

SEPTEMBER 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on September 18th and 19th, 2017.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR 2017-2018 COUNCIL TERM

Following elections held earlier in August, Council welcomed newly elected members Mr. Mike Hannalah and Mr. Kyro Maseh (District M), Ms. Leigh Smith (District N), Ms. Rachelle Rocha (District P) and Ms. Ruth-Ann Plaxton (District T). Newly appointed public members, Mr. Robert Hindman (Shuniah) and Mr. Dan Stapleton (Toronto) were also welcomed. Re-elected to Council were Ms. Laura Weyland (District M) and Mr. Doug Stewart (District P).

Each September, Council holds elections for the positions of President, Vice President and Committee Chairs. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Régis Vaillancourt was re-elected College President and Ms. Laura Weyland was elected Vice-President. We are also pleased to announce the following Committee Chairs:

- Executive – Régis Vaillancourt
- Accreditation and Drug Preparation Premises – Christine Donaldson*
- Discipline – Doug Stewart
- Finance and Audit – Javaid Khan
- Fitness to Practise – Kathy Al-Zand
- Inquiries, Complaints and Reports – Laura Weyland
- Patient Relations – Joy Sommerfreund
- Quality Assurance – Tracey Phillips
- Registration – Ravil Veli

*Has subsequently resigned.

A complete list of Committee membership will be posted to the public website by early October following the appointment of non-Council committee members.

2018 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET APPROVED

Council approved the 2018 College budget. The budget includes a plan to draw down on reserves as necessary to cover a shortfall of revenue against expenses. As a result, no fee increases are recommended for 2018. The budget supports the fulfillment of key initiatives set out in the third and final year of the current strategic plan and the ongoing activities associated with our regulatory responsibilities.

Council will undertake a strategic planning process in the spring of 2018 to set the direction and priorities for a new strategic plan commencing in 2019. This planning exercise will seek to further align College strategy with health-system priorities and government initiatives such as those stemming from the *Protecting Patients Act, 2017* including the development of regulations that will advance the College's public-protection mandate and strengthen public confidence in the work of Ontario's health regulatory colleges.

COUNCIL APPROVES OPIOID STRATEGY

The College is committed to supporting and complementing action undertaken by provincial and federal governments and other health system stakeholders to reduce the abuse and misuse of opioids and prevent overdose and addiction. To this end, an Opioid Task Force was created to support the development of a [College Opioid Strategy](#). The Strategy, which was presented to and approved by Council at this September meeting, supports the



College’s mandate to serve and protect the public’s interest and focuses on four key priorities:

1. Education for Pharmacy Professionals Regarding Opioid Issues

- For example, identifying and collaborating on the development of a morphine equivalent dosing (MED) tool.

2. Opioid Dependence Treatment and Harm Reduction

- For example, increasing access to naloxone (in pharmacies) for high risk opioid use patients.

3. Prevention of Overdose and Addiction

- For example, enabling pharmacist adaptation of controlled substances to support tapering of opioids and targeted substances.

4. Quality Assurance of Practice

- For example, initiating collaboration among healthcare providers to address management of opioids in hospital operating rooms and emergency departments.

The next steps will be for College staff to prioritize and implement the key initiatives identified in the Strategy. The CEO and Registrar will provide a progress update on opioid-related initiatives at each Council meeting.

Council also welcomed a presentation by Dr. David Juurlink on the opioid crisis in North America.

Dr. Juurlink is co-Principal Investigator with the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network, an Eaton Scholar and Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Toronto. He is also a Senior Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and Head of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Toronto. His presentation touched on the role of prescribers and dispensers of opioids, patient safety and the factors that led to the development of the opioid culture and the public health crisis we’re faced with today.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PHARMACY ACT, 1991 APPROVED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In September 2016, Council approved frameworks for updating quality assurance and registration regulations that would allow the College to proceed with drafting amendments that are outcomes-based and that are supported by standards, policies and guidelines which can change over time to enable the evolution of pharmacy practice. Amendments to these regulations were drafted in accordance with the approved frameworks and presented to Council at the September 2017 meeting.

The proposed amendments will assure greater transparency to the public, streamline the registration process and improve accountability by:

- implementing an Intern Pharmacist and Intern Pharmacy Technician class of registration;
- incorporating pharmacy technicians into the quality assurance regulations;



- eliminating unnecessary steps in registration; and
- shifting from an hourly reporting of practice to a self-declaration of competency in conjunction with practice assessments.

Council approved the recommendation that these proposed regulation changes be circulated for open consultation. In accordance with the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* the proposed changes will be posted on our public website for 60 days. The deadline for input and comment on the regulations is November 20, 2017. A consultation report, including a summary of feedback, will be presented to Council for consideration in December 2017.

CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

After receiving a report on the status of legalization of cannabis and after a discussion involving members of Council who declared no conflict of interest on this meeting item, Council agreed to establish a task force to review and make recommendations on the role of pharmacy related to cannabis for medical purposes. The task force will report back to Council at a future meeting.

PROTECTING PATIENTS ACT, 2017 UPDATE

Council received an update on the *Protecting Patients Act, 2017 (PPA)* including a summary of changes made to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 (RHPA)* and *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act, 1990 (DPRA)*. The PPA was introduced to strengthen Ontario’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse by regulated health professionals and support

greater accountability and transparency in the healthcare system.

The College is looking forward to ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as the government moves forward with developing draft regulations over the coming months. Member and public communication and education as regulations come into effect will be a top priority.

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017

- Monday 11 December, 2017

Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers of the College at 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2R4. If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact Ms. Ushma Rajdev, Council and Executive Liaison at council@ocpinfo.com. You can also follow along via Twitter as the College now live-tweets during Council meetings.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The College will host a series of member regional meetings this fall. Meetings will be held in Toronto (October 10), Ottawa (October 12), London (October 26) and Sudbury (November 1). Webcast options are available for the Toronto and London events. Sign up today via www.ocpinfo.com. 