
47th Annual Meeting of the CSBMCMB: Musings on Mont Tremblant 2004

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Our 47th Annual Scientific Meeting at Mont Tremblant (Québec) - entitled "Cellular Signalling: from the Membrane to the Nucleus" - has come and gone and, without reservation, was a resounding scientific and social success. The venue was beautiful and the hotel accommoda-



tions, facilities and food were top-notch, albeit pricey. André Lou and Associates did a great job handling the logistics of arranging the meeting (registrations, hotel accommodations, airport bus shuttles, etc...). Needless to say, but said anyway, you get what you pay for. The Scientific Organizing Committee, headed by Dr. Terry Hébert, did a superb job of recruiting a stellar slate of 27 speakers from across Canada, the United States

and Europe, and assembling 47 poster presentations. Attendance reached a respectable — 120 registrants, mainly from Québec and Ontario, but there is still room for improvement. The Society needs to do a better job of getting the message out to Canadian scientists — neophytes and seasoned individuals alike — that these are great meetings that should not be missed. A committee of the CSBMCMB Executive Board, headed by Councillor Dr. Linda Penn, is currently developing a broad strategy to address this very issue, which hopefully will bear fruit in the near future. That said, the Executive has received many positive comments from the meeting participants — some of which have translated into new memberships for the society.

Terry Hébert also deserves our highest praise and thanks for doing an outstanding job of raising funds from corporate and government sponsors.

Because of his efforts, we were able to provide generous travel awards to every graduate student and post-doctoral fellow who presented a poster of their work at the meeting, and whose supervisor was a member of the Society. Indeed, the awards were double our initial budgeted amounts (stipends for "local" and "distant" individuals were \$600 and \$1200 respectively). A few were also selected and awarded prizes for the quality of their posters. If these aren't sufficient incentives for investigators to join the Society and to send their trainees to the annual meetings, then what is? Well, we had that covered too. Fancy oversized CSBMCMB T-shirts — leftovers from the 2003 HUPO/IUBMB/CSBMCMB joint meeting — were freely dispensed to those in need to new pajamas.

As for the Annual General Meeting itself, it was perhaps the most efficiently run session we have had in many a year — done in record time (less than 30 minutes). I attribute this to the administrative dexterity of the Executive, although perhaps the rather low attendance of the membership (is anyone out there?) might have been a contributing factor. If anyone has any advice on how to attract members to such events, let the Executive Board know, and you will receive a free T-shirt!

The final Banquet, as always, was a feast fit for royalty. Presentations were made to Dr. Terry Hébert for his exceptional efforts in organizing the Mont Tremblant meeting. A gift and a plaque of commendation were presented to Dr. Gene Tustanoff, who retired as Secretary of the CSBMCMB after 12 years of diligent service to the Society, and to Dr. David Andrews, who served as Vice-President, President and Past-President. Other announced changes to the Board included the ascendance of Dr. Joe Casey to the position of President, and the recruitment of Dr. David Thomas, McGill University, as Vice-President, and Dr. Albert

Clark, Queen's University, as Secretary of the Society.

In closing, we have had another successful meeting as a vibrant and dynamic Society. As a member of the Executive for the past two years, I have personally benefitted from my involvement in the Society through my interactions with dedicated and hardworking individuals who are committed to fostering science in Canada. Through their efforts, the Society continues to thrive and prosper. So, check the CSBMCB web site (<http://www.csbmc-b.ca>) regularly, and keep your Palm Pilots, Blackberrys or good old-fashioned calendars on hand, as there are a number of great meetings being planned for the upcoming years.