



CANADIAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Business Meeting June 26, 2021

Zoom Meeting via the COS Virtual Meeting & Exhibition

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Dr. Mann called the meeting to order at 11:11 AM and provided guidance regarding the use of the chat function to vote, move a motion, and second a motion. Poll questions would be used as a tool for the show of hands.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Mann asked if anyone had any items to add to the agenda and requested they use the chat function to enter any addition.

As there were no changes to the agenda, Dr. Lorne Bellan **MOTIONED** to accept the agenda. **MOVED** by Dr. Femida Kherani; **SECONDED** by Dr. Allan Slomovic. **ALL IN FAVOUR** was demonstrated via electronic poll.

3. Approval of the Minutes of June 27, 2020

Dr. Mann asked if anyone had any changes to suggest to the June 27, 2020 minutes.

As there were no changes to the Minutes, Dr. Phil Hooper **MOTIONED** to accept the agenda. **SECONDED** by Dr. Guillermo Rocha. **ALL IN FAVOUR** was demonstrated via electronic poll.

4. Treasurer's Report – Ravi Dookeran, MD, FRCSC

Dr. Mann introduced COS Treasurer, Ravi Dookeran.

Dr. Dookeran introduced Stephanie Courneyea from McCay Duff LLP.

Ms. Stephanie Courneyea provided an update on the COS Audited Financial Statements for 2020. Ms. Courneyea asked if there were any questions. As there were none forthcoming, Dr. Dookeran thanked Ms. Courneyea.

Dr. Dookeran then requested a **MOTION** to appoint McCay Duff as the COS Auditors for 2021.

Dr. Dookeran **MOTIONED** to appoint McCay Duff as the COS Auditors for 2021. **SECONDED** by Dr. Yvonne Buys. **ALL IN FAVOUR** was demonstrated via electronic poll.

5. Remembrance

Dr. Mann thanked Dr. Dookeran and announced that he was notified of the passing of the following member:

- Dr. Stephen Drance, Vancouver, BC
- Dr. Donald W. Mills, London, ON
- Dr. Ronald Pinkerton, Kingston, ON
- Dr. Howard Stein, Toronto, ON

Dr. Mann then asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of these ophthalmologists.

6. President's Report – Colin Mann, MD, FRCSC & Executive Director and CEO Report – Elisabeth Fowler, MBA

Dr. Mann stated that he and Ms. Fowler would provide their reports together.

Together they provided the following updates:

- The pandemic has stressed the COS finances, but despite this, the Board of Directors put their full support behind the COS team to allow them to continue to do their work to support you, COS members. It was felt that this was particularly important during the pandemic.
- Dr. Mann encouraged everyone to read the Annual Report which provides a more in-depth overview of the work of your Society.
- The COS Wellness committee has been very busy building educational sessions and providing information on how to stay well during this long pandemic.

ADVOCACY

Accomplishments:

- The COS worked with the Conference Board of Canada to create the excellent advocacy tool "Ophthalmology in Canada" which highlights the excellence and contributions of ophthalmologists to the health care system.
- Did you know that in 2020, ophthalmic interventions saved \$1.6 Billion in health care costs?
- The COS also cemented relationships with Health Canada, working with them to help resolve shortages of Timolol and other essential ophthalmic medicines. A particular thanks to Dr Jamie Taylor for his leadership on this file.
- Finally, the Advocacy Council solidified and defined 3 advocacy priorities that the COS will promote for the next 3 years:
 - increasing access to appropriate and timely eye care for all Canadians;
 - ensuring access to drugs and technology; and
 - maintaining high standards of eye health care.

Dr. Mann thanked Dr. Phil Hooper who is finishing his second term as Advocacy Chair.

See *The Possibilities* website:

- This patient-facing website has been completely revamped and is filled with excellent, credible information for your patients to help them understand eye health and diseases.
- We have also been using the videos and other materials to launch monthly press releases which has grown our share of voice in the media by 75% over the last few months. In fact, from March to June 2021, ophthalmology "owned" 98% of all vision-health media.

Scope Creep in Alberta:

- In January we learned that the optometrists in Alberta had submitted a proposal to the

government to significantly expand their scope of practice. We normally call this “scope creep”, in this case it was a “scope leap”!

- The COS worked hard with EPSAA to respond to the proposed expansion, and built a coalition of partner associations.
- The COS has also begun work educating caucus members on the differences between ophthalmologists and optometrists, highlighting our differing skills and training.
- The COS is also working to create specific advocacy tools to help our provincial associations build their capacity in this area so that we can continue to establish our leadership in the eye health space.

EDUCATION

Accomplishments:

- The COS was very proud of the 2020 Annual Meeting that the team was able to put together with the help of the Session Chairs in just 3 months.
- Throughout the year, we worked with partners to provide a significant number of accredited educational sessions in various formats on glaucoma, cataract, dry eye disease and more.

CJO Accomplishments:

- Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology, under the excellent guidance and leadership of Dr. Varun Chaudhary, made some amazing advances this past year.
 - A 48.4% increase from 2019, for a total of 1574 submissions
 - Maintaining a competitive acceptance rate of 13%;
 - Receiving more than 2000 citations, over 120 of which were from articles published in 2020;
 - Expanding social media presence with a 28% increase in Twitter followers and a 150% increase in Instagram followers from 2019.

PRC Accomplishments:

- The Practice Resource Center underwent a huge transformation this year.
- It is fresh, easy to navigate and absolutely full of all kinds of information to respond to your clinical needs. (www.cosprc.ca)

COMMUNICATIONS

Accomplishments:

- The COS also launched a new ophthalmology podcast called “EyeCan”.
- Season 1 of the podcast is available on Apple or Spotify, and feature hosts Dr. Guillermo Rocha and Dr. Setareh Ziai as they explore topics of interest in ophthalmology through a uniquely Canadian Lens.
- The COS website also had a face lift, and we partnered on initiatives with organizations, including the Cost of Vision Loss report.

LOOKING AHEAD

- We will continue to monitor Optometry scope expansion and have initiatives in place that will help cement our leadership role in the eye health space.
- As mentioned earlier, we are working to support our provincial partners to help them become more proactive with their advocacy.
- Non-hospital surgical centers are increasingly being seen as an option for governments to handle surgical backlogs, many of which have become significantly worse through the

pandemic. Stay tuned as the COS will be reaching out to you to hear your perspective on this emerging issue.

- Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Nupura Bakshi, the COS has recently formed a working group on Equity Diversity and Inclusion.
- We will also be supporting some members in their work related to determining how the ophthalmology community is growing and what the needs/demands will be for ophthalmology in the future, and whether we will have sufficient surgeons to meet the growing demand.
- Finally, we have begun to turn our attention to sustainability and trying to figure out how to lower ophthalmology's footprint.

Dr. Mann acknowledged the Lifetime Achievement Award recipients for 2020 and 2021: Dr. Simon Holland and Dr. Brian Leonard. He also thanked all the Advocacy contributors who donated to the Advocacy fund.

Ms. Fowler thanked the members of the 2021 Annual Meeting Planning Committee and Dr. Dagher for her leadership.

Dr. Mann thanked the COS Board and staff for all of their hard work over the past year and introduced Dr. Yvonne Buys to provide a report from the nominating Committee.

7. Report from the Nominating Committee – Yvonne Buys, MD, FRCSC, FACS

Dr. Mann introduced Dr. Buys, Chair of the Nominating Committee who provided an update on the nominations process:

- The COS released an open call for nominations in January for the positions of Chair, Council on Advocacy, and President-Elect. Several nominations were received for both positions.
- The COS requires a President-Elect, and the nominating committee is proposing that Dr. Phil Hooper be elected to serve a 1-year term as President-Elect, followed by a 2-year term as President, and then a final 1-year term as Past-President.
- Dr. Buys then asked if there were any nominations from the floor None were added.

Dr. Buys **MOTIONED** that Dr. Phil Hooper be elected to serve a 1-year term as President-Elect, followed by a 2-year term as President, and then a final 1-year term as Past-President. **SECONDED** by Dr. Guillermo Rocha. **ALL IN FAVOUR** was demonstrated via electronic poll.

- Dr. Buys stated Dr. Phil Hooper's second 3-year term as Chair of the Council on Advocacy ended in 2021, and the nominating committee is proposing that Dr. Vivian Hill be elected to serve a 3-year term as Chair, Council on Advocacy.
- Dr. Buys ask if there any other nominations from the floor for the position of Chair, Council on Advocacy from the floor. None were added.

Dr. Buys **MOTIONED** that Dr. Vivian Hill be elected to serve a 3-year term as Chair, Council on Advocacy. **SECONDED** by Dr. Stephanie Dotchin. **ALL IN FAVOUR** was demonstrated via electronic poll.

- Dr. Buys thanked everyone, and announced the COS Board of Directors for the year 2021/2022
 - Dr. Colin Mann, President
 - Dr. Phil Hooper, President-Elect
 - Dr. Hady Saheb, Chair, Council on Council on Continuing Professional Development
 - Dr. Vivian Hill, Chair, Council on Advocacy
 - Dr. Mona Harissi-Dagher, Chair, Annual Meeting
 - Dr. Setareh Ziai, Board Liaison, Residents' Affairs and Young Ophthalmologists
 - Dr. Ravi Dookeran, Treasurer
 - Dr. Jamie Taylor, Secretary

8. Awards

Dr. Mann thanked Dr. Buys, for her leadership in her roles over the past 11 years. Dr. Buys has served on the COS Board in many capacities since 2010, including COS Treasurer, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee from 2011 to 2017. Most recently she served a one-year term as President-Elect followed by two years as President and a one-year term as Past President. He then invited Dr. Buys to say a few words.

Dr. Mann then thanked Dr. Phil Hooper for assuming the position of President-Elect of COS and for his leadership over the past 6 years in the position of Chair of the Council on Advocacy for two terms. He then invited Dr. Hooper to say a few words.

9. Other business

Dr. Mann asked if there were any questions from the floor and ask them to be submitted via the chat function. None were added.

10. Adjournment

Dr. Mann thanked the COS Corporate Sponsors for their continued support of the meeting and the members of the COS, for their continued support of the Society.

Dr. Mann adjourned the meeting at 12:00PM