

CANADIAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Canadian Ophthalmological Society | Société canadienne d'ophtalmologie

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



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

The Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) is the national, recognized authority on eye and vision care in Canada. Its mission is to strive toward the provision of optimal medical and surgical eye care for all Canadians by promoting excellence in ophthalmology and providing services to support its members in practice. Annual reports provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year.

To guide COS into 2020 and beyond, an updated five-year strategic plan was developed. Key informant interviews were conducted with 18 key stakeholders and opinion leaders, and a survey was circulated to members. The COS Board met in late 2018 to review the findings and again in April 2019 to develop strategic priorities for 2020 to 2025. The new five strategic pillars build on COS's previous priorities, but include some subtle changes in strategic direction and a stronger emphasis on advocacy and communications. The new plan is organized around Organizational Excellence, Advocacy, Education, Communications and Brand Strategy, and Strategic Relationships.

## ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

*COS is the recognized, unified voice for ophthalmology in Canada and the go-to resource for "all things ophthalmology."*

- COS achieved a balanced budget for the tenth year in a row, with contributions to reserves. Over the course of the last several years, COS has continued to diversify its revenue streams.



**YVONNE BUYS, MD, FRSC**  
*President*



**ELISABETH FOWLER, MBA**  
*Executive Director/CEO*

- Ties with industry were strengthened, as our partners in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors continued to support our activities with higher levels of educational grants. In particular, co-developed accredited symposia held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting were an important source of income for COS.
- Jennifer Brunet-Colvey retired in September after a decade as Executive Director/CEO. COS greatly benefitted from Jennifer's ability to bring together dynamic, talented teams of people, and to cultivate collaborative, supportive and innovative environments in which those teams can thrive. The Board was delighted to recognize Jennifer's many accomplishments by creating a new award, Friend of Canadian Ophthalmology, and bestowing this upon her at the 2019 Annual General Meeting in Quebec City in June.
- After an extensive search, COS welcomed new Executive Director/CEO, Elisabeth Fowler in October. Elisabeth has an educational background in business and marketing, and has spent her entire career in the healthcare sector with significant experience in advocacy and engagement in health policy. Most recently, she was National Director of Research at the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Throughout her career, Elisabeth has interacted with many groups common to COS, including the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH),

Canadian Blood Services (CBS), Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) and Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), to name a few. Elisabeth is honoured to have been chosen for this role and will work diligently with the COS team to continue to advance COS and its mission.

## COS STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2020–2025

### ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE



### ADVOCACY



### EDUCATION



### COMMUNICATIONS AND BRAND STRATEGY



### STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS



- COS exists because of and for its members, and retaining and attracting members is fundamental to its ability to be the unified voice of ophthalmology in Canada. In 2019, COS had 1,125 members, 200 of whom were residents.
- Engagement of residents and young ophthalmologists is critical to the future of the Society and COS highly values its resident members. A resident physician leader serves on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and COS provides numerous benefits to residents and young ophthalmologists, including a half-day symposium at the Annual Meeting and a webpage that includes information on resident events, research initiatives, fellowships and job opportunities.
- COS maintained strong ties with the academic community (through the Council on Advocacy), with the subspecialty societies (through the Council on Advocacy, the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and the Editorial Board of *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology* [CJO]) and with the provinces.
- COS has identified the many benefits for the academic community, subspecialty societies and provinces of being associated with COS. These Affiliate Services are outlined in the document entitled *What is the Value of Being Affiliated with COS?* Maintaining a strong relationship between organizations helps to elevate our respective brands. As the unified voice for ophthalmology in Canada, COS worked with all of its subspecialty societies, the provinces and the academic community to position the expertise and skill of ophthalmology to government, the media, the public and other medical and eye healthcare providers. Provinces, subspecialty societies and the academic community have access to accredited continuing professional development (CPD), and receive advocacy, communications, media and government relations support. In addition, subspecialty societies and the academic community benefit from communication via listservs. Subspecialty societies that are linked to COS benefit from complimentary management of annual membership renewal services and links to other major national and international affiliated organizations.
- COS manages the joint annual membership program for the Canadian Association of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (CAPOS), the Canadian Society of Oculoplastic Surgeons (CSOPS), and the Canadian Retina Society (CRS) at no cost. The Canadian Glaucoma Society (CGS) will also have joint annual membership starting in 2020.
- In June, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPSC) Committee on Specialties approved an application from CRS to recognize retina as an Area of Focused Competence (AFC) diploma. The first step toward operationalization of the discipline involves the organization of a working group to oversee the initial

Dr. Lorne Bellan,  
Past-President,  
and current COS  
representative on the  
RCPSC Specialty  
Committee in  
Ophthalmology.

Photo credit: Francis Vachon/Pinpoint National Photography



Ms. Jennifer Brunet-Colvey, outgoing Executive Director/CEO and Dr. Allan Slomovic, Past-President.

Photo credit: Francis Vachon/Pinpoint National Photography

stages of implementation prior to the appointment of an AFC committee, which includes a representative from COS, Dr. John Lloyd. Dr. Lloyd is Director, Postgraduate Education at the University of Toronto and is ideally positioned to represent COS on this important file. The working group will be responsible for finalizing the standards documents, including the summative portfolio, and the appointment of the AFC committee to oversee the discipline. COS thanks Dr. Lloyd for his willingness to ensure that the core competencies for ophthalmologists, and specifically the shared competencies of comprehensive ophthalmologists in retina, are considered as this diploma is developed. This will ensure that the development of the AFC in retina is a robust and transparent process that benefits the ophthalmology community and enhances retinal care for patients across Canada through standardization of surgical retina fellowships.

- The number of female ophthalmologists in Canada has continued to increase year over year. In recognition of the unique issues that female ophthalmologists face, COS has hosted a Women in Ophthalmology symposium at the COS Annual Meeting since 2012.
- **COS Foundation:** The COS Foundation is the philanthropic and outreach arm of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society. The goal of the COS Foundation is to enhance ophthalmological care and to advance education and research in ophthalmology in Canada. In 2019, funds from the COS Foundation were used to create the Harold Stein Lectureship Award. The 2019 recipient of this award was Dr. Douglas J. Rhee.

## ADVOCACY

*The ophthalmology profession is recognized as important, valuable and distinct. COS is the voice for ophthalmologists who are united around the values of cost-effective, patient-centered, evidence-based care.*

- Advocacy continues to remain a key strategic priority for COS. The Council on Advocacy brings together representatives from all provinces, subspecialty societies and the academic community through the Chair of the Association of Canadian University Professors of Ophthalmology (ACUPO).
- In order to fulfill its mission to be the national, recognized authority on eye and vision care in Canada, COS asked members to each voluntarily contribute a minimum of \$700 to an Advocacy and Public Awareness Fund. In 2019, COS reached 94% of its target goal. The monies gathered from the Fund, along with a significant investment from COS, are used to support advocacy and public awareness work at a federal level, and to empower the provinces, subspecialty societies and academic community with advocacy tools, training and resources to help raise the profile of the profession.
- To support public awareness efforts, COS implemented Year 3 of its *See The Possibilities* campaign ([seethepossibilities.ca](http://seethepossibilities.ca)). Since 2017, the campaign has produced a launch video and has featured five patient videos. Together, the videos have appeared in front of 7.6 million Canadians and 1.5 million Canadians have paused to watch. In 2019, the COS achieved more than



31.5 million media impressions. In addition, the *See The Possibilities* Instagram and Facebook accounts posted informative content for the public. Plans are underway to launch a new major public awareness campaign in May 2020.

- COS continued to issue a quarterly *Advocacy in Action* e-newsletter that summarizes COS's national, provincial and subspecialty advocacy initiatives.
- In January 2018, an editorial by Dr. Phil Hooper on the unemployment and underemployment of new graduates in ophthalmology was published in *Politics* magazine and profiled in *Sixth Estate*. The primary audiences are government, opposition members and bureaucrats at the federal level. The article was updated in 2019 and COS received several new media enquiries on this front.
- In March, CADTH released the report *Optimal Use of Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery: A Health Technology Assessment*. The key finding of the report was that, currently, insufficient evidence exists to make recommendations specific to the optimal use and funding of minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS). Review organizations from both Quebec (L'Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux [INESSS]) and Ontario (Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee [OHTAC]) provided recommendations to their respective Ministries of Health. COS continues to work with the ophthalmology community to gather the evidence that CADTH and other recommendation bodies require to make more substantive recommendations.

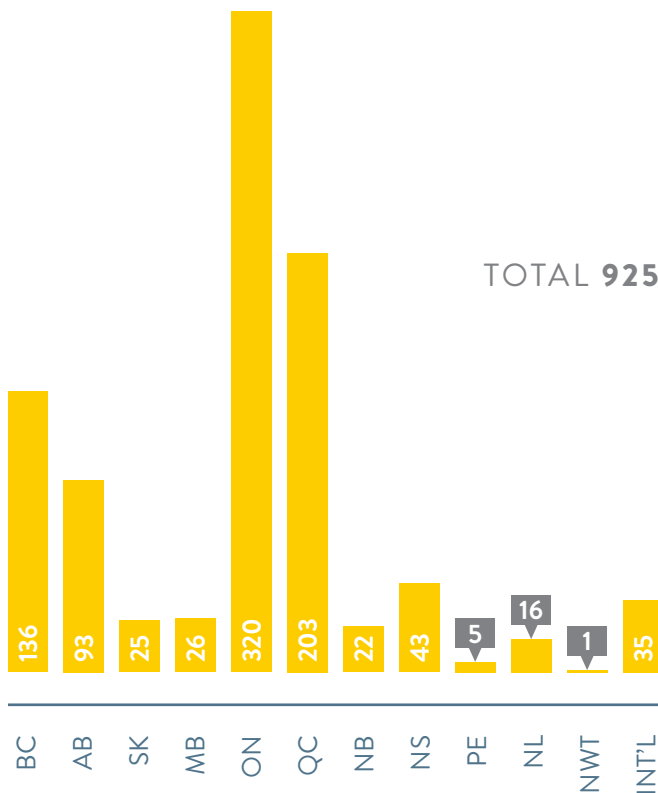
### Provincial Advocacy Initiatives

- **Drug shortages:** COS has engaged with Health Canada on the issue of persistent drug shortages and the impact this is having on ophthalmology and our patients. In June, COS was invited to participate in a meeting with Health Canada to discuss the Miostat and Miochol E. shortages with Health Canada's Tier Assignment Committee (TAC), a multi-stakeholder pilot project that seeks to address any gaps in the efficient identification, assessment and communication of the most critical drug shortages. The TAC meeting also included representatives from several branches of Health Canada, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), and the Provincial/Territorial Drugs Shortages Task Team. After discussing the impact

of both shortages, TAC unanimously decided that the current shortage of Miochol E qualifies as a Tier 3 shortage (i.e., a shortage with the greatest potential impact on the Canadian drug supply and healthcare systems by virtue of availability of alternative supplies, ingredients or therapies). At the COS Annual Meeting, COS representatives met with Bausch + Lomb and Alcon to discuss how drug shortages and discontinuations are communicated. Both companies committed to providing more direct communication about shortages and potential discontinuations, as well as providing updates on mitigation strategies, anticipated availability levels and anticipated start and end dates. In response to current drug shortages, COS is in the process of compiling a list of "essential drugs" for ophthalmology that it plans to share with government and industry. The essential drugs list will be categorized by subspecialty and broken into drugs administered orally and topically. During the last quarter of the year, COS sent a number of updates to all members regarding specific drug shortages and recalls in an attempt to ensure that members had the most up-to-date information available.



## COS 2019 MEMBERSHIP BY REGION



- COS advocates for increased coverage of intravitreal eye injections:** COS wrote to the Honourable John Haggie, Minister of Health in the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, concerning the need for sustained coverage of intravitreal eye injections. Minister Haggie responded that as part of the government's "effort to increase access to effective therapies for individuals suffering with neovascular age-related macular degeneration, the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program is investigating opportunities to provide coverage for Avastin in the future." This was a positive step and allowed the eye physicians and surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador to begin discussing the issue with government. A joint COS-CRS position paper on the issue authored by Dr. Alan Berger accompanied the letter. This position statement was approved by the COS Board in June.
- Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta respond to government's request for higher sterilization of equipment:** COS leveraged its relationship with CADTH, and CADTH produced a statement on the current evidence regarding sterilization of ophthalmic equipment that touches the eye. A call was held with the hospital

leads for Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) from Calgary and Edmonton in June. During the call, it was agreed that high-level disinfection, with potential risks to patients and equipment, is not the way to go. IPC has been looking at various options for "higher-level" disinfection and there was interest in evaluating Tristel, which involves wipes rather than a complex reprocessing system. Although not approved in Canada, Tristel is used in parts of Europe and Australia. IPC is willing to see if Health Canada would permit a trial of Tristel.

- BC Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (BCSEPS):** The medical literature includes several reports of glaucoma following anti-VEGF injections. However, some ophthalmologists in BC suspected that the rate in their patients was higher than in other jurisdictions and raised this issue with the government injection program. COS has been supporting BCSEPS in requests for an investigation into these allegations and helped support the request for an additional impartial member as an observer on the Provincial Health Services Authority's Joint Accountability Committee. This physician leader will provide input into the ongoing investigation around the incidence of glaucoma in patients treated with anti-VEGF injections. The program has changed the method of preparing the injections in some sites and changed filtration preparation provincially. The release of the results of the current retrospective data analysis by the committee will guide subsequent practice changes and ongoing research to help guide best practices in BC and across the country.
- Optometry scope of practice:** COS was made aware of a didactic training program sponsored by a provincial optometric association to provide "certification" for optometrists to carry out laser procedures as part of the services they offer patients. COS has communicated its objections to this activity to the Canadian Association of Optometrists. In addition, COS supported the Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (EPSO) in their evaluation and mitigation of plans that have surfaced from the School of Optometry at the University of Waterloo to house the lasers and surgery that is currently located in a local hospital. COS continues to monitor the issue of expanded scope of practice as it relates to optometry in Canada and will engage with governments, industry and optometry associations as appropriate.

## EDUCATION

*COS represents the gold standard in the accreditation and development of innovative CPD resources and activities to support the breadth of our membership.*

- In 2019, COS fulfilled year one of its eight-year accreditation period as an Accredited CPD Provider of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
- COS accredited 23 Section 1—Group Learning Activities, five Section 3—Simulation courses and four Section 3—Self-Assessment Programs.

### COS Annual Meeting

- The 2019 COS Annual Meeting was held from June 13 to 16 at the Québec City Convention Centre. As the premier event for knowledge transfer in the field, about 1,420 delegates attended the meeting, which included four days of scientific content, 56 sessions, 18 keynote speakers, seven Surgical Skills Transfer Courses (STCs) and 91 posters.
- COS hosted the inaugural joint symposium with the Société Française d’Ophtalmologie (SFO, the French Society of Ophthalmology). This was part of the COS Board’s vision to expand COS’s reach globally and to encourage a higher level of participation from international delegates. COS will send four members to participate in the SFO’s conference in Paris in 2020: Dr. Mona Harissi-Dagher, Dr. Paul Harasymowycz, Dr. Flavio Rezende and Dr. Marcele Falcao.
- COS co-developed two accredited symposia: Extreme Cataract Games, co-developed with Alcon; and Survivor: Cataract Island, co-developed with Johnson & Johnson Vision.

- Special thanks to l’Association des médecins ophtalmologistes du Québec for their support of the 2019 COS Annual Meeting and to all session chairs and physician volunteer leaders for their contributions to its great success!

### COS Practice Resource Centre

- In May, COS launched the Practice Resource Centre (PRC, [www.cosprc.ca](http://www.cosprc.ca)). The PRC is an online space that provides Canadian ophthalmologists with access to a variety of CPD resources, including CPD opportunities and events, accredited and unaccredited activities, position statements, and information about CPD for program planners and learners. The PRC aims to be the “go-to” website for Canadian ophthalmologists to find CPD and practice-related resources.

### COS Physician Wellness Initiative

- COS was a recipient of targeted funding from MD Financial Management, Scotiabank and CMA as part of an Affinity Agreement. This funding is directed towards physician wellness initiatives and COS will receive \$200,000 over three years. As part of this physician wellness initiative, in 2019 COS:
  - Organized the Physician Wellness Steering Committee: Dr. Lisa Gould (Chair), Dr. Colin Mann, Dr. Lorne Bellan and Dr. Rishi Gupta.

Dr. Yvonne Buys,  
President, and  
Dr. Colin Mann,  
President-Elect.



Photo credit: Alex Webster/Pinpoint National Photography

- Hosted a small-group workshop on informed consent at the 2019 COS Annual Meeting, during which participants were led through a series of vignettes with a focus on communication style, capacity and liberty. This session was hosted in partnership with the Canadian Medical Protective Association and was accredited for Section 3 credits. Fifty ophthalmologists attended the workshop.
- Delivered the webinar *Ergonomics and Mindfulness in the Operating Room... Providing Care to Your Patients While Avoiding Becoming One*, as an accredited Section 1 activity. In this webinar, musculoskeletal injury prevention specialist, George Matos, provided helpful tips to support an ophthalmologist through a day of surgery and to minimize the risk of repetitive stress injuries. The webinar is also available as an accredited online module. Seventy participants attended the live webinar and ten more participated in the online webinar in 2019.
- Two accredited Section 3—Self-Assessment Programs were co-developed by COS and the Canadian Cataract Institute and are available as online modules: *Managing Complicated Cataract Surgeries* and *IOL and Cataract Cases*.
- COS launched an online accredited Section 3—Self-Assessment Program entitled *Private Eye: Connecting the Dots in Dry Eye Disease*. This program was co-developed with Novartis (formerly Takeda/formerly Shire Pharma ULC) and is an interactive module designed for ophthalmologists to explore the identification, diagnosis and management of patients with dry eye disease.
- COS continues to deliver *Update on Diabetes and the Eye for the Primary Care Provider*, which is accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) for 1.5 Mainpro+ credits. The program is co-developed with Bayer. This initiative aims to assist FPs in diagnosing, referring and encouraging ongoing monitoring of the eyes of patients with diabetes. The program has reached over 800 FPs.
- COS continues to deliver the INSIGHT Glaucoma and Cornea modules (co-developed with Allergan) to ophthalmologists across Canada. The program offers interactive cases in cornea and glaucoma topics that consider diagnoses, investigations and treatment options, by exploring the work-up, initial management, surgical options and when to refer.

### Other CPD Programming and Activities

- The 51<sup>st</sup> Sally Letson Symposium, *Glaucoma: Thriving Under Pressure*, took place in September in Ottawa, Ontario. The Symposium was co-chaired by Dr. Iqbal (Ike) Ahmed and Dr. Garfield Miller. Welcoming 19 Canadian and international speakers and nearly 720 delegates, the meeting was an overwhelming success.

The Quebec City Annual Meeting offered delegates 91 posters.

### Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology

- Under Dr. Varun Chaudhary's innovative leadership, *CJO* launched several initiatives in 2019, including the Resident Perspectives digest, a regular online-only column that highlights four to six articles from each issue with summaries written by members of the Resident Advisory Council; a visual abstract pilot project, in which one visual abstract is included in each issue; and the *CJO* Lectureship Series, in which *CJO* will provide a modest stipend to support a lecture by authors whose work has been recently published in the journal. This will not only provide a valuable opportunity for researchers to share new and innovative research with leading institutions across Canada, but it will also help to raise the profile of *CJO*.





## COS ACCREDITED CPD ACTIVITIES IN 2019

As an Accredited CPD Provider of the RCPSC, COS accredited...



### 23 – SECTION 1 GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITIES



### 5 – SECTION 3 SIMULATION COURSES



### 4 – SECTION 3 SELF-ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

- In addition, *CJO* added a new Ocular Imaging section, along with two new manuscript types: Research Letters and Photo Essays. The journal also continued to increase its social media presence on Twitter and Instagram.
- In 2019, *CJO* received 1,074 manuscript submissions, which was a modest increase from the previous year. The rejection rate was 85.75%, and the impact factor decreased slightly—from 1.314 in 2017 to 1.305 in 2018.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND BRAND STRATEGY

*COS advances the leadership, skill and innovation of ophthalmologists.*

- secure ophthalmologists for media interviews, indicating that opportunities for additional media impressions were missed as a result. In 2020, COS will work with its membership to grow the cadre of spokespeople.
- COS highlighted specific subspecialty disease days and months through a combination of earned and paid media opportunities. Highlights included: interviews for World Glaucoma Week in March; articles in *Global News* regarding AMD Awareness Month; a paid supplement in *Maclean's* magazine for National Diabetes Awareness Month (with an audience reach of 2.4 million readers); and COS and CAO's Joint Position Statement on the *Effects of Electronic Screens on Children's Vision and Recommendations for Safe Use* (which earned more than 8 million media impressions).
- COS capitalized on World Sight Day (October 10, 2019) in two important ways. First, an advertisement was placed in *The Globe and Mail*, which ran a special supplement on vision health, and *La Presse* newspapers. Second, COS distributed four posters to members and encouraged them to display the posters in the office and/or hospital where they work. The posters differentiate ophthalmologists from optometrists and outline the symptoms and impacts of key diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration. All members received an electronic copy of the posters that they could print themselves, and members who contributed to the Advocacy and Public Awareness Fund this year also received one printed set of posters.
- COS will continue to move forward with the implementation of its Advocacy and Communications and Media Relations Plan, including planning for Year Four of the *See The Possibilities* public awareness campaign, ongoing meetings with key contacts within the federal government, and more. Year Three of the campaign focused on national and regional media relations, patient video testimonials and influencer engagement.
- In addition to the *See The Possibilities* campaign, COS responded to hundreds of media requests on a variety of vision and eye health-related topics.

- Canadians were exposed to the positive impact ophthalmologists have on their lives through COS's *See The Possibilities* public awareness campaign. COS members appeared in the media and in social media blogs to tell Canadians more about ophthalmology. In 2019, the campaign generated 20 media hits, eight interviews, 64 matte story pick-ups, and multiple blog posts and social mentions. One of the main challenges identified by our communications company was their inability to

- COS began working with its web provider to update and refresh the COS public-facing website, which will be launched in 2020.
- Working with its communications firm, COS created a media toolkit for all members. The toolkit provides an overview of the importance of public relations, the media process and best practices, and tips for providing a good media interview. The toolkit is a resource for all members and can be found in the members-only section of the COS website.
- In November, COS organized a day-long media training session for ACUPO members. The session was provided by Transform Leaders and covered topics such as “How to communicate risk”, “How to succeed in a media interview”, and “Understanding social media.” This session was praised by attendees for being informative, pragmatic and useful.

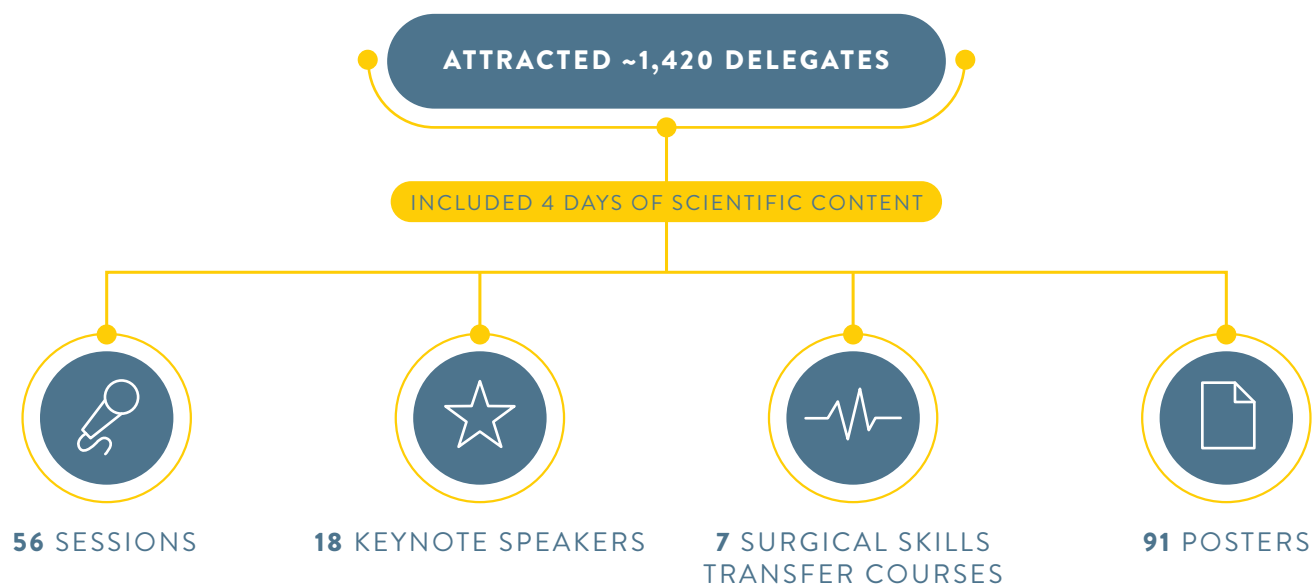
## STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

*COS is relevant, innovative and creative, and develops strong partnerships with other organizations to advance eye health. We support and empower our partners, encourage members to action, and engage and recognize our volunteers.*

- COS continued to focus on partnership development and to strengthen its ties with key stakeholder groups in order to provide high-value, high-impact and relevant programs for members.
- Internationally, COS has strengthened ties with the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO), the Pan-American Academy of Ophthalmology (PAAO), and the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO).
- COS has a representative on the ICO and will be offering a 90-minute symposium at the 2020 World Ophthalmology Congress.

## COS ANNUAL MEETING—ONE-STOP SHOPPING FOR MOC CREDITS!

The 2019 COS Annual Meeting was held from June 13 to 16 at the Québec City Convention Centre. As the premier event for knowledge transfer in the field, the COS Annual Meeting...





- Dr. Guillermo Rocha was appointed as a COS representative on the PAAO Board of Directors. COS President, Dr. Yvonne Buys, serves as the other representative on this Board.
- COS would like to congratulate Dr. Stephanie Dotchin and Dr. Mahshad Darvish for their acceptance into the 2019 and 2020 PAAO Leadership Development Program, respectively. Each participant is required to complete a project that will benefit the sponsoring organization (i.e., COS). Dr. Dotchin's project will help COS better understand the unique communications needs of COS members. Dr. Darvish's project will focus on performing a scan of education activities organized by ophthalmology in Canada to determine if optometrists are allowed to attend, the degree of participation in the activities, and the proportion of the activity that is outside current optometry scope of care/practice. The goal is to also conduct a scan of education activities organized by ophthalmology for family medicine.
- COS is engaged with Canadian Blood Services in the development of a leading practice to enhance cornea transplantation in Canada. The overarching question framing the work of the collaboration is "Why does Canada not have the best corneal donation and transplantation system" where patients can be seen, assessed, booked and transplanted in months as opposed to years? Stakeholder engagement, system performance improvement and data and analytics are key components of this work. Under the leadership of Dr. Guillermo Rocha, Chair of the planning committee, and Christine Humphreys, Vice-chair and Director of the Eye Bank of Canada, the work will culminate in a two-day national consensus forum in February 2020. An expert guidance document and consensus statements will form the basis of a forum report that will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. This will, in turn, inform a knowledge-translation and policy-impact strategy, as well as a plan for implementation, adoption and evaluation.
- COS continues to collaborate with the Canadian Association of Optometrists in areas of mutual interest: the two organizations meet twice annually and developed a Joint Clinical Practice Guideline for the Periodic Eye Examination in Canada (0 to 5 years), with representation from ophthalmology, optometry, paediatrics and family practice. In December 2019, this guideline was simultaneously published in the *Canadian Journal of Optometry* and the *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology*.
- Health Canada is in the process of renewing tobacco product labels, which include health warnings and health information messages. COS has been working with Health Canada to provide medical images that graphically depict the risks of tobacco on eye health for the new labels.
- In October, in conjunction with the federal *Cannabis Act* coming into effect, COS updated its position statement on the *Medical Use of Cannabis for Glaucoma*, which was also endorsed by the Canadian Glaucoma Society. The final statement was published in *CJO*, and also provided to CMA, which shared it through its national network and its provincial and territorial medical associations. The Canadian Cornea, External Disease & Refractive Surgery Society developed a position statement on the *Medical Use of Cannabis for Dry Eye Disease*, which was endorsed by the COS Board in June. CMA also shared this position statement through its national network and its provincial and territorial medical associations.
- COS actively engages with its subspecialty societies in working with CADTH to address gaps in healthcare delivery in Canada.
- COS will continue to work with its partners to address key areas of Advocacy, including: expanding scope of practice for optometry; Human Resources for Health; and strategies that will help enhance patient care for specific patient populations, such as children.



- COS continues to focus on its Physician Wellness Initiative and will host two webinars, a full-day mindfulness workshop, and a special supplement to *CJO*.
- For 2020, *CJO* has two supplements planned: one on Teleretina and one on Physician Wellness. *CJO* will also be negotiating a new contract and participating in a strategic planning session with Elsevier.
- COS has partnered with Fighting Blindness Canada, The Canadian Council for the Blind, The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and the Canadian Association of Optometry on a "Vision 2020 Summit." The Summit will take place in February 2020, however, the partnership began in 2019, with the distribution of a survey to all stakeholders. The outcomes of the survey resulted in three white papers focused on: Equity and Access to Vision Care; Living with Vision Loss; and Vision Research.
- COS will continue to show leadership in the vision community, working with partners and other stakeholders to take advantage of the Year 2020. This will include a Day on the Hill, a Vision Summit, and reports related to the *Value of Ophthalmology* and *Vision and Diabetes*.
- Under the direction of Dr. Phil Hooper, a working group was convened to create a collaborative care document that will outline standards for working with optometrists in Canada. While the work has just begun, it is expected that the document will be finalized by summer 2020.

## MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2020

- COS will begin moving forward with realizing the goals of its new five-year strategic plan (2020–2025).
- COS will continue to engage its membership in new and innovative ways to ensure that the organization remains nimble, relevant and responsive to the needs of its members.
- COS is working hard to engage all the provinces, subspecialty societies and the academic community to meet its goal to be the unified voice for ophthalmology in Canada, and to continue to position ophthalmologists as the recognized medical and surgical leaders of the eye and vision care team with government, the media and the public.
- COS must embrace RCPSC's Competence by Design (CBD), which will require widespread stakeholder engagement in the process to ensure that the ophthalmology community is fully on board with the new direction. The Specialty Committee in Ophthalmology, chaired by Dr. Lorne Bellan held its first meeting from November 26 to 29 in Ottawa to begin the transition to CBD. The Specialty Committee will work to develop Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs), which are activities that will define the competencies for ophthalmology. The EPAs will be the same across Canada, but each university will be empowered to implement them in its own way. Implementation is anticipated to occur in 2022. To anticipate the changes, COS has adapted its CPD program to focus on CanMEDS roles outside of Medical Expert, and has

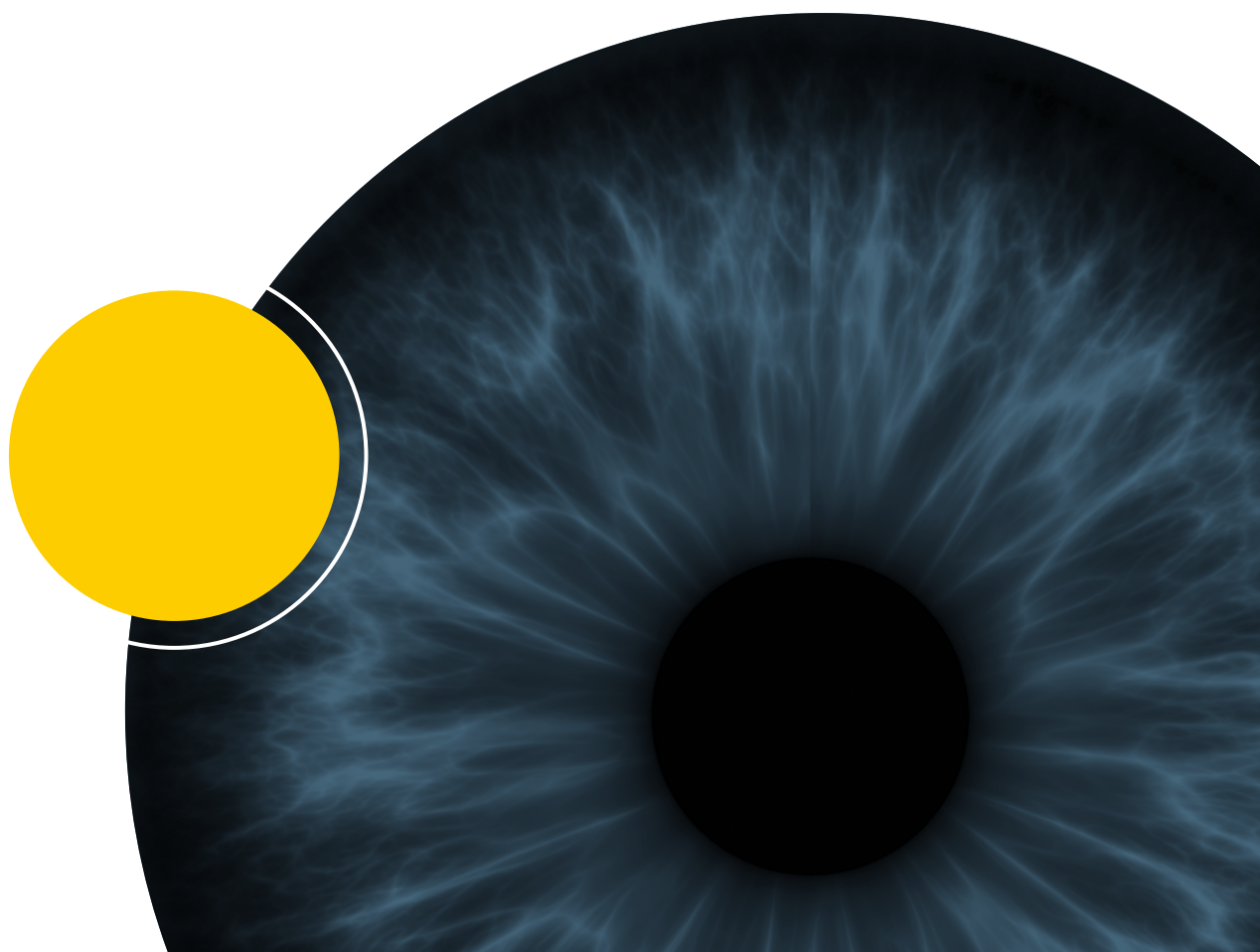


also integrated more Section 3 programming into its CPD offerings, to focus on feedback, a key component in CBD.

- The COS Annual Meeting will continue to be the focal point for CPD activities.
- COS will continue the roll-out of the co-developed programs on dry eye disease across Canada.
- COS will continue the roll-out of the national continuing medical education program for FPs entitled *Update on Diabetes and the Eye for Primary Care Providers*.
- COS will move forward with the implementation of its Advocacy and Communications and Media Relations Plan, including Year Four of the *See The Possibilities*

public awareness campaign, ongoing meetings with key contacts within the federal government, and more. The focus of Year Four will move towards a concentration on ophthalmologists and innovation, specifically the ophthalmologist's role in driving innovation and the impact this has had on improving patient care and patient outcomes. The campaign will introduce creative ways to engage the public and spread the word about the excellence and importance of ophthalmology in Canada.

COS could not fulfill its mandate without its dedicated staff and the tireless efforts of our many volunteers who give their valuable time to improve eye care for all Canadians and to advocate for the profession. We look forward to continuing to work with our members and other key stakeholders to strengthen the eye care community in Canada.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019/2020

Yvonne Buys, MD, President  
 Jamie Taylor, MD, Secretary  
 Ravi Dookeran, MD, Treasurer  
 Colin Mann, MD, Chair, Council on Continuing Professional Development/Maintenance of Certification Committee/President-Elect  
 Phil Hooper, MD, Chair, Council on Advocacy  
 Setareh Ziai, MD, Board Liaison, Residents and Young Ophthalmologists  
 Mona Harissi-Dagher, MD, Chair, Annual Meeting

## COUNCILS, COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRS 2019/2020

**Nominating Committee:** Guillermo Rocha, MD  
**Council on Advocacy:** Phil Hooper, MD  
**Annual Meeting:** Mona Harissi-Dagher, MD  
**Council on Continuing Professional Development:** Colin Mann, MD  
**Maintenance of Certification:** Colin Mann, MD  
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**Eye Bank Committee:** Patricia Laughrea, MD  
**Clinical Practice Guideline on the Periodic Eye Examination:** Walter Delpero, MD

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**American Academy of Ophthalmology:** Andrew Budning, MD  
**International Council of Ophthalmology:** Vacant (Nomination process has been launched)  
**Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology:** Guillermo Rocha, MD  
**Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Specialty Committee in Ophthalmology:** Lorne Bellan, MD

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Atlantic Provinces Ophthalmological Society  
 Canadian Association for Public Health & Global Ophthalmology  
 Canadian Association of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus  
 Canadian Cornea, External Disease & Refractive Surgery Society  
 Canadian Glaucoma Society  
 Canadian Neuro-ophthalmology Society  
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 Cataract Surgery  
 Council of Canadian Ophthalmology Residents

## ALLIED HEALTH

Canadian Society of Ophthalmic Medical Personnel  
 Canadian Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses  
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 Rita Afeltra, Manager, Membership and Meeting Logistics  
 Courtney Barresi, Accountant  
 Christine Bruce, Coordinator, Meeting Logistics and Exhibits  
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 Cheryl Ripley, Manager, Continuing Professional Development  
 Courtney Vaz, Coordinator, Communications and Public Affairs

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- 2016–2018** Guillermo Rocha, MD (Manitoba)  
**2014–2016** Allan Slomovic, MD (Ontario)  
**2012–2014** Paul Rafuse, MD (Nova Scotia)  
**2010–2012** François Codère, MD (Quebec)  
**2008–2010** Lorne Bellan, MD (Manitoba)  
**2006–2008** Alan Cruess, MD (Nova Scotia)  
**2004–2006** Sherif El-Defrawy, MD (Ontario)  
**2002–2004** Duncan Anderson, MD (British Columbia)  
**2000–2002** Susan Lindley, MD (Quebec)  
**1998–2000** Daniel O'Brien, MD (Nova Scotia)  
**1996–1998** Patricia K. Teal, MD (Ontario)  
**1994–1996** Frank V. Buffam, MD (British Columbia)  
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**1941** Joseph Vaillancourt, MD (Quebec)  
**1940** William H. Lowry, MD (Ontario)  
**1938–1939** William G.M. Byers, MD (Quebec)

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 Shaheer Aboobaker, MD (Ontario)  
 Maryam Abtahi, MD (Ontario)  
 Manreet Alangh, MD (Ontario)  
 Noura Almansoori, MD (Quebec)  
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Annie Moreau, MD (USA)  
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 Danielle Wentzell, MD (Alberta)  
 Patrick Yang, MD (British Columbia)  
 Amr Zaki, MD (Nova Scotia)

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), and access to a special newsletter from the Maintenance of Certification committee, which updates COS members on how to claim and maintain CPD credits (including Sections 1 through 3), and other important CPD news. COS members also benefit from quarterly updates on the advocacy and communications work being done by the Society. Most importantly, by being a member, you lend your voice to COS advocacy and communications work on behalf of ophthalmologists. When we stand united, we have a more powerful voice on the issues that affect our profession and the state of eye and vision health in Canada.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

COS successfully balanced the budget for the tenth consecutive year with contributions to reserves year over year. Complete financial statements and the auditor's report for the 2019 fiscal year are available to any COS member upon request.

## CANADIAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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