabc.ca for additional information on our upcoming AGM and if you are in the neighborhood, please drop in and take part.

The application that the CTABC put forward last year to the HEABC and LRB in 2005 has been decided on and the CTABC President has been notified as of February 22, 2006 that:

"There is no dispute that the Cardiology Technologists should be in the paramedical professional bargaining unit. The HSA represents Paramedical professionals at all sites where the Cardiology Technologists work while the HEU does not represent any paramedical Professionals at those sites. Unless and until the Court overturns BMET, it is the Board's policy on union representation in the circumstances that are before me. For those reasons, I decline to exercise my discretion to defer this decision until the HEU's judicial review of BMET and the BMET Reconsideration is complete. As of the date of this decision, I declare that the Cardiology Technologists including electro diagnostic technologists are in the Paramedical professional bargaining unit and are represented by the HSA."

We are also busy getting organized around the 2006 CCC and the CSCT AGM and education seminars here in Vancouver and have struck a committee to deal with each area of organization around this event. Gretchen Dunn, the BC Education Coordinator is heading up the organizing on behalf of the CTABC here in BC and yours truly will be assisting her in any and every way that she can. It promises to be very challenging, for Gretchen and her committee. Updates on this progress will be communicated as it becomes available and posted on the CSCT web.

We here in BC hope that all of you will make every effort to attend this year's AGM in Vancouver and to make this coming year's CSCT AGM a great success.

Ina Adams

Alberta

The Alberta Society of Registered Cardiology Technologists (ASRCT) is hosting their Annual General Meeting and Education session on Saturday May 13, 2006 at the Delta Gateway

Inn in Edmonton. The registration forms will be sent out in April.

It is election time again and we are looking for interested members to make a two year commitment to represent your province. We encourage our members to attend their AGM and education session to help in the collection of CEU's. The new triennium started January 1, 2005 and ends December 31, 2007.

Our board has invited the project manager of Health Disciplines in Alberta to speak to our membership before the AGM, outlining current information on the process and feasibility of moving forward with Regulation. We will request feedback from the members present. Currently in Alberta we need over 50% of our members in agreement to start the process.

We had 7 students write exams in November. Congratulations to the successful candidates from 2005.

A reminder to all registered members and associate (student) members to inform our registrar of address changes, so you receive newsletters, notices, etc. from ASRCT and CSCT.

Calgary and Edmonton hospitals are currently looking for casual Cardiology Technologist Positions. Call Karen Sarsfield at 403-943-3716 for further information.

Marie Roblick

Manitoba

On the designated day for the Cardiology Technologists day February 14th. almost every hospital and medical facility in Manitoba was approached by the board members of MACT Inc to bring awareness to their profession in their facilities. Some centers put up posters, balloons, eye catching decorations, wore badges, served heart shaped candies, cookies and cake etc. The board decided that each facility will be given up to 20.00 dollars for their expenditure if needed. The Cardiologists were sent letters requesting donations to make this day a success.

The office of the mayor of Winnipeg was contacted to make him aware of the proposal of the proclamation. The Minister of Health will be contacted now that the day is officially designated at the national level.

Our Education Session and AGM has been scheduled for May 06.2006 at the Victoria General Hospital, Winnipeg Manitoba.

We do not have any students attempting the CSCT certification examination this April.

The Cardiology Technologist Advisory Committee met with the Red River College on March 13, 2006. We were informed that the college is ready to commence the in-house Cardiology Technology Program in September 2006. Out of the 400 applications received, 18 applicants will be selected on first come first serve basis, taking into consideration that one or two may drop out of the course over the year for various reasons.

The MACT Inc. board is desperately seeking for members to come on board and take positions to run the board effectively and professionally. With the Cardiology Technology in-house training program in the horizon the Association will greatly appreciate new ideas and new faces. The board encourages members to attend as many sessions as possible to gain knowledge and accumulate CEUS.

Polly Pachou

Ontario

OSCT is proud to announce that the second annual AGM and Education Day will be held in London, Ontario on May 5 and 6, 2006. Registration information is available on the OSCT Website. (www.osct.ca) A preceptor's workshop, casino night and seminars about Congenital Heart Disease, EP Imaging, and something from a Pacemaker Company are part of the two day conference. Elections for new Directors will also be held.

Our Legislation Committee has been working to organize resource literature to educate themselves and to inform members about the process and to encourage cooperation from members. They are in the process of asking support from peer groups and individual cardiologists who are willing to champion our cause. The Committee has completed an introductory document to show Ontario's current Association structure. The Committee continues to work diligently to complete the nine criteria to be included in the application to HPRAC, which will be combined and organized with the help of a pro-bono group of lawyers.

We have encouraged our members to celebrate National Cardiology Day and send us photographs of how they celebrated. We will show the pictures at our AGM and award a group with a prize.

There are 14 students challenging the CSCT exam this spring as well as 6 re-writes. We wish our students the very best in their studies. We are hoping to have a central location for this set of exams. Have a good spring.

Marg Mount

Newfoundland

CTAN has not met since CCC in Montreal. St.. Clare's Hospital in St. John's will be the host of this year's AGM and Education Day, which will be held May 13, 2006. We are hoping for a great turnout and are looking forward to seeing our fellow colleagues from across the province.

February 13-17 was Cardiology Technologists week. The usual posters and videos, etc. were set up in various hospitals across our province promoting our profession.

2005 was a successful year in our fundraising efforts. It is a continuous effort on everyone's behalf to come up with new ideas to try and raise money for our association.

Violet Wight