



COLLEGE OF
Optometrists
OF ONTARIO



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Vision: *The best eye health and vision for everyone in Ontario, through excellence in optometric care.*

Mission: *To serve the public by regulating Ontario's optometrists. The College uses its authority to guide the profession in the delivery of safe, ethical, progressive and quality eye care at the highest standards.*

As the self-regulatory authority for the profession, the College governs some 2,200 optometrists. Our roles include:

- Setting the qualifications required to enter practice
- Establishing the conditions to maintain registration
- Developing quality assurance programs to promote clinical excellence
- Promoting safe and ethical practice by our members
- Developing professional and ethical standards and guidelines
- Responding to complaints – openly, fairly, and with authority – and holding members accountable for their conduct and practice

With the College's Council, committees, and staff all working in the public interest, you can have confidence in the care you receive from Ontario's optometrists.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are pleased to provide you with the College of Optometrists of Ontario's report of activities for 2015. The year was full of new directions for the College – new initiatives and innovations, a renewed strategic plan – but all of it in service to our long-standing

mandate. In 2015, the College continued in its mission to promote excellence in optometric practice, protecting the public of Ontario by ensuring quality eye care at the highest standards.

Committing to Enhanced Transparency

As a result of our participation on the Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence (AGRE), in 2015 the College took several steps toward increasing the amount of information about members that is made public through the online register.

In January, Council approved by-law amendments to add more information to the College's public register, including:

- complete notice of hearing in discipline matters
- notation of and date of referral to Fitness to Practise
- bail conditions (where relevant to practice)
- findings of guilt in respect of federal, provincial, or other offences (where relevant to practice)

Council created a subcommittee to consider further proposed changes, including the disclosure of some ICRC outcomes.

The College, as a member of AGRE, conducted a Polara study to measure the public's need for more information about practitioners in order to make an informed choice of health care provider.

We also sent a survey to members to gauge their understanding of the impact of these potential changes. In September, following circulation of further amendments, Council voted to approve changes to College by-laws that would allow more information to be posted on the public register.

Starting October 1, 2015, members of the public gained access to some specific outcomes of ICRC investigations into complaints and Registrar's reports, as well as information generated through other processes, such as the judicial system or regulators in other jurisdictions.

This initiative brings our by-laws in line with other health regulatory colleges. We have begun to implement these changes and have posted information about members that was not previously available. The College awaits direction from the Transparency Working Group of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to assess whether to make public even more information.

Mapping the Road Ahead

In mid-2015, the College, under the stewardship of public member Mr. Ira Teich, refreshed its strategic plan to offer guidance to the Council for the coming three years. During this process the College renewed its commitment to ensuring the public has access to high-quality optometric care, establishing and maintaining partnerships with stakeholders to enhance collaboration both with stakeholders and other professions, and providing a resource to government in fulfilling its commitment to enhanced transparency.

Ensuring Quality Care

In 2015, the College launched OE TRACKER, a tool that captures and stores continuing education (CE) attendance data. The service is administered by the

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Association for Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO). It will help members to log their participation in the CE activities mandated by the Quality Assurance program. It will also help the College to audit members' compliance with the program at the end of the current CE cycle in December 2017. Council also approved submission of a draft regulation amendment to O.Reg. 119/94 Part IX, Quality Assurance, to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for its approval. This amendment allows for more flexibility in the Quality Assurance program, including practice assessments, and makes it consistent with the Registration Regulation and the RHPA.

Staying Informed

In January, Council heard a presentation by health regulatory law specialist Richard Steinecke on risk management for regulators. Mr. Steinecke touched on some core concepts of risk management. Council learned how it might identify, assess, treat, and monitor risk, as well as how to incorporate some key strategies into its organization.

At the June Council meeting, Ms. Nuzhat Jafri, Executive Director, Office of the Fairness Commissioner (OFC), gave a presentation to Council on the OFC's mandate and processes, which are designed to build transparent, objective, impartial, and fair licensing practices among regulators. She also described the OFC's continuous improvement strategy, which depends upon a productive collaboration between the Commission and the regulators it oversees. Ms. Jafri commended the College on the good progress it has made in its registration practices over the last number of years.

In September, Council heard from Ms. Shenda Tanchak, Registrar, College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, regarding a proposal by a group of regulators to regulate clinics in Ontario. The Council considered

whether it would actively participate in this initiative, but decided to participate as observers only. It was felt that the College had adequately addressed the issues proposed to be remedied by this process through the independent contractor provisions in the new professional misconduct regulations.

Prioritizing Public Safety

On January 5, 2015, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice issued its decision in the matter of James McLean and the Attorney General of Ontario. Mr. McLean is an optician who sought the court's permission to use an Eyelogic machine at his store to arrive at refractive results that he would then send to a remote prescriber, who would write the prescription to be dispensed by Mr. McLean. The Court denied Mr. McLean's request. Both the College of Optometrists and the College of Opticians were intervenors in the case.

Preventing Sexual Abuse

The College remains dedicated to preventing sexual abuse and boundary violations in the doctor-patient relationship. As part of this effort, in 2015 we submitted detailed reports to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, whose Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Patients and the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* had asked about the status of our Patient Relations program in preventing and dealing with the sexual abuse of patients. The reports are the result of a government initiative to raise awareness of sexual violence and harassment.

It was a busy year for the College, and we are pleased with what we've been able to accomplish. As we look ahead to 2016 and beyond, we will see many of this year's projects take shape. The College will continue to evolve and adapt to meet new challenges, ensuring the public enjoys safe, ethical, progressive, and quality eye care at the highest standards.

—Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, President

COLLEGE COUNCIL

To set our strategic and policy direction, the College relies on a Council. This body includes 17 members, of which:

- Nine are optometrists elected by their peers
- Seven are public members appointed by the province to bring that perspective to Council discussions
- One is elected from the faculty at the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science

As part of the College's accountability, Council meetings are open to the public. Council members also serve on statutory committees, whose work is outlined in this report. These committees support public safety by meeting certain regulatory responsibilities.

While the Council serves as the board of directors of the College, a staff team, led by a Registrar, carries out the College's day-to-day work.



2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Back row, left to right: Mr. Emad Hussain, Dr. Marlee Spafford, Mr. Ira Teich, Dr. Patrick Quaid, Ms. Luisa Morrone, Dr. Bill Chisholm, Dr. Derek MacDonald, Dr. Dino Mastronardi, Ms. Shoshana Gladstone, Mr. Francis Christopher, Dr. Marta Witer

Front row, left to right: Ms. Irene Moore, Dr. Pooya Hemami, Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, Dr. Dennis Ruskin, Dr. Areef Nurani

Not pictured: Mr. John Van Bastelaar

2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eastern Electoral District

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, President

GTA Electoral District

Dr. Areef Nurani

Dr. Dennis Ruskin

Northern Electoral District

Dr. Bill Chisholm

Western Electoral District

Dr. Dino Mastronardi

Provincial Electoral District

Dr. Pooya Hemami,
Vice-President

Dr. Derek MacDonald

Dr. Patrick Quaid

Dr. Marta Witer

Academic District

Dr. Marlee Spafford – University
of Waterloo School of
Optometry and Vision Science

Members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (Provincial Cabinet)

Mr. Francis Christopher

Ms. Shoshana Gladstone

Mr. Emad Hussain

Ms. Irene Moore, Treasurer

Ms. Luisa Morrone

Mr. Ira Teich

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

The Executive Committee coordinates the work of the other committees of the College. It makes sure that College resources are allocated properly and that staff and committees are moving forward with the work of the College and the priorities of Council.

- June: Staff and Executive members participated in the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) meeting in Seattle, the theme of which was “Optometric Regulation in the Electronic Age”
- Several meetings were held with the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) and the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science (WOVS)
- The College continues to support the Eye Health Council of Ontario (EHCO), but has decided to attend as an observer rather than as a voting member, which is consistent with the other two health regulators that are participating

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

National Outreach

Executive plays an active role in the optometric regulatory community throughout Canada and North America. Outreach opportunities are an excellent way to exchange information and keep abreast of the latest issues affecting health care regulation.

- January: Members of Executive attended the Canadian Examiners in Optometry (CEO) meeting and Optometric Leaders’ Forum in Ottawa
- January and September: College representatives attended the Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities (FORAC) meetings



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Keeping Members Up to Date

Communication with members is essential to what we do. It is important that members have a chance to meet Council and staff, to ask questions about College policies, and to let us know their concerns.

- College updates were provided to members in the Northeastern, Northwestern, and Ottawa Region society meetings
- The College held its second annual Town Hall meeting in Markham in November, where we offered updates to members on our activities

Promoting Public Safety

Protecting the public is our

mandate and commitment.

Executive routinely meets with our partners in public protection to work on areas of mutual interest.

- Representatives met with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in November to discuss amendments to the Designated Drugs Regulation and to report on progress on the transparency initiatives of the College
- The College collaborated with the College of Opticians of Ontario to protect the public from unregulated providers of eyewear, in particular those that use the internet

- We continued our work with the Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence (AGRE) – an assembly of six Ontario health regulators – on transparency and other important regulatory issues

WHO WE ARE

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël (President)

Dr. Pooya Hemami
(Vice-President)

Ms. Irene Moore (Treasurer)

Dr. Areef Nurani

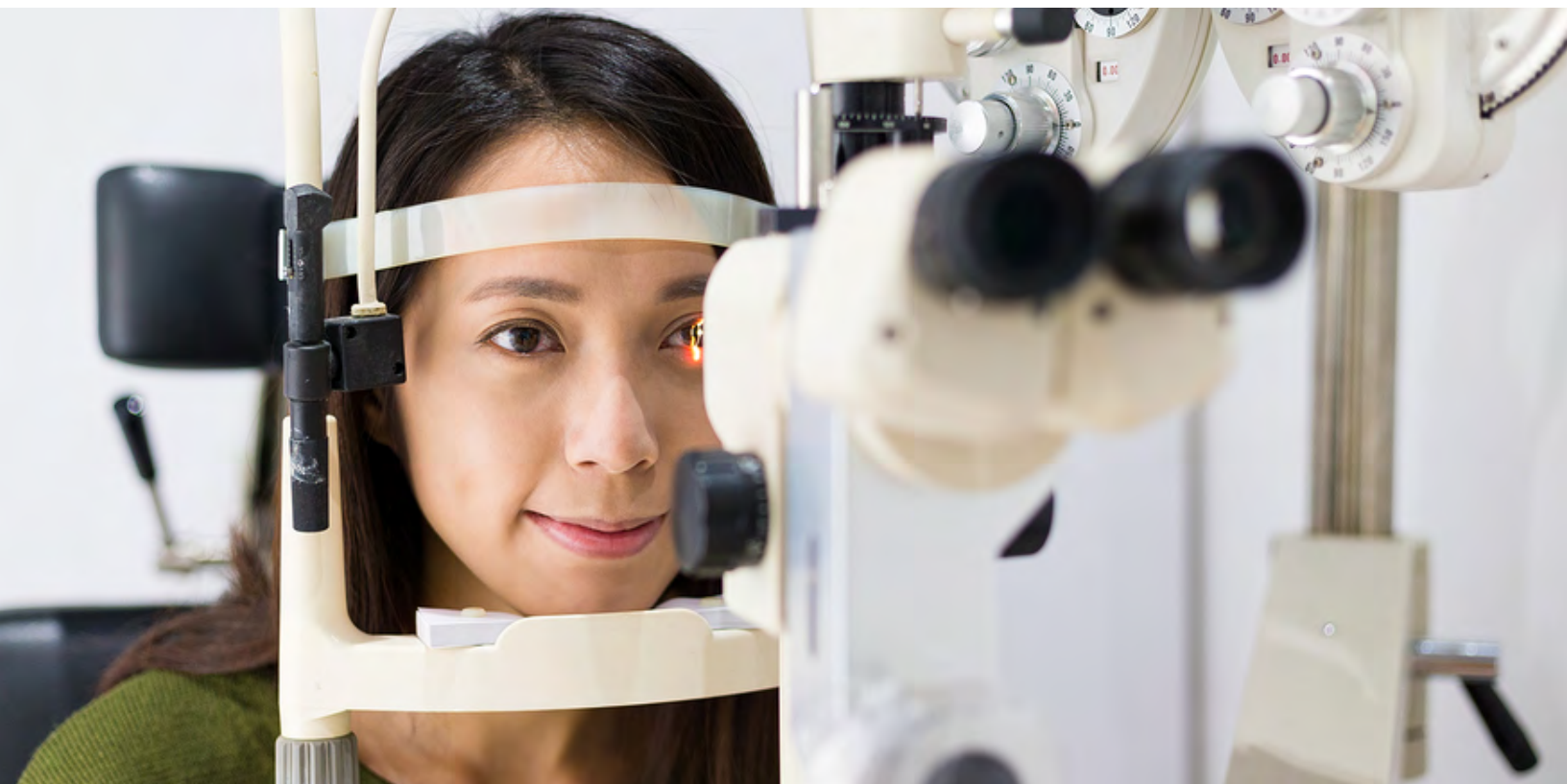
Dr. Dennis Ruskin

Mr. Ira Teich

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

STAFF SUPPORT:

Dr. Paula Garshowitz, Registrar



PATIENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

Preventing the sexual abuse of patients is a priority of the College. The Patient Relations Committee promotes awareness and education of issues around sexual abuse and boundary violations. It offers advice and guidelines to the public and to optometrists regarding the patient–practitioner relationship.

The Committee explored the development of learning modules for optometrists that would deal with:

- professional boundaries
- prevention of sexual abuse of patients
- understanding the nature of power imbalance in the patient–practitioner relationship

The Committee will continue this work in 2016.

WHO WE ARE

Ms. Luisa Morrone (Chair)
Dr. Kathy Adams
Mr. Francis Christopher
Ms. Shoshana Gladstone
Dr. Camy Grewal
Dr. Ken Hadley
Dr. Marta Witer

STAFF SUPPORT:

Ms. Mina Kavanagh, Director,
Investigations and Resolutions

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2015, the Committee focused specifically on its mandate, as defined in the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, to develop measures for preventing and dealing with sexual abuse of patients, including education for members.

At its first meeting in 2015, Ms. Claudia Newman of NCA Associates provided training for the Committee through a presentation titled “Sexual Misconduct and the Regulated Health Professional,” which articulated professional boundaries, the concept of harm, power imbalance, and sexual abuse.



QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

The primary purpose of the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) is to maintain and enhance the knowledge, skill, and judgment of members so that the public can continue to enjoy high-quality eye care. The QA program protects the public by working together with optometrists, offering them the tools and feedback to continually improve their competence. Among the QA program's six components are mandatory continuing education, practice assessment, practice evaluation, and remediation. The QAC consists of two panels, the Quality Assurance Panel (QAP) and the Clinical Practice Panel (CPP).

- Members with practising and nonpractising statuses are required to meet the minimum published requirements of the CE program, which is 70 hours in a three-year cycle

2012–2014 CE Cycle Random Audit

- 93 members were randomly selected to participate in a CE audit
- 83 members met requirements
- Nine members were deficient in CE credit hours and were required to participate in a practice assessment

- One member was deficient in CE credit hours and signed an undertaking

2012–2014 CE Cycle Deficiency Audit

- 14 members were deficient in CE credit hours based on self-reporting of CE hours on annual reports
- Seven members submitted evidence demonstrating that they indeed met the CE requirements for the 2012–2014 cycle
- Three were deficient by more than five CE credit hours and were required to participate in a practice assessment
- Two were deficient by more than five CE credit hours and signed an undertaking

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

2015–2017 Continuing Education (CE) Cycle

- The new CE cycle began (January 1, 2015–December 31, 2017)
- The 2015–2017 cycle CE policy was approved and posted on the College website





- One was deficient by more than five CE credit hours and resigned

By-Law Proposal

Consultation – CE Audit Fee

- To encourage compliance with the College's CE policy, Council proposed to charge a fee of \$350 for a CE audit for self-reported CE-deficient members who are found, in fact, to have sufficient hours
- The bylaw proposal was circulated to members in late 2015 and will be brought back to Council in 2016 for approval
- Once approved, the amendment will apply to CE deficiency audits for members for the current CE cycle ending December 31, 2017

OE TRACKER

The College began using the OE TRACKER system to capture and store CE attendance data electronically for members for the 2015–2017 CE cycle.

Members must ensure that their CE credit hours are up to date in their OE TRACKER profile by the end of the current CE cycle (December 31, 2017).

Random QA

Practice Assessments

- 88 members were randomly selected to undergo practice assessments
- 31 members were found to be maintaining the standards of practice of the profession

- 16 members were found to be maintaining the standards of practice of the profession with some recommendations for improvement
- A total of 18 recommendations were made:
 - Record presenting near monocular visual acuities: four members
 - Recordkeeping and legibility improvements: three members
 - Record applicable family history: two members
 - More quantitative information on optic disc description: two members
 - Perform further investigation/testing: two members

- Perform dilation when indicated: one member
- Measure and record binocularity: one member
- Quantify the magnitude of phorias: one member
- Perform keratometry for contact lens wearer: one member
- More appropriate testing for intraocular pressure: one member
- 39 were still undergoing practice assessments (expected to be completed by spring 2016)
- One retired
- One changed status to nonpractising

Remediation

If a practice assessment reveals significant problems, the member may be required to participate in additional CE activities or work with a QA Coach, followed by a reassessment.

- In 2015, three members were required to work with a QA coach to help the members address areas of practice identified as deficient

Practice Evaluation

This is a more intensive process to assess a member's clinical ability. A member may be required to undergo reassessment after an evaluation.

- In 2015, no members were required to undergo a practice evaluation

QA Practice Assessment Working Group

In late 2015, a Quality Assurance (QA) Practice Assessment Working Group, consisting of representatives from the Quality Assurance Committee and representatives from the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science, was established to develop new processes and protocols for the College's random QA practice assessments, taking into account the various ways that members practise, including those who focus their scope of practice.

The QA Practice Assessment Working Group will continue their work on this project in 2016.



WHO WE ARE

Dr. Kamy Morcos (Chair)
 Dr. Bill Chisholm
 Mr. Francis Christopher
 Dr. Sharon Markowitz
 Dr. Patrick Quaid
 Mr. John Van Bastelaar
 Dr. Christine Yoon

STAFF SUPPORT:

Ms. Bonny Wong, Coordinator,
 Quality Programs

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE – CLINICAL PRACTICE PANEL

WHAT WE DO

This Panel, one of two that belong to the Quality Assurance Committee, establishes and clarifies new and existing standards of practice, regulatory requirements, and clinical practice guidelines in the Optometric Practice Reference (OPR).

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

The Panel reviewed and updated seven OPR documents in 2015:

- 4.1 Clinical Equipment
- 5.2 The Prescription
- 6.4 Spectacle Therapy
- 6.7 Binocular Vision Assessment and Therapy
- 7.4 Patients with Diabetes
- 7.6 Cycloplegic Refraction
- 7.11 Patients with Dry Eye Disease

As a result of the changes to 5.2 The Prescription, maximum two-year expiry dates are now required for all optical prescriptions. Optometrists maintain professional discretion regarding the expiry dates of less than two years,

and must inform patients when specified expiry dates are not the ones recommended in the proposed guidelines.

Designated Drugs Regulation

The Panel reviewed and drafted proposed amendments to the *Optometry Act*, Designated Drugs and Standards of Practice Regulation under the *Optometry Act*, and Controlled Acts Regulation under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA). These proposals would:

- give optometrists the authority to prescribe all topical and oral drugs that are within the scope of practice of the profession and approved by Health Canada
- allow optometrists to remove superficial foreign bodies from below the surface of the cornea
- allow optometrists to dispense drugs for the sole purpose of trialling a therapy
- specify diagnostic ultrasound as a prescribed form of energy for the performance of corneal pachymetry or ocular ultrasonography

These amendments will be circulated to members in early 2016.

WHO WE ARE

Dr. Areef Nurani (Chair)
Dr. Catherine Chiarelli
Dr. Glen Chiasson
Mr. Emad Hussain
Dr. Patrick Quaid
Dr. Toni Rizk
Dr. Tim Tsang

STAFF SUPPORT:

Dr. David Wilkinson,
Practice Advisor



DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

The College protects the public by investigating complaints and reports about the practice of its members. This happens through the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC). When the ICRC, after assessing the risk of a member's conduct, decides that professional misconduct may have occurred or that an optometrist may be incompetent, it will make a referral to the Discipline Committee. The Committee can then order a range of penalties, including fines, a reprimand, suspension, or revocation of a member's Certificate of Registration.

Discipline Hearings

In 2015, the Discipline Committee held three discipline hearings into allegations of professional misconduct/incompetence. To read the full decision of the Discipline Committee, please click on the member's name.

[Dr. J. Richard Samuel](#)

[Dr. Petra Cantrup](#)

[Dr. Anthony J. Angelone](#)

Discipline Referrals

The Discipline Committee received referrals of specified allegations of professional misconduct against the following members:

Dr. Emad Eskander,
Dr. Kar Man Cheung,
Dr. Suzan Sarkies, and
Dr. Vivian Li

Dr. Gordon Ng

The Committee is preparing discipline hearings in both matters. They will take place in 2016.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for full Notices of Hearing.

Other Activities

Three Committee members attended the Basic Discipline Orientation session and four Committee members attended the Advanced Discipline Orientation session, provided by the Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario.

WHO WE ARE

Dr. Jim Hoover (Chair)
Dr. Margaret Armstrong
Dr. Linda Bathe
Mr. Francis Christopher
Dr. Bill Chisholm
Ms. Shoshana Gladstone
Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Dr. Thomas-A. Noël
Dr. Areef Nurani
Dr. Patrick Quaid
Dr. Peter Ronzanec
Dr. Dennis Ruskin
Dr. Karin Simon
Dr. Marlee Spafford
Mr. John Van Bastelaar

STAFF SUPPORT:

Mr. Eyal Birenberg, Coordinator,
Investigations and Hearings
Ms. Mina Kavanagh, Director,
Investigations and Resolutions



FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

The Fitness to Practise Committee receives referrals from the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee. It conducts a hearing when there is evidence that an optometrist might be incapacitated due to a mental or physical condition.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

The Committee did not receive any referrals during 2015 nor did it conduct any hearings.

WHO WE ARE

Mr. Francis Christopher (Chair)
Dr. Kan Chhatwal
Dr. Dennis Ruskin



INQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS COMMITTEE (ICRC)

WHAT WE DO

The ICRC investigates, reviews, deliberates, and makes dispositions, initially at least, in all member-specific concerns related to professional misconduct, incompetence, or incapacity, based on the assessment of risk. There are various sources of those concerns: formal complaints, information coming to the attention of the Registrar, mandatory reports, or referrals from the Quality Assurance Committee.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- The College amended its bylaws to allow for more member-specific information (including ICRC dispositions) to be available on the public register.
- Working with the Transparency Subcommittee, the ICRC developed a new risk assessment framework that both panels continually tested and improved during their 2015 meetings. All cases that come before the panels are now assessed using this tool, which helps to consistently evaluate the risk that a member's conduct/

competence poses to the public and reach appropriate decisions based on that evaluation.

- The ICRC, working in two panels, held eight panel meetings and four teleconferences.
- Forty-six new cases were filed in 2015: 45 complaints and one Registrar's Report.
- The two panels considered a total of 58 cases filed in 2014 (20) and 2015 (38), and issued 54 decisions: 23 in the cases filed in 2013 and 2014, and 31 in those filed in 2015.
- As of December 31, 2015, 15 cases were carried over for a decision in 2016.

Nature of allegations for cases filed in 2015

From a total of 46 new cases considered, 32 (70%) involved some level of unprofessional behaviour and/or communication. In cases where another allegation was raised, the most common accompanying allegation remained unprofessional behaviour and/or communication.

When the main allegation was related to an eyeglass

prescription, in 89% of cases the most common accompanying allegation was unprofessional behaviour/communication.

In all cases involving fees and/or billing issues, the most common accompanying allegation was unprofessional behaviour/communication.

No other consistent patterns of accompanying allegations were noted.

WHO WE ARE

Dr. Derek MacDonald

(Chair, Panel 1 Chair)

Ms. Irene Moore (Panel 2 Chair)

Dr. Pooya Hemami

Mr. Emad Hussain

Dr. Richard Kniaziew

Dr. Annie Micucci

Ms. Luisa Morrone

Dr. Karin Schellenberg

Mr. Ira Teich

STAFF SUPPORT:

Ms. Mina Kavanagh, Director, Investigations and Resolutions

HPARB Appeals status as of December 31, 2015

Total # of appeals pending	5
New appeals filed in 2015	5
Reviews held – decisions pending	2
Matters returned to the College	1
Appeals withdrawn	4

NATURE OF ALLEGATIONS (2015 CASES ONLY)

Some cases involve multiple allegations.

NATURE OF ALLEGATION	# OF ALLEGATIONS	MOST COMMON ACCOMPANYING ALLEGATION(S)
Unprofessional behaviour/communication	32	Even distribution
Related to eyeglass prescription	9	Unprofessional behaviour/communication
Related to drug prescription	0	N/A
Failure to refer or inappropriate referral	8	Failure to diagnose
Failure to diagnose or misdiagnosis	9	Failure to refer
Quality of care	6	Fees/billing and lack of consent
Related to fees or billing	6	Unprofessional behaviour/communication
Lack of consent	3	
Access to records	1	
Standards of practice	2	Unprofessional behaviour/communication
Harmful treatment	2	
Unnecessary treatment	3	Unprofessional behaviour/communication
Advertising	3	Conflict of interest
Conflict of interest	4	
Breach of confidentiality	0	N/A
Sexual abuse	1	
Member charged with provincial offences	1	
Total	90	

DISPOSITIONS

Please note that some cases may have multiple dispositions or multiple members, meaning that the number of dispositions will not match the number of decisions reached.

No further action	37
Complaint withdrawn	3
Advice or recommendation	16
Undertaking, including remediation (coaching)	4
Specified Continuing Education and Remediation Program (SCERP)	1
Verbal caution	2
Referral to Discipline Committee	2*

*one referral involves 4 members



OPTOMETRY REVIEW COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

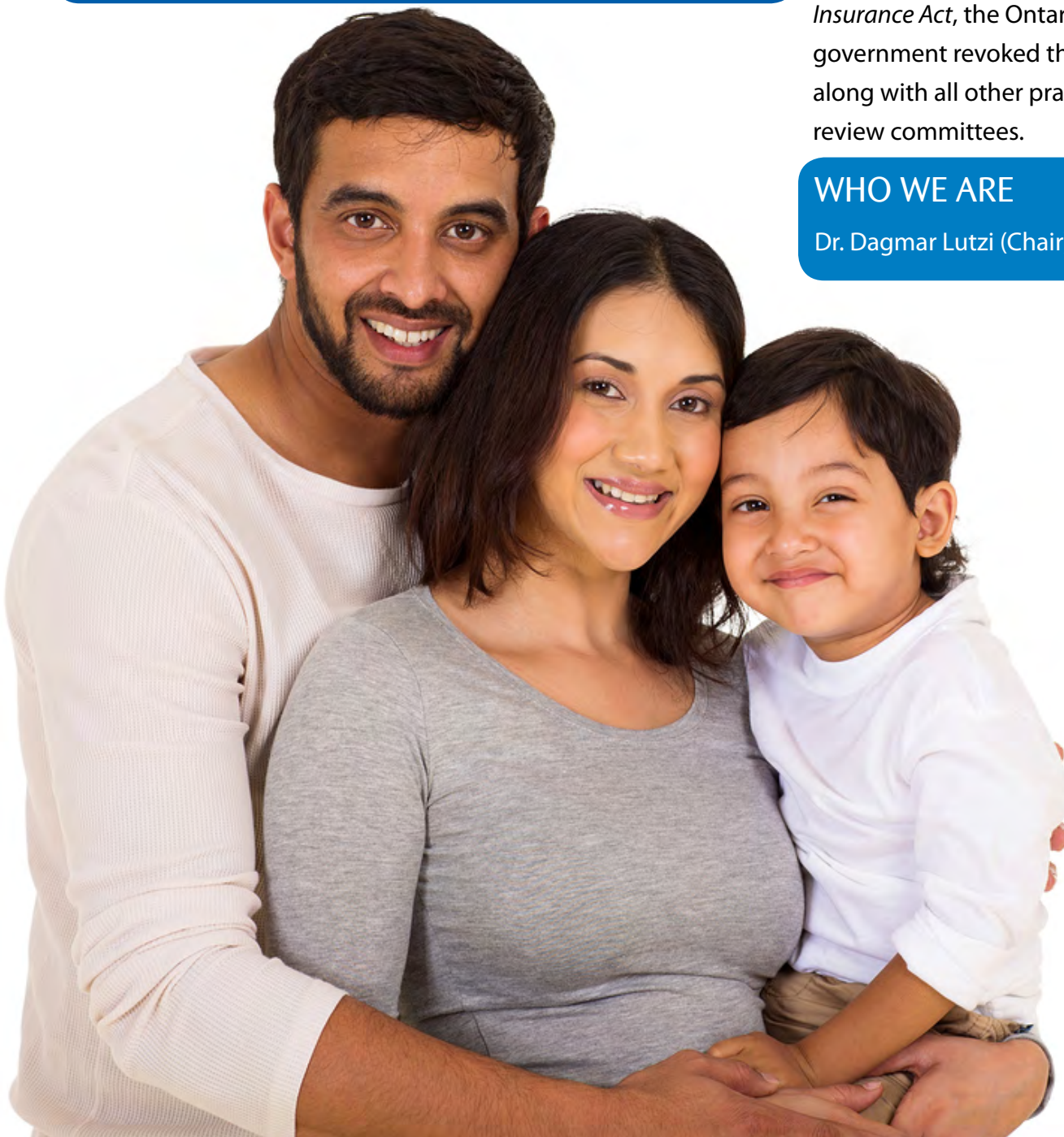
The mandate of the Optometry Review Committee (ORC) is to determine whether Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) accounts should be paid, reduced, or refused for optometrists referred to it by the General Manager of OHIP. The Committee does this by reviewing a statistically significant sample of clinical records to decide if the services were necessary, insured, and/or provided in accordance with accepted standards of practice.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

The General Manager of OHIP made no referrals to the Committee in 2015. The Committee held no meetings as there were no outstanding referrals or issues to discuss. In October of this year, in an amendment to the *Health Insurance Act*, the Ontario government revoked the ORC, along with all other practitioner review committees.

WHO WE ARE

Dr. Dagmar Lutzi (Chair)



REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

Anyone who wishes to practise optometry in Ontario has to demonstrate certain skills, knowledge and credentials. This helps to give the public confidence in the abilities of their optometrist. The Registration Committee is responsible for the entry-to-practice process of the profession in Ontario.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

International Applicants

Credential Assessment:

Last year, the Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC) established a national process to assess the credentials of international applicants, taking over these duties from the Credential Assessment Committee (CAC). This year, Registration staff worked with FORAC to quicken the pace of these assessments during the transition. The College worked on behalf of other Canadian optometric regulators to refer candidates to apply to challenge the evaluating exam.

As of June 1, 2015, the College had referred 37 candidates to apply for evaluating exam

registration. Some of these were PLA exam candidates.

Twenty-eight of 39 referred candidates challenged the evaluating exam. Some of these candidates had taken the PLA exam previously.

Developing the New Evaluating Exam:

Touchstone Institute administered the new evaluating exam for the first time in 2015. The exam tests the competencies of internationally educated optometrists who are seeking registration in Canada. It was developed by Touchstone with input from the Registration Committee and support staff. The process involved:

- creating a blueprint
- item writing workshops
- pilot testing
- developing the registration system

The exam's administration required:

- item development
- registration management
- administering the multiple choice question portion (MCQ)
- recruiting examiners and support staff

- examiner training
- administering the objective standardized clinical exam portion (OSCE)

The evaluating exam replaces the prior learning (PLA) exam, which had been administered jointly by the International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP) and CEO-ECO.

RESULTS OF THE JUNE 2015 EVALUATING EXAM

OF CANDIDATES RESULT

14	Eligible to apply for Bridging One
12	Eligible to apply for Bridging Two
2	Ineligible

Interpretation of Evaluating

Exam Results: To streamline the preregistration process, the Registration Committee, Touchstone Institute, and the IOBP considered how evaluating exam scores would be interpreted and competency gaps communicated to the IOBP for bridging purposes. They also discussed how the scores of evaluating exam candidates would be compared with the scores of PLA exam candidates.



Good Character

One of the ways in which the College can ensure the profession delivers safe and ethical eye care is by requiring that applicants' past conduct demonstrates an ability to practise optometry with honesty and integrity. This is known as "good character." Committee and staff worked with legal counsel to draft a good character requirement policy for new applicants. This

[policy](#) was approved at our September Council meeting.

Nonpractising Status

The Committee, in concert with the Quality Assurance Committee and legal counsel, drafted a new [policy](#) that establishes a fair process by which members can change their registration status from practising to non-practising, or vice-versa, for fixed or indefinite periods of time.

At its September meeting, Council approved the policy for circulation to stakeholders.

WHO WE ARE

Mr. John Van Bastelaar (Chair)
Mr. Emad Hussain
Dr. Vanesh Kathiravelu
Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Dr. Dennis Ruskin
Dr. Karin Simon

STAFF SUPPORT:

Ms. Hanan Jibry,
Assistant Registrar

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

MEMBERSHIP RESIGNATIONS

Jason Bussey	#0723
Alison Caiger-Watson	#12069
Kevin Dodgson	#15018
Shant Donabedian	#0614
Aminder Gill	#14066
Gila Gladstone-Martow	#8424
Marion Hau	#14026
Mohamed Minhas	#9364
Krysta Murray	#0856
Melissa Marie Puzzo	#13014
Priya Rughani	#0445
Shanthy Sandrasekaramudaly Brown	#12009
Peter Shaw	#7805
Sokpheaktra Sin	#0927
Vanessa Wang	#0875
William Woolner	#7618

SUSPENSIONS

Ghada Asraf	#12129
Kathryn Dumbleton	#9508
Joseph Kosior	#70695
Roy Leake	#70696
Jamee Patel	#14107

RETIREMENTS

Lucio Bordignon	#7914
Diane Brooks	#9105
James Chisholm	#54103
Barrie Conron	#7404
Roberte Desroches	#7812
Robert Downey	#67656
George Elliott	#7532
Elaine Harrison	#8935
Timothy King	#8015
Ida Kiss	#8030
Myles Knight	#7726
Pierre Levasseur	#7516
Peter Norris	#8019
Jane Parr	#7643

REVOCATIONS

Vasuki Anandan	#0890
Tu-Anh Khong	#11135
Ryan Magyar	#11127

DEATHS

Gerard Beuglet	#5947
Paul Devenny	#7813
Marvin Nash	#64622
Alfredo Palmero-Guerra	#0810



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON DEC. 31/2015

Male Practising	1020	Female Practising	1166	New Registrations 2015	95
Male Non-Practising	18	Female Non-Practising	39	Reinstatements 2015	3
Subtotal	1038	Subtotal	1205	Retirements, Resignations	30
		Total Membership	2243	Deaths	4



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | DECEMBER 31, 2015

TORONTO, Ontario - September 2016

RADVANY JURINA CLEARY
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COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 2,373,484	\$ 2,639,923
Short-term investments	1,210,620	871,317
Accounts receivable	5,777	225
Prepaid expenses	83,904	33,214
	3,673,785	3,544,679
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS	2,068,355	1,945,151
CAPITAL ASSETS	261,723	340,711
	\$6,003,863	\$ 5,830,541
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 306,674	\$ 310,799
Fees received in advance	2,087,294	1,988,959
	2,393,968	2,299,758
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	261,723	340,711
Appropriated special policy funds	2,350,000	2,350,000
Unappropriated surplus	998,172	840,072
	3,609,895	3,530,783
	\$6,003,863	\$ 5,830,541



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
REVENUE		
Annual registration fees	\$2,120,256	\$2,106,085
Professional corporation	280,166	261,341
Quality assurance	36,847	15,527
Sundry income	6,071	29,831
	<u>2,433,340</u>	<u>2,412,784</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Committee expenses	495,530	391,159
Council meeting and training	95,891	83,782
Membership contributions	76,635	58,475
College representation	39,699	46,863
Jurisprudence examination	4,908	5,301
Government regulations	2,515	11,866
Strategic planning and continuing education	5,909	3,209
	<u>721,087</u>	<u>600,655</u>



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

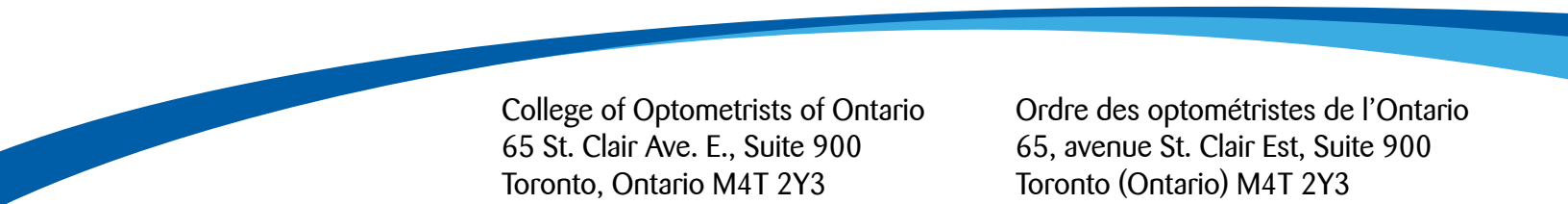
Salaries and benefits	821,762	789,453
Office and general	322,765	333,514
Occupancy	149,705	150,683
Professional fees	167,984	162,952
Amortization	98,233	88,284
	1,560,449	1,524,886
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,281,536	2,125,541
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES BEFORE OTHER EXPENDITURES AND INCOME	161,804	287,243
OTHER EXPENDITURES		
Unauthorized practice	16,131	217,165
Special projects	76,903	230,718
	93,034	256,845
OTHER INCOME		
Investment income	169,935	26,127
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(159,593)	2,521
	10,342	219,686
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 79,112	\$ 250,084

The criteria applied by the management in the preparation of these summary financial statements are as follows:

- a) the information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete financial statements; and
- b) the summary financial statements contain all the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the completed financial statements, including the notes therein.

Management determined that the statement of changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows do not provide additional useful information, and as such has not included them as part of the summary financial statements.

The full [financial statements, with audited report](#), are available on the College website.



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