



### EXECUTIVE UPDATES

#### Strategic Review of the Canadian Association of Physicists:

##### *Message from Kenneth Ragan, CAP President*

The CAP Executive has been engaged in a strategic planning exercise to help guide the Association's evolution over the next five years. We have had several day-long retreats, and an informal consultation with the members. The plan's skeleton structure is now in place, together with an overarching vision statement for the Association: "The Canadian Association of Physicists endeavours to benefit Canada by unleashing the full potential of physics and physicists in this country." This vision statement has led us to seven themes, and in turn to four strategic goals that we hope to realize over the next five years. They are:

- To improve the visibility of physics and physicists in Canada through excellence in communications;
- To effectively advocate at all levels the value of physics and physicists;
- To strengthen the profession of physics;
- To achieve organizational and operational excellence to provide services in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner.

For each of these strategic goals, several actions and approaches have been identified. We are now conducting a survey among members to provide feedback on their view and prioritization of these actions. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to fill out the survey on the CAP website (under Member Services), before July 24<sup>th</sup>. We will start to look at the survey responses on July 24, but the survey will remain open for input for several days after that. With this feedback from you, we hope to have a final document for the strategic plan in early autumn, and plan to submit it to a number of arms-length reviewers prior to presenting it to Council for approval. I hope you will assist us in shaping the future direction of your Association.

#### Report from the Outgoing CAP President, Gabor Kunstatter

The June 2013 Report from the Outgoing President, is now available on the CAP Web site at <http://www.cap.ca/en/home/presidents-welcome/report-2013-june>. This report gives you the highlights of the CAP's organization and activities for 2012/2013 as well as a brief look to the future.

Quoting from the report, "the following points are key as we move forward: (i) The CAP must build on the recent gains made by the Science Policy Committee with regard to lobbying and media exposure. The CAP is well positioned to provide a strong voice for the Canadian physics community and we must develop a coherent and effective communications strategy to make this happen.; (ii) We must continue to communicate the priorities of the physics community to NSERC and provide support for the broad base of basic research that is a large part of NSERC's mandate.; (iii) The CAP must expand its membership base to ensure that it is a strong and effective representative of the physics community in its advocacy role. The CAP needs to develop a long term strategy for increasing not only the numbers, but also the active engagement of our members in both academic and non-academic sectors. (iv) Finally, I believe that we need to increase substantially our cooperation with sister scientific organizations." In addition, the presentation given by the Outgoing President at the 2013 annual congress in Montreal is also available online at [http://www.cap.ca/sites/cap.ca/files/congress\\_president\\_report\\_may29.pdf](http://www.cap.ca/sites/cap.ca/files/congress_president_report_may29.pdf).

#### Educational Trust Fund

Recently, the Educational Trust Fund (ETF) (<http://www.cap.ca/en/activities/educational-trust-fund>) has transitioned to the *CAP Foundation*, with a new by-law and governance structure. The change is designed so that the new Foundation will be more arms-length from the CAP and better positioned for fundraising.

The ETF hopes that the transfer of charitable status will be in place before the end of this calendar year. The CAP members will receive an update on this transition process in the Fall.

### DISTINCTIONS

Each year the CAP recognizes excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service in physics in Canada by offering awards to established researchers, enterprising students, promising scientists, and exceptional teachers. Please note that the nomination deadline for all CAP medals (except HS Teaching Awards) has been advanced to November 15, 2013 to allow for a more streamlined process, including the announcement of winners early in the new year. The deadline for nominations for the HS/CEGEP Teachers' Award is around February 15, 2014.



## LOBBYING EFFORTS

### Activities of the CAP/NSERC Liaison Committee

The terms of reference of the CAP/NSERC Liaison Committee were recently re-written and the committee is now "an arms-length" joint committee of CAP and NSERC. The committee's comprehensive new website (<http://www.phys-cap-nserc.org/>) offers highlights of the committee's recent activities. Last month John Dutcher, the committee's chair wrote a letter to the members of the Canadian physics research community regarding the recent restructuring and refocusing of the Liaison Committee. In the near future the committee will "identify, discuss and analyze opportunities that the Canadian physics research community could seize or build on, and challenges that it may face, in its quest to be at the forefront of research at the international level."

## EVENTS

### 2013 CAP Congress

The 2013 Congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists (<http://www.cap.ca/en/congress/2013>), the largest physics meeting in Canada, took place in Montreal during May 27-31. The event was attended by over 700 physics researchers from universities, industry, and government labs. The meeting offered its usual outstanding scientific program of plenary sessions, invited sessions, contributed sessions, and poster sessions. The public lecture on quantum information theory by 2012 Nobel Prize winner Serge Haroche was very well attended and highly informative. Dr. Haroche has been invited to publish his talk in *Physics in Canada* and a video of the talk is being prepared for posting on the CAP website. The next CAP Congress (<http://www.cap.ca/en/congress/2014>) will be held at Laurentian University from June 16-20, 2014. The 2014 Program Committee will be chaired by CAP Vice-President Robert Fedosejevs.

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Women in Physics Canada Conference, July 25-27 2013

The Third "Women in Physics Canada" Conference will be held at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, July 25-27, 2013. This conference is aimed at young women in all areas of physics, primarily undergraduate and graduate students, as well as early career physicists and postdocs. It will provide an opportunity for the participants to present their research and network with other women physicists. This three-day conference will feature seven invited speakers from a wide range of physics fields, three panel discussions on topics relevant to women in physics and parallel sessions where attendees may present their research. In addition there will be plenty of chances to network with women from across Canada at the conference banquet, BBQ and coffee breaks. For more information and to register for the conference please go to the conference website: <http://www.physics.sfu.ca/wipc2013> or e-mail us at: [wipc2013@sfu.ca](mailto:wipc2013@sfu.ca). The goals of the conference include building a strong community of women physicists, sharing research results and ideas, raising awareness of careers in science and technology, and working towards increased participation of women in physics in Canada. Thanks to our generous sponsors who have provided funds to subsidize registration fees and provide travel grants for participants from outside the Vancouver, BC area.

### The 5<sup>th</sup> IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics 2014

Wilfrid Laurier University, on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicists, will host the 5<sup>th</sup> International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) International Conference on Women in Physics (ICWIP) from August 5-9, 2014. The IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics visited Laurier from June 8 to 10, 2013. ICWIP is a major global conference that has a history of success and impact on the physics community around the world. The conference provides a forum for both scientific presentations and for discussion of issues related to attracting, retaining and improving the status of women in physics. Past meetings have showcased high-profile female speakers including Dr. Jocelyn Bell-Burnell who first discovered pulsars, Dr. Mae Jemison, the first female African-American astronaut to travel in space, and Dr. Chen Zhili, Minister of Education, China. Participants at the conference develop and endorse resolutions to help address gender issues and advance the IUPAP mission to promote physics worldwide.



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The 5th ICWIP at Laurier will be the first ICWIP meeting to be held in North America. It is expected to attract more than 300 delegates, from as many as 60 countries to discuss issues facing women in science. It will feature talks by leading physicists, facilitate networking, and promote strategies to create a strong worldwide community for women in physics. The conference will offer a mix of plenary talks, poster sessions, breakout sessions, local tours and community outreach activities. Canada as the host country, gets the benefit of having an unlimited number of delegates attend the conference. More information about IUPAP and the past ICWIP meetings is available here: <http://www.iupap.org/wg/wg5/>.

### **The 2013 Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference, October 17-20**

The Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference (<http://cupc.ca/>), the largest undergraduate non-profit physics conference in North America, will be hosted this year by McMaster University during October 17-20. The conference consists of student talks and poster sessions, plenary lectures by distinguished physicists, lab tours, a graduate fair, and multiple social events. Students involved in research, as well as several notable speakers, will present on a variety of topics including astronomy & astrophysics, molecular physics, nuclear and particle physics, biomedical engineering, and quantum nanoelectronics. Awards will be given to the best student orators in each category. The 2013 CUPC aims to involve multiple academic and industrial partners from these various fields. Between 150 and 200 students are anticipated to attend the 2013 CUPC, with additional participation from faculty members, graduate students, and members of the McMaster community.

### **CAM 2013 at the University of Waterloo, August 15-18**

The Canadian-Mexican-American (CAM) graduate student physics conference will be held in Waterloo from August 15-18, 2013. The CAM Conference is a joint meeting of the Canadian, American and Mexican Physical Societies which is held every second year, cycling between locations in Mexico, the United States, and Canada. This conference provides an opportunity for graduate students to share the results of their research with their peers and to network with other students on an international level. CAM also features plenary talks as well as panel sessions with senior researchers. The aim of the CAM Conference is to provide an outstanding opportunity for students to develop professional skills, learn a broad range of physics topics, and initiate interactions across geographical borders. Furthermore, it will foster communication and exchange of ideas among students of various backgrounds and interests.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Upcoming Issue of *Physics in Canada***

The next themed issue of *Physics in Canada* will be Vol. 69, No. 1 (2013). The issue, whose guest editor is Dr. Robert Thompson (University of Calgary) will feature a selection of articles on *Ion Trapping* using Penning, radiofrequency or combination traps. Possible topics for the featured articles include: dynamics of laser cooled trapped ions, studies of the combined trap, studies of the quantum mechanics of single ions, laser spectroscopy of highly-charged ions, quantum information processing studies with trapped ions.

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Suite 112, McDonald Building, University of Ottawa, 150 Louis Pasteur Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6N5

Tel: 613-562-5614 Fax: 613-562-5615 Email: [CAP@uottawa.ca](mailto:CAP@uottawa.ca)

Website: [www.cap.ca](http://www.cap.ca)

Editor: Adriana Predoi-Cross, CAP Director of Communications