

The College of Optometrists



Province of British Columbia

Annual Report 2011



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.

3RD Annual General Meeting
Sunday, April 1, 2012

J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Vancouver, British Columbia

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COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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COLLEGE BOARD

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Dr. Dale Dergousoff
Dr. Tanya Flood
Dr. Kevin Youck
Dr. Roger Gafur
Dr. Pardeep Dhillon
Dr. Nina Gill

APPOINTED MEMBERS:

Mr. David MacPherson
Ms. Barbara Buchanan

COLLEGE STAFF:

Dr. Robin Simpson, Registrar
Stanka Jovicevic, Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant to the Registrar
Jela Vuksan, Administrative Registration Assistant
Moeno Kawai, Receptionist



College of Optometrists of BC

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Dale Dergousoff, Chair

YEAR IN REVIEW

"To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan, and not quite enough time." - Leonard Bernstein.

This past year has been an exciting and successful year for the College, and the upcoming year looks very promising. Some of the key highlights from the past 12 months - we enjoyed our first year with a full-time Registrar in the College's office, held our first Strategic Planning session and worked with government in developing new Standards, Limits and Conditions related to treatment of glaucoma. I have appreciated the efforts of everyone that has worked with the College in one capacity or another. It truly takes a team effort for the College to achieve its mandate and you can be assured that the public is well served.

BOARD PERSONNEL

The College's Board and office personnel have been working hard on strengthening the existing foundation that has been created by the previous boards with a goal of creating a well organized structure that will support the mandate of the College now and in the years to come.

The College of Optometrists of British Columbia is served by its Registrar, Dr. Robin Simpson who became the permanent full-time Registrar July 1, 2011. Dr. Simpson began as the interim Registrar in February 2011 after the board's decision that the College would be best served by having a full-time Registrar. There was a huge learning curve for Dr. Simpson, but he has demonstrated an incredible appetite for learning and the decision of the Board to have a full time Registrar has proven to be a benefit to the College. Dr. Simpson is supported by Ms. Stanka Jovicevic, Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant to the Registrar, Ms. Jela Vuksan, Administrative Registration Assistant and Ms. Moeno Kawai, Receptionist. They, as a team, truly put their heart and soul into the work they do for all registrants and the public we serve.

The College's Board is made up of six elected registrants and three appointed public members. It was an atypical year for the Board as there were three resignations from the Board and a decision by the Board to request a new public member. Currently, the elected registrants are Dr. Dale Dergousoff, Dr. Tanya Flood and Dr. Kevin Youck; the public members serving are Mr. David MacPherson and Ms. Barbara Buchanan. Three of the elected registrant positions on the Board required appointment until the next election due to resignations. Dr. Roger Gafur was appointed to the Board last March with the resignation of Dr. Robin Simpson in order that he could assume the post of the Acting Registrar. Dr. Pardeep Dhillon was appointed last September due to the resignation of Dr. Kenneth Lawenda, who had moved to Quebec, and Dr. Nina Gill was appointed this past October due the resignation of Dr. Jeffrey Mann. The College is awaiting the appointment of a public member by the Board Resourcing and Development Office. We anticipate this will happen before the College's Board meeting in June 2012.



COMMITTEES

Our College's purpose, as outlined in Section 16 of the Health Profession Act, is to serve and protect the public and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest. It takes a great amount of time and effort from all committee members to ensure that the mandate of the College is achieved. The College is grateful to the many registrants who serve on our committees. In addition, the College recognizes all the committee chairs for their energy and effective leadership of their respective committees.

Most active committees continue to be the Inquiry, Quality Assurance, Registration and Pharmaceutical Advisory Committees. Our Patients Relations Committee has been active developing programs to prevent professional misconducts of the sexual nature. Discipline Committee remains inactive and the College hopes it would remain so.

The Inquiry Committee (IC) maintained a constant workload. Dr. Sally Donaldson, an original member of the Inquiry Committee has done a tremendous job taking over as chair. Dr. Donaldson was appointed IC Chair by the Board last fall after the departure of Dr. MacAulay, who is now working with the Quality Assurance Committee. There is a lot to be learned by being a member of this committee and I encourage anyone who might have an interest to contact the Registrar.

The Quality Assurance Committee made further progress in its "Four Pillars" program over the year. Drs. Flood and Mann, as co-Chairs, did a wonderful job of developing a great platform that will allow for the development of a strong and effective QA program. The program is still in its infancy but has come a long way. The College would also like to recognize Dr. Brad MacDougall for his time and spirit in organizing and running the Peer Circle events. He has made these sessions very effective and worthwhile for all those that have participated. It is a tremendous option over your traditional continuing education courses.

Past-Chair, Dr. Komarnicky continues to be a very valuable contributor to the College as the Chair of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee. He has worked diligently with the Ministry of Health to move forward the posting of Standards, Limits and Conditions that will allow Full A Registrants to provide glaucoma care to British Columbians. Improving public access to care in many needed areas of the province will be appreciated. The College acknowledges the fine efforts of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee in developing the documents that pertain to the proposed change in the Optometrists Regulation.

In addition to leading our Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee, Dr. Komarnicky midway through the year became Chair of the Registration Committee after the departure of Dr. Kenneth Lawenda. The Registration Committee has the responsibility of reviewing applications to practise here in British Columbia, and Dr. Komarnicky's experience has been a great benefit to the committee.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Although the objectives of the College are clearly laid out in the HPA and our Bylaws, the College Board spent time this past fall in a productive Strategic Planning session. The outcome of the facilitated strategic planning session was the development of a draft four year plan with five areas of focus: Organizational Development, College Board Development, College Office Development, Communications, and Professional Standards and Ethics. By addressing these areas, it will allow the College to further build upon the foundation that has been established since we came under the HPA, three years ago.

FINANCES

The College continues to maintain its solid financial position. With all committees functioning at expected levels and the creation of a full time Registrar position the College was able to better understand our expected yearly financial responsibilities. It is anticipated that there will not be registration fee increase for 2013.



ARBO

The College continues to be an active member of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO). We attended the annual meeting in Salt Lake City in June, and at the meeting, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were accepted as new members. All Canadian provinces are now members of ARBO.

OE TRACKER

The ARBO began this program nearly ten years ago as a method for optometrists to electronically store their continuing education data and have 24/7 online access to their information. In addition, this electronic CE database was set up so that only the regulatory body in the jurisdiction that the optometrist practised in could access this information to audit the individual optometrists CE hours.

The College is working with ARBO to have OE Tracker enabled for use by all registrants in the province as the method of monitoring and recording all CE attendance, and by the College to improve our efficiency in the auditing of CE requirements. The College sees nothing but benefits of OE Tracker for both the registrant and the College administration. Look for more information and updates about this at the AGM and in future correspondence from the College.

COMMENT

I want to express my sincere appreciation for having had the opportunity to be a member of the College's Board and work with so many dedicated people. This has been my seventh year and it truly continues to be a rewarding experience.

Lastly, I want to again thank my wife and family for making the sacrifices which allow me to continue to serve the public and our profession.

**THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Financial Statements
December 31, 2011**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the College of Optometrists of British Columbia, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2011 and statements of operations and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

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 comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College of Optometrists of British Columbia as at December 31, 2011, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Smythe Ratcliffe LLP

Chartered Accountants

Vancouver, British Columbia
February 16, 2012

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Statement of Financial Position
December 31

	2011	2010
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 719,409	\$ 279,746
Term deposits (note 4)	1,388,037	1,657,152
Accounts receivable	1,418	2,056
Prepaid expenses	8,997	4,810
	2,117,861	1,943,764
Furniture and Equipment (note 5)	37,309	53,988
Note Receivable (note 6)	54,000	99,000
Deposit	14,000	14,000
	\$ 2,223,170	\$ 2,110,752
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 75,339	\$ 38,510
Deferred revenue	813,083	777,781
	888,422	816,291
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,334,748	1,294,461
	\$ 2,223,170	\$ 2,110,752

Commitments (note 7)

Approved by:



College Registrar



Chair, Board of College

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31

	2011	2010
Revenues		
Annual renewal fees	\$ 880,076	\$ 840,001
Registration application fees	52,300	47,920
Interest	27,654	21,489
Corporation application fees	16,450	11,025
Other fees schedule	15,350	31,381
Continuing education	12,420	0
	1,004,250	951,816
Expenditures		
Salaries and benefits	354,492	281,290
Committees	172,532	139,043
Meetings and conferences	118,259	99,808
Rent	86,794	80,037
Office services	82,917	93,055
Office and telephone	63,650	59,953
Professional fees	31,408	28,092
Registrar	27,143	23,752
Amortization	26,768	27,239
	963,963	832,269
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	40,287	119,547
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1,294,461	1,174,914
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 1,334,748	\$ 1,294,461

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31

	2011	2010
Operating Activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 40,287	\$ 119,547
Item not involving cash		
Amortization	26,768	27,239
	67,055	146,786
Changes in non-cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	638	4,813
Prepaid expenses	(4,187)	3,520
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	36,829	12,040
Deferred revenue	35,302	72,093
	68,582	92,466
Cash Provided by Operating Activities	135,637	239,252
Investing Activities		
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(10,089)	(8,309)
Proceeds from note receivable	45,000	23,750
Withdrawal (investment) in term deposits	269,115	(33,801)
Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	304,026	(18,360)
Inflow of Cash	439,663	220,892
Cash, Beginning of Year	279,746	58,854
Cash, End of Year	\$ 719,409	\$ 279,746

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2011

1. OPERATIONS

The College of Optometrists of British Columbia (the "College") is a not-for-profit organization with the objective to serve and protect the public in relation to the practice of optometry in British Columbia.

The College's bylaws are regulated under the *Health Professions Act* of British Columbia (the "HPA"). The College establishes qualifications of members and ensures the standards set out in the HPA regulations and by-laws are maintained by the members.

The College is exempt from income tax under the provisions of the *Income Tax Act*.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Revenue recognition

Annual renewal fees are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year to which they relate. These fees received in advance have been recorded as deferred revenue.

Registration fees, incorporation fees, other fees schedule and continuing education are recognized as revenue when the member is invoiced.

Interest income is recognized as it is earned.

(b) Furniture and equipment

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

Online computer software	- 4 years
Computer equipment	- 3 years
Office equipment	- 4 years
Furniture	- 4 years

Additions during the year are amortized at one-half the annual rate.

(c) Financial instruments

All financial instruments are classified into one of these five categories: held-for-trading, held-to-maturity, loans and receivables, available-for-sale financial assets or other financial liabilities. All financial instruments are measured in the statement of financial position at fair value except for loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments and other financial liabilities, which are measured at amortized cost. Any financial instrument may be designated as held-for-trading upon initial recognition.

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2011

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(c) Financial instruments (Continued)

The College has designated cash and term deposits as held-for-trading; note receivable and accounts receivable as loans and receivables; and accounts payable as other liabilities.

The College continues to follow the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' ("CICA") Handbook Section 3861 *Financial Instruments - Disclosure and Presentation*.

(d) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported 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 reporting period. Significant estimates include the collectability of the notes receivable and rates of amortization. Management believes the estimates are reasonable; however, actual results could differ from those estimates and could impact future results of operations and cash flows.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Fair value

The carrying values of cash, term deposits, accounts receivable, note receivable and accounts payable approximate their fair values due to the short-term maturity of these financial instruments.

(b) Interest rate risk

The College is not exposed to significant interest rate risk due to the short-term nature of its current monetary assets and liabilities.

(c) Credit risk

The College is exposed to credit risk on its cash and term deposits. This risk is minimized as cash and term deposits have been placed with a major credit union. Additionally, the College is exposed to credit risk on its note receivable. This risk has been assessed as minimal.

4. TERM DEPOSITS

Term deposits are comprised of guaranteed investment certificates held at a credit union. The investments earn interest at 1.20% to 2.10% (2010 – 1.65% to 2.10%) per annum and mature within one year.

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2011

5. FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

			2011		2010
	Cost		Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Online computer software	\$ 76,164	\$	49,160	\$ 27,004	\$ 46,045
Computer equipment	26,483		19,920	6,563	3,238
Office equipment	16,637		13,063	3,574	3,829
Furniture	14,529		14,361	168	876
	\$ 133,813	\$	96,504	\$ 37,309	\$ 53,988

6. NOTE RECEIVABLE

The note receivable is interest-free and due from a former registrant as a result of various fines and restitution for legal expenses. The former registrant is seeking to reinstate registration. If reinstated, the former registrant is required to repay the outstanding balance.

7. COMMITMENTS

The College is committed to minimum rental payments, which include occupancy costs and property taxes, aggregating \$167,476 over the term of a lease expiring January 31, 2014 and equipment lease payments aggregating \$31,058 over the term of a lease expiring July 12, 2015.

Commitments in each of the next four years are as follows:

2012	\$ 89,158
2013	89,158
2014	15,468
2015	4,750
	\$ 198,534

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2011

8. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The College considers its capital management to be comprised of its unrestricted net assets, which are funds available for future operations and are preserved so the College can have financial flexibility should opportunities arise in the future. The College's objective when managing its net assets is to provide adequate funding to ensure efficient delivery of its service activities. The College intends to achieve this objective through cost control.

The College is not exposed to externally imposed capital requirements. There have been no changes to the College's approach to capital management during the year.

9. FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGE

In December 2010, the CICA, in conjunction with the Accounting Standards Board, issued *Part III – Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations* of the CICA Handbook. For fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, not-for-profit entities will be required to report under these new standards. This will affect the College's annual financial statements for the December 31, 2012 fiscal year, and may require restatement of the College's December 31, 2011 figures for comparative purposes. Significant changes to the College's financial statements are not anticipated.

10. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain of the prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Dr. Robin Simpson

The Registrar acts as the head of the College, and as such, is involved with all regulatory activities of the College, is responsible for managing the financial affairs of the College, oversees the day to day business of the College and represents the College at provincial, national and international meetings of regulatory bodies and associations. The College does not advocate for the profession. It is mandated to act in the public interest and protect the public by regulating the profession.

As you may know, there is an exceptional amount of additional work required to familiarize the Registrar with the duties and day to day activities which are expected. I have been most fortunate in that respect, as our CAO and Assistant to the Registrar, Stanka Jovicevic, has freely provided the extra time and benefit of her experience which I clearly needed, without additional compensation or any concern that it was not part of her job description. Indeed, the same can be said of our Administrative Registration Assistant, Jela Vuksan. We are fortunate to have such informed and dedicated staff whose constant care is the welfare of our College.

The Registrar's regulatory responsibilities include registration and registration renewal, the permitting of optometric corporations and their renewal, review and amendment of Bylaws and approval of continuing education (CE) programs and presentations for CE credit. In addition, the Registrar sits as ex-officio on all six standing committees, providing the chairs of those committees access to the administrative services required to fulfill their committees' mandate. They should be commended for the insight and zeal they bring to their tasks which they complete in a professional and compassionate manner; all the while, with a commitment to processes that are transparent, fair objective and unbiased. Please join me in thanking those whose efforts allow our profession to continue the privilege of self-regulation.

The College is represented by the Registrar at the Health Regulatory Organization (HRO) meetings. The HRO is mandated under the Health Professions Act (HPA) and all 22 Colleges regulated by the HPA are members. The Registrar also represents the College at the Canadian Optometric Regulatory Authorities (CORA) meetings and is CORA's representative on the International Optometry Bridging Program (IOBP) at University of Waterloo, School of Optometry (UWSO) Advisory Committee. The College is represented at the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) by the Chair of the Board and the Registrar.

The College has signed an information sharing agreement with the Ministry which allowed our registrants to be included in the Community Health and Resource Directory (CHARD), a joint project of the BC Medical Association, the Ministry of Health Services and HealthLink BC, which will allow authorized health professionals and their staff secure access to this web based service that improves the speed, efficiency and effectiveness of patient referrals. It is important for optometrists to be included in this directory so that referring physicians can identify the most appropriate referrals for your services. All registrants were sent data collection forms by e-mail in October. By completing this form, registrants were able to provide additional information to be displayed in the directory.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of our College with whom I have had the pleasure of communicating with this past year.



REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Chair:

Dr. Gerald Komarnicky

Committee Members:

Dr. Priya Vohora

Dr. Mitra Mehin

Dr. Tanya Flood

Mr. David MacPherson

Public Member

Mr. Jeff Larcombe

Public Representative

Ex-Officio:

Dr. Robin Simpson,

Registrar

Dr. Dale Dergousoff,

Chair

Staff Member:

Ms. Stanka Jovicevic,

CAO/Assistant to the

Registrar

The Registration Committee is guided by Section 20 of the Health Profession Act (HPA) and by Part 4 of the College bylaws. The Registration Committee acts in the interest of the public while being fair, objective, transparent and unbiased in all of its deliberations.

This year saw some change-over in committee members during the 2011 term. Dr. Gerald Komarnicky became Chair upon the resignation of Dr. Kenneth Lawenda.

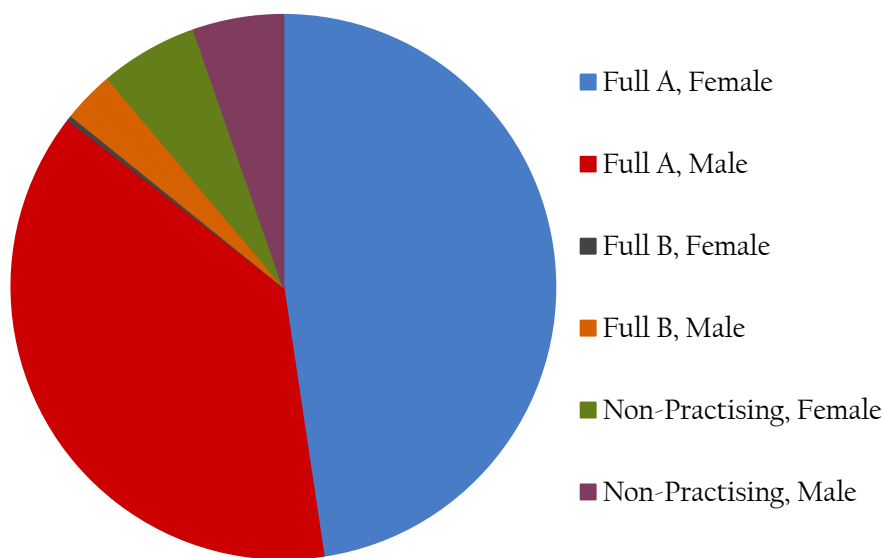
The Registration Committee met three times during the year to discuss matters pertaining to the registration of applicants from outside of Canada, from another province and from a former registrant wishing to be reinstated.

December 31, 2011 Registration:

	Total	Female	Male
Full A	560	312	248
Full B	22	2	20
Non-Practising	73	38	35
Total	655	306	349

59 Certificates of Registration were issued.
25 Registrants did not renew their 2012 Registration.

Registration Statistics





QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Tanya Flood

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Tanya Flood
Dr. Jeffrey Mann

Committee Members:

Dr. Brad McDougall
Dr. Stephanie Gautier
Ms. Barbara Buchanan,
Public Member
Mr. David Christie,
Public Representative

Ex-Officio:

Dr. Robin Simpson,
Registrar
Dr. Dale Dergousoff,
Chair

Staff Member:

Ms. Stanka Jovicevic,
CAO/Assistant to the
Registrar

Object of the Quality Assurance Committee: The Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) plays a key role in fulfilling two of the duties and objects of the College, as set out in the *Health Professions Act*, Part 1 Section 16(2)(d,e). These are, “to establish and maintain a continuing competency program to promote high practice standards amongst registrants,” and “to establish, monitor and enforce standards of practice to enhance the quality of practice and reduce incompetent, impaired or unethical practice amongst registrants.”

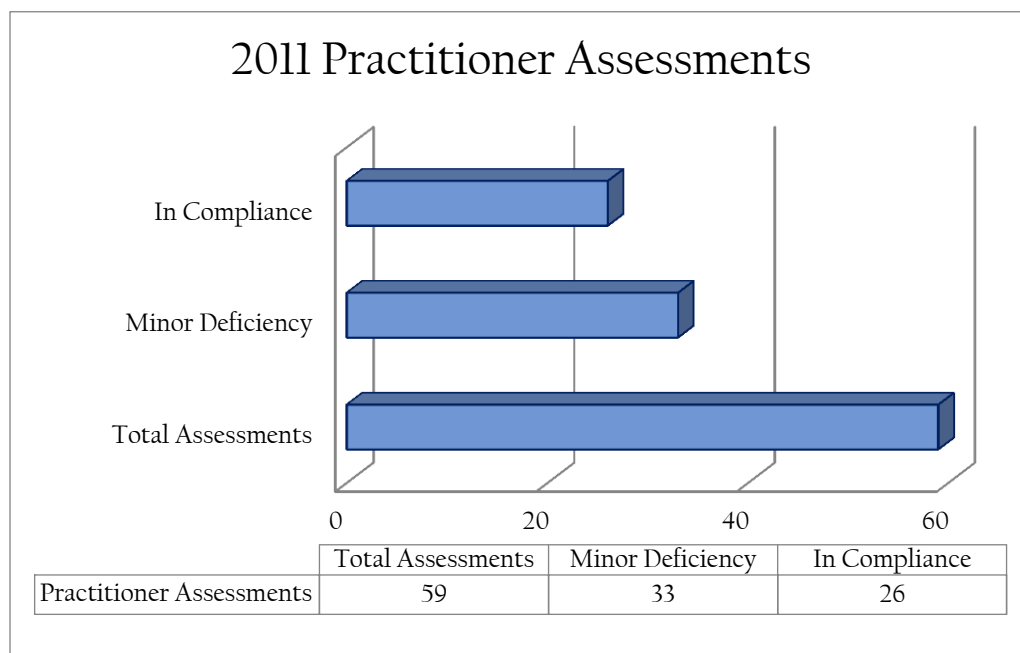
To ensure that these duties are met effectively and fairly, the QAC has a balanced continuing competency program which utilizes “Four Pillars”:

- Continuing Education (CE): Continuing competency and professional development through mandatory continuing education.
- Practitioner Assessment (PA): Standards of Practice based peer assessment of practitioners and places of practice.
- Peer Circles (PC): A contemporary form of professional continuing education in which experienced clinicians address quality-assurance issues relevant to their own practices, within a small-group, interactive learning environment.
- Support: Peer based support and mentorship programs available to practitioners requiring assistance in meeting standards or practice.

Continuing Education: As of April, all BC registrants were required to verify and record their enrolment in mandatory continuing education programs, maintaining original records for audit purposes. Practitioner participation is now monitored by annual random CE audits. Fifty-five CE audits were completed in 2011. All were found to be in compliance with quality assurance requirements.

Practitioner Assessment: Practitioner Assessments have been carried out by the College since 2008. The assessments carried out from 2008 through 2010, addressed place of practice standards only. Research into various competency assessment methodologies was carried out during 2010, and 2011 has been the pilot year for enhanced Practitioner Assessments tools. These new Practitioner Assessment tools have been broadened to include a record keeping assessment module.

Eighteen registrants participated in intensive training in these new assessment methodologies, to become peer assessors. Fifty-nine peer assessments were conducted by these trained assessors, using the enhanced assessment tools. Following the assessments, the assessors met to review all assessments. The goals were to ensure each assessment was fair, objective and unbiased, and to discuss further improvements to the PA process. Twenty-six PAs were found to be in compliance with the expected standards. Thirty-three revealed minor deficiencies. The process revealed no major failures to comply with the standards of practice.



Peer Circles: Peer Circles give registrants an opportunity to identify and resolve quality problems relating to clinical care, through small-group discussions and dialogue with colleagues. One of the goals for 2011 was to make this program readily accessible for registrants by providing two Peer Circle sessions per year. The first for 2011 was held in April and focused on the SOAP (Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan) approach to record keeping. The next Peer Circle was held in October 2011 and focused on a clinical case of a misdiagnosed lesion. One hundred and eight registrants participated in Peer Circle programs in 2011. Our focus for 2012 will be to initiate training of new Peer Circle facilitators.

Support: The QAC currently has three qualified coaches who work with individual registrants who require remedial assistance with some standards of practice. These coaches are colleagues, practising in BC, who have been specifically trained at the Vision Institute in Toronto. During 2011 we had two registrants participating in our support program. We expect to evolve the support aspect of the QA program over the next year.

Gratitude: The QAC wishes to extend a huge thank you to the College office team! The registrants of BC appreciate your commitment to the success of our profession. A special thank you goes to Dr. Robin Simpson and Ms. Stanka Jovicevic for their significant efforts on Quality Assurance topics this past year. During extremely busy times of the year at the College office, they managed to invest a huge amount of time in QA topics.



INQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sally Donaldson

Chair:

Dr. Sally Donaldson

Committee Members:

Dr. Roger Gafur

Dr. Kevin Youck

Dr. Russell Ebata

Ms. Barbara Buchanan,

Public Member

Mr. Brian Newlands,

Public Representative

Ex-Officio:

Dr. Robin Simpson,

Registrar

Dr. Dale Dergousoff,

Chair

Legal Counsel:

Ms. Angela Westmacott

Staff Member:

Ms. Stanka Jovicevic,

CAO/Assistant to the

Registrar

Object of the Inquiry Committee: The Health Professions Act (HPA) requires that the College maintain an Inquiry Committee (IC), and under s. 16(2)(i.1) obligates the College “to establish and employ registration, inquiry and discipline procedures that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair”. The IC is mandated to investigate complaints against registrants which are delivered to the registrar in writing. The IC may also initiate an investigation of a registrant under s. 33(4). Upon conclusion of an investigation, there are only four options open to the Inquiry Committee under s. 33(6) of the Act:

33(6) After considering any information provided by the registrant, the IC may:

- (a) take no further action if the inquiry committee is of the view that the matter is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith or that the conduct or competence to which the matter relates is satisfactory;
- (b) in the case of an investigation respecting a complaint, take any action it considers appropriate to resolve the matter between the complainant and the registrant;
- (c) act under section 36; or
- (d) direct the registrar to issue a citation under section 37.

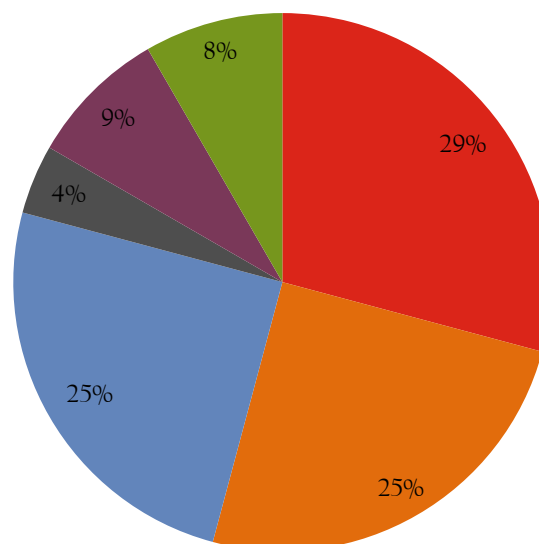
The Inquiry Committee endeavours to discharge its duties in a timely manner, with compassion and in the public interest.

Complaints disposition: Inquiry Committee received a total of 26 complaints and concluded 24. Two, involving clinical case management, were concluded by Consent Order (s. 36 of the Act). None of these complaints were found to be a “serious matter” as defined in s. 26 of the Act.

Nature of Complaints Concluded

- Communication Issues: 7
- Provision of prescription or pupillary distance: 6
- Clinical case management: 6
- Practice management: 1
- Advertising: 2
- Registration: 2

Total: 24





Health Professions Review Board (HPRB): The Review Board is an administrative tribunal created under the *Health Professions Act* to provide an independent review of certain decisions made by the self-governing colleges of designated health professions regarding the registration of their members and the timeliness and disposition of complaints made against their registrants. Through its reviews, early resolution processes and hearings, the Review Board monitors the activities of the colleges' complaints inquiry committees and registration committees, in order to ensure they fulfill their duties in the public interest and as mandated by legislation. The Review Board provides a neutral forum for members of the public as well as for health professionals to resolve issues or seek review of the colleges' decisions.

One complainant appealed the disposition of the IC to the HPRB. That application for review was withdrawn following early resolution processes.

Gratitude: I would like to take this opportunity to thank our two public members. Their input and guidance are an integral part of our committee. They keep us in touch with our public, and our mandate to protect the public. Thank you to our current registrant members, whose commitment to our profession and valued opinions are so appreciated. We are grateful to Ms. Angela Westmacott, Legal Counsel for her clarity and intelligence, as she guides and supports our committee. We are so fortunate to have her working with our group.

If you have not had the privilege to serve on a committee, or work with Dr. MacAulay in any capacity, you would not know how lucky we are to have him in our profession. Thank you to him for his past leadership as Chair of our committee. Our group will miss his professional acumen, knowledge and fairness.

Dr. Nina Gill has moved on after many years of service with us. The Inquiry Committee is sad to have lost such an integral member of our team. Dr. Gill's attention to detail and high level of optometric knowledge will be missed.

Finally, and huge thank you to the College office staff. The Inquiry Committee could not function as efficiently and effectively as it does without the incredible work and unwavering dedication of our entire College staff and especially Stanka Jovicevic, CAO. Stanka's work ethic and commitment to our profession is of the highest standard, and is so appreciated by us all.



DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Pardeep Dhillon

Chair:

Dr. Pardeep Dhillon

Committee Members:

Dr. Anisa Nurani

Dr. Katherine Pratt

Mr. David MacPherson,
Public Member

Mr. William Archibald,
Public Representative

Mr. Jeff Larcombe,
Public Representative

Ex-Officio:

Dr. Robin Simpson,
Registrar

Dr. Dale Dergousoff,
Chair

I have been privileged to serve as the Chair of the Discipline committee over the past couple of months. I am proud to report that 2011 has been an uneventful year with a total of zero cases. Of course, the committee stands ready to act in the public interest if necessary.

PATIENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Barbara Buchanan, Public Member

Chair:

Ms. Barbara Buchanan

Committee Members:

Dr. Sherman Olson

Dr. Joan Hansen

Dr. Mitra Mehin

Mr. Jack Corbett

Ex-Officio:

Dr. Robin Simpson,
Registrar

Dr. Dale Dergousoff,
Chair

Staff Representative:

Ms. Jela Vuksan

The Patient Relations Committee establishes and maintains procedures for dealing with complaints of sexual misconduct of registrants as well as programs to prevent professional misconduct of a sexual nature, as per Bylaw 19.

The BC College of Optometrists believes in collaborating with the Colleges of other health professions in the province to promote common goals and initiatives to prevent sexual misconduct. These initiatives may include a joint education endeavor and a commitment to work together collaboratively in the future.

The guidelines are periodically reviewed with a focus on continuous quality improvement. The BC College of Optometrists views any conduct of a sexualized nature between registrant and patient to be unacceptable, and the Patient Relations Committee will work actively to address the prevention of such conduct.



PHARMACEUTICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Chair:

Dr. Gerald Komarnicky

Committee Members:

Dr. Bart McRoberts

Dr. Roger Gafur

Dr. Clark Bowden

Dr. Robert M. Schertzer,
MD, MEd, FRCSC

Dr. Glenda MacDonald,
BSP, ACPR, PharmD, RPh

Ms. Stephanie Hahn,
BSC Pharm

Ex-Officio:

Dr. Robin Simpson,
Registrar

Dr. Dale Dergousoff,
Chair

The Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee (PAC) is guided by Section 19(1)(k) of the Health Profession Act (HPA) and is established by Section 20 of bylaws of the College.

As per Bylaw 20, the PAC consists of:

- four registrants
- one medical practitioner approved by the College of Physicians and Surgeons
- one pharmacist approved by the College of Pharmacists
- one person nominated by the Ministry of Health Services

The PAC Chair met with the Ministry of Health on three occasions over the past year and had several email correspondences to co-ordinate a change in the Regulation that would include anti-glaucoma agents. Within that process there were changes made to the proposed Standards, Limits and Conditions (SLCs) that would regulated Full A Registrants who prescribe these agents. At the request to the Ministry, two supplementary papers were written - one as a Notice to Registrants to serve as a preamble to the SLCs and a Frequently Asked Questions page to be posted on the College's web site that would allow an average person to understand why the Ministry would include anti-glaucoma agents as a part of the College's Regulation. All documents were presented to the BCO and BCSEPS upon their completion. The PAC voted on and approved all three documents and recommended them to the board. The board voted on and approved the three documents.

As a conclusion to this work, the Ministry is intending to post all three documents and the proposed Regulation changes for public viewing on or about February 1, 2012. The College is hopeful that Full A Registrants might be able to prescribe anti-glaucoma agents beginning in the summer on 2012 within the confines of the Regulation and the SLCs. The PAC did not hear any public complaints pertaining to Full A registrants prescribing therapeutic agents. The PAC speaks in one voice and in the public interest.

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