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Looking ahead A message from the president

I am honoured to serve the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) as your President and to be working with a fantastic Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer.

Congratulations and many thanks to Dr. Sherif el-Defrawy, your immediate past president, for a successful two-year term. The Board, as you know, comprises volunteer ophthalmologists who contribute valuable time to our Society, meeting several times through the year to discuss issues of the day. In addition, there are a number of areas in which your Society is active on your behalf. If you haven't checked out our website lately please do so. It is a continuous work in progress and is a valuable resource to professionals and to the public as well.

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welcoming ophthalmologists from across Canada and the world to the 2007 Annual Meeting in Montreal next June at the Queen Elizabeth hotel. Dr. G. Rocha and the Annual Meeting Program committee, are planning a superb program!

Please mark your calendars!

A proposal was made to change the name of "Canadian Ophthalmological Society" to "Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Canada". In the absence of a quorum at our annual business breakfast meeting in June in Toronto, we had a lively discussion and we intend to continue the dialogue with our

membership to determine the best way to put the profession forward to the public. Certainly, adding the tag line "Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Canada" after the traditional and time-honoured



Alan F. Cruess, MD, FRCSC
COS President

"Canadian Ophthalmological Society" would be a reasonable go-forward position until a clear cut consensus for change is achieved.

In keeping with our strategic plan developed by our Board two years ago, our committees work more actively than ever.

The Clinical Practice Guidelines Development committee under the able

leadership of Dr. Walter Delperio will be tackling a few guidelines each year starting with "Periodic eye examination in the adult eye age 19 to 64" to be followed by "Cataract in the Adult Eye."

The Eye Injury Registry initiative chaired by Dr. David Wong will be launched this fall. This committee continues and expands the important work on Sports Eye Injuries started by Dr. Tom Pashby who passed away last year. Look to eyesite.ca for more details.

The Maintenance of Certification committee now chaired by Dr. Phil Hooper continues to expand its message on the importance of continuing professional education and seeks to add innovative programming to facilitate access to CPD credits.

The Eye Bank committee which met in June is reviewing its mandate and will be taking an expanded role in the standards and development of improved strategies in organ donation and tissue transplantation.

Looking ahead

A message from the president

As you may know, Dr. Lorne Bellan has been elected as the new Chairman of Wait Time Alliance, a committee which has received a good deal of press coverage recently, with respect to timely access to critical procedures, including cataract care across Canada. Dr. Bellan is to be congratulated for his able leadership in this important federal initiative on health policy, not only on behalf of ophthalmology for improved sight restoration, but also on behalf of the four other specialty disciplines. These specialties represented on the Alliance are cardiac care, orthopedics, diagnostic imaging, and nuclear medicine. The support role played by the CMA as a member of the Alliance has proven to be invaluable.

Vision standards for driving are being updated by our Vision Standards committee. These standards will form part of the CMA's Physician Guide to driver fitness, soon to be published this fall. The committee chaired by Dr. Duncan Anderson hopes to tackle vision standards in the very near future for other groups representing police officers and firefighters across Canada.

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Graham E. Trope as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology (CJO)*, and he has set a very important goal to improve the impact factor of our journal and its readership. If you have an article or a contribution to the *CJO*, Dr. Trope would like to hear from you.

Finally, as we take our national meeting to Quebec, I am optimistic of increasing our active membership base from coast to coast in this Society, which is robust and which provides increasing benefits to its membership.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Montreal in June 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan F. Cruess

Annual Meeting at Toronto

June 21 to 24, 2006

Dr. Guillermo Rocha and members of the Council on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) earned a relaxing summer off after the success of the 2006 Annual Meeting in Toronto. The meeting surpassed all previous attendance records with 1,375 delegates and exhibitors attending. Eighteen guest speakers highlighted the latest in Ophthalmology, while the exhibiting companies shared their latest products and services. The opening day featured an International Ophthalmology program with world-renowned speakers, Drs. Nag Rao and Hugh Taylor. Dr. Robert LaRoche led a short course on preparing an award winning poster. This course will be offered again in 2007 for those who missed it. Once again our PowerPoint guru, Dr. Bernard Hurley presented two courses on PowerPoint.

Dr. Walter Delperio held a Town Hall discussion on Clinical Practice Guidelines – more information on this project may be found in this newsletter.

The COS presented sessions on cataract surgery, teleophthalmology and uveitis. Each subspecialty group prepared a controversy session geared to the comprehensive ophthalmologist in addition to their regular sessions for the subspecialist. The allied health professionals enjoyed a series of programs benefiting their interests. There was something for everyone. CPD credits of 27 hours were available to specialists and Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) credits were provided for some of the allied health meetings.



Recipients of the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award with outgoing president, Dr. El-Defrawy – Dr. J. Quigley, Ms. Barbara McCulloch on behalf of her father, Dr. C. McCulloch, and Dr. H. Stein.

As recognition to outstanding achievements by our members, the COS initiated a Lifetime Achievement Award this year. Three deserving winners were presented with their award at the meeting. Congratulations to Dr. Clement McCulloch, Dr. John H. Quigley, and Dr. Harold Stein.

The Society is very grateful for the time and effort put forth by the session chairs and to the sponsors who provided funding towards the scientific program.

Plan on attending the 2007 meeting at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montréal between June 20 and 23.

Call for Abstracts deadline • December 15, 2006

Submissions will be accepted online at eyesite.ca

2006-2007 Board of Directors installed

Dr. Alan F. Cruess was installed as COS President on Friday, June 23, 2006 at the Annual Business Meeting held during the three-day conference at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto. He succeeds Dr. Sherif R. El-Defrawy who completed his two-year term of office.

Members present also elected Dr. Yvonne Molgat to a three-year term as Chair of the Council on Eye Care. Dr. Molgat is the Program Director at Laval University and succeeds Dr. Calvin Breslin who steps down from the Board after two terms of office.

2006-2007 Board of Directors

President:

Dr. Alan Cruess

Past-President:

Dr. Sherif El-Defrawy

Treasurer:

Dr. Paul Rafuse

Secretary:

Dr. François Codère

Chair, Council on Continuing Professional Development:

Dr. Guillermo Rocha

Chair, Council on Eye Care:

Dr. Yvonne Molgat

Chair, Council on Provincial Affairs:

Dr. Lorne Bellan

Executive Director:

Mr. Hubert Drouin

Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

The Maintenance of Certification committee have been working hard this year. Assessors reviewed 23 programs for accreditation on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The website will be updated this fall and will provide a listing of all COS approved programs in ophthalmology.

Changes have been made to the MOC program so if you have been approached to plan an educational program, please contact Ms. Kimberley Ross (kross@eyesite.ca) at the COS office for information. As part of the website update, instructions on how to proceed with an accredited event along with application forms will be available for downloading.

Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology directions

The journal's progressive profile advanced considerably when it moved to online submission in 2005 through OSPREY hosted by NRC Research Press. Manuscript submissions this year have eclipsed annual submissions of previous years. The international nature of these manuscripts testifies new and growing interest in the journal. June 2006 issue featuring articles on Low Vision had its flutter of celebrity success and is now part of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Instruction session at the Department of Ophthalmology in Toronto for first year ophthalmology residents from all across Canada.

The editorial board actively seeks to add reviewers, contributors to editorials and review articles. The board also guides policy on its future directions. While positive strides are made to bring closer lead times from submission to publication of manuscripts, the journal is dependent on and indebted to sterling efforts from practising ophthalmologists who volunteer to review. The very first issue in the new year will devote a section to name each of its reviewers of 2006.

Constant improvement is key to growth of the journal.

Constant improvement is key to growth of the journal. Another exciting first in the *CJO's* history! Articles will now be posted online ahead of print. Vol. 41.5, the October 2006 issue, had its articles appear on the website as early as in August.

Onward bound!

OBITUARY NOTICE

Members are invited to submit brief remembrances of recently departed colleagues. Send to cos@eyesite.ca fax (613) 729-7209.

Membership Fee Reminder

The fall season is now upon us and membership renewals are being sent out. Members with email addresses will receive the notices electronically and may renew on-line at www.eyesite.ca, a facilitating feature that was used so successfully last year. You may also continue to renew in the traditional fashion by fax or mail.

The fee structure remains the same in 2007. Resident membership is complimentary until the first year of practice. Those who are 65 years of age or older and have been members for 25 consecutive years will qualify for Life Membership. The fee structure is as follows:

Active members: \$500.00*
Ophthalmologists in practice

Associate/Affiliate members: \$200.00*
MD (not Ophthalmology), PhD, Visual Scientist

International Members: \$400.00*
International Members

Life Members still in practice: \$225.00*
Life Member still in practice

Life Members Retired: Free
Life Member who is retired

Residents and Fellows: Free
Resident and/or Fellow

* plus GST or HST

Our 2005 statistics show that 75% of ophthalmologists in Canada are members of the COS. Your continued support is encouraged in the Society's efforts to improve educational programs and to better represent ophthalmology on the national eye care agenda.

Please renew early to help the Society maintain accuracy of information for publication in the Directory and to ensure the continuity of your membership.

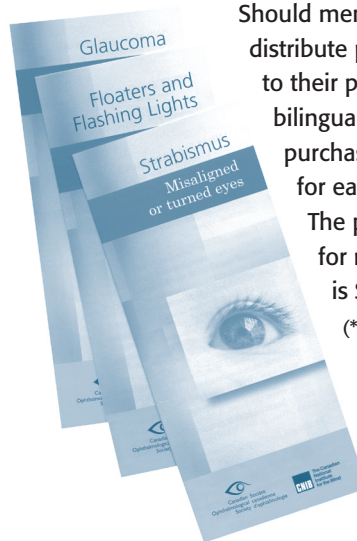
Pamphlets available

The Society's publications also include a series of pamphlets on:

Amblyopia, Cataracts, Diabetes and the Eye, Eye Safety, Floaters and Flashers, Glaucoma, Laser Surgery, Macular Degeneration, Retinal Detachment, Strabismus.

Two pamphlets are in the process of being rewritten – Low Vision and Learning Disabilities.

The pamphlets are available on our website, eyesite.ca, and can be downloaded gratis.



Should members wish to distribute printed pamphlets to their patients, these bilingual versions can be purchased at \$25*/100 for each subspecialty. The purchasing rate for non-members is \$35*/100 (* plus GST or HST).

CJO*JCO

Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology

We are in need

Are you an ophthalmologist?
Have you published in medical journals? Yes?
You are indeed a treasure and we want you.

Manuscript submissions have accelerated phenomenally ever since the *CJO* opened its doors to welcome online submission. We need your help to review these manuscripts.

Reach out and contact us at cjo@eyesite.ca