

Dear CLIMOA member

It has snowed outside, and the darkness sets in early every day now. I sit by the fire and write this mail whilst my dog is sleeping on the couch. It is December of 2022 and life is starting to look somewhat familiar again. I am sure that you, as much as I, newly appreciate the familiarity of old rituals, given we had been denied so much over the preceding two years. 2022 has been a tumultuous year for me personally and I anticipate for most of you too, each in a unique way. I do though, have this pertinacious sense that life has come a full circle.

At the outset of this pandemic, I told my twenty-something year old children to make sure that the time passed during this pandemic turns out to be meaningful. I was amused by the story that Sir Isaac Newton had been similarly sent home from Cambridge to socially isolate during the 1665 bubonic plague and how he later referred to that time as “annus mirabilis” - a time he had to ponder and understand gravity, light and mathematics. Now, I certainly did not raise an Isaac Newton, but striving for something higher is never a bad way to pass time - especially when a pandemic affords one the opportunity.

This very long introduction is my attempt at stating that life at CLIMOA has also reverted to normal and, thanks to the hiatus between, we are better than before.

By stating back to normal, I am referring to our much anticipated in-person conference of 2023. It will be held at the lovely and grand Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, May 14-16. Please join us to meet up with old friends and make some new ones at the same time. Our scientific committee has very nearly completed the program and it is certainly going to be highly educational, we have excellent local speakers from Ottawa and some experts coming from farther away. Please also extend this invitation to anyone who would be interested in this opportunity; physicians, underwriters or any person associated with or interested in Insurance Medicine. More information will follow in the New Year.

The reference to being better than before refers to several smaller logistical improvements we have made to CLIMOA over the past year. The most important being that we have decided to expand our membership to underwriters, and anyone currently engaged in Insurance Medicine. In keeping with our goal to be meaningful to our community, we are also continuing the successful webinar series we started in 2022 – free of charge. The previous webinars are available on our website now.

In January we have invited back Dr Mary-Ann Fitzcharles, who presented on the topic of nociceptive pain in May of this year. This time she will be presenting on medical cannabis. I am sure you are as interested as I. The webinar will run at noon on January 25th and invitations will be sent out to you very soon. Once again please feel free to share this invite far and wide with anyone who may be interested. Dr Fitzcharles is an excellent speaker who deeply understands her topic.

Most importantly, I am writing to say that I wish everyone associated with CLIMOA, members and friends, a lovely holiday time this December. I hope that every missed opportunity of the past 2 years reinvents itself as something more special this year-end, so that life may truly have come full circle but be better. In the words of Sir Isaac Newton, I wish you a “mensis mirabilis”

See you in person in 2023!

Antoinette le Roux

(President 2022-2023)