Your Council at Work

Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta met in Edmonton on September 3 & 4, 2015 to discuss College activities and provide direction on policy matters that affect physicians and the public. Highlights of the meeting included:

**Registrar’s report**
- *Physician-assisted Death (PAD)* - To help our members prepare for the pending decriminalization of physician-assisted death (PAD), the College has drafted an advice document on PAD, an extension of more general advice related to our Informed Consent standard of practice.
- *Continuity of Care* – The College is continuing to communicate to members on this newly revised Standard of Practice. A pilot project is underway looking at the compliance of all CPSA Standards of Practice.
- *New CPSA website* – The CPSA’s new website is now live at www.cpsa.ab.ca

More reports from the registrar are available in the Council Meeting Dossier (page 5-7).

**Registrar Search and Selection Committee:**
Council will search for a new Registrar to be in place for July 1, 2017. A Search & Selection Committee made up of Council members will be responsible for the process.

**2016 Strategic Plan Review:**
Council approved a plan to formally review and update the CPSA Strategic Plan, approved in 2011.

**2016 Business Plan & Budget:**
Council accepted the 2016 Business Plan and Budget as presented here (pages 90-117). There is no change to the honorarium rates, annual physician fees or the building fund contribution fee. This will be the fifth and final year for members contributing to the building fund.

**Provisional Register Conditional Practice:**
Council approved an amendment that specifies Alberta Health Services (AHS) as the only sponsor in the criteria for registration on the Provisional Register Conditional Practice. This follows the May 2015 Council decision that made AHS the only acceptable sponsor for applicants for this register.

**CPSA Standards of Practice:**
Council and staff work together to review and update CPSA Standards of Practice on a continuous cycle. Standards of practice represent the minimum standards of professional behavior and good medical practice Alberta physicians are expected to meet.

- **Pre-consultation:** *Assessing Mental Capacity, Informed Consent & Moral or Religious Beliefs*

  Dr. Owen Heisler and Ms. Sarah Thomas reviewed Council feedback on the *Assessing Mental Capacity, Informed Consent & Moral or Religious Beliefs* standards to confirm they captured and interpreted...
information correctly. Council agreed to put these forward for consultation.

- **Post-consultation: Advertising, Conflict of Interest, Health Human Research**

Council reviewed and approved revised standards on Advertising and Conflict of Interest as presented. Council approved the revised Health Human Research standard with an amendment to include reference to ARECCI. The standards include Council and professional feedback provided during council meetings and the consultation process.

**Rules for Member Participation:**
Council approved the Competence Committee’s request to send the following draft rules out for 30 days consultation with membership:

- Rules for Member Participation in PAR Program
- Rules for Member Undergoing Assessment
- Rules of Member Participation – PPP
- Rules for Member Participation – CPD

Comments received within the 30 days will be reviewed by Council at the December 2015 meeting. If no comments are received the rules are approved. The draft changes to the rules reflect the alignment of the competence programs.

**Physician Assistant Regulation:**
The College is working towards the regulating of Physician Assistants (PAs) by July 2016, assuming the necessary legislative and regulatory approvals. In anticipation, Council approved the criteria for Physician Assistant registration, the liability protection requirements and repealed the sections of Bylaw 24 that permit registration of physician assistants as *non-regulated members*.