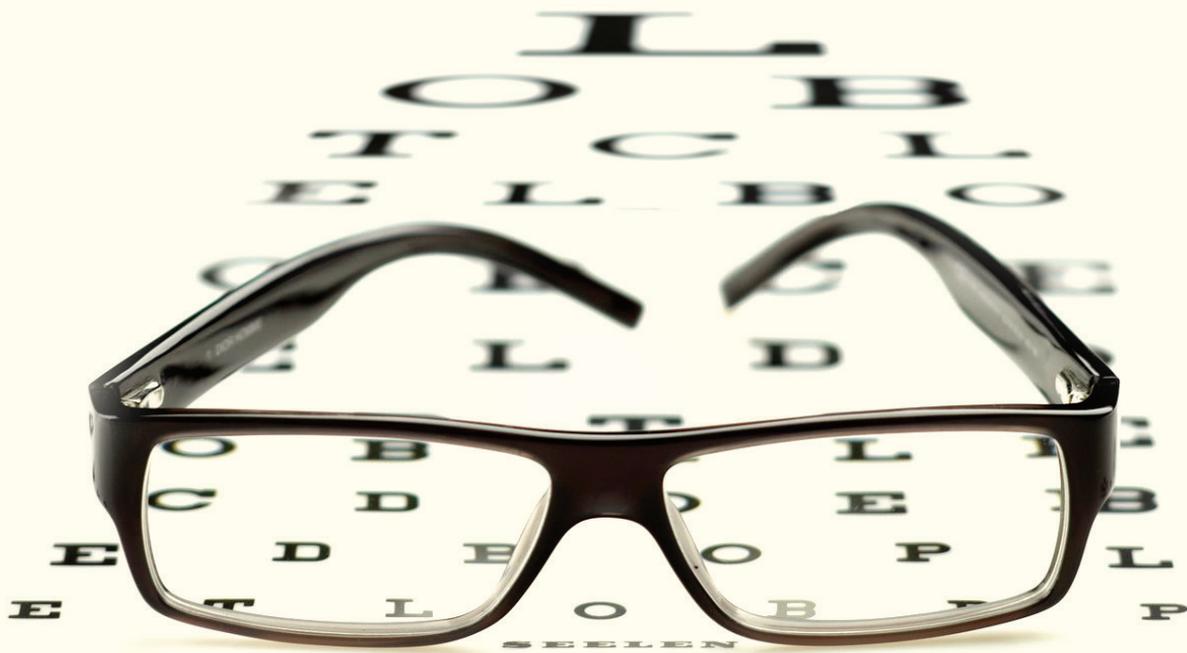


# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO



EXCELLENCE IN OPTOMETRIC CARE

# The Executive Committee

## Background

- Standing Committee of the College
- Coordinates the work of the other Committees of the College
- Elected by the Council annually following the Council elections
- Comprised of five members of whom one member is the President of the College, one member is the Vice-President of the College, and two members are appointed to the Council by the Lieutenant Governor of Council

The Executive Committee is an intermediary between Council, staff and committees. The role of the Executive Committee is to facilitate the Council's decision-making, ensuring that College resources are allocated appropriately, and that staff and committees are moving the work of the College and the priorities of Council forward. The

Committee also acts in the capacity of a finance committee, overseeing the preparation of the budget, ensuring that funds are spent wisely during the fiscal year.

At its regular meetings, the Executive Committee oversees the financial status of the College and reviews the progress that is being made with respect to legislative initiatives of the College, and the College's activities relating to public protection. Between meetings of Council, the Executive Committee has all the powers of Council with respect to any matter that requires immediate attention.

## 2010

In 2010, amendments to the Registration Regulation were approved for circulation by the Executive Committee. In addition, the Executive

Committee agreed to move forward with further revisions to the proposed Professional Misconduct Regulation, including Conflict of Interest provisions, based on HPRAC's recommendations, as the need for revisions to these regulations had been long-standing. The Executive Committee members, along with staff members, represented the College at local society meetings and other major functions.

It is with regret that the College said farewell to its Registrar, Dr. Murray Turnour. Dr. Christopher Nichol was appointed Interim Registrar.

## Committee Members

Dr. Richard Kniaziew (President), Dr. Dennis Ruskin (Vice-President), Mr. Craig Bridges (Treasurer), Ms. Irene Moore, Dr. Thomas Noël.

# The Optometry Review Committee

## Background

- Arm's length statutory committee of the College
- Appointed by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and administered by the College
- Receives referrals from the General Manager of OHIP regarding members' OHIP billing practices
- Comprised of three members of the College and two public members

The main responsibility of the Optometry Review Committee is to determine whether Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) accounts should be paid, reduced, or refused for those optometrists referred to it by the General Manager of OHIP. The Committee does this by carefully reviewing a statistically significant sample of clinical records to determine if the services were (i) necessary, (ii) insured and/or (iii) whether they were provided in

accordance with the accepted standards of practice.

## 2010

The General Manager of OHIP made no referrals to the Committee in 2010. Accordingly, the Committee did not meet in 2010.

## Committee Members

Dr. Greg Simpson (Chair), Mr. Bill Atkinson, Dr. Dagmar Lutzi, Dr. Paul Monk, Mr. Macey Schwartz.

# The Inquiries, Reports and Complaints Committee

## Background

- Statutory Committee of the College
- Responsible for the investigation of reports and complaints filed with the College about the conduct of an optometrist
- Comprised of six professional members, one of whom is a member of Council, and four public members of Council
- The ICRC meets in panels

The ICRC investigates, considers and makes decisions about complaints brought against a member of the College. Formerly handled by the Executive Committee, the ICRC now handles inquiries and reports that come to the attention of College staff by means other than complaints. In 2009, there were also regulatory and policy changes affecting the process by which

complaints and reports are dealt with, in addition to changes to disposition options.

## 2010

In 2010, the ICRC held seven (7) meetings and five (5) teleconferences. In total, 39 decisions were finalized. The Committee referred specified allegations of professional misconduct to the Discipline Committee in two cases. In addition, the Committee issued six cautions and eight reminders. Three members voluntarily signed agreements and undertakings with the College to undergo remediation in order to address issues which were before the Committee. The Committee took no further action in the other matters it considered, but in many cases provided suggestions or recommendations for best practice to the members.

The total number of appeals to the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board (HPARB) were 12. Three appellants requested and were granted withdrawal of their appeals, and the College received one decision from HPARB, which upheld the Committee's decision in the matter.

In addition to considering complaints and reports, the entire committee met in February 2010 to finalize previously drafted policies to provide guidance on administrative procedures for dealing with complaints and reports to staff, panel chairs, and committee members.

## Committee Members

Ms. Irene Moore (Chair), Mr. Geoff Dale, Dr. Aggie Franzmann, Dr. Dino Mastronardi, Dr. Harvey Mayers, Ms. Luisa Morrone, Dr. Josephine Pepe, Mr. Ira Teich, Dr. David White, Dr. Mike Cobean (to November 2010).

# The Fitness to Practise Committee

## Background

- Statutory committee of the College
- Deals with optometrists when there is evidence of incapacity
- Comprised of three persons at least one of whom is a member of the College who is on Council, one is a public member of the Council, and the third may be a member of the Council or a member of the College who is not on Council

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

## 2010

The Committee did not receive any referrals during 2010, nor did it conduct any hearings.

## Committee Members

Dr. Debby Lowy (Chair), Dr. Ken Chhatwal, Mr. Emad Hussain.

# Discipline Committee

## Background

- Statutory committee of the College
- Deals with allegations of professional misconduct and/or incompetence made against a member of the College
- Comprised of all members of Council in addition to five members of the College; sits in panels of three to five persons (at least two are public members)

The College promotes the public's right to quality optometric care. When there are reasonable and probable grounds to suggest that professional misconduct has occurred or that a member is incompetent, the Discipline Committee will hold a hearing in relation to the allegations and will determine appropriate rehabilitative and/or deterrent measures.

## The Discipline Hearing

The College ensures the integrity of the discipline process and protects panel members from any reasonable apprehension of bias by carefully working with the Discipline Committee Chairperson to ensure that those members being appointed to a panel have no prior knowledge of the allegations being heard.

Hearings are open to the public. In addition, the College is required to publish a summary of every discipline decision and post it to the College website indefinitely. If the allegations are not proven against the optometrist, her/his name will not be made available unless requested by the optometrist.

## 2010

In 2010, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee referred two members to the Discipline Committee.

A pre-hearing conference took place on January 29, 2010, regarding allegations made against Dr. Alex Mah. The hearing took place on April 14, 2010. A panel of the Discipline Committee found Dr. Mah guilty of professional misconduct and determined that a reprimand would be an appropriate penalty.

In the matter of the second member, a pre-hearing conference took place on May 6, 2010. An agreement was reached for the withdrawal of allegations against the subject optometrist at the pre-hearing.

## Committee Members

Dr. Thomas Noël (Chair), Dr. Derek MacDonald, Mr. Craig Bridges, Mr. Francis Christopher, Mr. Geoff Dale, Dr. Aggie Franzmann, Dr. Jim Hoover, Dr. Richard Kniaziew, Mr. Emad Hussain, Dr. Dino Mastronardi, Ms. Irene Moore, Ms. Luisa Morrone, Dr. Dennis Ruskin, Dr. Susana Sebestyen, Dr. Karin Simon, Dr. Marlee Spafford, Mr. Ira Teich, Dr. Ken Chhatwal, Dr. Brian Feldman, Dr. Debby Lowy, Dr. Shawn Moore, Dr. Grace Woo.



# The Quality Assurance Committee

## Background

- Statutory committee of the College
- Responsible for administering the Quality Assurance Program
- Comprised of a minimum of seven members, including three public members, and two elected members
- Two panels - Quality Assurance Panel and Clinical Practice Panel

The Quality Assurance Committee is responsible for administering the Quality Assurance Program to maintain and enhance the knowledge, skill and judgment of members so that appropriate high quality care is provided to the public. The goal of the QA program is to protect the public by working in partnership with optometrists to support and provide them with tools and feedback to improve their ongoing competence.

The Quality Assurance program is made up of the following six components:

- A mandatory Continuing Education component
- An Assessment component to evaluate a member's clinical ability
- An Evaluation component to assist a member in correcting any deficiencies in the member's practice or clinical ability
- A Remedial component to assist a member in correcting any deficiencies in the member's practice or clinical ability

- A component to assist in appraising the practice or evaluating the clinical ability of an applicant for registration when referred by the Registration Committee or the Registrar
- A component to obtain information from members to assist the Committee in carrying out the program's objectives

## Quality Assurance Panel - 2010

There were 82 short record assessments and 13 complete record assessments conducted in 2010. These assessments identified two members who were required to complete a coaching exercise and reassessment. One member participated in a practice evaluation, and one member, who was referred to the Quality Assurance Committee, underwent self-directed remediation and was reassessed.

## Clinical Practice Panel - 2010

The mandate of the Clinical Practice Panel (CPP) is to assist the College in its statutory requirement to develop, establish and maintain standards of practice for the profession. The Panel developed and revised several documents in the Optometric Practice Reference (OPR) to ensure currency and accuracy. With the impending approval of the Designated Drugs Regulation, the Panel reviewed and revised the standards documents that were drafted in relation to prescribing drugs and the management of patients with glaucoma.

## Committee Members

Dr. Shawn Moore (Chair), Dr. Catherine Chiarelli, Mr. Francis Christopher, Mr. Emad Hussain, Dr. Debby Lowy, Dr. Derek MacDonald, Dr. Paul Monk, Dr. Kamy Morcos, Dr. Peter Rozanec, Dr. Patricia Rose, Dr. Dennis Ruskin, Mr. Ira Teich, Dr. Vince Timpano.



## Patient Relations Committee

### Background

- Statutory committee of the College
- Administers the Patient Relations Fund and provides advice regarding the patient/practitioner relationship and public communications
- Comprised of four members of the College including at least one member of the College who is on Council, and three public members of Council

The Patient Relations Committee promotes awareness among the public and members, of zero tolerance expectations regarding sexual abuse of patients by optometrists. The Committee also administers the Patient Relations Fund for therapy and counseling for victims of sexual abuse; provides

advice to optometrists and members of the public regarding the patient/practitioner relationship; provides advice to the College on privacy issues; and provides some oversight to public communications initiatives.

### 2010

The Committee developed Cultural Competency in Optometric Care materials with the goal of developing these materials into an educational format to be incorporated into the College's Continuing Education program.

The Committee identified the need for public education materials to assist the public in differentiating between a prescription for spectacles and a prescription (or specifications) for contact lenses. To address this need,

the Committee created a "Contact Lens Advisory" which includes a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) addressing this issue, in addition to providing information about the risks related to ordering contact lenses online. This resource is now posted on the College website.

The Patient Relations Committee combined with the Ethics Committee in June 2010 for efficiency and effectiveness.

### Committee Members

Dr. Hans Schuster (Chair), Mr. Francis Christopher, Mr. Geoff Dale, Luisa Morrone, Dr. Karin Schellenberg, Dr. Grace Woo, Dr. Angela Yoon.

## The Registration Committee

### Background

- Standing Committee of the College
- Responsible for the entry to practice process of the profession in Ontario
- Comprised of four professional members, one of whom is a Council member, and one public member

### 2010

In 2010, the Committee reviewed the impact of labour mobility provisions under the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), as they relate to applicants who register in another Canadian jurisdiction, in order to practise in Ontario. The

Committee monitored developments across Canada regarding entry to practice exams accepted by other jurisdictions. In addition, the Committee engaged in discussions regarding the process for assessing the qualifications of international optometric graduates, including the prior learning assessment (PLA) required for admission to the International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP). The Committee approved the posting of a Request for Proposals on the College website for a third party to develop a clear understanding of the potential, benefits,

risks, and other impacts of re-assigning current academic and prior learning assessment responsibilities of the IOBP.

Staff worked with the College's legal counsel to develop a new draft Registration Regulation. The draft Registration Regulation was approved for circulation to members and stakeholders in the fall 2010.

### Committee Members

Mr. Craig Bridges (Chair), Dr. Lisa Christian, Dr. Pooya Hemami, Dr. Thomas Noël, Dr. Steve Schiefer.

# Membership For 2010

## Membership Resignations

1. Brandea Balcomb .....	#10047
2. Anne Chung .....	#0896
3. Leila Dehghani .....	#10039
4. Melissa Furfaro .....	#10063
5. Unsun Jang .....	#10033
6. Gaetan Lang .....	#9021
7. Nadia Malik .....	#0821
8. Amitpal Manchanda.....	#9024
9. Toral Patel .....	#0664
10. Richard Potvin .....	#9563
11. Melanie Reid .....	#0858
12. Nathan Reid .....	#0873
13. Vivian Wong .....	#0970
14. Grace Woo .....	#0808

## Suspensions

1. Gregory Hahn .....	#0884
2. Layli Toutounchian.....	#0703
3. Lindsey Tretiak .....	#0977
4. Andy Weimar .....	#9344

## Retirements

The College wishes the following members a long and healthy retirement:

1. Robert Archambeault.....	#67654
2. Douglas Clapp .....	#70690
3. Robert Dugit .....	#72716
4. Desmond Fonn .....	#8752
5. Maurice Girard.....	#68667
6. Joseph Guindon.....	#66645
7. Melvern Katzman .....	#52268
8. Donna Milne .....	#7730
9. David Passmore .....	#7422
10. Nancy Wilson.....	#7529

## Deaths

The College sadly reports the death of the following members:

1. Reed Dawkins .....	#72715
2. David Korn.....	#73723
3. John Price .....	#57413
4. Francis Woodbury .....	#51597

## Revocations

1. Giuliano Durigon .....	#73032
2. Alina Gupta.....	#0538
3. Atiya Husain .....	#0738
4. Daphne McCulloch .....	#8848
5. Murtaza Merali .....	#0510
6. Navindra Singh.....	#0012

# Registrar's Report

## Number of Members on

Dec. 31, 2010

Male Resident .....	923
Male Non-Resident .....	13
Male Non-Practising .....	9

Sub-total ..... 945

Female Resident .....	846
Female Non-Resident .....	21
Female Non-Practising.....	14

Sub-total ..... 881

**Total Membership 1,826**

Dec. 31, 2010

New Registrations .....	123
Reinstatements.....	3

**Total 126**

Dec. 31, 2010

Retirements, Resignations .....	24
Deaths .....	4

**Total 28**



Serving the Public Interest  
by Guiding the Profession

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