Book Signing at CPA 2010

Left to Right: Dr. Scott Patten, Dr. Terry Wade, Dr. John Cairney, Dr. Alain Lesage, Dr. Jane Murphy and Dr. Roger Bland

June of 2010 marked another milestone in the history of CAPE with the publication of Mental Disorders in Canada: An Epidemiological Perspective, published by the University of Toronto Press (see below). To honour the occasion, a special event was held last October during the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario. We were especially thrilled to have Dr. Jane Murphy (second from the left above) as our special guest. Dedicated to the late Dr. Alec Leighton, Jane’s husband, the book showcases Canadian scholarship in psychiatric epidemiology.

Mental Disorder in Canada: An Epidemiological Perspective

Canada has long been recognized as a leader in the field of psychiatric epidemiology, the study of the factors affecting mental health in populations. However, there has never been a book dedicated to the study of mental disorder at a population level in Canada.

This collection of essays by leading scholars in the discipline explores the history of psychiatric epidemiology, evaluates methodological issues, and analyzes the prevalence of several significant mental disorders in the population. Focusing specifically on Canadian scholarship, yet wide-reaching in scope, Mental Disorder in Canada is an important contribution to the dissemination and advancement of knowledge on psychiatric epidemiology.

All proceeds from sales of the book go to CAPE.
President’s Corner

Welcome to the first edition of the CAPE Chronicle. While this is the not the first time we have had a newsletter for our membership (I myself remember the wonderful newsletters we used to receive as members when Dr. Heather Stuart was our Secretary), it has been sometime – too long in fact. So, we will start anew with the first of what I hope will be two newsletters per year, updating members on major events of interest (including information about our annual meetings), news about our members, special stories and perhaps, if I can cajole a couple of you, regular columns on topics of interest to psychiatric epidemiologists.

As many of you know, the executive has been busy at the task of formalizing our status as a not-for-profit organization. At present, we are not recognized legally as an official organization. This was not a problem back in 1984 when CAPE was created. After all, it was just a small group of friends and colleagues, called together by Alec and Jane to come for a day of discussion about psychiatric epidemiology ("while you are at the CPA meetings any way, why not stop by for a chat and dinner?" Who could refuse such an invitation?) We have grown considerably since then. As the research programs of our core members and junior faculty

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Dr. Julio Arboleda-Florez: Past CAPE President

I wanted to devote some space in the newsletter to formally acknowledge the outstanding work of our past president – Dr. Julio Arboleda-Florez. Julio was our president from 2002 to 2008. In addition to ensuring CAPE’s local success, Julio also ensured we had an international presence, through his tireless engagement with many international bodies, most notably, the World Psychiatric Association and the WHO.

While I have had the opportunity already to thank Julio for his work and all his important contributions to our field during one of our post-CAPE dinner meetings in Vancouver, I wanted once again to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our dear friend and colleague. Thank-you Julio!

Dr. Julio Arboleda-Florez,
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry,
Queen’s University
2011 Alec Leighton Award: Dr. Jitender Sareen, University of Manitoba

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Professor Jitender Sareen for being selected as the 2011 recipient of the Alec Leighton Joint CPA-CAPE Award in Psychiatric Epidemiology. Jitender is an accomplished psychiatrist, academic and teacher and he is most deserving of this special honour.

Jitender has focused his program of research on two significant areas of psychiatric epidemiology in Canada: Canadian military mental health and Aboriginal suicide prevention. He has asked critical questions and applied sophisticated epidemiological approaches to advance both of these important areas of research. Jitender’s contribution to these subjects is evidenced by his remarkable publication record and by the repeated citation of his work. To date, he has published over 150 peer-reviewed journal publications and his work has been cited over 2000 times. Jitender’s research has a true Canadian focus that will continue to improve the health of both the Canadian military personnel and Aboriginal populations at-risk for suicide. His impressive program of research has established himself as an international world leader in psychiatric epidemiology.

Jitender also contributes to the field of psychiatric epidemiology through his tireless mentorship of students and trainees. Currently, Jitender actively mentors over 20 undergraduate students, graduate students, medical students, residents, and junior faculty. He meets with students and trainees weekly, both in groups and individually. He involves students in high-impact research and offers first-authored publication on many of these studies. In doing so, he provides opportunities that are rarely offered to students. He does all of this as well as writing multi-million dollar grants, publishing

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first-authored papers in high-impact journals, being the director of research and anxiety services in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Manitoba, maintaining a clinical practice, and driving his two boys to their hockey games. I know of the quality of his mentorship first hand as I was one of Jitender’s first students. In 2003, when I began working with Jitender, I was only thinking about pursuing a PhD. I am now an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology with my own program of research. I know my career aspirations would not have been achieved without having Jitender as a role model, mentor, and friend. I also know that my experience is not unique. You can ask any of the students he has mentored and you will hear the same story.

Jitender has contributed to the field of psychiatric epidemiology both in the quality of his research and in the raising of the next generation of researchers. He is a model academic and thoughtful mentor. I cannot think of a more suited person for this prestigious award. On behalf of CAPE and your colleagues, congratulations!

Tracie O. Afifi, PhD
University of Manitoba

President’s Corner (Continued)

grow, so too does attendance at our annual meetings. In Vancouver this year, we have the busiest day I can recall for a CAPE meeting – 21 presentations, two poster sessions, and an interactive workshop.

It became clear to the executive that some level of formality would be required. If for no other reason, it is essential that we formalize our accounting procedures as the coffers of CAPE continue to grow. We want to be sure that the money is used effectively in the service of the mission of the organization, and that there is transparency and accountability in what we do.

To that end, I will be introducing, at our annual general meeting, a draft of our terms of reference for ratification by the membership. The document outlines our mission and the terms for holding of official posts. I look forward to a rich discussion of its contents.

Perhaps there is some concern among members that with this formality we lose something of the uniqueness of CAPE. I don’t believe this to be so. Policies are neither the heart nor spirit of an organization. The traditions of CAPE will endure or perish depending on the engagement of its members. It is up to all of us to ensure that the traditions that make CAPE special are not lost and that Alec’s vision is preserved.

John Cairney, PhD
McMaster University

OTHER NEWS

After two years as a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University, Dr. Karen Urbanoski has returned home to Canada and is now an independent scientist at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health in Toronto. Welcome Back Karen!

Prairie Updates

In addition to the Leighton Award, Dr. Jitender Sareen also was the 2011 recipient of the Canadian Association of Suicide Prevention Research Award. Jitender would also like everyone to know that the Canadian Public Health Agency of Canada Family-based Intervention in Suicide Prevention is looking for Post Docs.