



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting - May 5, 2011

This publication is e-mailed out to members and posted online on the College's website within two working days after each Council meeting. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact RCDSO Registrar Irwin Fefergrad by phone at 416-934-5625, toll-free at 1-800-565-4591, or by e-mail at ifefergrad@rcdso.org.

HEALTH ADM SPEAKS TO COUNCIL

Council was honoured to welcome Suzanne McGurn, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources Strategy Division, to address Council during its morning session. Ms McGurn leads the HealthForceOntario health human resources strategy and is responsible for the development of strategies to address the issues of supply, mix, demand and distribution of health professionals in the province. In this role, she reports to both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In addition, one of her many other responsibilities is the Health Professions Regulatory Policy and Programs Branch. That means she is responsible for the policy and program issues related to all health care regulatory colleges in the province, including RCDSO.

Ms McGurn was very complimentary about our College and its understanding and implementation of its role as a regulator: "You have demonstrated in everything that I have seen come from your College ...you know that your job in protecting the public is beyond just implementing the rules. It is understanding what the circumstance is, taking stock of the environment and figuring out how that reflects on where we are now in health care."

Ms McGurn went on to state that the College is well respected and "well recognized for its value and appropriateness in dealing with difficult issues." She mentioned the College's work on the provincial pandemic readiness plan, dental CT scanners, labour mobility, the pain symposium and our Quality Assurance Program as specific examples.

She wrapped up her short presentation by saying, "I would like to again congratulate you on your track record of excellence in self-regulation. I am confident that as we continue to work together we will only increase our effectiveness in both keeping the public safe and finding new ways to work to benefit the system as a whole."

QA PROGRAM LAUNCH

Quality Assurance Committee Chair Dr. David Clark presented the details of the new QA Program to Council. For members, the key date is December 15, 2011 which is the launch date of the program. The May/June issue of Dispatch will contain a special five-page feature and a new QA Program section will be unveiled on our website at www.rcdso.org in June. The Dispatch article has all the details of the three year CE cycle, the new three CE categories for points plus the overview of the elements of the new QA Program: the Practice Enhancement Tool, the Practice Enhancement Consultant, the e-Portfolio and the annual declaration.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council approved the RCDSO Audited Financial Statements and the Pension Fund Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2010. These statements will appear in the 2010 annual report uploaded to our website in early June.

OPIOID PRESCRIBING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PAIN IN DENTAL PRACTICE

Council approved the creation of a multidisciplinary working group to review the challenges identified in the final report from the College's Symposium on the Management of Pain in Dental Practice. The mandate of the working group is to develop an action strategy that addresses the recommendations made in five key areas: education of undergraduate dentists, continuous education of dentists in practice, improvements in the education of patients, use of technology to support patient care and College support of interprofessional collaboration.

WEBINARS SERIES #2

Based on the success of the pilot project of live webinars to dentists in Ontario and British Columbia, a new series of three webinars will be delivered to Ontario dentists this fall. Watch out for the special e-mail blasts over the summer with more information about the topics and presenters. The College is exploring the interest of other dental regulators across the country in participating.

NATIONAL SPECIALTY RECOGNITION BY CDRAF

Prior to the creation of the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF), the national recognition of dental specialties was conducted through the Canadian Dental Association (CDA). The authority to recognize a dental specialty rests with each dental regulatory authority (DRA) established by each province's individual and particular legislation. DRAs have always placed significant value in consistent registration and licencing processes and view a fair, objective, transparent, accountable and impartial process bounded by criteria for evaluating proposed specialty areas as important.

In October 2009, CDRAF struck a working group to examine a national process and develop a model for dental specialty recognition. Input was sought from a wide range of interested groups, including the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry, the Royal College of Dentists of Canada, the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, National Dental Examining Board and the Canadian Dental Association.

The overriding principles for the development of a new process were that the process was depoliticized and, as much as practically possible, the process was not owned by CDRAF but resided with an expert group made up of representatives from the organizations that are involved in education, accreditation, examination and national membership interests.

At its April 2011 meeting, the CDRAF Board approved, in principle, the proposed new process and model for specialty recognition. Each DRA has to obtain the approval from its Council or Board. Now our College Council voted in support of the working group's proposals.

SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Council has agreed to waive the facility permit fee for administration of dental anesthesia for the Canadian Armed Forces dental operatories in Ontario as an appreciation of support and recognition of the sacrifice of the armed forces.

GUIDELINES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The College has embarked on the development of guidelines for the management of our members who have infectious diseases. Members of the team involved in the development are: Dr. David Wong, Clinical Director at the Toronto Western Hospital Liver Centre; Dr. Stephen Shafran, an expert in infectious diseases from the University of Alberta; Dean Dr. David Mock from the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto; and Dr. Deepika Chugh, a specialist in oral and maxillofacial pathology and oral medicine from the UofT dental faculty. Previously Dr. Wong had been retained by the Canadian Medical Association and Canadian Medical Protective Association to develop guidelines on infectious diseases for medicine. Other dental regulators have expressed interest in participating in this project with us.

TRAINING OF GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE DENTAL STUDENTS IN TEACHING HOSPITALS

The College's Registrar was approached by OHIP in the name of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to facilitate discussions among the dental faculties, hospitals and OHIP to develop a document that defines the duties and responsibilities of the dental faculties and the dentists in charge of students – graduate students and others (trainees) – in the hospital setting.

CANADIAN DENTAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FEDERATION (CDRAF)

Council approved the appointment of Dr. Peter Trainor and Dr. Natalie Archer and Dr. Ted Schipper as the College's delegates to the CDRAF Board.

At the April meeting of the CDRAF Board of Directors, Dr. Peter Trainor was elected as CDRAF President. He is the second president to come from Ontario since the inception of CDRAF seven years ago. Dr. Trainor replaces the outgoing president of the CDRAF, Dr. Cam Witmer. Dr. Witmer was president of RCDSO from 2003 to 2007.