

Amendments to the Registration Regulation now signed



On May 9, 2012, Dr. Dennis Ruskin, College Vice-President, and Dr. Paula Garshowitz, College Registrar, signed the amendments to the Registration Regulation. Members will be notified once this Regulation comes into force.

Proposed Registration Regulation and new by-laws

The circulation periods for the proposed amendments to the Registration Regulation and the new College by-laws, respectively, have ended. Thank you very much for providing valuable feedback; it is much appreciated. The proposed Registration Regulation was subsequently submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for review, and the proposed new by-laws have been referred to the College's By-Law Review Committee for further consideration. We will be updating the College website when new information becomes available.

2012 General Meeting

Mark the College's 2012 General Meeting on your calendar. It will be held from **12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9, 2012**, at the Hilton Suites Toronto Conference Centre & Spa in Markham, Ontario, in conjunction with the Vision Institute's Annual Conference and Trade Show.

Upcoming Events

Ontario Optometric Jurisprudence Exam

June 12, 2012 - Toronto, ON

Council Meeting

June 19, 2012 - Toronto, ON

Ontario Optometric Jurisprudence Exam

September 4, 2012 - Toronto, ON

Ontario Optometric Jurisprudence Seminar

October 26, 2012 - Toronto, ON

Ontario Optometric Jurisprudence Exam

October 27, 2012 - Toronto, ON

General Meeting

November 9, 2012 - Toronto, ON

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A word from the President

Over the last four years during my term as President, we've experienced much change in our profession. As you know, last year we were delighted to see the new Designated Drugs and Standards of Practice Regulation put in place, after years of hard work by many members.



I hope that before my presidency comes to an end, we will also witness the passing of a modernized conflict of interest regulation. The current regulation, almost four decades old, is in dire need of updating. Over the next eight months, the College Council will be focusing on resolving this issue. To date, we have submitted a new regulation and have been busy meeting with stakeholders to try to bring everyone on side. It's my fervent wish to bring this to fruition.

We are fortunate to be working on these important issues at a time when the College is enjoying an increased volunteer base and high morale in the office. Paula Garshowitz, who took on the role of Registrar a year ago, hit the ground running at that time and has been doing an excellent job, along with Hanan Jibry, our new Assistant Registrar. Together they manage and run the College's activities, and have helped to energize the already positive can-do attitude among our staff.

Great morale is important because staff members are the heart of our organization. If you have an excellent work environment and all people pulling in the same direction, the boat arrives more quickly. Of course, our staff is the first line when members and the public contact the College. Positive morale translates into a welcoming environment for all who interact with the College.

Other developments are also contributing to effective operations. For example, each year we aim for a turnover rate of 20 to 30 per cent in our committees, and we did indeed accomplish this. For effective committee work, continuity is important, and so are fresh ideas.

In addition, I'm happy to report that our revised Strategic Plan was ratified at the last Council meeting. This simplified plan is very exciting, helping us to continue to move forward with a clear path.

We can thank our staff and the Registrar and Assistant Registrar for their efforts in maintaining good relations and frequent contact with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. These stronger bonds with the Ministry and its officials help us to stay apprised of developments that may affect our profession. At the same time, we are working hard to continue to improve our relationships with the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science.

When I look at our profession, I am proud. Optometrists provide a great service to the people of Ontario, who are very happy with the work we do every day. (Considering that optometrists perform almost four million examinations per year, the number of complaints received is tiny.)

Perhaps, after 37 years in optometry, I am biased when I say that optometry is the best profession in the world. With your help, the College will continue to advance our profession as we serve Ontarians with great care.

Richard Kniaziew, O.D.



College elections



Dr. Richard Kniaziew and Dr. Pooya Hemami were acclaimed for another three-year period. A list of the College committee members for 2012-2013 can be found in this Bulletin as well as on the College website at <http://www.collegeoptom.on.ca>. As a result of the resignation of a Council member from the GTA electoral district, a by-election is necessary and will be held in the coming weeks.

Registrar's Report

*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much"*

Helen Keller

The latest buzzword in the regulatory world is collaboration. To that end, the College is an active participant in two collaborative groups that were born out of the March 2010 HPRAC report on "Interprofessional Collaboration Among Eye Care Professionals."

The Eye Health Council of Ontario (EHCO) was established as a group comprising optometrists and ophthalmologists, working together to support the provision of accessible, quality eye care to Ontarians by ensuring the most effective use of eye care resources in the interests of patient safety, quality of care and cost-effective delivery. The members of EHCO represent academic, political and regulatory bodies of both optometry and ophthalmology. In December 2011, EHCO published its first document: "Guidelines for the Collaborative Management of Persons with Diabetes Mellitus by Eye Care Professionals" and the group is in the process of developing a similar document on the collaborative care of patients with glaucoma. The documents developed and published by this group articulate the collaborative nature of the work performed by optometrists and ophthalmologists, and the meetings are a great opportunity for the two professions to meet on a regular basis to discuss common issues. As an observer on this Council, it has been impressive to witness the progress made by this group.

The College is also a participant on the Illegal Dispensing Joint Working Group, which was established at the recommendation of HPRAC for the regulators to analyze the trend of Internet dispensing of eye wear products and its implications for consumer convenience and public safety, and to develop joint proposals for regulatory and possible enforcement actions. The group comprises the associations as well as the colleges of optometry and opticianry and is working towards addressing the issue of illegal dispensing, with an emphasis on Internet dispensing and the risk of harm this poses to the public. The work of this group has provided common ground for the eye care professions to work together on this issue in a collaborative manner.

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College staff: I am pleased to welcome the newest member of the College staff, Dr. David Wilkinson. David holds the position of Practice Advisor and will also serve as staff support to the Clinical Practice Panel of the Quality Assurance Committee. He brings to this position a broad clinical background and has already proven himself to be a valuable addition to our team here at the College. If you have any questions regarding College regulations or wish to discuss any practice-related issues, I invite you to contact him at dwilkinson@collegeoptom.on.ca.

Registration Regulation: College staff has been particularly busy meeting with Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care officials to put the finishing touches on the proposed amendments to the Registration Regulation. While the process for the approval of regulations may appear to be a protracted one, it involves many hours of meetings and negotiations to find the right balance that will protect the public while allowing the registration of qualified optometrists, including those who have been trained internationally. Thanks go to Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, Chair, Registration Committee, and Ms. Hanan Jibry, Assistant Registrar, who have worked tirelessly in this effort.

Online renewals: A large percentage of the membership took advantage of online renewal this year. At this time, it would be appropriate for me to acknowledge the difficulties encountered by many of our members who renewed using the online option. There were a number of issues that presented themselves this year, including payment problems and reporting of hours of CE and practice. Many thanks to our members who informed the College of these problems and for your bountiful patience. The College staff is working with our database and IT providers to avoid a repeat of these problems next year.

*Paula Garshowitz, O.D.
Registrar*

Council and committee members

The College appreciates the valuable contribution made by our Council and committee members. At its March 30, 2012 meeting, Council approved its committee composition for 2012-2013.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eastern Electoral District

Dr. Aggie Franzmann

Northern Electoral District

Dr. Bill Chisholm

Western Electoral District

Dr. Dino Mastronardi

GTA Electoral District

Dr. Dennis Ruskin

Provincial Electoral District

Dr. Richard Kniaziew, President

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël

Dr. Derek MacDonald

Dr. Pooya Hemami, Treasurer

Members appointed by the

Lieutenant Governor in Council

Mr. Craig Bridges

Mr. Geoff Dale

Ms. Irene Moore

Mr. Ira Teich

Mr. Francis Christopher

Mr. Emad Hussain

Ms. Luisa Morrone

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

Faculty Appointment from the University of Waterloo

Dr. Marlee Spafford

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee

Dr. Richard Kniaziew, President

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël

Mr. Ira Teich

Ms. Irene Moore

Dr. Dennis Ruskin

Registration Committee

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, Chair

Dr. Steve Schiefer

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

Dr. Pooya Hemami

Dr. Karin Simon

Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee

Ms. Irene Moore, Chair

Mr. Emad Hussain

Dr. Annie Micucci

Dr. Areef Nurani

Mr. Ira Teich

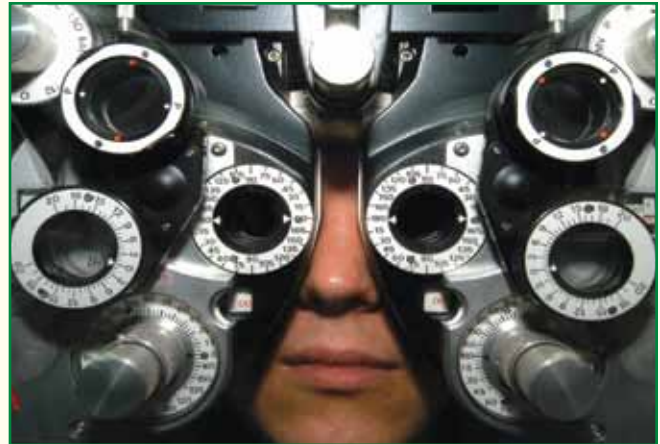
Dr. Bill Chisholm

Dr. Dennis Ruskin

Ms. Luisa Morrone

Dr. Harninder Sandhu

Dr. David White



Quality Assurance Committee

Dr. Vince Timpano, Chair

Mr. Craig Bridges

Dr. Kamy Morcos

Dr. Dino Mastronardi

Dr. Cathy Adams

Mr. Francis Christopher

Dr. Patrick Quaid

Quality Assurance Committee – Clinical Practice Panel

Dr. Catherine Chiarelli

Dr. Harvey Mayers

Dr. Lisa Christian

Dr. Derek MacDonald

Dr. Adrian Mah

Mr. Geoff Dale

Dr. Lucia Kim

Discipline Committee

Dr. Derek MacDonald, Chair

Dr. Bill Chisholm

Mr. Geoff Dale

Dr. Pooya Hemami

Mr. Emad Hussain

Dr. Martin McDowell

Ms. Irene Moore

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël

Dr. Dennis Ruskin

Dr. Susana Sebestyen

Dr. Marlee Spafford

Mr. Craig Bridges

Mr. Francis Christopher

Dr. Aggie Franzmann

Dr. Jim Hoover

Dr. Richard Kniaziew

Dr. Dino Mastronardi

Ms. Luisa Morrone

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

Dr. Hans Schuster

Dr. Karin Simon

Mr. Ira Teich

Patient Relations Committee

Dr. Aggie Franzmann, Chair

Mr. Francis Christopher

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

Dr. Martin McDowell

Dr. Kara Harvey

Mr. Geoff Dale

Dr. Ken Hadley

Fitness to Practise Committee

Mr. Craig Bridges, Chair

Dr. Kan Chhatwal

Dr. Aggie Franzmann

Optometry Review Committee

Dr. Greg Simpson, Chair

Dr. Dagmar Lutzi

Mr. Macey Schwartz

Mr. Bill Atkinson

Dr. Paul Monk

Quality Assurance activities

Continuing Education cycle renewal

The College's Continuing Education cycle has just begun for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014 inclusive. All members must meet the requirements of the Continuing Education Policy and are required to complete 70 hours. The Continuing Education Policy can be found at <http://www.collegeoptom.on.ca/qualityassurance/continuingeducation.asp>.

The previous cycle from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 is now undergoing a random assessment. The College randomly selects members to determine accuracy of reporting. If you are selected, you will be required to provide proof of continuing education activities for the entire cycle (January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011).

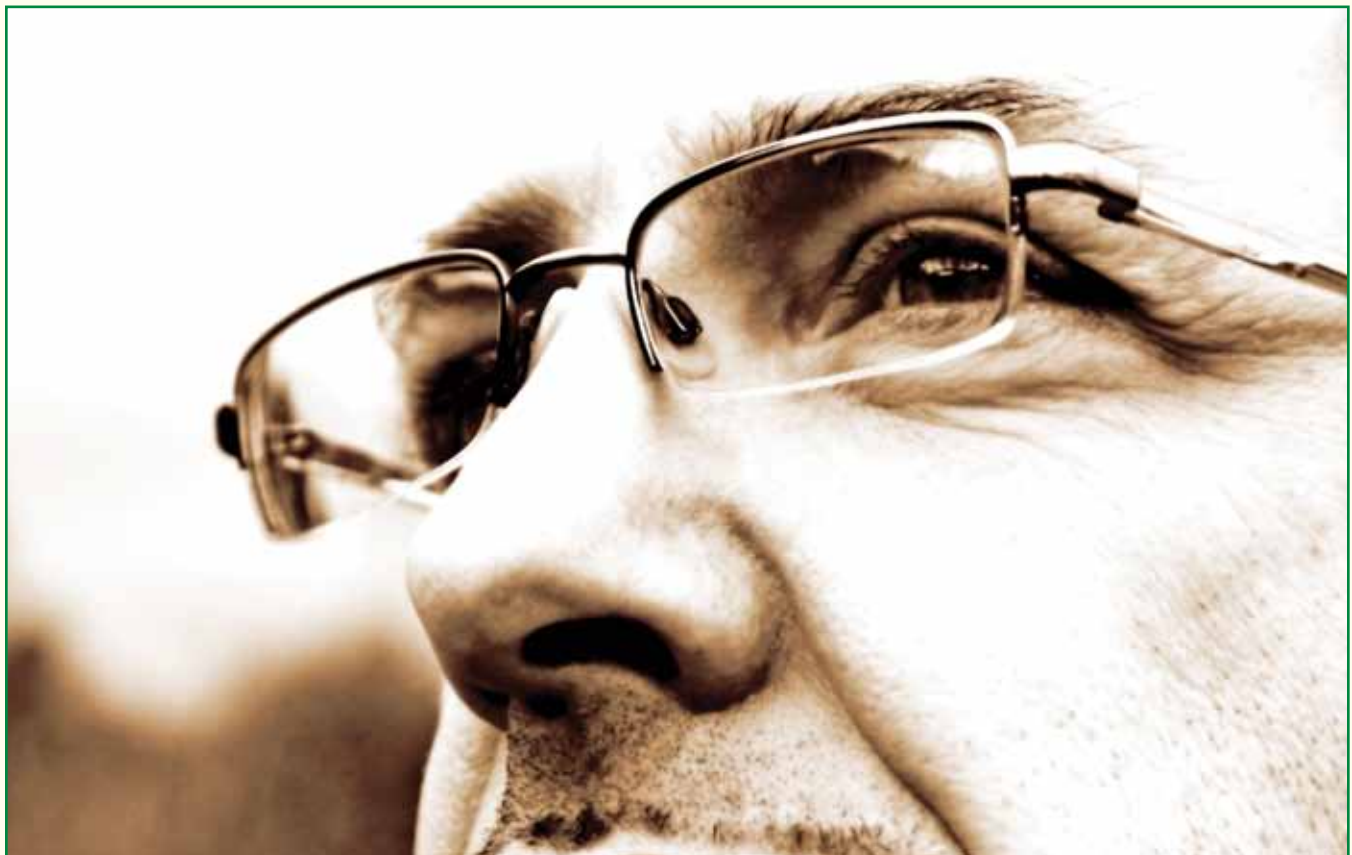
Distance Education

The College continues to offer two online Distance Education courses: **Professional Boundaries** and **Professionalism and Professional Ethics**. However, there has been a change to the credit hours eligible for each course. Upon completion, members are eligible for six continuing education credit hours the first time the course is completed, three credit hours the second time the course is completed, and one credit hour the third time the course is completed. Further information on the Distance Education courses provided by the College can be found at <http://www.collegeoptom.on.ca/qualityassurance/continuingeducation.asp>.

Assessor recruitment 2012

The Quality Assurance Committee will be recruiting assessors in 2012. More details will be coming soon. An invitation to become an assessor will be posted on the College website detailing assessor requirements and the deadline date to apply.

Do you have a Quality Assurance question? Please contact Agnes O'Donohue at AODonohue@collegeoptom.on.ca or 416-962-4071, extension 29.



Do you provide excellent accessible service to patients with disabilities?

Find out how you can be recognized!

by People Access

January 2012 was the deadline for all professionals - including optometrists working in private practice and non-profit clinics - to provide accessible service to their patients under the Accessible Customer Service regulation. Those professionals who work out of a hospital have been in compliance since 2010.

However, we know that many of you have gone above and beyond basic compliance with this regulation and we would like to share an exciting opportunity for you to be recognized for your accessibility practices and innovations.

The Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Awards Program recognizes and celebrates organizations that have shown a commitment to providing exemplary customer service for people with disabilities. In addition to meeting the basic requirements of the Ontario Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (Reg. 429/07), achieving an *Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Award* is further recognition that an organization is respected within its local community for going above and beyond.

This award supports and reinforces the core principles for providing good customer service to people with disabilities, as outlined in the Ontario Accessibility Standards for Customer Service. Under these principles, you must provide your goods or services in a manner that:

- **respects the dignity and independence** of people with disabilities;
- **integrates services** and goods to people with disabilities and others, unless an alternative measure is necessary temporarily or on a permanent basis to enable a person with a disability to obtain, use or benefit from your services; and
- gives people with disabilities **an opportunity equal to that given to others** to obtain, use and benefit from your goods and services.

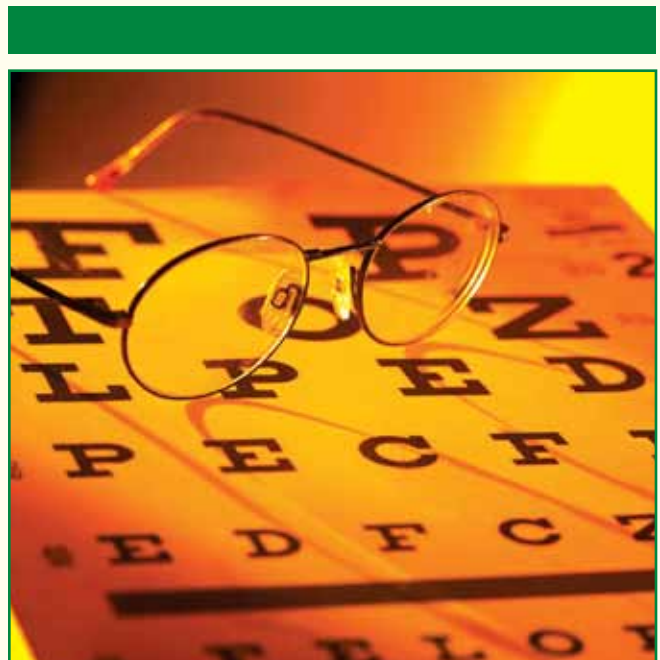
The Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Award provides an independent, third-party verification of the work being done in your organization. Recognition is a powerful tool that helps your organization to reinforce positive change. Your patients and suppliers will notice. Your employees will love it. The award will acknowledge your organization as a role model in this important social initiative and will motivate others in your community to step up and take positive action.

Recognition of your organization locally will publicize the great work being done and will help to attract new patients. And maybe the best reason is that it is an opportunity to showcase the social consciousness of your visionary organization.

To apply, email Awards@peopleaccess.ca or call Dave Segal at 1-800-263-9648, extension 244. **The deadline for applications is June 30, 2012 - so act now!**

As an added incentive, if you demonstrate that you are in full compliance with the Ontario Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Excellence Canada will also ensure that the location of your business, clinic or hospital is included on the Rick Hansen global accessibility map. This map will let people with disabilities know that your service supports accessibility (<http://www.planat.com>).

Accessibility is an ongoing goal. New standards are now in place under the Integrated Accessibility Regulation. If your organization still requires any assistance or tools to achieve or plan for compliance under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, you can visit <http://www.PeopleAccess.ca> for resources.



Optometric Practice Reference (OPR) update

OPR now available only online

The OPR has been updated and the most recent version is now available on the College website at <http://www.collegeoptom.on.ca>; click on “Resources.”

The following documents have been updated or added to the OPR:

- Table of Contents (updated)
- 3.2 Professional Standards (updated)
- 4.2 Required Clinical Information (updated)
- 6.1 Anterior Segment Examination (updated)
- 6.2 Posterior Segment Examination (updated)
- 7.9.1 Patients with Learning Disability (new document)

These documents come into effect on the date of publication, and members are responsible for maintaining the standard of practice as described in these documents.

Council has decided that the College will no longer routinely provide hard copies of new OPR documents. Members will now be informed when new documents are published on the website and are encouraged to print out copies of new documents, should they wish to do so.

If you would like the College to provide you with a hard copy of the new OPR documents, please contact Sonya Kadarally at the College office. She can be reached at skadarally@collegeoptom.on.ca. A nominal fee will be charged to cover College costs.

Designated Drugs Regulation:

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is normal tension glaucoma (NTG) a form of primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG)?

Answer: Peer-reviewed literature supports that normal tension glaucoma is a form of primary open-angle glaucoma. Optometrists with the authority to prescribe drugs are able to provide treatment for patients with NTG, in accordance with the Designated Drugs and Standards of Practice Regulation.

2. Can I prescribe an anti-glaucoma agent for the treatment of a transient elevation in intra-ocular pressure (IOP) secondary to a steroid response?

Answer: It is within the scope of practice to treat a transient (short-term) IOP elevation secondary to a steroid response. However, steroid-induced glaucoma as a result of long-term steroid use is considered a form of secondary glaucoma, and must be referred to a physician or a hospital for treatment.



Welcome to our new members

The College would like to welcome optometrists who became members between February 9, 2011 and May 1, 2012.

Dr. Ihab Abdelhadi
Dr. Archana Abhayambika
Dr. Suhaib Al-Janabi
Dr. Komal Angra
Dr. Raechelle Lynn Aranha
Dr. Subadra Arunagirinathan
Dr. Sam L. Baraam
Dr. Gavin Bastiampillai
Dr. James Bechtold
Dr. Graham Berg
Dr. Nickolet Boermans
Dr. Balcomb Brenda
Dr. Allison Bridge
Dr. Jenna Bright
Dr. Colleen Heather Brown
Dr. Kristen Leigh Carr
Dr. Gregory John Carr
Dr. Connie Chan
Dr. Christina Chan
Dr. Aaron Chan
Dr. Zahir U. Charania
Dr. Jeffrey Cheng
Dr. Queendy Cheung
Dr. Stacey Chong
Dr. Lisa Chow
Dr. Rorke Christiuk
Dr. Diane Pao Chu Chung
Dr. Andrew Robert Comly
Dr. Laura Cookson
Dr. Monica del Pilar
Cortes Mogollon
Dr. Lisa Cossetto
Dr. Sharma Deepak
Dr. Shelly Della Vedova
Dr. Amanbir Singh Deol
Dr. Marian Jessie Elder
Dr. Justin Marcus Epstein
Dr. Lesley Lynn Epstein
Dr. April Frances Eryou
Dr. Breanne Facey

Dr. Shannon Theresa Audrey
Fernandez
Dr. Florence Fernet-Leclair
Dr. Sarah Man-Ting Fong
Dr. Jessica Fullerton
Dr. Maggie Chi Huen Fung
Dr. Justine Fung
Dr. Nadine Furtado
Dr. Roxanna Gangi
Dr. Camilo Garzon
Dr. Natasha Ellen Griffis
Dr. Youssef Guirguis
Dr. Vinay Gupta
Dr. Timothy Jon Guthrie
Dr. Vivian Habib
Dr. Edward Hadzocok
Dr. Jessica Hall
Dr. Lindsay Alma Harrison
Dr. Jonathan Hepburn
Dr. Devon Robert Huxtable
Dr. Olivia Hwee
Dr. Heather Margaret Hyde
Dr. Amarachi Nnenna Ima
Dr. Krista Nicole Innamorato
Dr. Kit Tung Ip
Dr. Lucian Izbasa
Dr. Jasleen Jhaji
Dr. Andrea Jones
Dr. Richard Joseph
Dr. Asadollah Katbab
Dr. Tu - Anh Khong
Dr. Mohammad Khoshsorour
Dr. Kristen Kincaid
Dr. Subramaniam Kirupananthan
Dr. Kelly Lynn Kuiper
Dr. Amanda Kunowski
Dr. Anita Lai
Dr. Shala Lakhani
Dr. Victoria Catherine Lam
Dr. Letty G.C. Lau

Dr. Jessica Lau
Dr. Jamie Grace Lau
Dr. David Lennox
Dr. Alice Lennox
Dr. Stephanie Lynne Leon
Dr. Stephanie Louise Leroux
Dr. Monica Chun Yuk Leung
Dr. Sarah MacIver
Dr. Ryan Magyar
Dr. Arash Maleki
Dr. Deepak Harish Malkani
Dr. Emily Manning
Dr. Brandon Marlatt
Dr. Heather Marriott
Dr. Adam McLeod
Dr. Alia Merchant
Dr. Annie Valerie Micucci
Dr. Christine Elizabeth Misener
Dr. Jane Mok
Dr. Lorraine Moncrieffe
Dr. Jennifer Moreira
Dr. Abdel Karim Mostafa
Dr. Qudsia Naeem
Dr. William Ngo
Dr. Bejan Omidzohour
Dr. Selin Ozkan
Dr. Harbir Pandhair
Dr. Vanessa Gale Parasram
Dr. Thadshika Parthipan
Dr. Fallon Patel
Dr. Brian Paul
Dr. Bradley Gary Perras
Dr. Shu Phung
Dr. Caroline Poirier
Dr. Tanya Polonenko
Dr. Salima Printer
Dr. Alfonso Puzzo
Dr. Danny Quaglietta
Dr. Ritu Nikki Rai

Dr. Sandip Randhawa
Dr. Katherine Ryan
Dr. Sheamala Sambasivam
Dr. Sara Samii
Dr. Shanthi
Sandrasekaramudaly Brown
Dr. Paul Savioli
Dr. Farrukh Sheikh
Dr. Shama-el Sidahmed
Dr. Tiffany Sieunarine
Dr. Navdeep Singh
Dr. Sandra Solano Becerra
Dr. Jennifer Soong
Dr. Reena Sud
Dr. Laura Milena Talianu
Dr. Rafaela The
Dr. Jeffrey Joseph Tolmie
Dr. Adrienne W. Tong
Dr. Devan Bernard Mykal Trischuk
Dr. Clara Tsui
Dr. Vangie Tsui
Dr. Mansour Vafi
Dr. Allison VanBerlo
Dr. Jacqueline Vergara
Dr. Gyanesh Kumar Verma
Dr. Alana Katherine Vermeersch
Dr. Habib Wafaa
Dr. Catherine Walden
Dr. Cynthia Warren
Dr. Ryan Wink
Dr. Jennifer Dafna Winn
Dr. Henry Wong
Dr. Amy Jasmine Wong
Dr. Elizabeth Yeung
Dr. Clara Yi
Dr. Joanna Yu
Dr. Sara Zahiri
Dr. Jie Zhou

Excellence in Optometric Care

Serving the Public Interest by Guiding the Profession



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