



Royal College of  
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

*Ensuring Continued Trust*

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

6 Crescent Road  
Toronto, ON Canada M4W 1T1  
T: 416.961.6555 F: 416.961.5814  
Toll-Free: 800.565.4591 [www.rcdso.org](http://www.rcdso.org)

TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

## Council Meeting of March 2, 2006

**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 Web site at [www.rcdso.org](http://www.rcdso.org).**

**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](mailto:ifefergrad@rcdso.org). We welcome your feedback.**

### **New Initiative in LifeLong Learning Program**

Council has approved, in principle, the production of a new CD-ROM based continuing education course on management of dental emergencies, in co-operation with the dental faculty at the University of Toronto. The Quality Assurance Committee made this recommendation based on the incredible success of the first CD learning package, Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office.

The Quality Assurance Committee believes that this method of continuing education addresses the core goals of the LifeLong Learning program: these learning initiatives address the core knowledge required for dental practice, the program is available to all members equally, and members are not required to incur any significant direct or indirect expenses to participate.

The College will underwrite the production costs. However, to assist in cost recovery, members who wish to obtain MCDE points will be charged a fee, and the College will pursue sponsorship/advertising opportunities. Any revenue, in excess of the College's production costs, will go to the U of T Faculty of Dentistry.

Watch out for an expanded story about this project in the spring issue of *Dispatch* magazine in mid-May.

### **Funding of Professional Liability Program**

Council has directed the Executive Committee to strike a working group to report back to Council later this year with options to ensure the long-term financial security of the College's professional liability program. Working group members will include representatives from the Executive Committee, the Professional Liability Program Committee, the Finance & Administration Committee, and senior staff.

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While Ontario has enjoyed the lowest premiums in the country for many years, Dr. Cam Witmer highlighted the increasing pressures on the insurance sector in North America that are forcing up premiums, narrowing coverage and increasing the deductibles in other jurisdictions. Dr. Witmer emphasized that we need to provide a financial safety net that is adequate to ensure the financial future of PLP.

As Dr. Witmer pointed out, by running our own malpractice insurance program, we ensure that no member of the public will ever fund themselves unprotected, and no dentist will ever find themselves excluded from malpractice insurance coverage.

“The professional liability program is just too important to put at risk...we need to take control of the situation...we need to plan a strategy that will ensure the security and viability of our program,” explained Dr. Witmer. “The program has never been in better shape, but we cannot ignore world trends. We need to plan effectively for the future.”

See the President’s Message in the spring issue of *Dispatch* magazine for more on this issue.

### **Proposed Federal Regulations for Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation**

Health Canada’s Biologics and Genetic Therapies Directorate has developed regulations to address the safety of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs as part of the federal *Food and Drugs Act*. The College is concerned that dentistry was not consulted during the extensive consultation process, nor reflected in the resulting proposed regulations.

In view of the recent tissue recall issued by Health Canada and the US Food and Drug Administration due to the improper harvesting of tissue materials in New York state, and subsequently sold into Ontario, Council believes it is imperative that the profession and the College have input in the interest of public safety and protection.

Council has ratified the decision of the Executive Committee to form a working group of experts to review the proposed new federal regulatory framework for the transplantation of cells, tissues and organs.

The expert panel members are dental academics, researchers and practitioners: Dr. Peter Birek, Dr. Cameron Clokie, Dr. Chris McCulloch, Dr. Harinder Sandhu, Dr. Howard Tenenbaum, Dr. George Sandor and ethicist Dr. Abbyann Lynch.

### **Changes to By-Law No. 6: Election and Selection of Councillors**

Council approved, by the necessary two-thirds vote, changes to this by-law that addresses how to handle the situation when a tie vote occurs during a Council election. Under the revised by-law, if there is a tie vote in which all the eligible candidates receive the same number of votes, the Registrar shall break the tie by lot. If there is a tie vote, and at least one candidate received fewer votes than

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the other eligible candidate, there will be a run-off election. The new revised version of the full by-law is now loaded on our Web site at [www.rcdso.org](http://www.rcdso.org).

**Changes to By-Law No. 5: Qualifications and Appointment of Non-Council Members to Committee of the College**

Council approved, by the necessary two-thirds vote, changes to this by-law that eliminates the requirement of a minimum of 500 hours of clinical practice during the previous 12 months to be eligible for appointment. The new revised version of the full by-law is now loaded on our Web site at [www.rcdso.org](http://www.rcdso.org).

**Proposed Changes to By-Law No. 4: Fees**

To provide more flexibility in the charges for College-sponsored continuing education courses, Council is circulating a proposed change to this by-law that allows the Executive Committee to determine the fee structure on a course-by-course basis. As required, the proposed by-law change is being circulated to members and other stakeholders for at least 60 days for comment.

**A Day In The Life: 2006 Dental Office Survey**

The College, along with other members of the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation, is participating in this pilot project to obtain data from dentists and denturists on the treatment provided in one given day across the country. The College has supplied a sample of dentists from Ontario to receive the survey. This survey will form part of the data of Statistics Canada's Canadian Health Measures Survey for use as possible predictors of the overall oral health of Canadians. This project is coordinated by a team of researchers from the University of Alberta, the University of Montreal and the University of Toronto.

**Committee Appointments**

The following appointments were approved or ratified to change the existing committee membership:

*Discipline Committee*

Chair: Dr. Stanley Kogon

Committee members: Parminder Chahal, Dr. John McComb, Dr. Reza Moridi, Nasib Khan, Jose Saavedra

*Complaints Committee*

Committee member: Abdul Wahid

*Professional Liability Program Committee*

Chair: Parminder Chahal

Committee members: Dr. Steven Cohen, Dr. Michael Glogauer, Dr. Mary Krywulak

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*Legal and Legislation Committee*

Chair: Jose Saavedra

*Patient Relations Committee*

Committee member: Evelyn Laraya

*Audit Committee*

Committee member: Dr. John McComb

*Elections Committee*

Chair: Kelly Bolduc-O'Hare

Committee members: K.S. Joseph, Dr. Reza Moridi

*Advertising Review Committee*

The Executive Committee had already appointed Kelly Bolduc-O'Hare to fill the vacancy for a public member on this committee.