

Ontario Psychological Association

*Annual Report of the President
and the Chief Executive Officer
Presented to the Annual General Meeting
February 21, 2015*



**ONTARIO
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**



Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer

During the past year, your President and CEO have felt like we have been on a roller coaster; there were highs that left us breathless with excitement on an almost daily basis. We also faced a few lows in addressing concerns that are described in the Financial Report by our Secretary—Treasurer, Dr. Niki Fitzgerald.

Our financial challenges, however, have not held us back. Thanks to our Board, our committee members, members of our Sections and Interest Groups, and our great staff members, we have been able to move mountains—well, maybe a mountain as high as Hamilton Mountain. With great support and encouragement from our members, we have expended a great deal of effort to ensure that the OPA is seen by our members, government, other associations, organizational leaders and the public as a bold, vital and ambitious organization, a force to be reckoned with and a strong voice for those we serve, as well as for the profession and our members.

A complete update on our activities in 2014 was described to you in our New Year's NewsBrief (which is available on our website www.psych.on.ca).

Since that NewsBrief was published, we have succeeded in the following additional arenas:

- Released our Health Benefits package;
- Launched a new website;
- A virtual army of our members tweeted and re-tweeted and tweeted again on Bell Let's Talk day, resulting in even psychiatrists and family physicians demanding increased access to psychological service providers to meet the mental health needs of Ontarians;
- Developed a partnership with Bizlife Solutions to deliver workplace mental health education and harassment prevention and management services;
- Established a partnership with Best Doctors to develop and evaluate its first entry into the provision of assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders;
- Further developed a program to establish a demonstration project on Wraparound Care for At Risk Youth; and,
- Oversaw the rollout of the most impressive annual conference in the OPA's history. It is a different model than you have been use to in previous years. It is a reflection of the efforts we are making to be politically more astute and to engage more fully with Ontario's academic teachers and researchers.

We are grateful to following individuals who have made everything that has been accomplished possible:

- Our Board members and our staff for their dedication and hard work;
- Our Committee and Sub-committee chairs and committee members;
- The Section Chairs and the Chairs of our Interest Groups;
- The speakers and facilitators of our workshops and especially those who have made our conference so exceptional;



- Each member who shared their knowledge and skills with those on the listserv and back channeled us with guidance and advice; and, especially,
- Each member who passed on a message to a colleague that the OPA is the home of psychology in Ontario and they must join our ranks.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve you. We look forward to a bright and successful year in the 2015-2016. We are issuing you a challenge today. We want each and every one of you to support your association by assisting at least one of your colleagues to join the OPA. We are not asking you to pour a bucket of ice over your head but simply to ask one non-member to join or rejoin the OPA. Just do it.

We may not have climbed as high as Mount Everest by February of 2016 but the momentum that has been building in 2014-2015 will continue with your continued support and encouragement.

Introduction to our New Board Members

The Board members were very pleased to see that Dr. Sylvain Roy was nominated for the position of Director and is willing to stand for election.

Dr. Sylvain Roy is a bilingual rehabilitation neuropsychologist holding positions at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) & Inner City Family Health Team in Toronto. He received his Ph.D. in neuropsychology from the Université de Montréal and also holds degrees from York and McGill University.

Dr. Roy completed his clinical training in various neuro-rehabilitation centers in the United States and Canada. In 2011, after spending 1 year writing his dissertation on facial expressions in sunny California, Dr. Roy decided to return to Canada's Largest city, Toronto, where he accepted a neuropsychology post-doctoral fellowship at Community Head Injury Resource Services (CHIRS).

Today, at Inner Family Health Team, Dr. Roy works exclusively with homeless men. He acts as a neuropsychological consultant to a team of physicians, physician assistant, psychiatrists, nurses, nurse practitioners, health promoter, and social workers. Roles include the assessment of patient's neuropsychological functioning, providing treatment recommendations, the supervision of graduate and postgraduate students, participation in research, and conducting program evaluations.

At CAMH, Dr. Roy is the lead clinician in a service that provides neuropsychological, psychological, and functional (OT) assessments and cognitive rehabilitation services to patients with complex mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. Our service also provides advance clinical training to neuropsychology interns and postdoctoral fellows wishing to develop an expertise in the assessment and treatment of person with severe mental illness.

In addition, **Ms. Erin Romanchych** has been nominated to stand for election for the position of Director of Graduate Student Affairs.

Erin Romanchych is a PhD student at the University of Windsor studying Clinical Psychology (Child Track). Her research interests include understanding the development of physical aggression in preschool aged children, specifically understanding the influence of individual and interactional processes (i.e., parent-child relationship, peer relationships) on childhood aggression. Her clinical interests consist of providing early assessment and intervention for young children experiencing



emotional and behavioural challenges, and children showing symptoms of autism and/or developmental delays.

As per the changes in the By-Laws last year, the Board has chosen our President-Elect from amongst the Directors of the Board. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jonathan Douglas has agreed to accept the position of President-Elect.

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Dr. Jane Storrie

President and Chair of the Board, Chair of the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Planning and Policy Development Committee

Dr. Jonathan Douglas

President-Elect and Co-Chair of the Communications and Member Services Committee

Dr. Sylvain Roy *(if elected)*

Co-Chair of the Communications and Members Services Committee and Chair of the Primary Care Interest Group

Dr. Patricia McGarry-Roberts

Chair of the Governance Committee and Board Representative for the Section of Independent Practice (SIP)

Dr. Paulo Pires

Co-Chair of the Program Planning and Research Committee and Board Representative of the Section of Psychologists in Education (SecPE)

Dr. Kelly Horner

Co-Chair of the Program Planning and Research Committee and Chair of the Academic Teachers and Researchers Interest Group

Dr. Natasha Browne

Co-Chair of the Planning and Policy Development Committee

Dr. Noah Lazar

Chair of the Early Career Psychologists Interest Group

Ms. Erin Romanchych *(If elected)*

Chair of the Graduate Students Interest Group

Ms. M. Janet Kasperski *(non-voting)*

Chief Executive Officer