1) Scientific Program

1.1 Status of the scientific program
The scientific program for the 2019 CNSF Congress has been finalized.

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

1.2 Key aspects of the program
Several changes have been made to the overall structure and organization of the scientific program for the 2019 Congress. As per the past few years, our program highlights the unique, multidisciplinary nature of the Congress, emphasizing Canadian content and ensuring an optimal balance between educational, scientific, and industry-sponsored content.

Industry-sponsored Lunch-and-Learns associated with the Congress, but not part of the accredited content, continue to be an important source of revenue for the Congress. As a committee we have been determined to ensure that these sessions would remain of educational value and that the topics would be complementary to the remainder of the Congress. We are pleased to have had record interest for sponsorship this year, ensuring the financial viability of the meeting.

1.3 Highlights of the 2017 Educational Sessions:
1. Content developed under guidance of our newest member society, the Canadian Society of Neuroradiology (CSNR), continues to increase, including an exciting Hot Topics session on the closing day of the congress. This year the CSNR had invited the Canadian Neuro-Interventional Group (CING) to present content on the Sunday of our meeting. In the 11th hour, CING made a request to have their members attend the CNSF Congress for free (on Sunday), which was not feasible. Thankfully, the President of CSNR, Dr. Karel Terbrugge stepped in to chair a new course entitled Modern Imaging is Critical to Managing Patients with Acute Stroke.

2. This year, in the summer of 2018 we sent out a request for proposals for educational courses from the CNSF membership at large. We received a great response, and several of the multidisciplinary courses featured at our meeting stem from proposals received. Examples of anticipated courses are a whole-day course on treatment of gliomas across the lifespan, a multidisciplinary course on the treatment of pituitary tumours, and a course describing exciting developments in the treatment of Huntington disease. The SPC would recommend that this call for proposals be repeated for 2020’s Congress.

3. The SPC made efforts to ensure that plenary and other prominent speakers could be featured in the resident review courses, and that these courses would be well integrated with the remainder of the congress. We are looking forward to learning about congenital malformations and pediatric neurosurgery, as well as a comprehensive review of epilepsy.

4. Audience responses or “live polling” were incorporated within the official conference app to promote interactivity during educational sessions last year, and is offered again this year.

5. The CNS has partnered with the European Charcot Foundation to present the first ever Charcot Speaker during CNS Day, Dr. Kazuo Fujihara. We hope this will be a lasting relationship.
1.4 Highlights of the Scientific Sessions:
As per last year, prize-winning abstracts will be presented during the Grand Plenary Session. Overall, we had 163 abstract submissions this year. The best abstracts were selected for presentation during the Chair’s Selects Plenary Sessions and the remainder will be presented as e-posters. New this year, we are also highlighting two abstracts that won prizes from the anti-NMDA Encephalitis Foundation, for which the recipients were awarded travel grants.

We continue to receive very positive feedback about the moderated poster sessions, and every posted will be formally presented and moderated. **We have increased the number of sessions from two to three, and could consider increasing to four poster sessions in future years.**

2) Successes and Challenges
In our June 2018 meeting, the committee met to pre-define the agenda and tasks for the year. This led to a more streamlined process and allowed tasks to get done on time, and kept the committee engaged.

Enticing CNSF members to submit work to the congress, particularly in the neurological societies, remains an ongoing challenge threatening the viability of the congress.

3) Leadership of the SPC
It has been my immense privilege to lead the SPC for the last two years, and I will hand over leadership to my very experienced co-chair, Joe Megyesi. Joe has been a stalwart of the CNSF for many years and the committee is in good hands. Gerry Pfeffer will take over as Co-Chair and will bring his usual energy and enthusiasm to the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CNSF Scientific Program Committee Chair 2017-2019