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NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES**

**Canadian Guidelines for the Development of
Antidementia Therapies
(The Background Papers)**

2nd Canadian Conference on Antidementia Drug Guidelines

Supplement Editor: Howard H. Feldman



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Canadian Guidelines for the Development of Antidementia Therapies

2nd Canadian Conference on Antidementia Drug Guidelines

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INTRODUCTION

The dementias are recognized to be one of the most important challenges to our aging Canadian society in the 21st century. Scientific progress in understanding of the dementias has been advancing at an unprecedented rate, in turn suggesting that therapies will be developed to prevent, symptomatically treat, and modify their course. This rapid growth of research possibilities brings with it a range of ethical challenges, changing perspectives of risk/benefit and the need for discussion/debate on the best ways to advance the development of antidementia therapies.

Canada is well positioned to address these challenges. There is an integrated network of investigators doing clinical trials within the Consortium of the Canadian Centers for Clinical Cognitive Research (C5R), the Canadian Neurological Society, the Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry (CAGP) and the Canadian Geriatrics Society (CGS).

In turn, representatives of this network of societies came together for the 2nd Canadian Conference on Antidementia Drug Guidelines in Montreal on October 28-29, 2004 with the goal of developing guidelines to serve as a reference for those involved in developing antidementia therapies.

The overall result of this Conference was published in 2006 as *Progress in Clinical Neurosciences: Canadian Guidelines for the Development of Antidementia Therapies: A Conceptual Summary*.¹ This supplement now presents the background papers that were developed by participants of the Conference. Each paper was initially presented for discussion and later finalized through peer review to their current state. Many topics reflect the early

days of therapeutic development and much more will need to be said about them over time. In turn, it can be anticipated that updating of these Guidelines will be required. These Guidelines are unique. Prior to their peer review they had received active input from representatives of the respective clinical and research groups: the regulatory authorities of the Central Nervous System (CNS) Division of the Therapeutic Products Directorate (TPD of Health Canada), the Alzheimer Society of Canada and the pharmaceutical industry.

On behalf of the contributors I trust that you will find the supplement stimulating and worthy of further discussion and feedback as we face the need to develop treatments for this burgeoning problem of dementia.

*Howard H. Feldman
Division of Neurology
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC, Canada*

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DISCLOSURE

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1. Feldman HH, Gauthier S, Chertkow H, Conn DK, Freedman M, MacKnight C. on behalf of the 2nd Canadian Conference on Antidementia Guidelines Committee. Canadian Guidelines for the Development of Antidementia Therapies: a conceptual summary. *Can J Neurol Sci.* 2006; 33(1): 6-26.