

FOOT NOTES February 2018

The newsletter of the College of Podiatric Surgeons of British Columbia

The regulator of the profession of podiatric medicine and surgery in B.C.

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UPDATE – NEWSLETTER

A slightly belated happy new year. This is our first newsletter of 2018, and since 2016. We apologize for that brief interregnum, but for the bulk of 2017 we had to devote College resources to the new website. Meanwhile we kept registrants apprised of important developments through Podcast and College Matters notices, all of which are posted to the website. Moving forward, as before we will aim for four Foot Notes publications in each calendar year.

SPEAKING OF THE WEBSITE ...

The new website has been up for some months now. It contains vastly more information and resources than the former site. The coming months will bring some augmentations, likely to include a registrants-only area.

Please contact the college with any suggestions for the website.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

***** The College website address will change shortly. *****
The current website address is collegepodsbc.org. This will change.

The new shorter website address will be cpodsbc.org

The initial 'c' replaces the word 'college'.

Similar changes will be made to the college email addresses.

A PodCast notice will alert registrants when the change is made.

IN MEMORIAM – DR. GEORGE J. DUFT

With great sadness the College announces the passing of Dr. George Joseph Duft DPM, of Abbotsford, B.C., on February 14, 2018. Dr. Duft was a long-time member of the podiatry profession in British Columbia. He practiced in various locations including White Rock, Chilliwack and Abbotsford. The College sends sincere condolences to Dr. Duft's family, patients, practice associates and colleagues.

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|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">COLLEGE BOARD</p> <p>Gavin Chalmers DPM Julie Yee DPM</p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">COLLEGE BOARD</p> <p>Dana Alumbaugh DPM, A/Chair Hiedi Postowski DPM</p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">COLLEGE BOARD</p> <p>Kenneth Stewart, Public Member Vacant, Public Member</p> |
| STAFF | | |
| <p>Vacant, Administrator</p> | <p>Valerie Osborne JD, Registrar</p> | <p>Chris Ray, Bookkeeper</p> |

A DECLARATION TO FOSTER CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND SAFETY

A HISTORIC SIGNING

Some BC citizens unfortunately still experience systemic racism and discrimination that lead to barriers to patient access to appropriate care.

In 2017, the College of Podiatric Surgeons was privileged with the other regulated health professions to participate in a significant and historic event; the health regulatory colleges joined together to sign a declaration calling for each to take steps to do the following to improve cultural safety within their profession: 1) create a climate for change, 2) engage and enable stakeholders, and 3) implement and sustain change.



With this move, the regulators have committed to help propagate the environment and attitudes that will encourage change among all health professionals.

The College acted quickly and approved a 6-point plan to further this commitment that access to care, inclusiveness and anti-discrimination policies (done, see below), CME credits for cultural sensitivity training, and outreach to registrants and committee members with the cultural sensitivity checklist (see right).

More information is available on the College website at www.collegepodsbc.org (soon to be www.cpodsb.org).

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY CHECKLIST

A SELF ASSESSMENT FOR THE COLLEGE: BOARD, COMMITTEES, STAFF & REGISTRANTS

One prong of the College's 6-point plan to help foster cultural safety and sensitivity in the podiatry profession is the promotion of the 'Cultural Competence Self-Assessment Checklist', developed by the Central Vancouver Island Multi-Cultural Society with multi-agency support.

All members of the CPS-BC Board recently undertook the assessment and invited the College's committee members to do so with full cooperation and enthusiasm. In follow-up discussions, the insight, self-awareness and motivation toward positive change that the process brought to each participant were duly noted.



This increased self-knowledge and awareness will be instrumental in all of the College's future initiatives surrounding all aspects of registrant-patient relations and access to care.

The checklist is a self-assessment tool, not a test or requirement. It incorporates and reminds us of the broad, multi-faceted nature of 'culture' and cultural uniqueness and differences. **The Board invites and urges all CPS-BC registrants to join them in undertaking a process of self-examination with the checklist.**

DID YOU KNOW ?

The First Nations Health Authority provides coverage for eligible individuals for custom foot wear and orthotics (but not off-the-shelf orthotics) from pre-approved providers.

Learn more about the FNHA coverage rules and process, and how to become a provider, and access appropriate forms at www.fnha.ca.

'YELP ALERT'

Many BC podiatrists are listed in the online directory 'Yelp' (at www.yelp.ca) as MDs rather than DPMs. We ask that registrants check their listings, and if you are described as an 'MD', to direct Yelp through their online support and contact tool to correct your listing. The College will also endeavor to contact Yelp about this issue with a view to correcting these erroneous references. *Note: See below regarding unauthorized use of 'Podiatrist' on Yelp.*

COLLEGE BOARD NEWS

Public Members

In 2017 the Board was pleased to welcome [Mr. Ken Stewart](#) who was appointed as a public member of the Board as of February 10, 2017. Mr. Stewart fills the vacancy left by the passing of Mr. Sandy Gray. Based in Kelowna B.C., Mr. Stewart brings 35 years of knowledge and experience in operations and project management. This includes a certificate in health care construction from the Canadian Health Care Engineering Society, liaison with health authorities and responsibility for hospital construction including OR facilities. The College hopes to harness this expertise for the further development and refinement of practice facility policy, particularly in the areas of surgical and anaesthesia - related standards.

All public board members are appointed by the Minister of Health.

The appointment of [Mr. Mahmood Awan](#), who has been a public member of the Board since the College's inception, expired at the close of 2017. Mr. Awan has served the College extremely well for more than 6 years (the usual maximum under government policy), but the Board has requested his re-appointment given the value at this time (the College has a relatively new Board) of his experience and knowledge. Meanwhile the position remains vacant.

Elected Members

The Board has seen a number of changes over the last few months in its elected/registrant positions.

[Jaspaul Riar DPM](#) resigned from the Board as of December 31, 2017 due to his many commitments, but remains as the Quality Assurance Committee Chair. Dr. Riar is thanked for his service. When a sitting elected member resigns before the end of their term, the Bylaws permit the remaining Board to appoint another registrant to the vacancy. [Julie Yee DPM](#) is appointed in Dr. Riar's stead; the position's term ends at the close of the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

[David Brooks DPM](#), who has chaired the Board since the College's inception, retired from active practice as of December 31, 2017, to the Non-practising Class. NP registrants may not serve on the Board. Dr. Brooks is thanked for his long service to the Board. He remains as the Chair of the Discipline Committee. In his stead, [Hiedi Postowski DPM](#) has been appointed for the remainder of the position's term which also ends at the close of the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Both Drs. Yee and Postowski may stand for election in 2018. All elected positions have 3-year terms.

New Acting Board Chair

With the departure of Dr. Brooks, [Dana Alumbaugh DPM](#), Vice-Chair becomes the acting Board Chair. A Board member since early 2012, Dr. Alumbaugh is very knowledgeable and experienced in College matters and our public interest mandate.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A current College organization chart is always available on the CPS-BC website at www.collegepodsbc.org
(very soon to be www.cpodsbc.org)



Board Election News

In the 2017 Board Election, the sole candidate was Dr. Gavin Chalmers DPM who was thereby elected by acclamation to a second 3-year term.

Notice and a call for nominations for the 2018 Board election will be issued by June 1, 2018. Two positions will be open. New Board members' terms start at the close of the Annual General Meeting.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

A number of policy initiatives reached fruition and implementation in 2017. More information on each item is available on the College website at www.collegepodsbc.org (soon to be www.cpodsb.org), in the new posts. For new practice policies, see them also on the website's 'QA' page.

Anti-Discrimination

On April 29, 2017 the Board adopted a corporate administrative policy on Anti-discrimination. As a regulatory body, the College has a duty to ensure that its processes, decisions and actions are based on rational, fair and objective standards and processes, and to seek to prevent discriminatory conduct in the course of the regulation of registrants in their practice of podiatric medicine. The policy applies to all CPS-BC employees, Board and committee members and other agents. See more about this and other corporate College policies on the website at 'About Us - Organizational Info'.

Access to Care

On April 29, 2017 the Board adopted the Access to Care policy as a new practice standard.

Inspired by and partly modeled on a similar policy of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the policy's purpose is to protect patients from arbitrary refusal of care, without impeding a practitioner's right and ability to make legitimate practice choices.

Mandatory Stocking of Epinephrine

On April 29, 2017 the Practice Facility Standards were amended by the Board to require that every podiatric practice facility stock epinephrine for staff's ready access and use in anaphylaxis emergencies.

Weekly Autoclave Testing

The Board on April 29, 2017 amended the College's Foot Care Instruments Sterilization Standards to require that all podiatric practices conduct biological indicator (spore) testing on a weekly rather than monthly basis.

Delegation of Orthotic Tasks Prohibited

On July 29, 2017, the Board by motion clarified that certain orthotics-related tasks - such as casting, scanning and assessment - may not be delegated to non-podiatrists.

Annual Self-Assessment

On July 29, 2017, the Board added a new component to the College's Quality Assurance program with the Self-Assessment. The self-assessment checklist relates to practice facility conditions and is now an annual requirement for registration renewal.

Safety & Emergency Preparedness

On January 27, 2018 the Board adopted the Safety and Emergency Preparedness policy as a new practice standard. The policy's purpose is to protect patients and staff by ensuring that basic emergency and safety measures and equipment are in place in every podiatric practice facility.

Critical Incident Report Form

On January 27, 2018 the Board adopted the Critical Incident Report policy as a new practice standard.

The C.I.R. is a new, additional quality assurance tool. Its purpose is to ensure that the College is made aware of potentially serious events in order to ascertain if changes ought to be implemented in a practice in order to prevent a recurrence.

Similar forms are used by other major professions and were closely considered in the development of the CPS-BC policy.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE NEWS

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ken Stewart, the new public member of the Board, has been appointed to the College's Quality Assurance Committee. Mr. Stewart has considerable knowledge and experience in medical facility construction and team and interagency planning; this is an asset to the College and the Committee as we move forward on such initiatives relating to the practice standards and inspection framework.

INQUIRY COMMITTEE

Mr. Ken Stewart, the new public member of the Board, has been appointed as the public board member of the Inquiry Committee, replacing Mr. Mahmood Awan. Under the bylaws, the Committee must have three members, one of whom must be a public member of the Board. The aim is to ensure that the membership of every committee includes at least 1/3 public representation.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Registration Committee has a new member and chair. Dr. Michael Feist DPM has stepped down as Committee member and Chair as of March 1, 2017. The Board extends sincere thanks to Dr. Feist for his leadership and many valued contributions to the committee and the College's registration infrastructure. Dr. Julie Yee DPM has been newly appointed to both positions. The Board appoints all committee members and the committee chairs.

As well, Mr. Ken Stewart, the new public member of the Board, has been appointed as the public board member of the Registration Committee, replacing Mr. Mahmood Awan. The current bylaws require that the Committee consist of three members, one of whom must be a public member of the Board, again with a view to at least 1/3 public representation.

RETIRING REGISTRANTS

DAVID BROOKS DPM

GLENN CORNWELL DPM

Dr. Glenn Cornwell of Victoria B.C. has retired and cancelled his registration effective February 20, 2018. Dr. David Brooks of Burnaby and Coquitlam has retired and joined the Non-Practising Class effective December 31, 2017. The College wishes both Dr. Cornwell and Dr. Brooks very happy retirements after very long careers and service in the B.C. podiatry profession. As well, Dr. Brooks served as Board Chair since the College's inception.

CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS

CME - NOW A CLOSED CYCLE

The College's CE requirements have changed; starting January 1, 2017, CE hours are now assessed in closed 2-year cycles. Extra hours may be carried over only within a discrete 2-year cycle.

CPR TRAINING

CPR training must be renewed every 3 years, and before expiry of the previous CPR certificate. Many members are due in 2018. On-line courses are acceptable.

CE CATEGORY A

Registrants now have flexibility with Category A of the CE requirements. Internet/on-line videotaped versions of academic conference lectures may now be claimed as CE under category A

NEW REGISTRANT(S) - ZUHAIR LADHA DPM

The College welcomes Dr. Zuhair Ladha DPM who was registered in the Full class effective October 1, 2017. Dr. Ladha practices in Burnaby, Coquitlam and Vancouver in partnership with Dr. Alysha Patel DPM.

PENDING AMENDMENTS TO COLLEGE BYLAWS

The Board has approved significant revisions to the College bylaws. The proposed new bylaws address gaps, areas of vagueness and inconsistencies, and should bring greater clarity and relevance. Many of the bylaw provisions must be approved by the Minister of Health before they take effect. The proposed new bylaws will be posted shortly.

PROOF OF MALPRACTICE COVERAGE

One liability coverage provider insures most BC podiatrists. The College is attempting to arrange a relationship with the provider such that, in future, proof of coverage renewals are provided directly to the Registrar.

This will alleviate many recurrent challenges, such as repeated delays in submission and submission of incorrect documentation. These issues pose an administrative burden on the College and potential risk to the public.

CORPORATE PERMITS - 2018

The corporate permit renewal process closed on February 28, 2018. Permits are to be mailed in the first week of March. A registrant who fails to file the application for permit renewal or pay the fee on time will no longer have a valid corporate permit. Registrant may practice through a corporations only if it holds a valid permit.

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE NEWS

TWO RECENT CONSENT UNDERTAKINGS

The College recently obtained consent undertakings from two persons to cease and desist in certain representations regarding their qualifications and the services they provide. Both used the term 'podiatry' in their advertisements and are not registrants; both are located in the lower mainland. We expect both individuals to cooperate fully with the College. For this reason it is unnecessary at this time to disclose their names here.

YELP.CA NON-REGISTRANT 'PODIATRISTS'

The College has learned that a number of individuals who advertise on 'Yelp' and who are not registrants of the CPS-BC, are listed as 'podiatrists' and/or offer 'podiatry' or 'podiatric' care or services.

The College is in the process of contacting these individuals and 'Yelp' with a view to addressing and removing the misrepresentations.

PRACTICE FOR SALE - ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - POSTED 28 FEBRUARY 2018

Established practice for sale in the Fraser Valley area.

Please contact Austin Duft at 778-242-8835 or e-mail: austinduft@hotmail.com

Re: Practice Opportunities in B.C.

[Locum, Associate and Staff Openings, Practices for Sale, Podiatrists and Assistants Seeking Employment](#)

It is in the public interest that podiatrists and podiatric assistants within and outside of the province are made aware of potential practice opportunities in B.C. Accordingly, the College of Podiatric Surgeons will on request post notices of position openings, practices for sale and professionals seeking employment - both podiatrists and assistants. The College's involvement is limited to posting notice of the opportunity and basic location and appropriate contact information. The College cannot guarantee the currency of the notice; the principal must notify the College when a position is filled or sale finalized in order that the content here remains current.

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