



CAP NEWS

CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
PHYSICISTS

Volume 13, Number 1
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Report from the CAP President, Kenneth Ragan

The March 2014 Report from the CAP President, is now available on the CAP Web site at <http://www.cap.ca/en/home/presidents-welcome/report-2014-march>. This report gives you the highlights of the CAP's organization and activities for 2013/2014 as well as a brief look to the future. Quoting from the report "A major pending issue is the requirement for the CAP to submit an application for continuance by October 2014 to comply with new federal legislation for non-profit organizations such as ours. The process to modify our by-laws and governance structure was started with a change to the membership section of the by-laws approved during our 2013 CAP Congress. The next step is to complete the overhaul and updating of our bylaws to reflect a governance structure that meets the requirements of the new Not-for-Profits Act. New by-laws, which will have been endorsed by CAP Council, will be presented at the 2014 Annual General Meeting for adoption by the membership. Once implemented following the 2014 AGM, the new governance structure will be revisited by Council to ensure that appropriate checks and balances on behalf of the membership are in place and a report will be made at the 2015 AGM."

Strategic Review and Planning of the Canadian Association of Physicists:

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 CAP Strategic Planning exercise is now nearly complete. The CAP Council members and external reviewers have examined the draft report and the final version of the strategic planning report will be presented at the 2014 Congress in June. An implementation document based on the Strategic Plan is in preparation. The implementation document is expected to lay out specific actions, time-lines and measurables or deliverables that will further the goals laid out in the Strategic Plan.

CAP Foundation

Recently, the former Educational Trust Fund (ETF) 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 structure of the CAP Foundation has already been updated. On December 20, 2013, the CAP Foundation was granted charitable status and work is now underway to transfer the assets of the Educational Trust Fund to the CAP Foundation. An official launch of the new Foundation is planned for later 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. The 2014 medal winners were recently announced (see <http://www.cap.ca/en/activities/medals-and-awards/medal-recipients-year> .) and will be giving invited talks at the 2014 CAP Congress at Laurentian University in June.

LOBBYING EFFORTS AND SCIENCE POLICY

Quoting from the March 2014 Report from the CAP President, "In August 2013, CAP submitted a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (HCSCF) on the subject of the 2014 federal budget. Our top priority was to increase the Discovery Grants program at NSERC by \$15M per annum (approximately a 5% increase).



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The HCSCF published a report in January entitled "*The Future We Want*" summarizing and commenting on the submissions. A CAP analysis by our Science Policy Committee (SCP) of this document can be found at <http://www.cap.ca/en/news/2014-01-14/cap-science-policy-summary-and-comments-future-we-want-recommendations-2014-budget-p>.

The federal budget was tabled in the House of Commons on February 11, 2014. It includes an additional \$15M per year for NSERC, although it is not yet known how that amount will be divided among programs. The budget had several other positives for science in Canada, including a new Canada First Research Excellence Fund (for an analysis of the budget by our SPC, see <http://www.cap.ca/en/news/2014-02-12/proposed-2014-federal-budget-stable-funding-existing-programs-and-new-initiatives>).

Industry Canada released a position paper in January 2014 entitled "Seizing Canada's Moment: Moving Forward in Science, Technology, and Innovation". Our SPC spearheaded an analysis of, and a response to, this paper, with concrete suggestions for improvements to Canada's R&D landscape (see <http://www.cap.ca/en/news/2014-02-04/caps-response-2014-industry-canada-consultation-paper-seizing-canadas-moment-moving>).

Interactions with NSERC

The website of the CAP/NSERC Liaison Committee offers highlights of the committee's recent activities. Their goal is to "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." A recent interaction between CAP and NSERC was the consultation on open-access policy (<http://www.cap.ca/en/news/2013-12-05/summary-proposed-tri-agency-open-access-policy>).

The CAP Executive regularly meets with senior NSERC personnel, and our discussion during the fall touched on the time frame for reallocation, the status of the 5-year review of the changes to the Discovery Grants selection criteria, and the introduction of the Canadian Common CV. The spring meeting of the CAP Executive will include meetings with Pierre Charest and Elizabeth Boston of NSERC.

PUBLICATIONS

Upcoming Issue of Physics in Canada

A future themed mini-issue of Physics in Canada edited by Adriana Predoi-Cross (University of Lethbridge) and Kirk Michaelian (CanmetENERGY-Devon) will feature a selection of articles on recent outstanding research projects conducted at the Canadian Light Source, Saskatoon. Topics for the featured articles will include: X-Ray Optics Development for Biomedical Imaging Applications, Resonant Elastic X-Ray Scattering in Cuprate Superconductors, Dinosaurs, Photoemission Studies From VUV to Hard X-ray.

EVENTS

2014 CAP Congress

The 2014 Congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists (<http://www.cap.ca/en/congress/2014>), the largest physics meeting in Canada, will take place at Laurentian University during June 16 - 20, 2014. The meeting will offer an outstanding scientific program of plenary sessions, invited sessions, contributed sessions, and poster sessions. Prof. John Ellis of King's College London will be the Herzberg Public Lecturer at the Congress. The event will be attended by physics researchers from universities, industry, and government labs who will present ground breaking research results. Highlights of the meeting include tours of the nearby SNOLAB facility and a 'progressive dinner' at the Science North Museum in Sudbury.



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The 5th IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics 2014

The Wilfrid Laurier University, on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicists, will host the 5th International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) International Conference on Women in Physics (ICWIP) from August 5-9, 2014. The 5th ICWIP will be the first ICWIP meeting to be held in North America.

It is expected to attract more than 200 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.

Confirmed speakers are: *Melissa Franklin* (Experimental particle physicist, the Mallinckrodt Professor and Chair of Physics at Harvard University); *Silvia Torres-Peimbert* (Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Astronomy, Mexico City University, Mexico and the President Elect of the Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union); *Sabine Stanley* (Canada Research Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Toronto); *Tsai-Chien Chiang* (author of a biography of the famous experimental physicist Dr. Wu Chien-Shiung entitled "Madam Wu Chien-Shiung: The First Lady of Physics Research"); *Patience Mthunzi* (originally from South Africa, she holds a PhD in Physics from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK); *Claudia Felser* (director at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Physics of Solids in Dresden (Germany)). More information about the conference is available at: <http://icwip2014.wlu.ca/>

The Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference 2014

The Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference, the largest undergraduate non-profit physics conference in North America, will be hosted this year by Queen's University in the Fall. The CUPC goal is to help undergraduate students to continue in physics by providing them with the opportunity to experience a professional conference, information about graduate school and professions in physics, and access to researchers in physics of all ages with whom they can share experiences, advice, and ideas.

A typical program will include research talks by faculty, panel discussions about graduate school and careers in physics, presentations and discussions about women in physics, laboratory tours, student research talks, a student poster session, and several meals during which presenters and students interact with each other.

As in previous conferences, students involved in research, as well as notable speakers, will present on a variety of topics including astronomy & astrophysics, molecular physics, nuclear and particle physics, biomedical engineering. Awards will be given to the best student orators in each category. The CUPC aims to involve multiple academic and industrial partners from these various fields. Between 150 and 200 students are anticipated to attend the CUPC, with additional participation from faculty members, graduate students, and members of the Queen's University community.

CAP News is a publication of the **Canadian Association of Physicists**

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