1) Scientific Program

1.1 Status of the scientific program
The scientific program for the 2017 CNSF Congress has been finalized.

On the CNSF website, the entire program can be viewed at the following URL:

Course notes are still pending for several sessions—achieving timely submission of course notes by speakers is an ongoing issue and one which may need to be revisited in future.

1.2 Novel changes to the structure of the scientific program
Several key changes have been made to the overall structure and organization of the scientific program for the 2017 Congress. The reorganized program represents an attempt to highlight the unique, multidisciplinary nature of the Congress, and to ensure the optimal balance between educational, scientific, and industry-sponsored content.

Overall, there has been an effort to streamline the Congress wherever possible, acknowledging the importance of allowing for social interaction between delegates outside of the scheduled Congress sessions.

Key structural innovations to the program for 2017 include:
1. The maximum length of any individual course/session has now been capped at 2.5 hours
2. Moderated poster sessions have been better integrated into the larger program in the form of two separate 1-hour sessions on Tuesday and Thursday morning
3. Friday will now begin with Grand Rounds, and end earlier (2PM) than in previous years, providing attendees with a greater opportunity to attend all Friday sessions without having to leave early for travel purposes
4. Oral platform presentations have now been removed from the program
5. Prize-winning abstracts will be included in the plenary session on Wednesday morning; the prize-winners for each society will present their work after the named lecture of their respective society
6. Chair’s Select abstract sessions on Wednesday morning will now incorporate shorter—but a larger number of—individual oral presentations, in order to compensate for the removal of oral platform sessions

1.3. Novel Congress content
Several new courses will be included in the 2017 Congress schedule. These courses aim to highlight the multidisciplinary and interactive theme of the Congress. They include:
1. Trends in the Neurosciences: a Tuesday afternoon course on translational neuroscience, co-chaired by both a CNSS and a CNS member.
2. Competency by Design: a Tuesday afternoon course addressing changes to residency training recently implemented by the Royal College.
3. Clinical Case Studies (CCS) Neurosurgery “Fireside Chat”: this novel interactive session will involve discussion of neurosurgical management focused around pre-selected cases presented by attendees. Neurosurgical “experts” from CNSS will provide guidance and moderate debate.
4. Brain Tumor Board—Neuro-oncology for Neurologists and Neurosurgeons: this course on Wednesday afternoon will aim to showcase a multidisciplinary approach to the management of patients with brain tumors. The course will be co-chaired by both a CNSS and a CNS member.

5. Stroke—Medical and Surgical Aspects: this Wednesday afternoon course will address issues relevant to both medical and surgical management of ischemic stroke and intracerebral hemorrhage. The course will also be co-chaired by both a CNSS and a CNS member.

6. Friday afternoon multidisciplinary courses:
   - Exercise in Neurological Illness
   - Concussion/Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy
   - Chronic Pain Management for Neuroscience Clinicians

The Friday courses represent perhaps the most innovative additions to the program.

2) SPC subcommittees

To address key areas in Congress planning, the following subcommittees have been established within the SPC:
   - *Educational programming subcommittee*: tasked with determining the course content for the Congress on a 3 to 5 year cycle. Additionally: to serve as a liaison with member societies for selection of society day topics; to serve as a liaison with affiliate societies including selection of other educational course topics and chairs; and to review proposed industry co-sponsored sessions
   - *Abstract subcommittee*: tasks include assisting with call for abstracts (abstract categories) and with abstract review and final selection process

3) Outlook

The SPC anticipates a successful 2017 CNSF Congress that will be well-received by the CNSF membership. With the aforementioned structural changes to the program, and the addition of novel content, we are optimistic that the 2017 Congress will stand out in an era of ever-increasing conference options for Canadian neuroscience clinicians.

4) Leadership of the SPC

I will be coming to the end of my two-year term as Chair of the SPC as of the 2017 Congress. On a personal note, the SPC Chair role has certainly been challenging but also extremely rewarding; I vacate the Chair position with renewed optimism for the future of the CNSF and the Congress.

Leadership of the SPC moving forward will be in the capable hands of Dr. Alexandre Henri-Bhargava, who will assume the Chair position during the 2017 Congress. Assisting Dr. Henri-Bhargava will be Dr. Joe Megyesi, who moves into the Vice-Chair position from his previous role as Chair of the Professional Development Committee of the CNSF.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tejas Sankar MDCM FRCSC
CNSF Scientific Program Committee Chair