



Congratulations / Félicitations

***Dr. John Reynolds, University of Calgary
The John D Reynolds Award Recipient***

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It was not hard for me to find a home in the Canadian Society for Immunology. I had arrived in Canada in 1983 after a PhD in Australia, a three year fellowship in London, UK, and 4 years in Basel, Switzerland. Even in 1983 Calgary was booming. The energy and entrepreneurial spirit had infiltrated the University particularly the Faculty of Medicine. The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research was in its infancy. Having traveled it was time to dig in roots and Calgary quickly became home. At about the same time the Canadian Society for Immunology had reached its functional adolescence and had decided to sponsor its first solo conference just down the road from Calgary in Lake Louise. Pretty good deal for a new Assistant Professor wanting to quickly meet colleagues from across the country. With no travel expenses it was a bargain for someone whose first MRC grant was a princely \$33,000. The meeting, organized by John Bienenstock and Dean Befus, was a big success. Immunology was still largely in its infancy but booming. Around this time it was the recipient of a number of Nobel Prizes. A large influx of immunologists into Canada from all over the world bolstered the already strong status of immunology research in this country. For me the local energy of Calgary paralleled that of the national energy of the CSI.

The CSI provided a valuable opportunity to develop some of the skills that seemed important. Helping to get about 300 people together to talk immunology in some of the most beautiful places in the world was a rewarding challenge. My contribution as organizer or co-organizer of 5 CSI meetings always happened as part of a team of colleagues from across the country. During the 1980's the power of computing was becoming apparent and like many others I became enthralled by its potential. The CSI was kind enough to allow me to use it as a "guinea pig" as I developed some of the new skills needed to work in this medium. One of the first immunology websites to land in cyberspace was that of the Canadian Society. Much of the driving force behind the web development was based on the premise that it could provide a mechanism to allow repetitive tasks to be automated. It was these repetitive tasks that were important, but very time consuming, and often drained the energy of those who volunteered to help the CSI. The projects that were incorporated into the website included a database to track membership, a system to allow online payment of membership dues, online registration for the annual conferences, the application process for travel awards, a form used for voting for CSI councillors, and a list server for council discussions. With the passage of years and the substantially greater skills of the professional software developers it was certainly time to retire the old website. This happened in October 2007.

As someone who has attended every CSI meetings held, it is perhaps not surprising that my involvement also included a period as councillor and president (1999 -2001). My gratitude to the CSI stems from their willingness to let me experiment (play) in areas that I enjoyed, to develop some organization skills that have been useful, to develop many friendships and most importantly to maintain a passion for immunology.