



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting - March 6, 2008

This publication is mailed within four working days of each Council meeting to all College members and key stakeholders. At the same time it is posted on our website at www.rcdso.org. 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.

Special Education Sessions at Council Opened to All Health-Care Regulators

In the spirit of interprofessional collaboration, the College extended an open invitation to all of the health-care regulators in the province to attend the March Council meeting to participate in two special educational sessions related to sexual abuse and boundary violations. Speakers were forensic psychiatrist Dr. Philip Klassen, who heads the Law and Mental Health Program at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada's largest mental health and addiction research facility, and social worker and psychotherapist Margaret Bogue, who specializes in the treatment of traumatized and sexually abused children and their families.

Work Underway on New Quality Assurance Regulation

The Quality Assurance Committee is working with the University of Toronto's Donald R. Wilson Centre for Research in Education, one of the largest centres for health professional education research in the world, in the development of a new quality assurance regulation. Working with the committee is Dr. Glenn Regehr of the Wilson Centre, whose area of research is the role of self-assessment in self-regulated professions. Dr. Regehr made an animated presentation to Council on the underlying philosophy of the new regulation development. He emphasized the importance of engaging professionals in continuous education and learning as critical to the success of a quality assurance program.

Collaboration with Physicians on Use of Antibiotics to Prevent Infective Endocarditis

The College has invited the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to strike a joint working group to work collaboratively on how to avoid contradictions in advice when addressing the use of antibiotics before dental procedures to prevent infective endocarditis.

Increased Focus on Sexual Abuse Prevention

Council approved in principle a recommendation from the Patient Relations Committee to develop an educational package on sexual abuse prevention. This kind of expanded educational effort compliments the increased focus of the committee, under the new changes to the Regulated Health Professions Act, to ensure the College's patient relations program includes measures for preventing or dealing with sexual abuse of patients.

Look for the new section on sexual abuse prevention on the College website under the heading of Public Protection and the article on the obligations of mandatory reporting of sexual abuse of a patient that is in the latest issue of Dispatch.

Support to Study on Use of Local Anaesthesia

The College's Professional Liability Program is supporting a research project by Dr. Dan Haas of the University of Toronto by providing him with PLP claim data and information. All the information from PLP will be anonymous and meet the requirements of the College's privacy policies. Dr. Haas is updating a similar study done in 1993-94 that provided extremely helpful information to the profession and the public about dental anaesthesia.

Specialty Examination for Dental Anaesthesiologists

Council approved in principle an agreement with the American Dental Board of Anaesthesiology (ADBA) to administer the written and oral examinations for applicants for a specialty certificate in dental anaesthesia. The only Canadian graduate program in dental anaesthesia is at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto.

Review of Guidelines on Infection Control

Council authorized the Quality Assurance Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the College's current infection control guidelines.

Review of Guidelines of Use of Sedation and General Anaesthesia

Council authorized the Quality Assurance Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the College's current guidelines on the use of sedation and general anaesthesia in dental practice.

RCDSO Pandemic Plan

The College's pandemic plan was approved. The plan facilitates our readiness for an influenza epidemic and is aligned with the federal, provincial and municipal influenza pandemic plans. Our plan outlines how the College will give its full support, to the greatest extent possible, to the provincial government during all stages of a pandemic.

Information on Professional Membership to New Graduates

The Ontario Dental Association (ODA) has always offered a one-year free membership to new graduates. Council has agreed, as a one-year pilot project, to ODA's request to facilitate the delivery of this material to all new graduates as they become licensed with the College. The ODA material will be kept separate from the College material so that it is clear that ODA membership is not a requirement of licensure. This pilot project was a recommendation from the ODA/RCDSO Ideas Forum (ORIF).

Committee Appointments

Council ratified the appointment of Parminder Chahal to fill the vacancy on the Elections Committee. Council also approved the reappointment of Dr. Gordon Sylvester and Dr. Ronald Yarascavitch to the Professional Liability Committee for a three-year term and the appointment of Dr. Gurneen Sidhu to fill a vacancy for a one-year term, all effective January 2008.

By-Law Changes Given Final Approval

Council gave final approval to a number of proposed by-law changes, including a reduction in the cooling-off period to two years from three and the elimination of the five-year registration requirement for members who want to put their name forward for random selection to College committees. These changes and others to By-law No. 5 – The qualifications and appointment of non-Council members to committees and By-law No. 6 – Election and selection of Councillors were originally approved in principle by Council in November 2007 and then were circulated to members and other stakeholders for comment.