

CPSA Council met in Edmonton on March 1, 2018 to discuss College activities and vote on policy matters affecting physicians and the public. Meeting highlights included:

President's Report

As part of the College's continuing efforts to improve, the Council Executive Committee collected feedback from all sitting councillors to understand where Council could improve its function and focus its efforts. Some of the themes identified included:

- how to better support members while still working within our mandate of protecting the public
- the importance of staying ahead of future technological impacts on medicine (digital health, genomics, etc.)
- evaluating the role of governance in regulatory excellence

Registrar's Report

Dr. Scott McLeod updated Council on these initiatives:

- Standards of practice are one of the main tools the College uses to support regulatory excellence. After an extensive internal review, we've hired Field Law to consult on our current standards and to review how we develop, monitor and enforce standards.
- More research is being conducted on regulation in the digital health environment; an update will be provided at the May meeting.
- Member and public engagement continues to be high priority for the College. We've gathered feedback from both groups and recognize there is still a great deal of work to do in this area. Feedback on the latest standard of practice review (*Sexual Boundary Violations and Direction & Control of a Medical Practice*) made it clear that both standards need more consideration. Member and public feedback is currently being incorporated into the standards.
- The College is working with Alberta Health Services, the Alberta Medical Association, the universities, the Health Quality Council of Alberta and others to create a common approach to managing disruptive behaviour. Consultant Annamarie Fuchs will present a report at the May meeting.

CPSA Council welcomes new members; says farewell to Dr. Carrie Kollias

Dr. Luke Savage (family physician from Three Hills) and Dr. Kirsten Jones (general surgeon from Lethbridge) attended their first Council meeting after election by the profession in late 2017. We also welcome our new medical student observer, Rachel Bethune. Read Councillor biographies [here](#).

Dr. Carrie Kollias will be leaving Council after the May 2018 meeting to accept an orthopedic consultant position in Melbourne, Australia. The remaining 18 months of her term will be completed by Dr. Tarek Motan, 2017 election runner-up and former Council member (College bylaw process).

Council defines role of Council Past President

Council moved to pilot a role of the Immediate Past President. The Past President will chair the Nominating Subcommittee, act as an objective voice in mediating conflicts between Councillors, lead new Councillor orientation and coordinate the annual Council retreat. The role responsibilities will be reviewed by December 31, 2018. Dr. James Stone has filled this role since January 2017.

LGBTQ Health

In January 2018, the College hosted a small forum to learn about the unique health needs of the LGBTQ community. The College will continue working with LGBTQ stakeholders and healthcare organizations to ensure physicians have the tools and educational resources they need to improve care to this under-served group.

Hearing selection and appeal processes reviewed

Registered members who sit on Complaint Review Committees and Hearing Tribunals are currently selected annually by the Governance Committee. Council asked the Hearing Director to review this process.

Council also considered a bylaw change that would result in appeals of discipline decisions being heard by a Council sub-committee, rather than the whole Council.

Update to draft plan to move Provisional Registrants to General Registration

Members on the Provisional Register have six years to acquire Canadian Credentials and move to General Registration or undergo a pass/fail Summative Assessment at their own cost. Provisional Register Practice Permits **expire** after six years.

Physicians granted Provisional Registration between 2010 and September 2014 who are up-to-date with their professional development, have met PAR requirements and are in satisfactory practice will be moved to the General Register automatically. However, those **not** in satisfactory practice will receive one year's notice to prepare for a Summative Assessment at their own cost. Those on the Provisional Register since September 2014 must acquire Canadian Credentials by five years to transfer to General Registration.

The Summative Assessment process will be piloted in September 2018 for roll-out in 2019. Members on the Provisional Register can expect to receive information soon about limits on their registration and the criteria for "satisfactory practice".

Opioid update

Based on physician feedback, the latest MD Snapshot report to physicians prescribing opioid and benzodiazepine medications will include peer comparisons based on practice discipline. The College will continue to evaluate and improve MD Snapshot reports over time, and is looking to improve peer comparison by including geographic and Primary Care Network data in the future.

Since MD Snapshot reports were introduced, we've seen a significant reduction in the number of patients receiving codeine prescriptions, indicating physicians are taking care to consider the benefits of starting patients on short-term opioid therapy. Overall, the number of opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions has decreased and the College continues to mine data to understand the effects on patients on long-term opioid therapy.

The College is working with Alberta Health Services, the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, the Alberta College of Pharmacists, Covenant Health and other healthcare organizations to develop harm reduction guidelines to support healthcare providers working with patients with substance use disorders in acute care. We are also working with the University of Calgary to develop a comprehensive opioid prescribing course that covers appropriate initiation, monitoring patients on opioids and safe tapering when indicated.

The next Council meeting will be May 24-25, 2018.