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Dr. Amol Mujoomdar

## President's Blog: Dr. Mujoomdar

I took over the presidency of the CAIR at the Annual General Meeting on May 31st in Toronto.

I feel honored to have been chosen to lead our extraordinary organisation for the next two years. I want to thank and congratulate Jason Wong for his tremendous work as President since 2017. Thanks to Jason, CAIR has made great strides in the implementation of its exciting strategic plan.

The CAIR Initiative that we launched last year is a key component of our strategic plan. The CAIR Initiative aims to raise awareness about the benefits of IR procedures and to lift the hurdles that stand in the way of better access for

Canadians to IR treatments. Take a look at the [new section devoted to uterine fibroid embolization](#) on the CAIR website . It is designed to help patients better understand the procedure and its benefits, and can be used by our members to help patients make informed decisions about their care. This is a good example of the awareness raising we want to achieve through the CAIR Initiative .

I had the pleasure of meeting key Ontario decision makers when I was in Toronto for the CAIR Annual Meeting in May. I was particularly happy with the meeting we, Tara Graham, CAIR Vice-President, Daniel Lapointe, CAIR Executive Director,

and I, had with Mr. Stan Cho, current Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance and, at the time of our meeting,

Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board. Mr. Cho was very interested by what we had to say and receptive to how IR can help the Ontario government control costs and maximize its financial investments in the health sector.

By the way, the CAIR Annual Meeting, held in Toronto in collaboration with the CAMRT, was a huge success. As the Chair of the Planning Committee of the event, I share the highlights of the Meeting in a separate article of this issue



MPP Stan Cho, Amol Mujoomdar, Tara Graham, Daniel Lapointe

of the CAIR Express. I think our Annual Meetings are getting better every year. Many thanks to my co-chairs of the Planning Committee, Tara Graham and David Valenti, to the Tech and Nurses Committee, Jeannie Brewster, Lynne Carson, Linda Payne, Jessie Szarek and to Sarah Elimam, CAIR Manager of Events and Membership. The quality of our flagship event is the result of a team effort in which every team member has an important role to play.

I am also very happy to write my first President's blog for the CAIR Express. Since Vamshi Kotha took over as CAIR Express editor, the newsletter is an outstanding resource to stay tuned on what's going on in IR in Canada and beyond.

I look forward to an exciting two-year term as the CAIR President. I want to thank the 10 CAIR Board members I will have the pleasure to work with in the year to come.

- ◇ Tara Graham, Vice-President
- ◇ Jason Wong, Immediate Past-President
- ◇ Darren Klass, Secretary-Treasurer
- ◇ Sandy Bailey

- ◇ Rob Beecroft
- ◇ Véronique Caty
- ◇ Bob Cook
- ◇ Darren Ferguson
- ◇ Kevin He
- ◇ David Valenti

With such a remarkable and dedicated Board and the extraordinary support provided by Daniel Lapointe and Sarah Elimam, I am confident the CAIR will continue on its path of strengthening IR in Canada.

Amol Mujoomdar  
CAIR President



## Catching up with... Dr. Stephen G.F Ho

Dr. Ho is a Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist at the Vancouver General and University of British Columbia Hospital. He is the Head of Interventional Radiology at VGH, and holds a cross appointment in the Department of Surgery. He is also the Chair of the National Sub-Specialty Committee for Interventional Radiology. The committee was recently successful on achieving recognition for IR at the Royal College level and establishing the Royal College IR certificate examination.



Dr. Stephen G.F Ho

### CAIR Interview Question & Answers

“ This recognition underscores the value that IR brings to patient care, as part of the clinical team.”

**1. With establishment of the certificate exam, IR has been recognized as a dedicated subspecialty by the Royal College. What does this momentous achievement mean for IR in Canada?**

As a subspecialty of Diagnostic Radiology of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Interventional Radiology has been recognized as an important and growing clinical aspect of modern medicine. This recognition underscores the value that IR brings to patient care, as part of the clinical team. Based on a strong foundation in Diagnostic Radiology, IR expands the use of imaging tools with techniques to guide therapy and aid diagnosis. Recognition from the Royal College provides our subspecialty legitimate access to important decisions in patient care and funding. Furthermore, as a recognized subspecialty, this

will lead to standardized training in IR across Canada through accredited residency programs.

**2. How does it feel to have accomplished this as Chair of the National Subspecialty Committee for IR?**

As the Chair of the National Sub-Specialty Committee for Interventional Radiology, I am thrilled with this ‘official’ validation of IR.

This accomplishment could not have been achieved without the enormous effort of the pioneers of Canadian IR that have forged the way to lead us to where our specialty is today. CAIR (formerly CIRA) was instrumental in obtaining this recognition, guided by their leadership over the years. Millward, Asch, Collingwood, Giroux, Hardy, Abraham, Benko, Soulez,

Simons, Kachura, and Machan are some of the most recognizable names synonymous with IR in Canada and, indeed, internationally. I thank each of them who have contributed to moving our subspecialty forward. CIRA fought hard for this recognition, and the application process was not without significant challenges. In particular, Dr. Andrew Benko, a past president, chaired the joint working committee of CIRA/RCPSC in developing much of the original documentation and foundation for what it means to be an IR in Canada.

**3. Could you outline in brief the pathways available for IRs in Canada to appear for the exams?**

There are two pathways for

**“There are several programs that have applied, in the process of applying, or have been approved by the Royal College.”**

achieving Royal College certification in IR. I should note that IR is defined as a subspecialty with certification by examination.

That is, similar to our parent specialty, Diagnostic Radiology, successful completion of a certification examination is required. Another important note is that as IR is a subspecialty, certification in our parent Diagnostic Radiology is mandatory. In other words, one cannot only have IR certification in Canada without first being certified in Diagnostic Radiology. Similar to Diagnostic Radiology, residents completing an accredited IR residency program are eligible to sit the certification examination, the traditional route. In the future, this will be the ‘normal’ route for certification. However, as we all know, IR certification is new. There are several programs that have applied, in the process of applying, or have been approved by the Royal College. The application, review and approval process takes significant time and at the time of this interview there is only one accredited program in Canada (Université Laval). During this transition until there are more programs, there are graduates from fellowship programs in Canada and elsewhere as well as those current IR practitioners whose training predates certification.

The Royal College has a process by which certification can also be obtained through the certification examination.

Practicing IRs and recent trainees from traditional IR fellowships can apply to sit the examination through the Practice Eligibility Route for Subspecialists (PERsub). Any practicing interventional radiologist who has Canadian certification in Diagnostic Radiology (FRCPC in Diagnostic Radiology) is eligible to apply. Recent graduates of fellowship programs in interventional radiology can also apply if they have FRCPC certification in Diagnostic Radiology. PERsub assesses current scope of practice in addition to educational credentials and other supporting documentation to determine eligibility to sit the certification examination.

#### **5. How does the exam benefit future IR residents and fellows in Canada?**

The path to subspecialty recognition has been long. The Royal College approved IR as a subspecialty in 2013, at which time I became officially involved in the working group in IR for the Royal College. However, I believe that CIRA applied at least twice to the Royal College before approval with the final application in 2011/2012. In 2013, the Royal College created this working group with country wide rep-

resentation, with Dr. Benko as the Chair. Between 2013 and 2016, the working group came together regularly from all across Canada. In addition to these face to face meetings, much work was carried out through email and teleconferences to write and rewrite all the necessary documents. These included the Objectives of Training, the Subspecialty Training Requirements, the FITER, the Application Questionnaire, and the Specific Standards of Accreditation. This was difficult and tedious work creating and defining in exact detail what IR is and should be. In 2016, these documents were finalized, completing the mandate of the working group. Translation of the documents was then performed and reviewed to ensure standard and consistent terminology across English and French versions. Also, in 2016, the Subspecialty Committee was formed and I was appointed Chair. An examination committee was established to create all the necessary components of the short answer question examination. This entire process continues to evolve and I note that we have already made revisions to some of the original documents to fit current standards!

#### **6. What are the benefits for practicing IRs to take this exam?**

As we transition to that time

**“Any practicing interventional radiologist who has Canadian certification in Diagnostic Radiology (FRCPC in Diagnostic Radiology) is eligible to apply.”**

where governments and licensing bodies who are aware of the subspecialty status of IR will require certification, I believe that current practitioners in IR can 'stay ahead' of the curve. We can create a strong base of IR if current practitioners obtain certification. As a result, we can help achieve our mission as stated by CAIR to improve the health and quality of life of Canadians through minimally invasive image guided therapy. I strongly encourage all those who currently practice Interventional Radiology to apply to the Royal College to obtain their certification.

#### **7. What are the future plans for IR as a subspecialty at the Royal College level?**

I believe the future of IR in Canada is promising but we need to continue to

advocate for best practices for our patients with our recognized expertise in image guided therapy. The National Sub-Specialty Committee for Interventional Radiology will continue with its mission to set the standards in IR education – through the accreditation of residency programs and the administration of the certification examination.

I plan to continue to support the development of additional residency programs in Canada.

#### **8. Now that we have subspecialty recognition, any thoughts on IR specific radiology residency? What needs to be done now?**

The IR residency program is somewhat unique. It is a two year program, and the first year may be done concurrently

within a Diagnostic Radiology residency. These first year requirements are reasonably general in nature and could be accomplished within the PGY3 to PGY5 years within Diagnostic Radiology. That is, the rotational requirements of the "first year" in IR may, in fact, be completed over several years during the Diagnostic Radiology program. I encourage the interested reader to refer to the [Royal College website for the Subspecialty Training Requirements](#). Additional information may also be obtained on the Royal College website, under the "[Information by Discipline](#)" in the Examinations tab. Interventional Radiology may be found under the pull down menu for "Subspecialty". In particular, more information about the IR examination

## Recap on: the CAIR 2019 AGM

As you are all aware, the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting was held recently in Toronto. The meeting was a resounding success with excellent attendance by physicians, technologists, nurses and industry.

Our excellent guest speakers, Dr. Victoria Marx, Dr. Robert Morgan, Dr. Wael Saad and Dr. John Kaufman provided amazing lectures and insight during the meeting, including on residents and fellow's day.

Some of the particular highlights from the guest speakers included the cases from the best and worst days, the transplant intervention workshop,

portal hypertension and aortic/CLI sessions, to name a few. One of the biggest topics looming over most vascular meetings is the discussion around paclitaxel devices. This was well covered in the debates session by Drs. Kaufman and Morgan. Their leadership and expertise was appreciated and will help guide IR's through this controversy.

They each relayed their feedback, and enjoyed the world-class content and intimacy of our meeting. We continue building on past successes in obtaining amazing speakers for CAIR.

We also appreciated the amazing Canadian speakers who spoke on many

different topics from interventional oncology, peripheral vascular disease and clinical practice. Although I am biased, Sharon Jamison's presentation provided a much needed insight into the patient's perspective and experience. There were some repeat sessions, which were back by popular demand, including the viagra, M & M, IO workshops, along with the extremely entertaining Jeopardy session (Toronto versus the world....and the world won!).

We also enjoyed new lectures, including the IR pain management workshop, Dr. Menard's experience in building an endovascular stroke

program, Dr. Machan's advice on medical device development, along with Dr. Marshall's unique perspective practicing IR south of the border. I also enjoyed the newer format of presenting the top recent papers in IO and PVD, which were succinct overviews of the latest evidence for the busy interventionalist.

Toronto is always a premiere destination for conferences. However, this year was particularly special, given the buzz around the NBA finals. Toronto was electric and it added much excitement to an already exciting meeting!

I would like to thank the members of the planning committee, including Daniel Lapointe, Sarah Elimam, Tara Graham and David Valenti, along with Jessie Szarek, Jeannie Brewster, Linda Payne, Lynne Carson.

Sarah Eliman also did an incredible job organizing and running the meeting.

We also thank our industry partners for their support.

**Amol Mujoomdar**  
CAIR President and Chair of the  
Annual Meeting 2019

## CAIR Award 2019 winner : Marie-France Giroux



Dr. Marie-France Giroux, Dr. Jason K. Wong



Drs. Andrew Benko, Jason K. Wong, Marie-France Giroux, Bob Abraham, Peter Collingwood, Daniel Bourgeois

## Upcoming Event & Latest news

### Join the CAIR Community on Facebook !

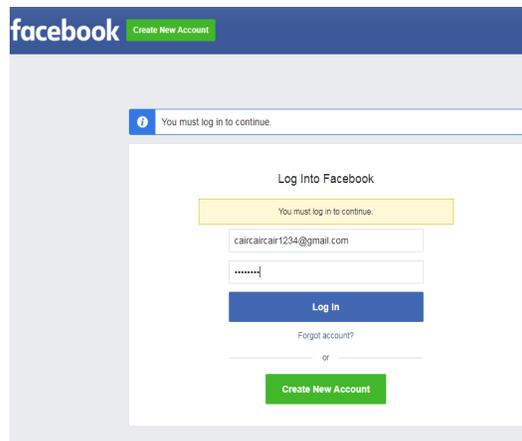
This group, open to CAIR members, is a digital platform meant to be a place for CAIR members to exchange and share knowledge. On this platform, you are welcome to exchange pictures, videos, articles and questions to stimulate discussions and to get information and advices from colleagues.

#### STEP 1.

Click on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/caircommunity/>

#### STEP 2.

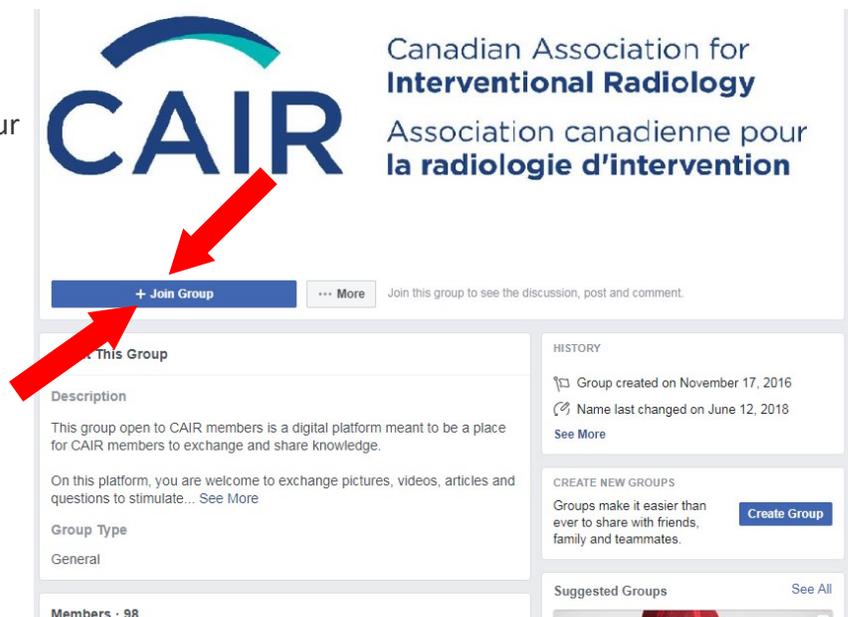
Log into your Facebook account.



#### STEP 3.

After logging in, you will see the following page. Click "Join Group".

Within 24-48 hours, we will approve your request and you will have full access to the benefits of the CAIR Community!



# CAIR Grand Slams & Catastrophes 2020



Canadian Association for  
**Interventional Radiology**  
Association canadienne pour  
**la radiologie d'intervention**

**GS&C 2020**  
GRAND SLAMS & CATASTROPHES

SAVE THE DATE  
**FEBRUARY 7 - 8, 2020**

FAIRMONT CHÂTEAU LAKE LOUISE

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
DANIEL Y. SZE

## **Daniel Y. Sze, MD, PhD**

Professor, Interventional Radiology  
Stanford University Medical Center

Dr. Sze is a Professor of Interventional Radiology at Stanford University. He double-majored in biochemistry and studio arts and design at Harvard University. After working as a graphic designer and medical illustrator, he went on to complete an MD and PhD in Biophysics at Stanford, internship at California Pacific Medical Center, and residency and chief residency in Radiology at UCSF. He returned to Stanford for fellowship in Interventional Radiology and joined the faculty in 1997. His clinical and research interests include image-guided treatment of cancers using oncolytic viruses, radioembolization, chemoembolization, and immunotherapy. Other interests include management of portal hypertension and cirrhosis, and treatment of aortic disease and venous thromboembolic disease. He received the Becker Young Investigator Award from the Society of Interventional Radiology in 2002. He has authored over 400 papers, books, and abstracts, and has been an investigator in over 60 clinical trials. He has helped to train over 80 fellows, nearly half of whom have pursued academic careers. He serves as an advisory board member or consultant to a multitude of device and pharmaceutical companies, including start-ups in his neighborhood of Silicon Valley.

## Corporate Partners News

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