



The EXAMINER

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BC

JUNE 2012

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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COLLEGE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The third AGM of the College was held on April 1, 2012 at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The College provided continuing education in association with the AGM as well as training for Peer Circle facilitators. Our thanks to the volunteers who trained to be facilitators. The AGM Sunday began with the College's highly rated Peer Circle session, led by Dr. Brad McDougall. Over fifty registrants engaged in wide ranging discussions centered on glaucoma diagnosis and care.

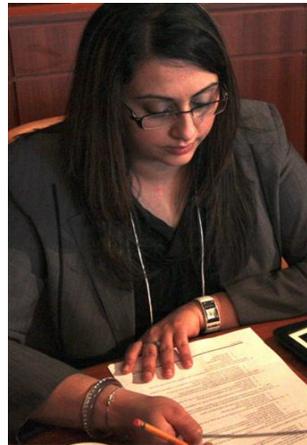


Thoughtful discussion at the Peer Circle



An animated exchange at the Peer Circle

This was followed by an opportunity to write the same Jurisprudence Exam that applicants for registration must write and pass. For those registered before 2009, it was an opportunity to explore the differences in our new regulatory legislation.



Dr. Surjinder Sahota, President of the BCAA, writing the Jurisprudence Exam



2011-2012 Board Member, Dr. Pardeep Dhillon writing the Jurisprudence Exam

ELECTION

College elections were conducted in accordance with the Bylaws of the College. The results of the mail-in ballot were tallied on March 30, 2012. Two three-year and one one-year terms were contested by five registrants. The results were announced at the AGM on April 1, when the Board Members Elect took the statutorily mandated Oath of Office, before the attending registrants and guests. Dr. Roger Gafur and

Dr. Mark Bourdeau were elected to three-year terms and Dr. Victor Chin was elected to a one-year term. The College wishes to thank Dr. Pardeep Dhillon and Dr. Nina Gill for their valued contribution to the profession's public obligation, and particularly for their consideration for the College staff in their interactions with the office.

IS YOUR PLACE OF PRACTICE REGISTERED WITH THE COLLEGE?

Clinic names you intend to display at your practice must be approved by the College prior to being displayed. The College reviews the submitted name for compliance with the Bylaws, and ensures that clinic names are sufficiently distinct to avoid confusion by the public. Your approved clinic name and address is then entered into our online register so that you (or your associates) can update your profile prior to practising at that location, as required by the Bylaws.

Please note, the College is in the process of verifying all clinic names. You will be receiving further instruction. Stay tuned!

PRACTICE ADDRESS AND CHANGES

Registrants are reminded Bylaws, s. 70 requires all registrants to "immediately notify registrar in writing a change of address, name or other registration information previously provided to the registrar" and s. 121 requires that all registrants "must advise the College in writing of the address of each of their places of practice and must promptly advise the College of any change of address". This is most easily done by logging on to the website and updating your profile.

If you intend to leave, add or change practice locations you must inform the College immediately. I urge you to revisit section 7, 10 and 11 of the Bylaws. As you may be aware, in cases where a registrant does not comply with these bylaws, the Registrar is obligated to refer the matter to the Inquiry Committee. Let's avoid wasted effort and expense. Please be sure to update your registration information under your profile on the website.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND MULTIPLE PRACTICE LOCATIONS

The public has the expectation and right to know each location where a registrant practises and to know if a registrant practises at a location, whether the registrant is present or not. If you practise in

multiple locations you must update your profile on line for each location before you commence practising there. Furthermore, Certificate of Registration must be displayed within each place of practice, at all times. Copies of your Certificate of Registration can be ordered from the College office for a cost of \$50.00.

PRACTITIONER ASSESSMENTS

Practitioner assessments (PA) are now part of our statutory mandate. PAs are intended to initiate a dialogue to aid practitioners in meeting their obligations under our new regulatory framework and ensure that the public receives quality optometric services. The College has sent letters to those randomly selected to undergo a PA. Unfortunately, it seems a significant number of registrants have failed to update their online profiles, as required by the Bylaws. This has caused a great deal of extra work and expense for the College.

PRIVACY COMPLAINT

A recent investigation into an alleged privacy complaint by the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia (OIPC) will be of interest to registrants.

The complainant was a patient who attended an optometry clinic in 2011 for the purposes of an eye health examination and to order new glasses. The reception staff at the clinic asked the patient for his date of birth, which he refused to provide. When the patient was taken to an examination room, he was again asked, this time by a registrant, for his date of birth. The patient declined to provide his date of birth and the eye examination did not proceed. The patient subsequently filed a privacy complaint with the OIPC alleging that Image Optometry was improperly attempting to collect his personal information in contravention of the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPPA).

The OIPC conducted an investigation and concluded that the request for the date of birth did not constitute a breach of the patient's privacy rights. The investigation officer found that a date of birth constitutes sensitive personal information but noted that the College requires optometrists to collect this information as part of its practice standards for the profession as it relates directly to ensuring patient care. The investigation officer also noted that the practice of optometrists in collecting a patient's date of birth is consistent with the practice of other health

care professions, such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

Image Optometry and its Counsel ensured that all of the relevant information and policies were brought to the attention of the OIPC during the course of the investigation. These included the College's Standards of Practice (Part 2) and the College's Billing and Provision of Optometric Services Policy. Registrants should be aware that they have a responsibility to collect a patient's date of birth prior to conducting an eye health examination and that the outcome of this investigation provides confirmation that the collection of such information does not contravene PIPPA.

CDOBC JE ORIENTATION SESSION

The first Orientation Session and Jurisprudence Examination event of 2012 will be held on June 20 at the Metropolitan Hotel. We expect more than seventy applicants to attend the orientation and write the Jurisprudence Exam. Most attend the welcoming reception which follows. This is an opportunity to meet future registrants, discuss practice opportunities and review issues which challenge the profession in our jurisdiction.

OFFICE PURCHASE

The College is pleased to advise our registrants that we have negotiated the purchase of a strata office, on Howe Street, across from the law courts in downtown Vancouver. This purchase will reduce the cost of occupancy for the College for years to come and prove to be a sound long term investment.

READERS' CORNER

As Registrar, I am adding something new with this issue of the Examiner. Many of our registrants and past registrants have compelling stories to tell. I am hoping that those of you who have a story to tell, about yourself or another registrant, past or present, will consider doing so. This idea is not my own. A few months back Dr. Lawrence MacAulay sent an e-mail to me regarding a registrant who I had known casually, and respected, for many years. Dr. Newman Song retired last year after a long and distinguished career. Having practised for many year "just down the road" from Dr. Song, I very quickly became aware of the high regard his patients had for him. We chatted on many occasions, about practice or clinical matters, yet I never came to know about his contributions to

the profession. Thanks to Dr. MacAulay, who managed to convince Dr. Song to talk about himself and his family, I am able to share his story with you.

Newman Song, FBOA, FSMC, FOA (SA), was the first non-white and Chinese to enter the 5 year apprenticeship as an Optical Mechanic Technician (Optical Lab) and first non-white and Chinese Optometrist to be registered with the South African Medical and Dental Council and be allowed to practice Optometry in downtown Johannesburg, South Africa.

After immigrating to Canada, Dr. Song served from 1968 - 1970 as Councilor for North Central Area (Prince George). From 1973 - 1975 he was editor of "The Optometrist", the Official Publication of the British Columbia Optometric Association (BCOA) and Librarian of the BCOA. From 1973 - 1974 he was Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the BCOA. In 1974 Dr. Song joined the Board of Examiners in Optometry and served as a Board Member until 1975.

From 1975 - 1982 he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board and in 1983 was a Board Examiner for Oral and Practical exams.

Dr. Song has provided a list of family "firsts" in South Africa:

- Norman Song, B.Com., CA., FCIS., my eldest brother. First Chinese to have employment "outside" the family business. First non-white member of Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS). with B.Com. degree. First non-white Chartered Accountant.
- Reverend Dr. Arthur Song, DPhil., Mth.,Lth(Hons), my younger brother. First Chinese Baptist Pastor. First Chinese Lecturer in Religious Studies in a South African University. First Professor and subsequently, first Dean of Religious Studies in South African University. External Examiner: Doctors and Masters Programs. Author of numerous papers and publications. Dr. Wan Hing Lew, MB.BCH., sister-in law. First Chinese woman medical doctor in the province of Transvaal, South Africa. Second Chinese woman medical doctor in South Africa.
- Wan Kum Lew, SRN., SCM., sister-in-law. First Chinese nurse in South Africa.
- Wan York Lew, SRN., SCM., sister-in-law. Second Chinese nurse in South Africa.

- Wan Lok Lew, Graduate, University of London, Institute of Education, England, my wife. First Chinese school teacher in South Africa.

In Dr. Song's words, "Every one of us had to politically fight to 'break the ice.' Eventually, I left South Africa for a number of reasons. The government of the day hauled me before the Group Areas Board, a government agency enforcing the Apartheid Government Policy and, more or less, told me that I had to 'cease and desist examining white people's eyes,' despite presenting a long list of white patient supporters before a most humiliating court. In 1988, I attended the International S.A. Optometric Convention in Durban. The South African Optometric Association Council offered an official apology to me for what transpired and emphasized that it was not exactly their doing, but that it was government policy which dictated the decisions of the day."

"As Chinese were not allowed to own any properties, therefore, we had to rent the houses we lived in. My brother Norman had to fight tooth and nail to get articulated to become an accountant. Presently, we are all in Canada, with the exception of Arthur, who is still in South Africa, and my sister-in-law, Kum, who now resides in California."

Thank you Dr. Song.

NEW REGISTRANTS OF OUR COLLEGE

The College welcomes the following registrants and wishes them long, happy and prosperous career in optometry and encourages them all to become involved in issues and challenges our profession faces:

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dr. Rajneeta Dhaliwal | Dr. Jasjit Gandham |
| Dr. William Bercha | Dr. Jennifer Soong |
| Dr. Sean Laycock | Dr. Mohammadamin Hassani |
| Dr. Darryl Burgess | Dr. Haiquan Liu |
| Dr. Esther Lan | Dr. Vangie Tsui |
| Dr. Anita Lau | Dr. Mandeep Gill |
| Dr. Jennifer Christman | Dr. Radhika Sisodia |
| Dr. Jonathan Thom | Dr. Samir Bhakta |
| Dr. Bhagwant Purba | Dr. Vandhana Sharda |
| Dr. Brady Turner | Dr. Jeff Hsiao |
| Dr. Linda Yee | Dr. John Webb |
| Dr. Selin Ozkan | Dr. Audrey Moon |
| Dr. Jeffrey Waddell | Dr. Daman Gupta |
| Dr. Alanna Adams | Dr. Karen Lee |
| Dr. Kelvin So | Dr. Jessica Hontz |
| Dr. David Antymis | Dr. Alexandra Vorobeva |
| Dr. Douglas Stefanyk | Dr. Leland Kolbenson |
| Dr. Kulvir Dhaliwal | Dr. Alfred Edwards |
| Dr. Sunil Parekh | Dr. Annie Yeh |

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