



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 14, 2015

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

LIST OF CE CORE COURSES CONTINUES TO GROW

The Quality Assurance Committee has approved 26 new courses to add to the growing list of Category 1- Core Courses. This brings the current total to 210. The complete list is posted at www.rcdso.org. Simply click on continuing education on the homepage.

GUIDELINES ON THE ROLE OF OPIOIDS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN IN DENTAL PRACTICE

The College received over 30 submissions from members and other stakeholders on the guidelines that had been approved in principle at the last Council meeting in November 2014. The Quality Assurance Committee decided to reconvene the working group to review the submissions and provide recommendations for revisions of the draft document. Also, the working group will consider the final research report from Pollara Insights that was commissioned by the College to survey Ontario dentists to gain insight into their prescribing practices for acute and chronic pain and a report from Health Canada on regulatory strategies to reduce prescription drug abuse.

RECOGNITION OF THE FAIRNESS AND ACCESSIBILITY OF OUR REGISTRATION PRACTICES

In the latest round of reviews by the Office of the Ontario Fairness Commissioner (OFC), covering 2013-2014, RCDSO was one of only seven regulatory colleges to receive no recommendations for action or improvements. A total of 34 regulators were reviewed.

EXPANSION OF THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

To expedite the scheduling of panel hearings, Council approved by the required 2/3 majority vote a by-law change to allow for the Discipline Committee to be composed of at least four members of Council and at least five non-Council committee members. The by-law already requires at least four but not more than six public members of Council on the committee.

SURVEY OF DENTISTS PRESCRIBING PRACTICES

The final research study report of the survey of the prescribing practices of Ontario dentists is now released. The online survey by Pollara Insights, commissioned by the College, was done in December 2014. It looked at the use of pharmacological interventions to manage at least one case of acute or chronic pain within the previous 12 months.

For the first time, we have statistically relevant information that presents an accurate picture of the prescribing practices of Ontario dentists in the treatment of acute and chronic pain. Since about half the dentists in the country practise here in Ontario, the survey results take on even more significance.

The results of the survey are extremely good news for the profession and for the public. Based on this statistically relevant information, there is no rampant over prescribing of narcotics within the dental profession.

COUNCIL MEETING MATERIAL TO GO ONLINE

Council has approved a policy to make Council meeting materials accessible on our website in advance of each meeting. This policy will come into effect for the November 2015 Council meeting.

PROCESS FOR POSTING CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS ON THE PUBLIC REGISTER

A process is now in place for the posting on the public register of a summary of any finding of guilt in a criminal offence in any jurisdiction made by a court that the College is aware of. The offence must be relevant to the member's suitability to practise. The Registrar is the gatekeeper of the process and the Executive Committee must approve each posting.

ROBUST AGENDA FOR PATIENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Council supported a two-year plan for the Patient Relations Committee that will enhance our support for individuals who report sexual misconduct or boundary violations of a sexual nature to the College. The plan includes strong educational support for membership with a range of learning tools and updating relevant College practice advisories, including the advisory on the use of social media.

There were two special education sessions for Council. Dr. Ruth Gallop, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, who is an expert in sexual abuse and boundary violations, spoke about sexual abuse as being about the abuse of power within the health care professional context. Dr. Gallop is in the U of T Faculty of Nursing with a cross appointment to the

Department of Psychiatry in U of T's Faculty of Medicine. Public member on Council, Marianne Park, gave a luncheon address on understanding and supporting people with disAbilities. Ms. Park is a well-known instructor, lecturer and advocate on issues around disAbilities and prevention of violence against women.

MORE FORMALIZED ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN REGULATORS AND THIRD-PARTY ASSESSORS TO ENHANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND FAIRNESS

The Office of the Ontario Fairness Commissioner has endorsed a report from the Commissioner for Complaints at the Office of the Professions in Quebec that calls for the formalization of the existing legal framework between regulators and third-party assessors. The Quebec document sets out the need for regulators to exercise more effective oversights of third-party assessors. As a result of the OFC endorsement, the Registrar will be meeting with the Royal College of Dentists of Canada to explore the adoption of a model to provide for better accountability to regulatory bodies for its governance and examination processes.

ELECTRONIC VOTING UNDER CONSIDERATION

The Elections Committee is looking into the use of electronic voting in future elections. It will report to Council at its next meeting in November. The committee has also directed legal counsel to prepare proposed by-law amendments that would allow a merit-based selection process, based on specific skill set and knowledge, for all non-Council committee positions. If implemented, this would replace the current random draw process.

NEW PUBLIC MEMBER ON COUNCIL

Council welcomed new public member Susan Davis. She was immediately appointed to the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee. This was the last Council meeting for public members Kelly Bolduc-O'Hare and Abdul Wahid whose terms are expiring.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS APPROVED

Council approved the RCDSO Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2014. These statements represent an organization in good financial shape. Appropriate reserves are in place to cover our liability on PLP open cases and there are resources in terms of unrestricted equity to invest in required improvements to the College's facilities scheduled for the near future.

The audit process is an important part of the extensive checks and balances that are in place to ensure the fiscal integrity of the College. The auditors review expenditures year-over-year for their analytical procedures. They ask for explanations for any significant variances outside of their expectations, based on historical information. If any concerns are raised during their analytical review, the auditor reports this to the Audit Committee. In turn, the Audit Committee is duty bound to report this information to Council.

Another of the checks and balances in place is that the Audit Committee also meets privately with Steve Stewart, a partner at Deloitte, the auditor for the College. This meeting takes place

without staff present. This open and frank discussion is the opportunity for the auditors to present any recommendations for improvements to our accounting control system or other procedures. During the discussions this year, there were none.

In fact, Mr. Stewart stated again, as he has several times in the past, that the College has good financial controls in place and that he could not offer any recommendations to improve the existing checks and balances. That is a fine vote of confidence in the processes at the College.

Now approved, the auditor's report will be published in our 2014 annual report and posted on our website in early June.