
The Advocacy and Lobbying Report Update

The CSBMCB has been very active on your behalf this year. The Canadian Science Funding petition is hosted on the CSBMCB website (http://www.csbmcb.ca/e_index.html). The petition arose from a well-publicized protest of some of our colleagues about the review of co-funding and project management by accountants for the last Genome Canada competition. Applications had to pass this step before the quality of their science was reviewed. There was a fundamental principle in research funding at stake, and we agreed to host the petition so that our colleagues can show their support for this principle. Currently there are 1,863 signatures. Following up on this we scheduled a meeting with David Emerson who was at that time the Liberal Minister of Industry Canada. Although he could not attend the meeting we had a productive meeting with some Industry Canada staff and then with the Federal Science Advisor, Dr. Arthur Carty and Dr. Peter Nicholson from the Prime Minister's office (Dr. Nicholson is now the head of the new Canadian Academies of Science).

We solicited your opinions for two focused advocacy efforts. The first was for the Federal Genomics Review that is reviewing all funding for genomics

and proteomics research. The report will be ready in May 2006. The second was organized by Joe Casey for our input into the external review of the CIHR. For both, the response from CSBMCB members was excellent and eloquent.

Another initiative suggested by Reinhart Reithmeier is the Canadian Council of Biomedical Chairs. This would be a more focused lobby group representing the biomedical basic sciences to governments and granting agencies.

The CFBS has now a new Executive Director, a biochemist trained at the University of Alberta, Dr. Art Olson. Art has a lot of experience in working in government departments and we look forward to working with him

The most effective voices for research are us, the researchers. Let your community and MP know about your successes and concerns. Maybe we can all adopt an MP and have them working in our labs for a day?