

Dispatch

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*Protecting
the Public
and Guiding
the Dental
Profession*

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RCDSO

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Ms. Cathy Legedza

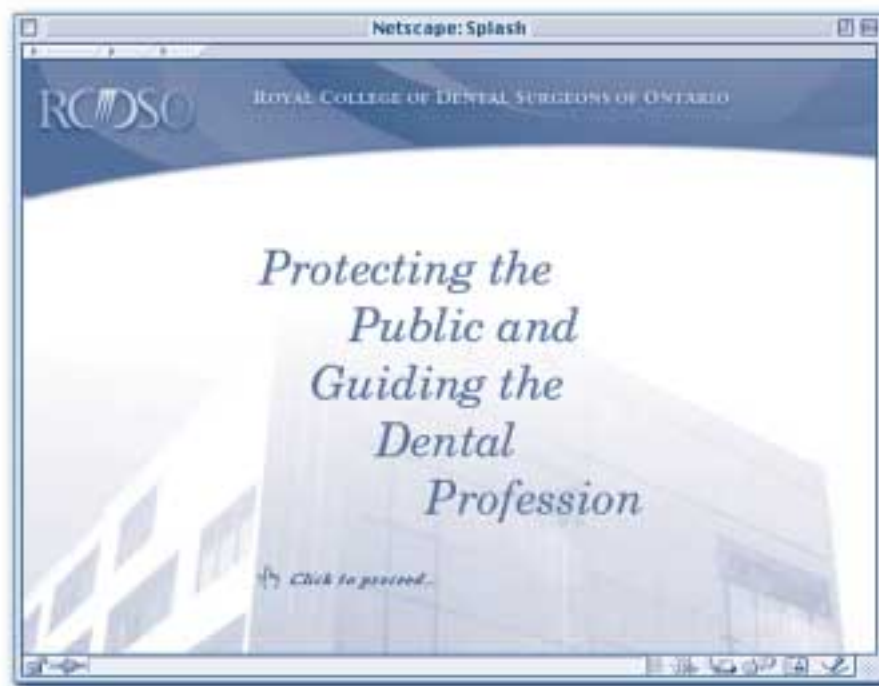
Information at Your Fingertips

RCDSO Online

The College site on the World Wide Web is now on-line. Our address is www.rcdso.org.

The first thing you will see is the "splash" page showing the College mission statement. By "clicking" on the statement at the centre of the screen with your "mouse", you can proceed to the main index page of the College site.

The index will direct you to information about dentistry and registering with the College, quality assurance, patient relations, the Professional Practice Advisory Service, and the College newsletter and other publications. As well, there are links to other sites related to the practice of dentistry. We will be adding information and updating the site regularly.



The RCDSO welcomes your comments about the website. Please forward them to Cathy Legedza, Manager, Communications and External Relations.

Moving Forward Together

I was elected President of the RCDSO this past January. It is a major responsibility for me to be the representative of all dentists in Ontario. I will do my best.

I would personally like to extend my sincere appreciation to the dentists of my constituency – Toronto East Dental Society – for their continuous support and on-going encouragement.

I have been in general practice since graduating from the University of Toronto in 1968. Dentistry has been the perfect career choice for me. In the early years, I was able to limit my dental practice to the treatment of dental trauma. Fortunately for the public, with the advent of seatbelts, airbags, mouth guards and hockey face masks, the need for my expertise diminished.

In my short time at the College (from 1996 to now), I have developed a very healthy relationship with the competent and capable staff of the College Administration.

A Scottish conundrum: “You receive respect by giving respect.”

Since becoming a member of the RCDSO Council, I have submitted a series of requests for consideration to *Dispatch*, which have been published. They are:

1. the review and publication of the dental implants that had been approved by Health Canada;
2. the review and update of Guidelines for Prophylactic Antibiotic Regimens for Medical Conditions;
3. the review and update of Guidelines for Prophylactic Antibiotic Regimens for patients with Artificial Joints; and
4. within this publication of *Dispatch*, another of my requests has been published involving the concerns regarding Local Anaesthesia and Allergies.

N.B. All the Guidelines and revised

recommendations were evidence-based and reflect the analysis of relevant literature. We should be proud of the work on these articles by members of our administration.

I was also chairman of a motions hearing – the first in the history of the RCDSO. Before my election to the College, I continually requested the option of a pre-hearing conference with respect to Discipline matters, particularly when dealing with “Standards”.

Mr. Irwin Fefergard, Director of Hearings and Investigations, has authored an outstanding set of guidelines to facilitate a pre-hearing conference. Mr. Fefergard’s guidelines are becoming a benchmark across Canada. The pre-hearing conference will save the dentist and the RCDSO considerable expense.

My challenge is to have the RCDSO become more pro-active in the role of leadership for all dentists.

Let’s move forward together and make all dentists a little better.

The RCDSO has developed over the years an abysmal image with respect to the interface with our members. I presently receive correspondence from the RCDSO marked “Personal and Confidential” on a daily basis. My policy is not to open the College mail until after dinner. Why take the chance of ruining a good dinner!

As your President, I still make mistakes and have failures while practising dentistry. The only dentist that does not make mistakes and have failures is a non-practising dentist.

I am not so naive as to believe that after my term as President, the following words...



Thomas McKean, DDS - President

P r e s i d e n t ' s M e s s a g e

My challenge is to have the RCDSO become more pro-active in the role of leadership for all dentists.

"I am here from the RCDSO to help you"... will be the benchmark across the province.

We have an excellent elected Council, (including the dentists and public appointees), we will improve our relationship with our profession over my term as President.

I am looking forward to meeting you at your local society. I would also like to extend my special thanks to all the fellow dentists who have taught me and worked with me over my entire career. In summary, a special thank you

to Dr. Rod Moran – my mentor – who was a former ODA and CDA President.

If there are questions or concerns with respect to our RCDSO, do not hesitate to ask me.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. McKean
President, RCDSO

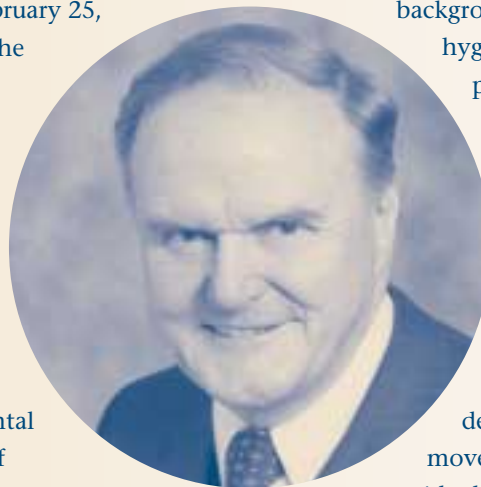
Former RCDSO Registrar

Dr. Kenneth Franklyn Pownall

The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario is sad to announce the passing of Dr. Kenneth F. Pownall on February 25, 1999. Dr. Pownall served the College as Registrar from 1965 to 1990.

Dr. Ken Pownall obtained his DDS from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry in 1951. Shortly after graduation, he left for Newfoundland to bring dentistry and dental hygiene to the outposts of Canada's newest province. Dr. Pownall returned to Ontario in 1952 where he set up private practice in Mimico.

The following years were busy ones. In addition to his practice, Dr. Pownall served on the Public Health Committee for the Ontario Dental Association and joined the staff of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. He became involved in the West Toronto Dental Society and the Academy of Dentistry of Toronto. In 1962, Dr. Pownall became a clinical



demonstrator in the department of paedodontics at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry.

When the RCDSO was looking for a new Registrar in the fall of 1964, Dr. Pownall was considered because of his extensive background in dentistry and dental hygiene. After 13 years in private practice, he could not resist the challenge and joined the College in February 1965.

The challenges he faced as Registrar included dealing with the new community college system in the mid-1970s that would teach dental hygiene and dental technology, the movement to allow denturists to provide dentures directly to the public and the plight of displaced immigrant dentists wanting to practise in Canada. Dr. Pownall was fascinated with forensic dentistry and was instrumental in forming the Canadian Society of Forensic Odontology in 1971.

Dr. Kenneth Pownall left an indelible mark on dentistry in the province. He will be remembered as a man unable to resist a challenge – doing it with humour and good will. He will be greatly missed.

Renewal Certificates

Dentists registered in Ontario will soon be receiving membership renewal certificates in the mail. The College would like all dentists to display the attractive document in a highly visible location in their dental offices.

The certificate, signed by the Registrar and President, assures patients that their dentist is duly registered with the College and is thereby authorized to practise in the province.



Date of Next Council Meeting

The next regular meeting of Council will take place on May 13 and 14, 1999, in Toronto at the Inn on the Park, 1100 Eglinton Avenue East.

Council meetings are open to the public with the exception of *in-camera* sessions. Members of the profession and the public are invited to attend.

Seating is limited and those wishing to attend are asked to notify the College at (416) 961-6555, or 1-800-565-4591 from outside the Toronto calling area.

To Ontario Government for Approval

Revised Regulation Proposal on Orders



The latest revised proposed Regulation respecting Orders and the proposed amendments to the Professional Misconduct Regulation have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

The RCDSO first submitted a proposed Regulation respecting Orders to the Ministry of Health in June 1994. The College believes that the principles underlying the 1994 Proposal were well-founded and in the public interest. The Council recognized, however, that some flexibility was necessary in order to come to a resolution of the differences in opinion that existed between the RCDSO and the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO). The RCDSO, therefore, revised the regulation and circulated a number of drafts to members for comment.

As a result of subsequent discussions with the Ministry of Health in 1998, agreement was reached on a resolution of the remaining outstanding issues concerning this regulation proposal. The agreement saw a further revision to the proposed Regulation such that "lists" of procedures, which could be performed by dental hygienists or registered nurses under an "order", would be removed from the Regulation and dealt with in separate Standards Documents. The RCDSO-approved Standards Documents would become enforceable by their reference in the Regulation. This would achieve the same objective as initially proposed by the RCDSO. Further, the RCDSO agreed to amend its Professional Misconduct Regulation to provide

greater clarity in respect of the portability of orders for scaling and root planing.

On the basis of the 1998 discussions, the RCDSO Council, at its meeting on January 22, 1999, considered and approved the following:

- a newly revised proposed Regulation respecting Orders to Dental Hygienists and Registered Nurses for the Performance of Procedures,
- documents concerning Standards of Practice of the Profession relating to
 - a) the Performance of Orthodontic Procedures by Third Parties
 - b) the Performance of Restorative Procedures by Third Parties
 - c) the Performance of Procedures by Registered Nurses
- amendments to Ontario Regulation 853/93 (Professional Misconduct).

These materials were mailed to you in early March.

Please send any comments regarding the newly revised proposed Regulation to Dr. Minna Stein, Registrar, at College headquarters.

New RCDSO Council Takes Office

The inaugural meeting of the new RCDSO Council took place January 21 and 22, 1999. Council members opened the new session by electing a president, vice president and members of the Executive Committee for the 1999 – 2001 term.

Dr. Thomas McKean leads Council as the newly elected President with Dr. Robert Brandon returning to the position of Vice President. Dr. Erik Luks, Ms. Lynne Arnill and Mr. Todd Taylor have been elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

The RCDSO Council is made up of 12 elected dentists, one appointee from each of the two dental schools in Ontario and nine government-appointed public members.

The elected representatives to Council for the 1999 – 2001 term are:

District 1	Dr. Douglas Smith
District 2	Dr. Larry Parker
District 3	Dr. Richard Filion
District 4	Dr. Randy Lang
District 5	Dr. Eric Luks
District 6	Dr. Robert Brandon
District 7	Dr. Cameron Witmer
District 8	Dr. Ronald Yarascavitch
District 9	Dr. Malcolm Yasny
District 10	Dr. David Mitchell
District 11	Dr. Louis London
District 12	Dr. Thomas McKean

Academic Appointments to Council for the 1999 – 2001 term are:

University of Toronto	Dr. Philip Watson
University of Western Ontario	Dr. David Charles

Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointments:

Ms. Lynne Arnill
Mr. Victor Braney
Mr. Douglas McVeigh
Mr. Robert Metras
Mr. John Pappain
Mr. Lloyd Pollack
Mr. Elesh Ruparel
Ms. Joan Stewart
Mr. Todd Taylor

Leading up to the inaugural meeting of the new Council, members attended a workshop with facilitator Dorothy Strachan of Strachan-Tomlinson. Specific objectives of the workshop were to orient Council members to the RCDSO mission, vision and values; to discuss and clarify roles and responsibilities of Council members; and to reflect on key RCDSO accomplishments and anticipate future challenges.

Following the workshop with Ms. Strachan, senior College staff conducted an orientation session that focussed on such topics as the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, organizational structure and strategic plan of the RCDSO.

Council Elections

In accordance with the Regulations made under the Dentistry Act, 1991 (RHPA), an election for the Council of the RCDSO was held December 9, 1998. In eight of 12 electoral districts, representatives were elected by acclamation. Elections were conducted in Districts 2, 4, 7 and 11.

Under the supervision of Dr. Minna Stein, Registrar, the officially appointed returning officers, Dr. John Speck and Dr. Howard Ferguson counted the ballots on Wednesday, December 9, 1998 at the College headquarters.

Their report is as follows:

District 1

Dr. Douglas Smith was declared elected by acclamation.

District 2

Number of eligible voters797
Number of valid ballots received390

The 390 valid ballots were marked as follows:
For Dr. James Fawcett162
For Dr. Larry Parker228

Dr. Larry Parker was therefore declared elected.

District 3

Dr. Richard Filion was declared elected by acclamation.

District 4

Number of eligible voters723
Number of valid ballots received410

The 410 valid ballots were marked as follows:
For Dr. Mac Balfour90
For Dr. Randy Lang.....320

Dr. Randy Lang was therefore declared elected.

District 5

Dr. Eric Luks was declared elected by acclamation.

District 6

Dr. Robert Brandon was declared elected by acclamation.

District 7

Number of eligible voters439
Number of valid ballots received254

The 254 valid ballots were marked as follows:
For Dr. Diane Carruthers46
For Dr. Martin Shelley96
For Dr. Cameron Witmer112

Dr. Cameron Witmer was therefore declared elected.

District 8

Dr. Ronald Yarascavitch was declared elected by acclamation.

District 9

Dr. Malcolm Yasny was declared elected by acclamation.

District 10

Dr. David Mitchell was declared elected by acclamation.

District 11

Number of eligible voters565
Number of valid ballots received230

The 230 valid ballots were marked as follows:
For Dr. Louis London143
For Dr. Michael Weinberg87

Dr. Louis London was therefore declared elected.

District 12

Dr. Thomas W. McKean was declared elected by acclamation.

Council Profiles

ELECTED MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1

Dr. Douglas Smith

OTTAWA



For the upcoming term of Council, Dr. Douglas Smith will serve as chair of the Fitness to Practise Committee and a member of the Legal and Legislation Committee.

Dr. Smith has a DDS from the University of Toronto and has been a general practitioner in Ottawa since graduation. He has served on a number of committees with both the Ottawa Dental Society and the Ontario

Dental Association. Dr. Smith was a member of the ODA's Board of Governors and was the recipient of the ODA Service Award. He continues as a member of the Bytown Study Club and is a member of the Canadian Academy of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics.

DISTRICT 2

Dr. Larry Parker

RICHMOND HILL



Dr. Larry Parker will serve as chair of the Registration Committee and sit as a member of the Audit Committee for this term of Council.

Dr. Parker studied dentistry in Johannesburg, South Africa, followed by two years of clinical practice in London, England. Additional studies included a DDS from Dalhousie, Diploma in Orthodontics from

the University of Toronto and MSc from the School of Graduate Studies and the Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Parker is a part-time lecturer at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry and has a full-time orthodontic practice in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

DISTRICT 3

Dr. Richard Filion

STURGEON FALLS



For this term of Council, Dr. Richard Filion will serve as chair of the Complaints Committee, and as a member of the Communications Committee.

Dr. Filion graduated with his DDS from the University of Toronto. He was first elected to Council in 1979 and was president of the

College from 1983 to 1985. Dr. Filion is an active member of the Sudbury and District Dental Society, and has served as a Governor of the Ontario Dental Association and a member of its Health Care Committee.

DISTRICT 4

Dr. Randy Lang

MISSISSAUGA



Dr. Randy Lang will serve as chair of the Quality Assurance Committee and will sit as a member of the Finance and Property, and Communications Committees.

Dr. Lang graduated from the University of Toronto with his DDS and continues as an orthodontic lecturer at the dental faculty there. He is a past president of the Ontario

Association of Orthodontists, the orthodontic editor of "Oral Health" and co-chair of its Editorial Board. Dr. Lang is also the co-president of the University of Toronto Orthodontic Alumni Association.

DISTRICT 5

**Dr. Eric Luks**

PORT CARLING

Dr. Eric Luks will serve Council as a member of the Executive and Quality Assurance Committees.

Dr. Luks received his DDS from the University of Toronto and a Diploma in Orthodontics and MSc from the same Faculty. Dr. Luks has served as president of the Ontario Society of Orthodontists, the Toronto

Orthodontic Club and Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists. He has also been an instructor with the Graduate Department of Orthodontics at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry and an orthodontic consultant to the Hospital for Sick Children.

DISTRICT 6

**Dr. Robert Brandon**

LONDON

Dr. Robert Brandon will be serving as Vice President of the College for a second term, as well as chairing the Finance and Property Committee and sitting as a member of the Executive Committee, and Legal and Legislation Committee.

Dr. Brandon graduated with his DDS from the University of Western Ontario. He is an assistant professor of dental practice management at the

University of Western Ontario, School of Dentistry and a consultant in general practice at University Hospital in London. For many years, Dr. Brandon has been very dedicated to the ODA and CDA. He has received the ODA Service Award and the Governor General of Canada Volunteerism Award of Merit. He is a fellow of the International College of Dentists and a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

DISTRICT 7

**Dr. Cameron Witmer**

KITCHENER

Dr. Cameron Witmer will serve as a member of the Discipline Committee for the upcoming term of Council.

Dr. Witmer has been in private practice since graduating with his DDS from the University of Western Ontario. He has been very active with the Ontario Dental

Association, serving on its executive council for a number of years. He is also involved in his community, working with the Kitchener-Waterloo Rehabilitation Services, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Kinsmen of Canada.

DISTRICT 8

**Dr. Ronald Yarascavitch**

ST. CATHARINES

For the upcoming term, Dr. Ronald Yarascavitch will chair the Legal and Legislation Committee and sit on the Discipline Committee.

Dr. Yarascavitch obtained his DDS from the University of Toronto. He has been an Associate in Dentistry at the University of Toronto since 1977, working with students in

clinical dentistry. For many years, he has provided dental services for the Ontario Ministry of Corrections at the Niagara Detention Centre in Thorold, he has served on the Executive of the Niagara Dental Association and as an ODA Governor.

DISTRICT 9

**Dr. Malcolm Yasny**

NORTH TORONTO

Dr. Yasny is the past president of the College now serving his fourth term on Council. For the next two years, he will sit as a member of the Complaints Committee.

Dr. Yasny received his DDS from the University of Toronto and his Diploma in Orthodontics and MSc from the same Faculty. He has served as a member of the Orthodontic Department at the University of Toronto and, until 1992, as chair of the Division of

Orthodontics at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. In 1989, Dr. Yasny was appointed Director of Alumni Affairs for the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry and currently serves in that capacity as well as Director of Continuing Education. He is the past president of the Ontario, Canadian and Great Lakes Associations of Orthodontists. Dr. Yasny is a fellow of the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists.

DISTRICT 10

Dr. David Mitchell

WEST TORONTO



For this term of Council, Dr. David Mitchell will chair the Discipline Committee and serve as a member of the Communications Committee.

Dr. Mitchell received his DDS from the University of Toronto and MSc in Orthodontics from the same university. Early in his career, Dr. Mitchell was a Research

Fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children, and was active with the West Toronto and Ontario Dental Societies. He is past president of the Loyola Jarabak Orthodontic Research Foundation in Chicago, Illinois and a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

DISTRICT 11

Dr. Louis London

CENTRAL TORONTO



Dr. Louis London will continue to serve as a member of the Discipline, and Finance and Property Committees.

Dr. London graduated with his DDS from the University of Toronto and has practised in Hamilton, Brantford, Scarborough and downtown Toronto. He is a member of the B'Nai Brith, Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity.

DISTRICT 12

Dr. Thomas McKean

EAST TORONTO



Dr. Thomas McKean has been elected serve as President of the College for the 1999 – 2001 term. As such, Dr. McKean will serve as Chair of the Executive and Communications Committees and as ex-officio member of all standing committees.

Dr. McKean received his DDS from the University of Toronto. He has served as Chief of Dentistry at North York General Hospital

for 14 years and as Chief Dental Consultant for Ontario Blue Cross for 13 years. He served as team dentist for the Toronto Toros, Team Canada (1974) and the Toronto Maple Leafs. Dr. McKean is a general practitioner.

Dr. Philip Watson

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Dr. Philip Watson will chair the Audit Committee and serve as a member of the Patient Relations Committee for this session of Council.

Dr. Watson received his DDS from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science degree from Indiana University. He began teaching at the University of Toronto in 1970. He began as a clinical instructor in restorative dentistry and is now a professor in the

Department of Basic and Diagnostic Sciences. Dr. Watson has done extensive research in the area of dental restorations and implants, and has authored many articles on the subject. He has been honoured with the University of Toronto's Student Administrative Council Excellence in Teaching Award and is also a recipient of the Alumni of Distinction Award.

Dr. David Charles

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO



Dr. David Charles will serve as a member of the Registration Committee for the upcoming term of Council.

Dr. Charles received his DDS from McGill University. He also has a Master of Science degree from Michigan University. His career in dentistry began in the Canadian Forces shortly after graduation from the U of T and continued until 1973. He also worked as a

dentist with the Department of Health in Prince Edward Island. In 1977, Dr. Charles joined the staff of the University of Western Ontario where he is currently an associate professor teaching prosthodontics. He is a staff member of University Hospital in London and an active member of the Canadian Academy of Prosthodontics.



Ms. Lynne Arnill

DUNTRON

Lynne Arnill will serve as a member of the Executive and Discipline Committees during this term of Council.

Ms. Arnill is an active member of her community of Duntroon, outside of Collingwood, Ontario, working with the local public school, church and ratepayers' associations.



Mr. Victor Braney

WEST HILL

For the upcoming term, Victor Braney will serve as a member of the Complaints Committee.

Mr. Braney is currently a proprietor of a private investigation firm based in Toronto. He has more than 30 years experience as a general manager with a large Ontario-based retailing and distribution company.



Mr. Douglas McVeigh

ANCASTER

Doug McVeigh will continue as chair of the Professional Liability Program Committee for the upcoming term of Council and will serve as a member of the Communications Committee.

Mr. McVeigh is currently President and CEO of a national group purchasing organization owned by leading health care

facilities across Canada. Mr. McVeigh is an instructor for the Faculty of Continuing Education at Mohawk College in Hamilton and is an active fundraiser in his community.



Mr. Robert Metras

CAMBRIDGE

For this term of Council, Robert Metras will serve as a member of the Discipline and Fitness to Practise Committees.

Mr. Metras is currently Vice President of Marketing for a Mississauga company specializing in direct payment systems for

prescription drugs. He also serves in various capacities with transportation and public utilities associations.



Mr. John Pappain

BRAMPTON

John Pappain will serve as a member of the Discipline, Patient Relations and Elections Committees.

Mr. Pappain is currently President and CEO of KMS Power Income Fund. He is chairman of the Land Division Committee of the Regional Municipality of Peel, past chairman of the Peel Memorial Hospital Board of

Governors, and chairman of the City of Brampton Committee of Adjustment. Mr. Pappain is also on the Board of Sheridan College and is chairman of its Finance Committee.



Mr. Lloyd Pollack

TORONTO

Lloyd Pollack will serve as a member of the Quality Assurance Committee for this term of Council.

Mr. Pollack is a partner in a Toronto law firm. His experience also includes past

involvement with the City of York Planning Board and the Cedarbrae Ratepayers' Association.



Mr. Elesh Ruparel

RICHMOND HILL

Elesh Ruparel is the newest public member on Council and will serve as a member of the Discipline, and the Finance and Property Committees.

Mr. Ruparel has a background in finance and has previous experience as a member of the Complaints and Disciplines Committees

of the Council of Registered Insurance Brokers of Ontario. He is very active in the East Indian community.



Ms. Joan Stewart

CACHE BAY

Joan Stewart will chair the Patient Relations Committee and serve as a member of the Complaints and Communications Committees for the upcoming term of Council.

Ms. Stewart has an extensive background in community service. Her volunteer work with the Canadian Cancer Society includes

15 years as chair of the annual Daffodil fundraising campaign. She is also a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Royal Canadian Legion and has worked for local political candidates at all levels of government.



Mr. Todd Taylor

OTTAWA

Todd Taylor will chair the Elections Committee and serve as a member of the Executive, Discipline, and Legal and Legislation Committees for the upcoming term of Council.

Mr. Taylor is a principal of a government affairs firm serving clients at the municipal,

provincial and federal levels. He also serves on numerous boards and associations and he is an active political organizer and fundraiser.

Non-Council Committee Members

At its November 1998 meeting, Council appointed the following members to serve on designated College committees for the 1999 – 2001 term. They are:

Dr. John Anthony	Toronto	Dr. Bohdan Kryshchalskyj	Toronto
Dr. Albert Bouclin	Sudbury	Dr. Sheryl Lipton	Scarborough
Dr. Stephen Brown	Chesley	Dr. Donald Rife	Toronto
Dr. June Chithalen	Hamilton	Dr. Ted Schipper	Woodbridge
Dr. Steven Corber	Toronto	Dr. Ray Shugar	Toronto
Dr. May Daemi	Whitby	Dr. Robert Turnbull	Toronto
Dr. Peter Fendrich	London	Dr. Murray Wagman	Toronto
Dr. Manfred Friedman	London		

Dr. Minna Stein, Registrar, hosted an orientation session for these non-Council committee members at the College headquarters on February 1st. The full day session included presentations about the history and organization of the College, Quality Assurance Program, Professional Liability Program, and the Complaints and Discipline processes.

We Want to Hear from You

Your thoughts about Dispatch are important to us. If you have any comments about this issue, or suggestions for future issues, please write or fax:

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College Committees

President

Dr. Thomas McKean

Vice President

Dr. Robert Brandon

Executive Committee

Dr. Thomas McKean (Chair)

Ms. Lynne Arnill

Dr. Robert Brandon

Dr. Eric Luks

Mr. Todd Taylor

Complaints Committee

Dr. Richard Filion (Chair)

Mr. Victor Braney

Ms. Joan Stewart

Dr. Malcolm Yasny

Dr. John Anthony (Non-Council)

Dr. Ted Schipper (Non-Council)

Discipline Committee

Dr. David Mitchell (Chair)

Ms. Lynne Arnill

Dr. Louis London

Mr. Robert Metras

Mr. John Pappain

Mr. Elesh Ruparel

Mr. Todd Taylor

Dr. Cameron Witmer

Dr. Ronald Yarascavitch

Dr. May Daemi (Non-Council)

Dr. Peter Fendrich (Non-Council)

Dr. Bohdan Kryshchalskyj (Non-Council)

Dr. Robert Turnbull (Non-Council)

Dr. Murray Wagman (Non-Council)

Fitness to Practise Committee

Dr. Douglas Smith (Chair)

Mr. Robert Metras

Dr. Ray Shugar (Non-Council)

Patient Relations Committee

Ms. Joan Stewart (Chair)

Mr. John Pappain

Dr. Philip Watson

Dr. June Chithalen (Non-Council)

Dr. Peter Fendrich (Non-Council)

Quality Assurance Committee

Dr. Randy Lang (Chair)

Dr. Eric Luks

Mr. Lloyd Pollack

Dr. Albert Bouclin (Non-Council)

Dr. Sheryl Lipton (Non-Council)

Registration Committee

Dr. Larry Parker (Chair)

Dr. David Charles

Ms. Joan Stewart

Audit Committee

Dr. Philip Watson (Chair)

Mr. Douglas McVeigh

Dr. Larry Parker

Dr. Thomas McKean

Communications Committee

Dr. Thomas McKean (Chair)

Dr. Richard Filion

Dr. Randy Lang

Mr. Douglas McVeigh

Dr. David Mitchell

Ms. Joan Stewart

Elections Committee

Mr. Todd Taylor (Chair)

Mr. Douglas McVeigh

Mr. John Pappain

Finance and Property Committee

Dr. Robert Brandon (Chair)

Dr. Randy Lang

Dr. Louis London

Mr. Elesh Ruparel

Dr. Thomas McKean*

Legal and Legislation Committee

Dr. Ronald Yarascavitch (Chair)

Dr. Robert Brandon

Dr. Douglas Smith

Mr. Todd Taylor

Dr. Thomas McKean*

Professional Liability Program Committee

Mr. Douglas McVeigh (Chair)

Dr. Stephen Brown (Non-Council)

Dr. Steven Corber (Non-Council)

Dr. Manfred Friedman (Non-Council)

Dr. Donald Rife (Non-Council)

*The President is an ex-officio member of the following Committees: Audit, Finance and Property, and Legal and Legislation.



Advice About Patients Who Report Local Anaesthetic Allergy

The College often receives calls from dentists inquiring about the best way of dealing with patients who report an allergy to local anaesthetic. The purpose of this Practice Check is to provide guidance to members on this issue.

Patient reports of allergic reactions to local anaesthetics are not uncommon. Following investigation, it is found that most of these are not true allergies but are of psychogenic origin, related to the stress associated with needles.

A true allergy to an amide local anaesthetic is very rare, and only amides are available in dental cartridges today. Allergies to the other contents of the cartridge are more likely. Other contents that may be allergens are the preservatives methylparaben or metabisulfite. While methylparabens were removed from all local anaesthetic formulations except Ultracaine in the early 1980s and from Ultracaine a few years ago, patients reporting allergic-type reactions in the past may need to be tested.

Allergy to para-amino benzoic acid (PABA) would rule out use of esters and allergy to sulfites would rule out vasoconstrictor use, as

metabisulfite is added as an antioxidant wherever vasoconstrictor is added.

Symptoms such as urticaria, edema or bronchoconstriction would be consistent with a true allergy. It is therefore important for the dentist to ask the patient to describe what happened. Careful history taking can help to rule out an allergy, and therefore minimize the need for testing.

If the history supports potential allergy, the patient should be referred for testing. In this case, the dentist should specifically request testing the drug and the cartridge's constituents, i.e. metabisulfites, parabens as well as a control.

The Drug Safety Clinic at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto is equipped to carry out these tests. The telephone number for the clinic is (416) 480-5245.

Need to Know

- True allergies to local anaesthetic agents themselves are very rare
- Patient reports of allergic reactions to local anaesthetics are usually either of psychogenic origin or related to the other contents in the cartridge
- Before testing is considered, a careful history should be taken
- If testing is indicated, the testing should include the anaesthetic agent and the other constituents of the cartridge as well as a control

What Should You Do?

You Are the Subject of a Complaint

You have just received a letter from the College notifying you of a complaint. Your feelings are mixed – disbelief, anger and embarrassment. The College knows how distressing this must be and understands how you feel. Here is what we suggest you do:

- Read the letter and the accompanying materials very carefully. The letter from the College explains the powers of the Complaints Committee and the brochure enclosed with the letter describes the procedure. Even though you may feel this complaint does not have merit, the College has a statutory obligation under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* to investigate it.
 - The letter of complaint will, in most cases, be sent to you at this time. It is important for you to remember that this letter forms the basis of the Complaints Committee's investigation. Your response should deal with the issues raised by the complainant.
 - You may wish to seek legal advice before responding to the complainant although this is not necessary for the process. If you do seek legal advice and provide the College with the name of your lawyer, a copy of all correspondence from the College will be provided to him/her.
 - If you did not keep detailed notes about the incident, write down everything you can recall, and ask any office staff involved in the situation to do the same. It is important that you do not alter your records. If you want to add notes or points that you recalled at a later date, make sure you date these entries when you add them.
 - After you have responded to the letter, the matter is out of your hands. Be aware that since the College's process is very thorough, it can take a long time.
 - The complaints process is confidential. Members of the public are not entitled to information from the College respecting matters that are under investigation.
 - The College staff member assigned to investigate your file is the person best equipped to answer your questions and provide information to you regarding this process. The investigator is not an adversary. It is his/her job to ensure that an impartial investigation is done.
 - Patients with a grievance may feel that you have been negligent and, therefore, may decide to take civil action against you in the courts. If you believe the complaint to be of this nature, or if the patient has already made a financial demand, you should advise the Professional Liability Program immediately at (416) 944-2655.
- To obtain further information on the Complaints process of the RCDSO please contact Dr. Patricia Abbey, Manager, Public Complaints at (416) 961-6555 or toll-free at 1-800-565-4591.

