



The EXAMINER

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BC

DECEMBER 2010

As per section 16 of the HPA, the duty and objects of the College at all times is to serve and protect the public and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest.

VISION STATEMENT

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

Dr. J. Barton McRoberts

The last couple of months have been quite busy at the College. It is registration time and the sheer volume of registering over 600 registrants and almost as many corporations is a huge load for the office staff. The use of internet registration has been a huge help.

A large project of the College has been the scope expansion concerning glaucoma. Dr. Komarnicky in particular has put a great deal of work on this issue. He has met with government, with the BCO and the BC Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons for input. The input from many other interested parties who responded to the posting of the proposed Standards Limits and Conditions (SLC's) were also considered.

The updated document was presented to the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee on November 8th. There were further changes made based on input from this committee. The finalized document was presented to the Board of the College on November 10th, and was adopted at that meeting.

The SLC's along with the required supporting documents were sent to the Ministry of Health following this.

Our indications at this time, are that the required amendments to our Regulations will be made before Christmas.

The SLC's are a compilation of much input and I think they stand as an excellent combination of responsive patient care, patient safety and collaborative practice with members of another health profession as required in the Health Professions Act.

Again thanks to Dr. Komarnicky for his work, not only in drafting and redrafting – several times, all the while keeping his eyes on the goal line, but also in the sheer volume of paper work he did summarizing all of the submissions.

The College has made some bylaws amendments which are now in effect. One of these is a penalty fine for failing to advise the College about changes of address or telephone number. If you are working someplace and we don't know – you are in violation.

The annual general meeting of the College will be on April 17, 2011. The College is planning to have some CE at that time to tie in with the AGM. The Q.A. Committee will also have some CE.

The election of new Board members will occur before the AGM, and the results available for that meeting. Registrants will be getting notification of the election and call for nominations. There are two positions up for election this year. Each position will be for a 3 year term. The incumbents for these spots are Dr. Tanya Flood and Dr. Mitra Mehin. It is not yet known if these Board members are intending to run again, but they are able to do so, if they are nominated and agree to let their name stand.

REMINDER: The 2011 College AGM will be held at the "Center for Dialogue" which adjoins the Delta Suites Hotel in Vancouver – April 17/10 1:30 pm. Please plan to attend – we need you!

Message from the Board Chair

Dr. Dale Dergousoff

Eighteen months ago the College of Optometrists of BC began its new life under the *Health Professions Act* and over this time we have seen some very positive accomplishments in our profession here in British Columbia. Unfortunately, we are still clouded by the surprise amendments to the *Optometrists Regulation* that took place on May 1, 2010.

But, we must move onwards and keep our heads held high as we are a long-standing and proud profession that has a significant role in patient care here in BC.

This past April, I was bestowed the privilege, by my fellow Board members, of becoming the second Chair of the College. I would like to thank Dr. Gerry Kormarnicky for his dedication, plus the amazing and timeless work that he put into the College on behalf of our registrants and in the interest of public protection. Dr. Kormarnicky was a great leader of the College board and I am honored to follow him. In addition, I would like to recognize the dedication and the unbelievable amount of work that all of us as registrants received from our past-Registrar, Dr. Lawrence MacAulay. This College would not be where it is today without his tireless work. Fortunately for all of us, Dr. MacAulay did not get too far as he is still with the College as a Deputy Registrar.

Having been part to the College's board for many years, I have witnessed the great deal of work that is involved with running the College. A great amount of the work goes on behind the scenes, and this work would not be accomplished without the excellent support the Board members, Registrar, and Deputy Registrars receive from the staff at the College office.

My first six months as the Chair has been an eye opener in many ways. As the previous Inquiry Committee Chair, I had a lot of work to do, but as the Chair of the College's Board you quickly learn to appreciate the commitment involved to take on such a role. Thus, I have gained much appreciation for the numerous Chairs that have come before me and thank them for all their time and effort they devoted to the profession.

As the present Chair, I am committed to the mandate of the College which 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 has a great group of new board members along with two returning public members. They all have been working very hard for the College through the various committees they are involved with. I am excited to be working with such a dedicated and engaging group of people.

Throughout this newsletter you will read about the activity of each committee. One committee, the Quality Assurance Committee has a major role within the College and we should all learn and understand the mandate of this committee. Even more, I urge any registrant to put their name forward if they are interested in being part of the QA committee. Having attended the ARBO meeting this past June, I learned that one area we are ahead of our colleagues south of the border is in the area of quality assurance.

There will hopefully be good news coming our way sometime in the next 4 months. It does look like the treatment of glaucoma by optometrists in BC is going to happen; it is a matter of when. The College will keep you up to date on the latest news regarding glaucoma. The Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee recently had a meeting and revised the Standards Limits and Conditions relating to the treatment of glaucoma. The end result is something all of us should be pleased with. Please remember this is just the start and the SLC's may be reviewed and revised by the Board in the future.

Lastly, the College is looking at the implantation of OE Tracker into our Alinity program. What the OE tracker will do is keep track of all your CE information and make it very easy for registrants to access and print off their CE information. Plus, if all goes well it will make it very easy and more efficient for the College to track registrants' CE.

Warmest wishes to you and your family, and have a wonderful holiday season.

REMINDER: There will be an election for two new board members, each for a three year term on April 15, 2010. You will receive nomination forms from the College office soon.

Inquiry Committee Report

Dr. Robin Simpson, Chair

Committee members include:

Dr. Nina Gill Ms. Barbara Buchanan
 Dr. Sally Donaldson Mr. Brian Newlands
 Dr. Gerald Komarnicky
 Ex-Officio: Dr. Dale Dergousoff Dr. Tom Adamack
 Staff: Stanka Jovicevic

Since the beginning of the year, the Inquiry Committee assumed thirteen cases in process. Thirteen new cases have been received. The Committee appointed inspectors in three cases. Twenty three cases have been decided in four meetings of the Inquiry Committee and one teleconference. Forty six decision letters and one Consent Order have been drafted and approved. Two cases have been resolved by mediation; one by the HPRB and one by the College.

Those complaints initiated by registrants concerning marketing of registrants' practices have been the most demanding of time and resources. Registrants are advised to carefully test any considered marketing against Part 11 of the College Bylaws. If in doubt, the registrant should discuss the matter with the College. Formal complaints must follow the process mandated by the HPA. Unnecessary complaints are expensive and a drain on your College's resources.

The committee has also completed a "Concerns and Complaints" page for the college website. The page explains the inquiry process and the Inquiry Committee's mandate, under the HPA, to the public. An online form will be available to download or to complete online, for a complainant wishing to register a complaint. The complainant will complete and submit the form to the Deputy Registrar.

Section 39.3 of the *Health Professions Act* requires public notification of Inquiry Committee and Discipline Committee decisions that involve certain matters, including consent orders in relation to a "serious matter". The Inquiry Committee has drafted an explanatory notice to the public which can be viewed on our website under the 'Public Information' tab

Currently Three cases are in process. One case is pending decisions and one consent order requires ongoing monitoring.

Registration Committee Report

Dr. Kenneth Lawenda, Chair

Committee members include:

Dr. Tanya Flood Mr. David MacPherson
 Dr. Gerald Komarnicky Mr. J. Larcombe
 Dr. Metra Mehin
 Ex-Officio: Dr. Dale Dergousoff Dr. L. MacAulay
 Staff: Stanka Jovicevic

The Registration Committee has been charged under the HPA and the Bylaws in granting registration to the members of the College when that applicant satisfies that he or she meets the conditions or requirements for registration in a class. In December of 2009 the Board of Examiners and the College of Optometrists of BC decision was to accept the NBEO as being equivalent to the CSAO for registration purposes.

The College Board requested that the Registration Committee meet to review that issue once again and report back to the Board at our next meeting .

The Committee had a conference call on November 18, 2010 and discussed :

- ✓ History of the Board and College's decision of December 2009
- ✓ A review of the Registration Committee's charge under the HPA and Bylaws of the College
- ✓ A review of the current policy of the College regarding the NBEO as being "equivalent" to the CSAO as per Bylaw 50

The following motion was made: "The policy of the College is amended to not accept the NBEO as being equivalent to the CSAO as per Bylaw 50"

The motion failed. Therefore, the Registration Committee will indicate to the College board on Dec 10, 2010 that the policy of the College accepting the NBEO as equivalent to the CSAO stands.

A second motion made was: "The Registration Committee recommends to the Board that it continue with its ongoing support of the development and maintenance of a Canadian National Assessment in Optometry"

This motion passed...unanimously.

Quality Assurance Committee (continued)**QA HRO Meeting – November 1st, 2010:**

Dr. Flood and Dr. Mann attended this meeting at which Daryl Beckett presented on the topics of QA and Delegation, at the request of the CRNBC. Mr. Beckett answered three questions which have been outstanding for the Colleges:

- 1) When will there be a specific QA regulation in place? He stated that there is no date and it is not a priority. He described the many pressing priorities that the Ministry currently has and made it clear that it would likely be 3-5 years before there is any content even considered.
- 2) What might the content include? The ministry would like to define minimum requirements, but have not yet decided on content. They are encouraging the Colleges to be creative and reasonable and do what suits their needs. He encouraged us to use QA as an umbrella under which there would be a variety of activities which ensure competence.
- 3) Do the Colleges have authority to enforce their QA program? He stated that the Colleges are enabled to have a QA program via 26.2, and that our Bylaws then give us the authority to enforce the requirements that we define. Therefore registrants must comply.

A number of health profession Colleges attended the November 1st QA Meeting hosted by the BC College of registered Nurses, including Registered Nurses, licensed Practical Nurses, Occupational therapists, Opticians, Chiropractors, Speech and Language Therapists and Denturists. Medicine and Pharmacy were not present at this meeting, but we were informed they would have a separate meeting with Daryl Beckett on November 9th. Our QA committee has learned that minutes from this meeting would be disseminated by the Nurses College to all Colleges. We are very interested to see what direction Medicine and Pharmacy will take in Quality Assurance.

We will continue to be involved in ongoing conversations with the HRO members as we enhance our QA programs.

QA Policy Development for 2011: It is the desire of the College Board to have an effective QA program which meets our regulatory requirements. The focus of the QA committee for

2011 is the continued development of the QA program in conjunction with the HRA group, government and our registrants. Specifically, the

QA committee will be focussing on a balanced QA program which will enhance our 4 pillars of the current QA program: Continuing Education; Practitioner Assessment; Peer Circles and Support/Remediation.

Practitioner Assessment program – Dr. Jeff Mann and Dr. Brad McDougall attended a meeting of the Alberta College of Optometrists Continuing Competency Committee (CCC) on October 2nd 2010. The Alberta CC committee's work is similar to our Quality Assurance role. The main difference is that in Alberta there is a significant emphasis on review of record keeping in the practice assessments. The Alberta program has been running smoothly for several years, and it continues to enjoy broad acceptance of Alberta's registrants. Dr. Mann and McDougall attended a session with all the practice assessors as they discussed their findings of the practice assessments. We were able to observe how this committee manages record keeping concerns, and decides on the proper course of remedial action to take. It is a confidential, transparent and efficient process completed within one day for each round of practice assessments.

Edmonton/ACO consultation - Drs. Flood, Mann, McDougall and Pratt along with Stanka are planning to visit the ACO office in Edmonton on January 21st 2011, and to also attend a "Mock review" as a training exercise at the office of the Alberta registrar. The purpose of this visit is to observe exactly how the record keeping assessment is done, and to see how the administrative work for the reviews is handled by the ACO office staff.

Following this experience, our QA committee will develop policy for an expanded QA program for our board to approve. Research, training and form development will flow into the next round of assessments. As well, we will be enhancing the Peer circle program and making it more readily accessible for registrants

Patient Relations Committee Report

Ms. Barbara Buchanan, Chair

Committee Members include:

- Mr. Jack Corbett
- Dr. Joan Hansen
- Dr. Mitra Mehin
- Dr. Sherman Olson
- Mr. James Grey
- Ex officio* : Dr. Dale Dergousoff
- Dr. Lawrence MacAulay
- Staff Representative: 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. Please see the College bylaw #19 for definitions.

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.

Building on the work of the previous Patient Relations Committee, the Committee approved the attached guidelines. Attachment # 2

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

IMPORTANT NOTE

The College office will be closed from December 24th 2010 to January 4th, 2011. The College Board members and the College staff wish all Registrants a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2011.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Registrants must immediately inform the College office of any practice address changes, or practice location changes. Simply email or send a fax to the College with the details of your changes. Failure to do so may result in a financial penalty.

Deputy Registrars Report

Dr. Thomas Adamack

Since assuming the Deputy Registrar's position the bulk of my responsibilities have been with the Inquiry Committee. This is a very active committee as is indicated in the Inquiry Chairman's Report. In addition to the active and formal complaints fielded by the Inquiry Committee there are approximately 10 times as many telephone inquiries to the College Office involving questions as to what a Registrant may or may not do. The bulk of these revolve around the fees being charged in your offices with regard to contact lenses or for releasing and/or faxing additional prescriptions for patients. The other major concern is the omission of PD measurements in the prescriptions being issued to patients. This is now required on all prescriptions and all registrants are urged to review the Regulations regarding this requirement.

Deputy Registrars Report

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay

It has been my pleasure to work for the College under the direction of Bart McRoberts who is now the Registrar (I used to be the "big guy"!), and Dr. Dale Dergousoff (Board Chair). I have been participating in several areas including participating in two committees as the "ex-officio" Registrar, working with the Financial Advisory committee on College finances, submitting bylaw amendments to government, editing the Newsletter, attending government and other (HRO) meetings on behalf of the Registrar, producing a jurisprudence examination, providing a new board member orientation, and working in the College office to answer general inquiries from the public, registrants or College staff.

Merry Christmas and all the best in 2011 to all of you and your families!

New Optometry Registrants for BC

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants to the College of Optometrists of BC. This group represents a record year for BC for new registrants. This group also represents over one third of all the new registrants registered for all jurisdictions in Canada this year! Wow!

Dr. Asif Ahmed
 Dr. Goleta Amirli
 Dr. Abigail Asirvatham
 Dr. Satinder Bains
 Dr. Brandea Balcomb
 Dr. Jatinder Bansal
 Dr. Benjamin Barrus
 Dr. Eric Bella
 Dr. Raman Bhakhri
 Dr. Samantha Bourdeau
 Dr. Sara Buckley
 Dr. Matthew Chavoustie
 Dr. Cheryl Chen
 Dr. Jiangtao Chen
 Dr. Jeffrey Cheng
 Dr. Aaron Chiam
 Dr. Angelina Dougans
 Dr. Jennifer Durst
 Dr. Amanda Farley
 Dr. Janice Freddo
 Dr. Jessica Galeano
 Dr. Anne M. Garstman
 Dr. Mary Gerges
 Dr. Inderpal Gill

Dr. Adam Gorner
 Dr. Sharmin Habib
 Dr. Eli Hall
 Dr. Hannah Han
 Dr. Danica Harasym
 Dr. Liseann Head
 Dr. Sonja Heffernan
 Dr. Christopher Herriot
 Dr. Kyleon Ho
 Dr. Normand Homier
 Dr. Amardeep Johal
 Dr. Eva Kalicinsky
 Dr. Surinder Khare
 Dr. John Kim
 Dr. Andrew Kim
 Dr. Monisha Lal
 Dr. Yuen Tsz Lam
 Dr. Jeremy Larson
 Dr. Amanda Letkemann
 Dr. Jean Lye
 Dr. Karen Mak
 Dr. Nadia Malik
 Dr. Vikram Mangat
 Dr. Kent Manville

Dr. Suneli Mehdirata
 Dr. Darong Ni
 Dr. Anjali Pathak
 Dr. Andrew Roy
 Dr. Ian Scholfield
 Dr. Hung-Ju Shen
 Dr. Harbir Sian
 Dr. Darren Singh
 Dr. Jill Slywka
 Dr. Linnea Stonecypher
 Dr. Cassandra Stuckel Koroll
 Dr. Harleen Takhar
 Dr. Tracy Thompson
 Dr. Kelly Tokar
 Dr. Charanpal Toor
 Dr. Forough Vahidiataabadi
 Dr. Christine Wang
 Dr. Jennifer Wilczek
 Dr. Grace Wong
 Dr. Karen Wong
 Dr. Elizabeth Yeung
 Dr. Michael Yu

IMPORTANT DATES

- **2011 College AGM:** Sunday April 17, 2011
Centre for Dialogue, Delta Suites Hotel, Vancouver
- **2011 College Elections:** Friday April 15, 2011
- **Next College Board Meeting:** Sunday December 12,
Metropolitan Hotel, Vancouver

BOARD OF THE COLLEGE

Elected Members:

Dr. Dale Dergousoff, Board Chair
Dr. Tanya Flood, Vice Board Chair, and
QA Chair
Dr. Robin Simpson, Inquiry Chair
Dr. Kenneth Lawenda, Registration Chair
Dr. Jeffrey Mann, QA Chair
Dr. Mitra Mehin

Public Members:

Mr. James L. Grey
Mr. David MacPherson, Financial Advisory
Chair
Ms. Barbara Buchanan, Patient Relations
Committee Chair

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

Registrar:

Dr. J. Barton McRoberts

Deputy Registrars:

Dr. Lawrence MacAulay
Dr. Thomas Adamack

CAO/Assistant to the Registrar:

Stanka Jovicevic

Administrative Assistant:

Jela Vuksan

Reception:

Inga Shishko

CONTACT INFORMATION

1204-700 West Pender St., Vancouver, BC, V6C 1G8
Tel: 604-623-3464
Fax: 604-623-3465
optometry_board@telus.net
www.optometrybc.com