

Canadian
Ophthalmological
Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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Canadian Ophthalmological Society
Société canadienne d'ophtalmologie

EYE PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA | MÉDECINS ET CHIRURGIENS OPHTHALMOLOGISTES DU CANADA

COS is committed to highlighting the skill and innovation that ophthalmologists bring as the medical specialists of the eye health care team.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Annual reports provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. In 2014, the COS Board of Directors, councils, committees and staff worked to fulfill our mission to assure the provision of optimal eye care for all Canadians by promoting excellence in ophthalmology. Underlying all our activities is a commitment to patient-centred, cost-effective, and evidenced-based care.

In 2013/2014, COS undertook a strategic planning exercise to ensure careful alignment of goals and objectives with available resources. The effective, transparent and responsible use of resources is a top priority as we strive to find efficiencies in the six areas identified by the strategic plan: governance, financial resource management, education, advocacy, membership, and communications and media relations. Outputs and outcomes in each area are measured against key objectives and deliverables using a Performance Management System.

GOVERNANCE

- A new Council on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) was established and its inaugural meeting was held on September 29, 2014. The Council now includes the Chairs of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, the Maintenance of Certification committee, Digital Technology Online Learning committee, and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology (CJO)*. In time, a Practice Resource Committee will be established under the Council on CPD.
- Under the new *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act*, new By-Laws were approved by the COS

membership on June 5, 2014 and the COS has received continuance under the new Act.

FINANCIAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- COS achieved a balanced budget for a fifth year in a row, with contributions to reserves.
- Ties with industry have been strengthened, as our partners in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors continue to support our activities with higher levels of educational grants. COS is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards, following guidelines established by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), and providing stewardship and accountability to industry for educational grants received.
- Both print and online advertising in the *CJO* increased in 2014.

EDUCATION

- The COS Annual Meeting, our flagship CPD program, continues to exceed all expectations. The 2014 Annual Meeting in Halifax featured 17 international speakers and brought together over 1,300 participants for four days of

workshops, research presentations, plenary sessions, surgical skills transfer courses and networking.

- COS received one of three 2014 Royal College Accredited CPD Provider Innovation Awards for its surgical skills transfer courses. This award recognizes accredited CPD providers for their innovative educational and administrative policies, processes, resources and tools. A certificate was presented to COS on September 29, 2014 during the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)'s and the RCPSC's joint 6th National CPD Accreditation Conference. The award itself will be presented at the COS Annual Meeting in June 2015.
- The *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology (CJO)* received 765 submissions in 2014—an increase of 5% from 2013. The rejection rate is 70% and the impact factor rose from 1.145 in 2013 to 1.299 in 2014. The *CJO* is peer-reviewed and published six times per year.
- In December 2014, the Glaucoma Special Issue (Walter Wright Day 2013) was published in conjunction with the *CJO*. This issue was very well received and is expected to increase citations and impact factor for *CJO* in 2014.
- A Primary Care Supplement to the *CJO*, guest edited by Dr. Walter Delpero and Dr. Pierre Paul Tellier (family physician) is expected to

The Canadian Ophthalmological Society is the principal, national voice for ophthalmology in Canada and the recognized authority on eye and vision care. Our mission is to assure the provision of optimal eye care for all Canadians by promoting excellence in ophthalmology and by providing services to support our members in practice. COS is an affiliate of the Canadian Medical Association and an accredited provider of continuing professional development, as recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. COS works to improve eye and vision care standards for all Canadians through the work of its Board of Directors, councils and committees and through ties with national and international ophthalmological and eye care organizations. Our membership includes over 900 ophthalmologists and 200 ophthalmology residents.

publish in June 2015. The issue republishes seven articles from past issues of the *CJO* that have been selected for their importance to primary care physicians. The issue is introduced by the guest editors to contextualize the articles and provide value for the family and emergency medicine physician readership. The issue will be distributed by Elsevier to 7,000 Canadian primary care physicians.

- COS was invited by the International Council on Ophthalmology to develop a session at the World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC) 2016 entitled "Global Information and Inter-relations in Ophthalmology: The Path to the Future". The Congress is being held in Guadalajara, Mexico, February 5–9, 2016. The COS session is currently being developed with members of the Haitian Ophthalmological Society. COS member Dr. E. Rand Simpson will chair the session and invited speakers currently include Dr. Eduardo Navajas, Dr. Michael Brent, Dr. Guillermo Rocha and Dr. Nancy Tucker.
- A new Clinical Resource Centre on AMD was launched on the *CJO* website.

- COS co-developed the highly successful Canadian Retina Society (CRS) meeting in February 2015 with the CRS, a subspecialty society of COS.
- COS partnered with the University of Ottawa Eye Institute to organize the annual Sally Letson Symposium. Over 700 delegates attended this meeting in September 2014. The next Symposium is scheduled for September 17–19, 2015.
- COS is continuing to explore opportunities to work with industry partners to expand the scope and number of CPD activities based on member needs. Stand-alone co-developed accredited programs and symposia (offered in conjunction with COS-accredited meetings) offer valuable opportunities to work with industry within RCPSC accreditation guidelines. COS co-developed two accredited symposia with industry at the 2015 CRS meeting and another at our Annual Meeting in Halifax in 2014, and two more will be held at the 2015 COS Annual Meeting in Victoria.
- COS co-developed the INSIGHT program for cornea and glaucoma. Over 13 cornea events have been held across Canada and glaucoma



**Allan R. Slomovic, MSc,
MD, FRCSC**
PRESIDENT



**Jennifer Brunet-Colvey, MA
(Medical Sociology)**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/
CEO

events will commence in the spring of 2015.

ADVOCACY

- COS fostered strong ties with International ophthalmological societies, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), RCPSC, CFPC, other National Specialty Societies, COS provincial associations and its subspecialty groups, as well as the federal government and provincial governments. These ties are critical to ensure patient safety, promote high-quality and fiscally responsible patient care, and the appropriate utilization of resources.
- COS continues to advocate for the establishment of an eye health council in each province. The eye health council is a model to ensure patient safety and the appropriate utilization of resources. The Eye Health Council of Ontario (EHCO), for example, includes representation from ophthalmology, optometry, family practice, their regulatory bodies, their professional associations, the academic communities and representatives from government. Every decision is made with the patient's best interests in mind.
- COS supported the BC Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (BCSEPS) in a response to a proposal by the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia to adopt USP 797. Issued by the U.S. Pharmacopoeia (USP), this regulation governs any pharmacy that prepares compounded sterile preparations. In a letter to BC Minister of Health Terry Lake and the College of Pharmacists of BC, we supported ophthalmology representation at meetings regarding USP 797, and requested a detailed analysis of the expected implications of USP 797 on ophthalmic patient care. This letter was co-signed by the Presidents of COS, the Canadian

Retina Society, the Canadian Cornea, External Disease & Refractive Surgery Society, the Canadian Glaucoma Society, as well as the Chair of the COS Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome Task Force.

- Following a face-to-face meeting in June 2014 with COS Immediate Past-President Dr. Paul Rafuse and the President of the Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta Dr. Kenneth Romanchuk, the then Minister of Health, Fred Horne pledged to write to the regulatory bodies for optometry and medicine to propose the coordination of services through a Strategic Clinical Network. COS was invited by Alberta Health to comment on the latest proposed changes to the legislation and was disappointed to see that the amendments do not reflect the grave concerns of the medical profession around granting optometrists in Alberta such an expanded scope of practice. COS reiterated its concerns in a letter to Alberta Health, and in a letter to the new Minister of Health, Stephen Mandel and the new Premier, Jim Prentice.
- COS was asked to comment on revised Saskatchewan Optometric Professional Bylaws Amendments circulated for comment to various stakeholders. These Bylaw amendments have not carefully considered the recommendations from the Section of Ophthalmology, Saskatchewan Medical Association. In a letter, COS appealed to the Ministry to engage in a transparent consultative process with medicine (including ophthalmology) prior to enacting changes to the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists' bylaws; requested to be informed about the evidence that supports the need for this increased scope in practice; recommended that

ophthalmologists and optometrists in the province of Saskatchewan work collaboratively following the *Model of Interprofessional Collaboration in the Care of Glaucoma and Glaucoma Suspects*; and urged the province to develop an eye health council, which would provide an open and transparent forum for future discussions about patient-centred eye care in Saskatchewan.

- COS continues to monitor the changing demographics of the Canadian and ophthalmologist population and the impacts on expanding scopes of practice, the evolution of inter-professional collaborative care models, as well as physician unemployment/underemployment.

MEMBERSHIP

- Engagement of residents and young ophthalmologists is critical to the future of the Society. COS established a strong residents' program and residents serve on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and on the Council on Provincial Affairs (CPA). COS provides a number of benefits to residents. A half-day symposium for residents and young ophthalmologists will be held at our June 2015 Annual Meeting.
- COS organized its 3rd annual *Women in Ophthalmology* educational breakfast at its 2014 Annual Meeting; the number of female ophthalmologists in Canada has continued to increase year over year.
- COS has developed a number of strategies to ensure membership retention, membership conversion, membership acquisition, and membership recovery. Membership continues to grow.



COS received one of three 2014 Royal College Accredited CPD Provider Innovation Awards for its surgical skills transfer courses. This award recognizes accredited CPD providers for their innovative educational and administrative policies, processes, resources and tools.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RELATIONS

- Eye and vision health continued to be topics of interest for Canadian media. COS responded to hundreds of requests from the media, and several COS members were featured in prominent, top-tier media outlets, including *CTV National*, *CBC's The Current*, *Canadian Health & Lifestyle*, and *Zoomer* magazine.
- As part of our Five-Year Strategic plan, we recruited and hired a Manager, Communications and Public Affairs in October 2014 to help drive media relations and advocacy efforts.
- On October 30, 2014 COS worked with CMA to provide input to the Seniors Strategy Survey. In December 2014, COS also participated in a stakeholder strategy session as part of the Prevention and Wellness working group. As a partner in the CMA Seniors Strategy, COS will provide Communications and Public Affairs support as needed.
- COS launched its own Twitter page on March 27, 2015. The Twitter page will enable COS to share updates and information with our members, other National Specialty Societies, patient groups, government officials and the public. It will also be used to provide updates on the presentations and awards at this year's COS Annual Meeting & Exhibition. Please visit our Twitter page here: <https://twitter.com/>

CANeyeMDs and follow us at:
@CANeyeMDs

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR COS?

- COS will move forward with the implementation of its Five-year Strategic Plan, including restructuring some of its committees to better meet the needs of members.
- COS will continue to strengthen its ties with government as the recognized "go-to" resource for ophthalmology.
- The COS Annual Meeting will continue to be the focal point for CPD activities.
- The CJO will be developing continuing medical education content to increase opportunities for Section 3 MOC credits derived from journal articles.
- On March 22, 2015 the COS Board of Directors unanimously approved an over-arching communications plan. The plan includes strategies and tactics in several key areas relating to the Five-Year Strategic plan, including: advocacy, media relations, membership and digital/social media. Stay tuned for more information as we begin executing these activities in the next six to 12 months.
- COS will co-develop the 4th CRS scientific meeting in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec from March 3–7, 2016.

- COS will expand educational opportunities at the CRS and at COS annual meetings by providing co-developed accredited symposia.
- We will continue to work with our partners to address key areas of advocacy including: expanding scopes of practice for optometry; Human Resources for Health (HRH) and strategies that will help enhance patient care for specific patient populations, such as seniors.
- We will strike a committee to study and update the billing guide to uninsured services.
- And, finally, we will profile the skill and innovation ophthalmologists bring as the medical leaders of the eye health care team through a dynamic and comprehensive communications and media relations strategy.

COS could not fulfill its mandate without its dedicated staff and the tireless efforts of our many volunteers, who give of their valuable time to improve eye care for all Canadians and to advocate for their ophthalmology colleagues.

We look forward to continuing to work with our members to strengthen the ophthalmology healthcare community in Canada.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014/2015

Allan Slomovic, MD, President

Paul Rafuse, MD, Immediate Past-President

James Whelan, MD, Secretary

Geoff Williams, MD, Treasurer

Andrew Budning, MD, Chair, Council on Provincial Affairs

Colin Mann, MD, Chair, Council on Continuing Professional Development/Maintenance of Certification Committee

Mona Harissi-Dagher, MD, Board Liaison, Resident Affairs and Young Ophthalmologists

Yvonne Buys, MD, Chair, Annual Meeting Planning Committee

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRS 2014/2015

Nominating Committee:

Paul Rafuse, MD

Council on Provincial Affairs: Andrew Budning, MD

Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Yvonne Buys, MD

Council on Continuing Professional Development: Colin Mann, MD

CJO Editorial Board: Phil Hooper, MD, Editor-in-Chief

Resident Affairs and Young Ophthalmologists: Mona Harissi-Dagher, MD

Digital Technology Online Learning: Jonathan Wong, MD

Vision Standards for Driving Committee: Martin ten Hove, MD

Eye Bank Committee: Guillermo Rocha, MD

Clinical Practice Guideline Steering Committee: Walter Delpero, MD

KEY PARTNERS/LIAISONS

Association of Canadian University Professors in Ophthalmology (ACUPO) (including chairs and program directors): Steven Gilberg, MD, Chair

American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO): Allan Slomovic, MD

Canadian Medical Association (CMA): Geoff Williams, MD

International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies: E. Rand Simpson, MD

Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO): Elizabeth Cornock, MD

Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO): Allan Slomovic, MD

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Specialty Committee in Ophthalmology: Christopher Seamone, MD

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Atlantic Provinces Ophthalmological Society

Canadian Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology

Canadian Cornea, External Disease & Refractive Surgery Society

Canadian Glaucoma Society

Canadian Neuro-ophthalmology Society

Canadian Ophthalmic Pathology Society

Canadian Ophthalmological Residents Society

Canadian Retina Society

Canadian Society for International and Public Health Ophthalmology

Canadian Society of Oculoplastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Canadian Uveitis Society

ALLIED HEALTH

Canadian Orthoptic Society

Canadian Society of Ophthalmic Medical Personnel

Canadian Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses

STAFF TEAM

Jennifer Brunet-Colvey, Executive Director/CEO

Rita Afeltra, Membership Coordinator

Rachel Cunningham, Office Administrator

Joyce Davis, Accountant (part-time)

Susan Gemmell, Managing Editor, *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology*

Gertrud Jeewanjee, Manager, Administration and Events

Rosalind O'Connell, Manager, Communications and Public Affairs

Cheryl Ripley, Manager, Continuing Professional Development



The COS 5-year Strategic Priorities, Strategic Directions and Intended Outcomes will guide our course for the upcoming years. Our efforts and resources will be devoted to achieving identified goals in the following six areas: governance, financial resource management, education, advocacy, membership, and communications and media relations.

PAST-PRESIDENTS

2012–2014	Paul Rafuse, MD (Nova Scotia)	1981	C.B. Mortimer, MD (Ontario)	1959	A. Lloyd Morgan, MD (Ontario)
2010–2012	François Codère, MD (Quebec)	1980	Gordon S. Harris, MD (British Columbia)	1958	John V. Nicholls, MD (Quebec)
2008–2010	Lorne Bellan, MD (Manitoba)	1979	Sean B. Murphy, MD (Quebec)	1957	John A. McLean, MD (British Columbia)
2006–2008	Alan Cruess, MD (Nova Scotia)	1978	John H. Quigley, MD (Nova Scotia)	1956	Henri Pichette, MD (Quebec)
2004–2006	Sherif El-Defrawy, MD (Ontario)	1977	John D. Parker, MD (Ontario)	1955	Percy B. MacFarlane, MD (Ontario)
2002–2004	Duncan Anderson, MD (British Columbia)	1976	Jean M. de Margerie, MD (Quebec)	1954	Mark R. Marshall, MD (Alberta)
2000–2002	Susan Lindley, MD (Quebec)	1975	Stephen M. Drance, MD (British Columbia)	1953	Kenneth B. Johnston, MD (Quebec)
1998–2000	Daniel O'Brien, MD (Nova Scotia)	1974	J. Page Harshman, MD (Ontario)	1952	A.E. MacDonald, MD (Ontario)
1996–1998	Patricia K. Teal, MD (Ontario)	1973	Charles Dyson, MD (Ontario)	1951	G. Stewart Ramsey, MD (Quebec)
1994–1996	Frank V. Buffam, MD (British Columbia)	1972	William M.G. Wilson, MD (British Columbia)	1950	Roger F. Nicholls, MD (Alberta)
1992–1994	Raymond LeBlanc, MD (Nova Scotia)	1971	J. Clem McCulloch, MD (Ontario)	1949	Jules Brault, MD (Quebec)
1992	D. Lorenzetti, MD (Quebec)	1970	Michel Mathieu, MD (Quebec)	1948	Robert J.P. McCulloch, MD (Ontario)
1991	Ide Dubé, MD (Quebec)	1969	R. Gordon C. Kelly, MD (Ontario)	1947	John A. MacMillan, MD (Quebec)
1990	Rand Simpson, MD (Ontario)	1968	John S. Crawford, MD (Ontario)	1946	Walter W. Wright, MD (Ontario)
1989	Ralph Schneider, MD (Saskatchewan)	1967	Robert E. Smart, MD (Ontario)	1945	Wilbert G. Fraser, MD (Ontario)
1988	J.S.F. Richards, MD (British Columbia)	1966	Donald M. MacRae, MD (Nova Scotia)	1944	Robert E. Mathers, MD (Nova Scotia)
1987	Harold Stein, MD (Ontario)	1965	Alfred J. Elliot, MD (British Columbia)	1943	Colin A. Campbell, MD (Ontario)
1986	John Valberg, MD (Ontario)	1964	J.A. René Charbonneau, MD (Quebec)	1942	Frederick T. Tooke, MD (Quebec)
1985	Alain Rousseau, MD (Quebec)	1963	Harry M. Macrae, MD (Ontario)	1941	Joseph Vaillancourt, MD (Quebec)
1984	Rod Morgan, MD (Alberta)	1962	Robert M. Ramsay, MD (Manitoba)	1940	William H. Lowry, MD (Ontario)
1983	A.T. Laxdal, MD (British Columbia)	1961	Benjamin Alexander, MD (Quebec)	1938–1939	William G.M. Byers, MD (Quebec)
1982	Roch Gagnon, MD (Quebec)	1960	Norman L. Elvin, MD (Manitoba)		

Financial Statements

January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

COS successfully balanced the budget for a fifth consecutive year with contributions to reserves year over year. Complete financial statements and the auditor's report for the 2014 fiscal year are available to any COS member upon request.

COS gives its members access to the latest information on ophthalmology research, surgical skills through courses at the Annual Meeting and Exhibition (special rates), the *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology* (free print and online subscription), *Perspectives* (online newsletter) and much more.

For more information, please contact:

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