

The College of Optometrists of



British Columbia

Annual Report 2009

Mandate

The mandate of the College is derived from section 16 of the Health Professions Act where it states "It is the duty of a college at all times to serve and protect the public, and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest." The College does not advocate for the profession but works to serve the public.

Vision Statement

College of Optometrists of British Columbia is committed to serving and protecting the public interest by guiding the profession of optometry in British Columbia.



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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College of Optometrists of BC

ANNUAL REPORT

Year 2009

The College of Optometrists of BC became the regulatory body for Optometry in BC on March 2, 2009. It replaced the previous regulatory body for Optometry in BC which was the Board of Examiners in Optometry. The College is comprised of:

College Board:

Elected Members:

- Dr. Gerald Komarnicky, Board Chair and Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee Chair
- Dr. Dale Dergousoff, Inquiry Committee Chair
- Dr. Mario Pozza, Registration Committee Chair
- Dr. Rebecca Counts, Quality Assurance Chair
- Dr. Michael Dennis, Discipline Committee Chair
- Dr. Murray Hurlbert, Newsletter Editor

Government Appointed Members:

- Mr. Thomas Beasley, Patient Relations Committee Chair
- Mr. David MacPherson, Financial Advisory Group Chair
- Ms. Barbara Buchanan, Public Member

College Staff:

- Dr. Lawrence MacAulay, Registrar
- Dr. J. Barton McRoberts, Deputy Registrar
- Stanka Jovicevic, Chief Administrative Officer/Assistant to the Registrar
- Jela Vuksan, Administrative Assistant/Accountant
- Amanda Eggins, Administrative Assistant

At the same time as this College became the new regulatory body for optometry, it became legislated to allow its registrants to provide **Topical Pharmaceutical Agents (TPA's)** to their patients. This has resulted in a very much improved health care delivery to the residents of BC. It has allowed for improved access and decreased costs for eye and vision care in BC. The new scope for optometrists has been welcomed by all, and most notably general physicians who have experienced an increased work load in their practices and decreased access to ophthalmology in recent years. Many GP's had found difficulty in referring "red eyes" and other ocular pathology to ophthalmology, and welcomed the new ability to refer patients to optometrists who are now able to treat their patients in a "team approach" with ophthalmology and general physicians.

The College has fulfilled its mandate in each of its required Committees under the HPA. Most notably, the **Inquiry Committee** has been very efficient and effective in processing the Complaints received by the College, in a much improved method under the HPA legislation. The **Discipline Committee** did not have a single case to process in 2009! The **Quality Assurance Committee** has spent considerable effort in developing programs which improve and maintain the high quality of optometric care in BC.

The **Registration Committee** has worked hard to improve the ability of optometrists to become registered in BC, with special attention to application from foreign trained optometrists and to optometrists in Canada wishing to relocate in BC, under the new guidelines of the *Agreement on Internal Trade*. The **Patient Relations Committee** has begun developing new guidelines for BC optometrists to ensure the College deals properly with complaints of a sexual nature. And finally, the **Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee** has met regularly to develop and recommend to the College Board, the Standards, Limits and Conditions on the prescribing, dispensing and administering of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents by registrants.

The College Board has worked diligently at keeping the costs of running the College to the minimum amount necessary to fulfill the College's mandate and yet maintain a high level of care and regulation of the optometrists in BC. Please see our **audited financial statement** on our website to review the College's income and expenses.

The College is actively involved with many other regulatory groups such as the Health Regulatory Organizations of BC (HRO), the Canadian Optometric Regulatory Authorities (CORA), the Canadian Examiners in Optometry (CEO), and the Association for Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO).

We currently have 498 Full A registrants, 34 Full B registrants and 65 non-practicing and academic registrants for a total of 597 registrants. Our province has, in the past few years, been "blessed" with having the most number of new registrants per capita of any province in BC.

Our College is committed to working co-operatively with other Health Regulatory Colleges and the Ministry of Health in BC, under the guidelines of the *Health Professions Act*, the *Optometrists Regulation* and the *Bylaws of the Optometrists* of BC to strive for excellence in providing effective and efficient regulation of optometry in BC.

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay, Registrar



Grant Thornton

Financial Statements

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)

December 31, 2009

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Auditors' report

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To the directors of

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

We have audited the balance sheet of College of Optometrists of British Columbia (formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia) as at December 31, 2009 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the College's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College as at December 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Grant Thornton LLP

Vancouver, Canada

January 20, 2010

Chartered accountants

College of Optometrists of British Columbia
(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)
**Statements of Revenues and Expenditures and
Net Assets**

Year Ended December 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Annual license fees	\$ 738,051	\$ 583,750
Registration fee	35,570	23,505
Grant	-	13,280
Incorporation fees, penalties and fines	37,872	41,025
Interest	30,319	47,879
	<u>841,812</u>	<u>709,439</u>
Expenditures		
Accounting and audit	15,955	13,202
Amortization	21,315	7,060
Committees	130,286	70,035
Equipment expenses	2,441	2,331
Examinations	-	13,183
Legal and settlement costs	19,591	40,696
Meetings and travel	59,018	48,438
Miscellaneous	23,448	-
National/other	29,640	40,603
Office and telephone	43,979	18,206
Office services	60,267	56,861
Registrar	84,345	55,365
Rent	74,871	35,493
Salaries and benefits	200,513	163,855
	<u>765,669</u>	<u>565,328</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ <u>76,143</u>	\$ <u>144,111</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 1,098,771	\$ 954,660
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>76,143</u>	<u>144,111</u>
Net assets, end of year	\$ <u>1,174,914</u>	\$ <u>1,098,771</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)

Balance Sheet

December 31

2009

2008

Assets

Current

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 58,854	\$ 640,065
Term deposits	1,623,351	966,575
Receivables	6,869	1,695
Prepaid expenses	8,330	2,661
Current portion of note receivable	12,750	-
	<u>1,710,154</u>	<u>1,610,996</u>
Furniture and equipment (Note 4)	72,918	11,784
Note receivable (Note 5)	110,000	122,900
Other assets	14,000	14,000
	<u>\$ 1,907,072</u>	<u>\$ 1,759,680</u>

Liabilities

Current

Payables and accruals	\$ 26,470	\$ 18,290
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	705,688	642,619
	<u>732,158</u>	<u>660,909</u>

Net assets

Unrestricted	<u>1,174,914</u>	<u>1,098,771</u>
	<u>\$ 1,907,072</u>	<u>\$ 1,759,680</u>

Commitments (Note 7)

Approved by

 Jan. 28, 2010

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended December 31

2009

2008

Cash derived from (applied to)

Operating

Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$	76,143	\$	144,111
Amortization		21,315		7,060
Change in non-cash operating working capital				
Receivables		(5,174)		7,218
Prepays		(5,669)		(2,661)
Note receivable		150		(5,650)
Payables and accruals		8,180		(5,004)
Deferred revenue		63,069		100,577
		<u>158,014</u>		<u>245,651</u>

Investing

Purchase of furniture and equipment		(82,449)		(9,220)
Increase in other assets		-		(14,000)
(Increase) decrease in term deposits		(656,776)		276,975
		<u>(739,225)</u>		<u>253,755</u>

Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		581,211		499,406
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		<u>640,065</u>		<u>140,659</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	<u>58,854</u>	\$	<u>640,065</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

1. Purpose

On March 1, 2009 the organization changed its name from The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia (the "Board") to the College of Optometrists of British Columbia (the "College").

On this date, the Board repealed all the rules under the Optometrists Act and implemented the Bylaws of the College under the Health Professions Act (the "HPA").

The purpose of the College is to serve and protect the public in relation to the practice of optometry in British Columbia. The College establishes qualifications of members and ensures the standards set out in the HPA are maintained by the members.

The College is incorporated under the HPA and is a non-profit organization as defined under the Income Tax Act.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Use of estimates

In conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that could affect the amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Furniture and equipment

Furniture and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization and amortized on a straight line basis:

Furniture	4 years
Office equipment	4 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Computer software	2-7 years

Revenue recognition

The College follows the deferral method of accounting for registration renewal fees. Registration renewal fees are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Registration fees, incorporation fees, penalties and fines are recognized as revenue when the member is invoiced.

Unrestricted government grants are recognized as revenue as received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest income is recognized as it is earned.

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of unrestricted cash on hand and balances held with banks and short term deposits with original maturities of three months or less.

Comparative figures

Certain prior year accounts have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Financial instruments

All financial instruments are classified into one of five categories: held-for-trading, held-to-maturity investments, loans and receivables, available-for-sale financial assets, or other financial liabilities. All financial instruments are measured in the balance sheet at fair value except for loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and other financial liabilities which are measured at amortized cost. Subsequent measurement and changes in fair value will depend on their initial classification, as follows: held-for-trading financial assets are measured at fair value and changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of revenues and expenditures and net assets. Available-for-sale financial instruments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recorded in the statement of net assets, until the instrument is derecognized or impaired at which time the amounts would be recorded in the statement of revenues and expenditures and net assets.

The College has classified its financial instruments as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • Cash and cash equivalents and term deposits | held-for-trading |
| • Receivables and note receivable | loans and receivables |
| • Payables and accruals | other financial liabilities |

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, term deposits, receivables and current portion of note receivable and payables and accruals approximate fair value due to the relatively short term nature of these instruments. The carrying value of the note receivable approximates its fair value.

3. Adoption of new accounting standards

On January 1, 2009 the College adopted The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") Handbook Section 4400 *Financial Statement Presentation by Not-for-Profit Organizations* and CICA Handbook Section 4460 *Disclosure of Related Party Transactions by Not-for-Profit Organizations*.

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

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Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

3. Adoption of new accounting standards (Continued)

CICA Handbook Section 4400 requires the following amendments:

- reporting certain revenues and expenses gross in the statement of revenues and expenditures;
- making CICA Handbook Section 1540 *Cash Flow Statements* applicable to not-for-profit organizations;
- amortizing capital assets reported as assets in the balance sheet, regardless of the size of the organization;
- when a not-for-profit organization classifies its expenses by function and allocates some of its fundraising and general support costs to another function, disclosing the policy adopted for expenses and amounts allocated from each of these two functions to other functions; and
- elimination of the requirement to treat net assets invested in capital assets as a separate component of net assets.

CICA Handbook Section 4460 aligns the definition of related parties to CICA Handbook Section 3840 *Related Party Transactions*. Related parties exist when one party has the ability to exercise, directly or indirectly, control, joint control or significant influence over the other. Two or more parties are related when they are subject to common control, joint control or significant influence. Two not-for-profit organizations are related parties if one has an economic interest in the other. Related parties also include management and immediate family members.

The adoption of these standards does not have a material effect on the College's financial statements.

4. Furniture and equipment

	2009		2008	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Furniture	\$ 14,530	\$ 12,678	\$ 1,852	\$ 4,813
Office equipment	14,423	8,403	6,020	6,120
Computer equipment	18,608	11,724	6,884	851
Online computer software	67,855	9,693	58,162	-
	<u>\$ 115,416</u>	<u>\$ 42,498</u>	<u>\$ 72,918</u>	<u>\$ 11,784</u>

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

5. Note receivable

Note receivable is due from a member as a result of various fines and restitution for legal expenses. The note is interest free and due on demand. However, it is not expected to be repaid in full by the end of next year. This note is secured by the member's property.

	2009	2008
Note receivable	\$ 122,750	\$ 122,900
Less: current portion	<u>12,750</u>	<u>-</u>
	\$ <u>110,000</u>	\$ <u>122,900</u>

6. Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue represents receipts from members for the subsequent year's license fees.

7. Commitments

The Board has entered into agreements to lease its premises until 2014 and equipment until 2012. The annual rent for premises consists of minimum rent plus taxes and occupancy costs. Minimum lease payable in aggregate and for each of the next five years is as follows:

2010	\$ 94,214
2011	86,886
2012	86,253
2013	84,652
2014	<u>7,067</u>
	\$ <u>359,072</u>

8. Financial instruments and risk management

The fair values of the Board's financial instruments approximate their carrying values due to their short term maturity or capacity of prompt liquidation. It is management's opinion that the Board is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments.

College of Optometrists of British Columbia

(formerly The Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

9. Capital management

The capital structure of the College consists of unrestricted net assets. The primary objective of the College's capital management is to provide adequate funding to ensure efficient delivery of its service activities.

Unrestricted net assets are funds available for future operations and are preserved so the College can have financial flexibility should opportunities arise in the future.

As of December 31, 2009, the College has no externally imposed capital restrictions.



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CHAIR'S REPORT 2010 AGM

I recall my first meeting with the Registrar, Dr. Lawrence MacAulay at my board orientation three and a half years ago. His words to me were "we are expecting great things from you." I remember being both frightened and flattered while having thoughts directed towards Dr. Bart McRoberts who nominated me to run for the board. During my first year I was indoctrinated to the ways of the board - learning "registrant" rather than "member". The first year was a year of learning followed by a moment of enlightenment when I said to myself; "I get it." The following year I was appointed to be Chair of the Legislative Committee where I went to Victoria to establish relationships with Mr. Beckett and his senior, Mr. Knight. From there, doors opened and progress followed.

According to Bylaw 13 (2) the chair must

- (a) preside at general meetings and board meetings
- (b) sign certificates, diplomas and other instruments executed on behalf of the college as required, and
- (c) sign the minutes of each board meeting after they are approved by the board.

Well, we went a little overboard during these last 18 months. My first action as Chair was to call a meeting of past chairs so I could learn from their experience - you never know where you are going to until you know where you have come from.

In the fall of 2008 an email was sent to the Ministry of Health Services asking whether we should be meeting to move forward with new bylaws. The answer was "yes" and the tide of change to repeal the Optometry Act and move to be under the HPA as a college began in earnest. Meetings were held regularly at the board office - a first as we were usually called to Victoria at our own expense.

More fun followed in the fall of 2009 when we began to seek out a new office for the college, negotiate the lease for the new office, sub-lease out the old office at a profit and paint the new office on New Years Day so that the staff could move in January 3, 2009. The wrap-up to moving was our adorning the meeting room of the new office with a plaque to honour the life long contributions that Dr. Sherman Olson made to optometry.

As the bylaw meetings progressed and draft bylaws were posted for public input we enjoyed meeting stakeholders who had concerns with the proposed bylaws. Issues were aired and common ground was found. Give-and-take was an active process until a product that was "good enough" to get us under the HPA evolved.

The next and most important step was to complete the Optometry Regulations. A foundation was already in place but required adjustment to include a broader scope of practice for optometry and to once again please stakeholders. The greatest effort came when we, at the 11th hour, were to rescue the authority to prescribe topical steroids and topical anti-viral agents and to allow for punctal dilation and irrigation as well as corneal foreign body removal as a part of our scope of practice. There were only three people in the room for those few meetings. In the end we prevailed and our scope is what it should be. Because of these conversations the college developed the Standards Limits and Conditions for Therapeutic Practice which have been approved by the board and subsequently shared with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.

The draft Standards Limits and Conditions for Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension followed in the summer of 2009 after a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee and these were approved by the board. These SLCs were then presented to the College of Physicians and Surgeons who in turn discussed them at their board on January 15, 2009. At the time of writing this report, your college has been asked to meet with the CPSBC one more time regarding these SLCs. The next step to gaining authority to treat glaucoma and ocular hypertension will be a filing by the college with the Ministry of Health Services.

One of the earlier responsibilities of the college and this Chair was to respond to the Competition Bureau's blasphemous report on optometry. In our view, the Competition Bureau does not understand optometry to be a post graduate educated health profession – they see optometry more of a consumer driven entity. The focus of our response was to set the record straight – to show optometry in the professional light it should be and to bring optometry more in line with medical eye care providers while distancing it from retail eyewear providers.

Current challenges for the college continue to centre around learning how to work within the AIT and FQR agreements. We attend the CORA, CEO and OLF meetings and meet the challenge of these groups who disagree with our decision to accept the NBEO as a reasonable assessment of competence prior to registration.

There are few perks in being the Chair but one of them was attending the ARBO meeting in Washington, DC. There is a certain “charge” one gets when in a room filled with like minded thinkers who are focused on protecting the public while serving the profession. If I was to ever serve this college again it would be to be a part of this think tank. The highlight of that visit was amplified by a private tour of The White House and The US Capital building arranged by a friend of mine who worked for Senator Chambliss.

Our greatest call to duty this year was to manage the transition from being the Board of Examiners to becoming The College of Optometrists. Here, we give thanks to Dr. Bart McRoberts, Dr. MacAulay and Stanka Jovicevic – all three who made the Chair's orchestration easier by their providing the knowledge necessary to take the correct actions. In order to make ceremony of this event, we as a board invited past board Chairs, members and staff as well as past BCAO council members, executive, Presidents and staff to witness the motion and vote to repeal the Optometry Act and bring the College of Optometrists under the HPA.

As Chair, I have enjoyed welcoming and addressing new registrants at the jurisprudence examinations to speak about their responsibilities as a registrant to the college, their need to support an independent association (the BCAO) and their need to contribute back to the profession either with the board of the college, committees of the college or the BCAO. A further call to action was emphasized to female registrants who represent almost half of the profession but are underrepresented on the board.

At the end of this term we find the college protected by the strength of good people. Most notable additions to the team are Ms. Angie Westmacott who serves as Inquiry Committee legal council and the college's first Deputy Registrar, Dr. Bart McRoberts. Ms. Westmacott brings expertise in managing public complaints against registrants while Dr. McRoberts brings vision, a passion for both the profession and the regulation of the profession – unequalled by anyone else I have ever met – as well as the knowledge of the history that got us to where we are so that the college can fulfill its responsibilities in a measured way.

No one person can carry the board or the college. To this end, I have had the distinct

pleasure of working with Dr. MacAulay and Stanka Jovicevic – Jela and Amanda – all employees of the college who work diligently to see that the work of the college is done in a timely fashion with fairness to the public, registrants and applicants for registration. Employees of any company may come and go, but for now the college is served by the right people for this time in history. We could not be where we are if it were not for their dedication and work ethic.

The board of the college is also served by an amazing collection of public members and public representatives. Although all contribute when called upon, I feel it is fair and just to acknowledge the standout contributions made by Mr. Beasley, Mr. MacPherson, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Larcombe and Mr. Newlands. None of these people have to work for the college – they do so at the sacrifice of their own time. As Chair, I am forever grateful for their contributions, support and our new found friendships.

Working with Mr. Daryl Beckett of the Ministry of Health Services has been a pleasure. He is both a professional and a gentleman. Mr. Beckett works harder than anyone I know and he is always available to answer a question by the college. The people of BC are surrounded by good people without even knowing it. Mr. Beckett is one of those civil servants who rise above the call of duty. We and every college I talk to recognize that we would not be where we are today as regulators if it were not for Mr. Beckett's dedication to the work of the Health Services branch.

The board of the college is made up of intelligent, capable and focused colleagues who work to serve the public interest. A healthy board does not always agree with every motion presented. Differing points of view always result with a better product.

The Registrar, the Chair and the committees do not independently make decisions. Their motions are brought to the table, discussed and voted upon. Once a decision is made the board speaks with one voice. Whether our decisions stand the test of time or not does not measure the success of the actions of this board. Our willingness to work in a co-operative way and in a collegial spirit – to do what we thought was right for this time is what we should be measured by. We do the best we can with what we have at the time we are in and make decisions we feel are in the best interest of the public, fair to registrants and to those applying for registration.

In summary, I thank each and every one who has offered comments, support or even differing points of view – at least we were all involved in some way to help this college function.

Finally and most important, I would like to express love, gratitude and thanks to my family who let me dedicate 18 months of evenings and weekends to get this job done. I have enjoyed every minute of serving this college and profession.

Gerald S. Komarnicky B.Sc., O.D., F.A.A.O., Chair

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 2010 AGM

The Registrar is responsible for providing an “Annual Report of the College” to the registrants as per section 47 of the *Bylaws of the College of Optometrists* of BC. My report for the AGM will include the Annual Report of the College as an addendum.

I am pleased to inform you that the College has had a very successful first year of existence. My observation is that, thanks to the many people who are part of the “engine” that makes the College function, and thanks to the outstanding legislation that we are now working under (the *HPA*, *Optometrists Regulation*, and *Bylaws of the College*), the College is doing exactly what it is designed to do – effectively and efficiently regulate the practice of optometry in BC.

The first year of the College has been very busy. As you may know, we moved to new premises on January 1, 2009. We also started on our new software system, called “Alinity”, on July 1, 2009, which is a very complex and integrated system that required a lot of start up time commitment by Stanka and Jela, but will end up saving us time and money in the “long run”. We also dealt with the change-over from the Board of Examiners to the College of Optometrists of BC on March 1, 2009. This required a considerable amount of staff time, but was a very enjoyable and gratifying event for the board members and staff. Most importantly this year, all the Committees of the College have begun to “run” as they were designed to do under the HPA and Bylaws. This has taken considerable time and effort by the College Board Chair (Dr. Gerald Komarnicky), the Committee Chairs, their Committee members, and by College staff.

Some Registrants have asked me what a Registrar does. I am slowly but surely learning that a Registrar is responsible for much more than I originally had understood. I think it is important for registrants to understand how the College functions. So here it is in summary: The Registrar is the “Head of the College”. As such, the Registrar is responsible for fulfilling the directives of the College Board and for representing the College in various capacities. The Board under the direction of the Chair, Dr. Gerald Komarnicky, governs, controls, and administers the affairs of the College in accordance with the *Health Professions Act*, the *Regulations* and the *Bylaws*.

The College Board meets about four times per year and discusses issues of concern that come up under Committee reports and under the general business of the board. After discussion about current issues, the board members make decisions that result in new Policies, amendments to Bylaws, or in directives to the Registrar and the staff of the College. The Registrar is responsible for assuring implementation of those bylaw amendments, policies, or directives.

Our College has been very lucky to have some truly outstanding people working within it. These people are the College staff, the College Board members, the public representatives, the legal counsels, and the Committee members and contributors. This amounts to about 37 people! Many of these people take considerable time out of their lives and their careers with very little compensation, in an effort to maintain a high level of the regulation of Optometry in BC. On behalf of the optometrists and the optometric patients of BC, thank you so much to all of you for what you do! I would like to say a special thanks from all of us to Dr. Gerald Komarnicky and to Stanka Jovicevic for their time and commitment. I suppose I may be the only person that is aware of the time that these two have put in to the success of the College this year – their work is truly outstanding and has lead us down a “golden path” of success.

Dr. Komarnicky, as “Chair of the College board” and “Chair of the Pharmaceutical Committee of the College”, has been a leader among leaders and has elevated the perception of the profession of optometry in BC by the Ministry, other Colleges, optometrists and patients. He has been the leading effort in the development our TPA legislation and without him we may have still not been prescribing TPA’s. I have a new nickname for him – “General” Komarnicky. He has told me many times that there are “leaders” and there are “soldiers”. Well he stands very, very tall among leaders! Thank you Gerry! Please congratulate him for his work with the College when you see him next.

Stanka Jovicevic’s position with the College is technically “Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Assistant to the Registrar”. However, her employment with the College is more than a job to her. It is her passion as well as her employment. She not only performs her duties with exceptional completeness and efficiency, but she demonstrates daily to me how much she truly cares about optometry and optometrists. I again am probably the only person who is witness to the time and dedication of Stanka, Jela and Amanda which leads to the success of the College. I can tell you that Stanka and her staff are carrying out their duties in an exemplary fashion that other Colleges and organizations would be very jealous of. The success of the College this year is very much due to the organizational skills, and passion for perfection that Stanka has for our College. On behalf of the board members, public representatives, Committee members, and the optometry registrants of BC, thank you so much to Stanka and her staff - Jela, Amanda and to Gordon (who has now left us due to illness), for the effort you put into running the daily operations of our College.

The attached formal College Annual Report will form part of the Registrar’s report for the AGM.

At your service always,

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay, Registrar

DEPUTY REGISTRAR’S REPORT 2010 AGM

My term as deputy registrar has been short. I was hired by the College in December 2009. The purpose of this position is to help the Registrar with his incredibly heavy workload, so I will be undertaking any tasks that Dr. MacAulay requires. I will be overseeing particular committees at the request of the registrar. In addition in his absence, I will assume the duties of registrar.

There are a number of special new projects that it is timely for the College to pursue. This is for example the access to laboratory tests by optometrists and electronic records. I will be researching and initiating these in concert with the registrar in the upcoming months.

I have acted as the PharmaNet liaison for optometry.

I have also been a member of the Pharmaceutical Committee. This has been a very rewarding experience and the work will continue with this committee as British Columbia Optometry moves towards the North American standard of practice.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Bart McRoberts, O.D.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2010 AGM

Chair: Dr. Mario Pozza

Committee Members:

Dr. Murray Hurlbert

Dr. Rebecca Counts

Dr. Tanya Flood

Mr. David MacPherson

Mr. Jeff Larcomb

Ms. Stanka Jovicevic
CAO/Assistant to the
Registrar

Dr. Gerald Komarnicky
Ex-Officio

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay
Ex-Officio

With the transition of the Board of Examiners to a College under the Health Protections Act there has been more work to get this committee functioning under our new bylaws. The requirements of the HPA have led to a larger committee and more meetings and consultation on issues regarding registration.

Since the inception of the College to our year end of Dec. 31st, 2009, we have welcomed 41 new registrants giving our Province 498 Full A registrants, 34 Full B registrants and 65 non-practicing and academic registrant for a total of 597 registrants.

The purpose of the Committee is to review issues regarding registration and registration renewals that have come forth due to our new bylaws. We then draft policies to address those issues and they are then taken to the College Board for consideration. These policies are designed to help guide our hard working College staff on those issues.

This year specifically, the bylaws have changed the deadline dates for registration to October 31st and, with the implementation of our new software program, the importance of getting your continuing education requirements, registration renewal forms and fees to the College office on time has become extremely important. If the documents were not present in the College office by the deadline date, the software program automatically starts a process of notification to be carried out by the College staff. This process involves registered letters and significant work on the part of the staff. As a result, there is a late fee to help offset some of the time and monies spent. The College staff is very happy to receive any of your CE verification forms at any time during the year. Early submission allows the staff to input your CE hours and then you can check your CE status by simply viewing your profile on line ensuring that you have enough credits for registration renewal. Early submission also allows extra time should there be any issues with the mail system or addresses. If an item is returned to you by the mail system the early submission would allow enough time to resubmit the forms or verification slips. If there is an honest mistake on the registrants' part, the costs incurred by the College with a late submission are still present and a late fee will be issued. In addition, the new on-line program does allow for fees to be easily paid by credit card by the applicable dates.

Another issue the Registration Committee has been dealing with is portability of licensure. With the implementation of the federal governments Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), any practitioner who is in good standing in their Canadian jurisdiction may apply to another Canadian jurisdiction without having to write a competency exam. You would still have to provide a letter of good standing, fill out the appropriate registration forms, submit fees and write some form of local jurisprudence exam prior to being

accepted. This Registration Committee has been working with other Provincial regulators to provide information to the other Provincial regulators regarding the registrant who is moving.

The Registration Committee has also dealt with issues of re-registration of members who have been disciplined as well as issues of registration that do not fall in the normal scenarios. We attempt to come up with fair compromises' and solutions to the problems for the benefit of all while protecting the public.

With the first year under the HPA the Registration Committee is hopeful that the second year will be easier for you, our current registrants, and any new incoming registrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Mario Pozza, O.D., Registration Committee Chair

INQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT 2010 AGM

Chair: Dr. Dale Dergousoff

Committee Members:

Dr. Nina Gill

Dr. Sally Donaldson

Dr. Thomas Adamack

Ms. Barbara Buchanan
Public Member

Mr. Brian Newlands
Public Representative

Dr. Gerald Komarnicky
Ex-Officio

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay
Ex-Officio

Dr. Barton McRoberts
Ex-Officio

Ms. Stanka Jovicevic
CAO/Assistant to the
Registrar

Ms. Angela Westmacott
Legal Counsel to the College

The past year has been very active for the Inquiry Committee. The Inquiry Committee has worked hard assisting the College in its duty of public protection by ensuring the College addresses concerns and issues regarding misconduct and incompetence in a fair, independent and objective manner.

I would like to take this chance to thank the committee members who have been wonderful to work with.

We have held seven inquiry meeting since the Inquiry Committee was created last year, approximately every six weeks. Over that time, there were 38 complaints that were sent to the IC. Though we have dealt with a reasonably large volume of complaints, the severity of the complaints for the most part has been low. In addition, I am very pleased to inform everyone that not one complaint was made with respect to our new therapeutic privileges. Most commonly, the complaints that have been before the IC are often related to financial or interpersonal disputes. But, we have dealt with complaints that are related to competence.

The committee will continue to work hard to fulfill its mandate under the HPA. And on behalf of the IC members, it has been our pleasure to perform our duties for the College of Optometrists.

As I stated in the last Examiner: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It's more prudent to head off a disaster beforehand than to deal with it after it occurs.

"It is easier to prevent bad habits than to break them."

"It would be great to take preventive measures until waiting for something to happen."

"It is easier to act to prevent inflationary behavior than to intervene once this has developed."

Dr. Dale Dergousoff, Inquiry Committee Chair

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORT 2010 AGM

Chair: Dr. Michael Dennis

Committee Members:

Dr. Mario Pozza

Dr. Jeff Mann

Mr. David MacPherson

Mr. William Archibald

Dr. Gerald Komarnicky
Ex-Officio

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay
Ex-Officio

Ms. Stanka Jovicevic
CAO/Assistant to the
Registrar

After the College of Optometrists came into force, the role of the Discipline Committee was changed significantly. Under the College and the HPA the new role of the discipline committee was not one of investigation and inquiry but was to hold hearings. The Inquiry committee now initially deals with complaints from the public. This is done with the help of the Registrar. If a complaint can not be resolved the Inquiry committee can refer a complaint to the Discipline committee. Once a referral is made the Discipline committee calls a hearing to review the evidence involved in the complaint and makes a ruling. As a result the Discipline committee has become a judicial hearing. In other words it is a very serious situation for a registrant to be involved with. Other Colleges that are under the HPA do not have many discipline cases. It is the College of Optometrists hope to have very few discipline hearings but this committee stands ready to act in the public interest if necessary. If a hearing is necessary the rules will follow the principles of natural justice.

If a hearing is necessary, a panel of the committee will hear the evidence and make a ruling. The panel will have three members, of which at least one will be a member of the public and not a registrant. As a result some training is necessary to help the panel members develop skills that would be needed. I attended a course along with Dr. MacAulay in Toronto in late Oct. 2009. We have also had meeting with our lawyer to lay the ground work to be able to conduct a discipline hearing a professional and fair manner. I hope to never be involved with a discipline hearing but the College stands ready to proceed if necessary.

Respectfully,
Michael Dennis, O.D., Discipline Committee Chair

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE 2010 AGM

Chair: Dr. Rebecca Counts

**Voting Committee
Members:**

Dr. Katherine Pratt
Dr. Brad McDougall
Dr. Tanya Flood
Dr. Murray Hurlbert
Ms. Barbara Buchanan
Public Member
Mr. Dave Christie
Public Representative

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay
Dr. Gerald Komarnicky

Contributing Members:

Dr. Brent Allen
Dr. Louise Myshak
Dr. Susan Seibold
Dr. Jessica Ng
Dr. Alan Boyco
Dr. Jessie Manhas
Dr. Brenda Horner
Dr. Tod McNab
Dr. Michael Dennis

The mandate of the Quality Assurance (QA) committee is defined in Bylaw 18 of the College of Optometrists of BC and empowered by Sections 26.1 and 26.2 of the Health Profession Act. QA works towards the promotion a high standard of practice by BC optometrists by 1) recommending policy on Continuing Education requirements and 2) developing and administering a programme to assess various aspects of registrants' professional practice and suggest remediation as required.

There are 7 voting members of the QA Committee, including 2 public representatives, with the Chair of the Board and the Registrar serving as ex-officio (non-voting) members. The Committee cannot make policy decisions or establish programmes on its own initiative, rather it makes policy and programme recommendations to the College Board for approval. The College staff work to implement the QA policies and programmes with the additional assistance of 11 registrants who serve as volunteer Contributors to the QA Committee. Without the help of the College staff and the volunteer registrants who serve as Contributors, the work of the QA Committee could not be accomplished, and I gratefully acknowledge their efforts on behalf of us all.

This first year has been one of reflection, housekeeping, and planning for the QA Committee. At the request of the Board, we have reviewed proposed Policies related to QA and offered recommendations for changes. We have worked with the Registrar to develop a formal set of criteria to assess eligibility of proposed courses and other vehicles for Continuing Education credit. In addition, the Committee has reviewed several submissions by registrants requesting changes to policies governing CE eligibility or requesting CE credit for activities that fall outside the usual guidelines.

A major change to the CE programme that was recommended by the QA Committee and approved by the Board is a move to a 3-year reporting cycle rather than the annual reporting and auditing that is in place now. We anticipate that this change will offer registrants more flexibility in how and when they obtain their Continuing Education, and will reduce the expense associated with auditing CE. The timing of the change has not yet been established, as a transition plan including co-ordination with the new Alinity Software must be determined and a change to the Bylaws must be approved by the Ministry of Health prior to implementation.

We have not made as much progress on the development of a comprehensive assessment programme as we would have liked. A review of the 2008 pilot on-site Practice Assessment programme was undertaken, and follow-ups to those assessments have been completed. We also reviewed the results of a comprehensive

research project on QA programmes that was undertaken by the Board of Examiners in 2006-2007 following significant registrant resistance to the one that was proposed in 2005. One of the key findings of that research was that QA programmes are much more effective if there is significant registrant input during the development process. The QA Committee is committed to obtaining that input, but for a number of reasons our efforts to create a suitable venue for consultation have been stymied. We hope to make some progress on that front over the AGM weekend. Our goal is to develop a comprehensive assessment program that is fair, effective, affordable, and flexible; one that offers a range of assessment tools, provides a positive experience for participating registrants, and will help us all to reflect on and improve our practice of optometry.

In the meantime, and at the request of the Chair, we have launched a second round of on-site Place of Practice assessments that are underway at this time. The assessment form and protocol have been modified from those used in the pilot project to focus on the physical plant and administrative procedures rather than the practitioner, and to streamline the reporting and follow-up processes.

It has been my honour to serve on the QA Committee with a group of very dedicated and thoughtful optometrists and public representatives, and I look forward to continuing in this work for the protection of the public and the good of the profession.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Rebecca Counts, Ph.D., O.D., Quality Assurance Committee Chair

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER ADVISORY GROUP 2010 AGM

Chair: Dr. Murray Hurlbert

Contributors:
Stanka Jovicevic
CAO/Assistant to the
Registrar

Committees:

I am also a member of the following committees:

1. Quality Assurance
2. Pharmaceutical Advisory
3. Registration
4. Patient Relations

Additional Positions:

1. Editor of Examiner newsletter- quarterly newsletter
2. Driver's Fitness Advisory Group Liaison- serves as The College of Optometrists of BC's representative at quarterly meetings of stakeholders. Ongoing discussions regarding legislative changes to section 230 of the Motor Vehicle Act are held. Other stakeholders include: College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, BC Medical Association, College of Registered Nurses of BC, BC Society of Occupational Therapists, College of Registered Nurses of BC, BC Association of Optometrists, BC Psychological Association, College of Psychologists of BC.

Respectfully,
Dr. Murray Hurlbert

FINANCIAL ADVISORY GROUP REPORT 2010 AGM

Chair: Mr. David MacPherson, Public Member
Members: Dr. Michael Dennis
Dr. Lawrence MacAulay, Registrar
Jela Vuksan, Administrative Assistant/Accountant

The Finance Advisory Committee consists of Public Member, David MacPherson (Chair), Dr. Michael Dennis, Dr. Lawrence MacAulay (Registrar), and Jela Vuksan, Administrative Assistant/Accountant. Its mandate is to prepare an annual operating budget, in consultation with the various committee chairs and board staff, and to monitor revenues and expenses of the College throughout the year.

The committee has developed and implemented a financial reporting format which enables the committee to better monitor expenditures against the board approved annual operating budget, and to track revenues. Using this new format, the chair of the finance committee provides budget updates on a regular basis at meetings of the College board. Together with quarterly Income Statements prepared by staff, the board is able to get a clear picture of the ongoing financial status of the College.

The collection of this financial information throughout the year also enables the finance committee to prepare the College's annual operating budget based on projected expenses and anticipated revenues.

Respectfully,
David MacPherson, Public Member

PATIENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2010 AGM

Chair: Mr. Thomas Beasley
Committee Members: Dr. Murray Hurlbert
Dr. Sherman Olson
Dr. Joan Hansen
Ms. Barbara Buchanan, Public Member
Mr. John Corbett, Public Representative
Dr. Gerald Komarnicky, Ex-Officio
Dr. Lawrence MacAulay, Ex-Officio
Ms. Jela Vuksan

This is the AGM Report of the Patient Relations Committee under the College of Optometry.

The general purpose of the Patient Relations Committee, as established under s. 19 of the College Bylaws, is to establish and maintain procedures with respect to "Complaints of Professional Misconduct of a Sexual Nature", and to monitor and evaluate the operation of those procedures. In addition, the Committee is responsible for establishing a program to prevent professional misconduct including misconduct of a sexual nature; developing and recommending guidelines for the conduct of registrants with their patients; and providing information to the public regarding the College's complaint and disciplinary process.

The Committee is a new Committee established following the College coming into force on March 1, 2010. The Committee has met twice in the calendar year 2009. The eight Committee members are comprised of two public Members of the Board, the Registrar, Chair of the Board, two Optometrists who are not on the Board, and a member of the general public.

The Committee is working on creating general guidelines to meet its s. 19 responsibilities. Once those guidelines are approved by the Board, which should be in the next few months, then the guidelines will be posted on the College website and communicated in paper form, probably a brochure, to Optometrists and the public.

Respectfully,
Thomas Beasley, Public Member

**PHARMACEUTICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
2010 AGM**

Chair: Dr. Gerald S. Komarnicky

Members: Dr. Bart McRoberts, Dr. Murray Hurlbert

Ex-Officio: Dr. Lawrence MacAulay

Physician: Dr. Simon Holland (Corneal sub-specialist, Ophthalmologist)

Pharmacist: Ms. Stephanie Lemon

Government Appointee: Dr. Glenda MacDonald (Pharmacist)

The Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee is established via Bylaw 20 of the College bylaws.

Meetings:

One meeting was held on June 11, 2009.

A major accomplishment of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee was to establish Standards Limits and Conditions (SLCs) for Full A registrants who:

1. prescribe topical pharmaceutical agents
2. remove corneal foreign bodies and
3. provide punctal dilation and irrigation services.

Recent work was to complete SLCs for the treatment of Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension.

Each of these SLCs were presented to and approved by the board.

The Chair of the Committee met with the College of Physicians and Surgeons on two separate occasions to present these SLCs as a matter of courtesy and respect for the regulatory body.

The committee will continue to work to ensure that the public is protected when Full A registrants are authorized to prescribe pharmaceutical agents.

Sincerely,

Gerald S. Komarnicky B.Sc., O.D., F.A.A.O.
Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee Chair

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