

MARCH 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on March 17th, 2014.

TRANSPARENCY PROJECT - UPDATE

Council received, for information, an update report on the transparency initiative led by a working group of AGRE – Advisory Group on Regulatory Excellence – which consists of representatives from the Colleges of medicine, nursing, dentists, pharmacy, optometry and physiotherapy. The working group was established to examine information-sharing practices and determine how regulators might make more member specific information available to the public.

Following the approval of the transparency principles by all AGRE Councils late last year, the working group has been focused on exploring how these principles could inform decision-making. Over the next several months additional consultation will be conducted, including public polling. The information gathered will be analyzed and recommendations for expanding the information to be made public are expected to be brought forward to AGRE member Councils for consideration later this year.

COUNCIL APPROVES AUDITED STATEMENTS FOR COLLEGE OPERATIONS FOR 2013

Council approved the Audited Financial Statements for the operations of the College for 2013

as prepared by Clarke Henning, LLP, Chartered Accountants. The audit and resulting financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards. Council was particularly pleased to note that the auditors did not identify any major issues of concern. The summarized financial statements can be found in the College's Annual Report.

PRINCIPLES ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN PRACTICE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPLICATION APPROVED BY COUNCIL

In March 2013, it was discovered that four Ontario hospitals and one hospital in New Brunswick had administered diluted chemotherapy drugs. The Ontario government took immediate action as a result of this incident, including launching an independent review of Ontario's cancer drug supply chain by Dr. Jake Thiessen. In addition, the Standing Committee on Social Policy initiated an investigation into the issue. Although they have not yet released their findings, in response to the Standing Committee's request that the College too further examine the chemotherapy under-dosing incident, Council established the Task Force on Professional Responsibility in Practice.

The mandate of the Task Force was to review pharmacists' and

pharmacy technicians' practice responsibilities and make recommendations to raise awareness with members to ensure safe practice for patients. While the Thiessen report provided recommendations specific to the incident, the Task Force undertook to formulate findings and recommendations that would focus on the broader lessons that could be communicated to members.

The Task Force developed the following 'Professional Responsibility Principles' and made recommendations for their application both of which were approved unanimously by Council.

Principles:

1. Members are relied on to use their knowledge, skills and judgment to make decisions that positively enhance health outcomes for patients and provide patient-focused care.
2. Pharmacists are responsible for applying therapeutic judgment in order to assess the appropriateness of therapy given individual patient circumstances.
3. Communication and documentation are central to good patient care when working in a team environment.
4. Trust in the care provided by colleagues and other health professionals must be balanced with critical evaluation.
5. Members must be diligent in identifying and responding to



Photos by DW Dorken

red flag situations that present in practice.

Application of Principles:

- a) Share with provincial and national stakeholders, engaged in standard setting and educational development for the pharmacy profession, with a recommendation to utilize as appropriate to shape the development of ongoing work.
- b) Apply to the review and development of College programs and strategic planning.
- c) Enact a comprehensive communications and education strategy to engage members in deepening their understanding and application of these principles in everyday practice.

COUNCIL APPROVES REGISTRATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COLLEGE'S INTERNSHIP TRAINING REQUIREMENT BE MET THROUGH GRADUATION FROM ONTARIO'S NEW PHARM D PROGRAMS

In 2013, the Universities of Toronto (UofT) and Waterloo (UofW) were granted approval to confer an entry-level PharmD degree upon their graduates. The PharmD programs, which will begin graduating students over the next few years, include significantly more hours of experiential learning.

Following a thorough review of the PharmD programs, the Registration Committee was satisfied that the new curriculum fulfils the College's entry-to-practice internship training requirements currently being met by successful completion of the Structured Practical Training (SPT) program. As such the Committee recommended that Council approve this change which effectively results in graduates from either of the Ontario Universities' PharmD programs being recognized as having met the required internship training.

In granting approval, Council was encouraged to learn that discussions with the dean and director of the pharmacy programs have identified a commitment by the universities to undertake ongoing evaluations of their programs and the performance of their graduates to ensure that they continue to be competent at entry-to-practice. Results from those evaluations are to be incorporated into future curriculum decisions and shared with the College.

TASK FORCE ON GOVERNANCE – UPDATE

Since its establishment in March 2013, the Task Force on Governance has held regular meetings to review the College's governance model and to develop new compre-

hensive governance documents. At this Council meeting, Council held a full discussion on several topics and provided the Task Force with direction and input on these issues. It is anticipated that at the June 2014 Council meeting, the Task Force will present to Council the finalized governance documents for Council's review and approval. 📄

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS:

- Monday 16 June, 2014
- Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 September 2014

For more information respecting Council meetings, please contact Ms. Ushma Rajdev, Council and Executive Liaison at urajdev@ocpinfo.com