

CACB Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Profession of Clinical Biochemistry
Sponsored by Bayer Inc., Diagnostics Division

Raymond Lepage



Raymond Lepage was born in Montréal in 1949 and received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at l'Université de Montréal in 1973. This very inexperienced biochemist (no post-doctoral training program available in Quebec at that time) began his career immediately as Head of the Biochemistry laboratory of a 300 bed regional hospital in Trois-Rivières, Québec. In 1976 he got his first appointment in a teaching hospital in Montréal (Sacré-Cœur), then moved downtown in 1983 to l'Hôpital Saint-Luc (now part of the CHUM), where he was in charge of non-routine testing especially in endocrinology. In October 2000, he moved to Sherbrooke, where he is currently the Head, Clinical Biochemistry Department, le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sherbrooke, a 600 bed teaching hospital 150 km east of Montreal on the Vermont border. Dr. Lepage has been active in research (hypoglycemia, parathyroid hormone, etc.) and has published over 150 manuscripts and conference abstracts. He is currently Full Professor (Biochemistry) at U. of Montréal and Associate Professor at U. of Sherbrooke. He was part of the group headed by Réjean Daigneault that in 1990, established the first Quebec university-based post-doctoral training program in clinical biochemistry. Dr. Lepage has been active ever since in this program, that received its first full accreditation from the Academy in 1997 and has produced about 20 candidates to date.

In the early nineties, Dr. Lepage discovered that there was life (and friends) outside Quebec as he got involved first in the organization of the joint CSCC/SQBC Meeting held in Montreal in 1991, and then served on the Board of the Academy. Among various duties, he co-organized with E.P. Diamandis a CACB Specialty Conference in Toronto in 1995. He served on the Organizing Committee of the joint CSCC/AACC Meeting in Chicago in 1996 and for the upcoming 2001 joint meeting is serving as the Vice Chair of the Organizing Committee. In the mid-nineties he convinced (mostly) himself and about 20 other trainees and "oldies" from Quebec to go through the formal Academy certification process. This forced the Academy (among other things) to offer its first written and oral exams ever in French! In return, 14 of the candidates from Quebec completed their certification in Halifax in 1997 - a whole process that spanned over four years of preparation and exams. This father of three and (young) grandfather of five year old Beatrice (no "training program" available when he married at 19...) is proud of having contributed to the profession of Clinical Biochemistry by promoting the application of uniform standards of certification across Canada.