

Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada

Canada's Voice for Excellence in Education and Research in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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NEWS RELEASE

APOG Announces New President

Effective December 8, 2008.

Ottawa, February 5, 2009: APOG is pleased to announce that Dr. Alan Bocking, Professor and Gordon C. Leitch Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Toronto and Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University Health Network, has been inaugurated as the new President of APOG. The appointment became effective December 8, 2008.

Dr. Bocking graduated from the University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Medicine, London, Ontario in 1977, following which he obtained specialty training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology also at the University of Western Ontario. The recipient of a Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC) Fellowship, he did further research training in the Department of Physiology, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. In 1985, he returned to the University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Medicine joining the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as an Assistant Professor. He was a member of the University of Western Ontario MRC/CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) Group in Fetal and Neonatal Health and Development from 1989 to 2004 and was Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Western Ontario from 1999 to 2003.

In 2003, Dr. Bocking joined the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto where he is a Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Physiology. He is a member of the Steering Committee for the Canadian Maternal Infant, Child and Youth Research Network (MICYRN) and is a member of the Ontario Provincial Maternal Newborn Advisory Committee. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada and the American Gynaecological and Obstetrical Society.

Dr. Bocking's research has contributed substantially to our understanding of the mechanisms whereby the fetus adapts to prolonged hypoxemia as well as the effects of alcohol exposure on fetal development. With other collaborators, he has made important discoveries related to biochemical predictors of preterm labour and the mechanisms underlying preterm labour. He has published over 100 original articles, reviews

and Book Chapters and has given over 100 Invited Lectures related to his research. He has held continuous MRC/CIHR funding since 1986. He maintains an active research program in the area of inflammatory-mediated preterm labour and is a member of the University of Toronto CIHR Group in Development and Fetal Health.

Dr. Boeking stated "I am extremely honoured to be asked to take on the role of President of the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (APOG) and to build on the contributions of previous Presidents. This is an exciting time for our specialty with tremendous opportunities to enhance care for women and their families in Canada through providing Excellence in Education and Research. Obstetrics and Gynaecology as a specialty is increasing in popularity as a career choice for our graduating medical students and there is a ground swell of interest in interdisciplinary education as well as new methodologies for training such as e-learning and the application of simulation technologies. As the world flattens and improved communication allows us to interact on a regular basis with colleagues globally, we are challenged as a specialty to address the major health issues facing women in low resource countries. These include the ongoing challenges around maternal mortality and morbidity as well as cervical cancer which is rampant in many countries to name but two. I believe that APOG is well positioned to provide leadership in many of these areas and collectively as academic departments and institutions we can make a significant impact globally.

In addition to its role in education, APOG I believe can play a more prominent role as the voice for Research in Women's Reproductive Health in Canada. As a specialty we are facing a significant challenge in conducting translational research and there is an opportunity for APOG in conjunction with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to develop a strategy to enhance training for both basic scientists and clinicians in important research methodologies relevant to women's reproductive health. The global economic climate will have a short-term impact on the resources available to us and this will challenge us to ensure that we are using best practices in all of our Education and Research Programs."

ABOUT APOG

The Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada (APOG) is a professional association that provides leadership in the development and promotion of the highest quality clinical care through education & research in academic programs of obstetrics and gynaecology in Canada.

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