Osteoporosis Society of Canada leads the way

The publication of the 2002 clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis in Canada in November 2002 marked a major milestone in the delivery of optimal care for individuals with, or at risk for, osteoporosis. It was also a monumental accomplishment for the Society.

During the past four years, members of our Scientific Advisory Council, experts in osteoporosis from across the country, as well as other researchers in a number of fields, gave more than 7,000 volunteer hours to the Guidelines project. Both Society staff and funding from several corporate sponsors supported these efforts.

The result is the first evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for osteoporosis in the world, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ). Based on the review and grading of thousands of research papers, the recommendations in the Guidelines provide physicians and health care professionals with the information they need to effectively diagnose and treat this debilitating disease.

The Society designed a very ambitious implementation strategy to ensure the Guidelines are used to improve osteoporosis care in Canada. The plan included the following:

- Distribution of Guidelines to 66,000 physicians across the country
- A link to the Guidelines on our web site at www.osteoporosis.ca
- Special Guidelines issues of our own publications
- Updating all Society public education resources
- Symposia for health care professionals
- Incorporates recommendations into medical training initiatives
- Encouraging provincial health ministries to use the Guidelines in formulating policy.

The Guidelines have already been adopted in Ontario and $7 million in funding has been allocated to osteoporosis in the provincial budget. Provincial osteoporosis strategies are also progressing in Nova Scotia and Manitoba. The Alberta government funded an innovative OSC public awareness campaign last fall.

We continue to provide valuable services to those with, or at risk for developing osteoporosis:

- More than 3,100 individuals called our information line
- We distributed almost 400,000 pieces of educational literature
- Our web site had approximately 400,000 visitors and about 10 million hits in the past year, an increase of 25 per cent over last year
- Chapters across the country continued to deliver informative and supportive seminars, group activities and educational initiatives in their communities.

Providing these services is only possible with the assistance of hundreds of dedicated volunteers who consistently give of their time, skills and talents.

During this past year we also welcomed two new affiliates

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Public Education & Support 40%
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How the money was spent in 2002-2003

How forward on setting priorities as well as evaluating procedures and projects to reduce costs both in terms of time and dollars. Fundraising is marked as one of our top three priorities in the coming fiscal year.

Financial statements are one tool of measuring the worth of an organization. What cannot be measured in dollars is the dedication and enthusiasm of staff and volunteers. The Osteoporosis Society of Canada has priceless human resources.

Joan Barltrop, C.A.
Treasurer

* Audited Financial Statements are available from the National Office upon request.
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