

Articulator

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Chair's Message

As another year of the College begins I would like to thank the outgoing members Hari Varshney (public appointed representative), Richard Rittaler RD, and Doug Hengel RD (elected representatives) for a job well done. The time taken from your busy offices and the efforts on behalf of us all is greatly appreciated.

Welcome to the new members Pamela Gardner (public representative), Gary Feldman RD and Alex Hupka RD (elected representatives). Thank you for taking the time to come on Board, the Board and staff of the College look forward to working with you and listening to your views and ideas.

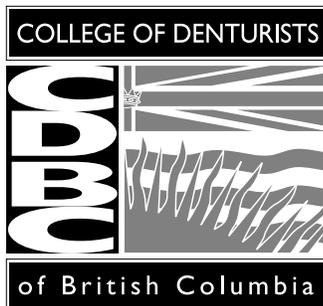
We have been fortunate over the past 12 years to have many quality individuals take the time and effort to help manage our profession. Our College, though small, has accomplished a lot of difficult tasks over this period of time. I think most of you would agree that for a self-governing profession, our College has maintained fair and balanced policies that have led to few problems.

The finances of the College remain strong, the complaints are few, and the interaction with the Registrants is kept to the necessary minimum. What more could you ask from a regulatory body?

We try to keep you informed of the major projects that the College is working on. Below are the latest two projects.

- The College recently drafted new Bylaws to meet the changes to the Health Professions Act. To view the bylaws, go to www.cd.bc.ca or contact the College office. If you have any comments or concerns, please let us know.
- The Quality Assurance Committee, as you are aware, is in the midst of consultations with Registrants and program advisors that will lead to a new QA program. Let your views and comments be known so the program can better meet your expectations. The College hopes that through consultation, the future QA program will be interesting to participate in, as well as help you develop a better and stronger business.

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Chair's Message...continued

The College has also commenced meetings with Vancouver Community College to discuss common areas of interest. The main topics of conversation are continued re-development of both the theory and practical exam content, as well as the possible use of VCC facilities for future practical examinations.

As the new Chair of the College, I invite you to attend our Board meetings. Open communication is essential for the College to continue to keep your trust. If you have any concerns or questions please ask them. You can contact the College office or call me directly.

I am looking forward to an interesting and productive year.

Jim Connolly

2007 Election Results—Comings and Goings

The results of the election of Registrants to the Board has been certified. The College is pleased to welcome Mr. Gary Feldman and Mr. Alexander Hupka to the College Board. Mr. Feldman has served previously as an elected member and looks forward to contributing actively for another three years. Mr. Hupka brings years of experience from assorted associations and has a real passion for denturism.

While the College Board extends congratulations to Alex and Gary, they would also like to express their appreciation to the Registrants who let their names stand for nomination. The ability to elect representatives of the profession to the regulatory body is a privilege. Without a slate of nominees, that privilege is diminished.

For each new beginning there is also an ending. With the end of the fiscal year, Mr. Doug Hengel and Mr. Richard Rittaler terms ended with the College. The Board of the College expresses thanks to Richard for his efforts during his term. Doug was truly a fixture at the College having been involved during the transition from the Dental Technicians and Denturists Board to the College and in integral roles since. Much of the success of the College is attributable to individuals like Doug; patient, highly capable people who come prepared to listen and listen to come prepared. The Board and staff of the College extend our best wishes to Doug in his future endeavours.

The College also bids adieu to Mr. Hari Varshney. Mr Varshney completed the maximum six year term allowed by the government. Hari was a valuable contributor to the activities of the College and we wish him success in his philanthropy. Assuming the position left vacant by Mr. Varshney's departure is Pamela Gardner. Ms. Gardner is a Certified Orthotist with a practice in Burnaby. She brings a keen sense of interest in the provision of health care and health regulation.

~ INTRODUCING ~ MS. PAMELA GARDNER

It gives me great pleasure to accept the public appointment to the College of Denturists of BC. My background is of a paramedical nature as I am a Certified Orthotist who has been working in the Burnaby/Metrotown area for 15 years. I am active in the community of Burnaby with experience sitting on various Boards and community service groups such as the Board of Trustees for Burnaby Hospital, past President of the Burnaby Rotary Club, and the Rick Hansen Man in Motion Committee. My hope is to bring my experience to the College and learn from my fellow Board members. Although I know little about Denturists, I am on the steep learning curve quickly gaining knowledge by taking part in two Board meetings and the recent Quality Assurance Symposium presented by Dr. J. Mullett at Silver Star.

I look forward to the challenge of working with the Board and being part of the Denturist's continued growth and success.

Pamela Gardner

We're on the web!
www.cd.bc.ca

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Please join the Board of the College at the twelfth annual meeting of the College of Denturists of BC. The meeting will take place on September 15, 2007 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel.

Licensure Examinations

This years clinical licensure examinations will be offered at the new Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre at UBC from August 7 – 10. This a beautiful new, state of the art facility. Once again, the College relies on Active Full Registrants to be members of the exam team. Please contact the office if you are interested in acting as an examiner. The time commitment varies from the full four days to one afternoon. Examiners receive CE credits, a per diem, and expenses paid by the College.

The College is offering theory examinations on September 7, 2007.

Draft Bylaws

The Board of the College has approved and submitted amendments of the College's bylaws to the Minister of Health for approval. The amendments are substantial and reflect changes to the Act and regulatory best practices. A copy of the proposed amendments is available from the College's website. Requests for printed copies should be made to the College office.

Committees

The proposed bylaws establish a host of new Committees. In addition to the Executive, Discipline, Inquiry, Quality Assurance, and Registration Committees are the Finance and Audit, Nomination, and Resolutions Committees. Also, the proposed amendments take advantage of changes to the Act. These changes increase the discretionary authority of the Registrar in the areas of registration and inquiry and extend the full authority of the Board to the Executive Committee.

Velscope

The recent introduction of the Velscope oral screening device is an exciting advancement for the profession. For those not familiar with the Velscope, it is a light based device that dental practitioners can use to identify tissue related abnormalities. While the device has the potential for early identification of abnormalities, there are a number of issues that Registrants considering using this, or any similar device, need to consider.

While this device is marketed as an oral cancer screening device, Registrants of this College are not qualified to make such a diagnosis. Therefore, marketing and promotional materials should reflect that a Denturist may only identify abnormalities for normal tissues. Further, patients need to be made aware that, while the device has a high degree of accuracy, there is the potential for both false positive and false negative results.

There are a number of imperatives for Registrants using the Velscope. Firstly, Registrants need to ensure that they have a strong referral base for patients requiring further examination. Any patient with a positive result must be referred to a dentist or dental specialist for follow up, and there is an onus of responsibility on the Registrant to ensure patient follow through. Secondly, the depth and clarity of the information provided by the Registrant to the next provider is important. Any patient referred for definitive diagnosis requires a detailed referral letter with a full description of the anomaly. Copies must be retained within the patient's dental health record. Registrants considering adding scanning devices to their practice are encouraged to give serious consideration to purchasing devices that come with digital recording devices (camera) or devices to which a camera can be added. Finally, Registrants need to consider the psychological impact that a false positive result might have on a patient and provide adequate time for counselling or a referral to an appropriate professional. As well, the potential for increased legal liability exposure from a false negative result should be considered.

The real potential for devices such as the Velscope is the longitudinal study of changes in patient's oral tissues. Photographic records are the only way for this to be truly effective.



Quality Assurance Development Update

The College hosted a second quality assurance program development session on June 1, 2007 in Vernon. Approximately 100 Registrants attended the session. The Quality Assurance Committee hired Dr. Jennifer Mullett, a community psychologist, to assist the Committee in developing the program. With a strong background and years of experience in quality assurance, Dr. Mullett was well suited to the task.

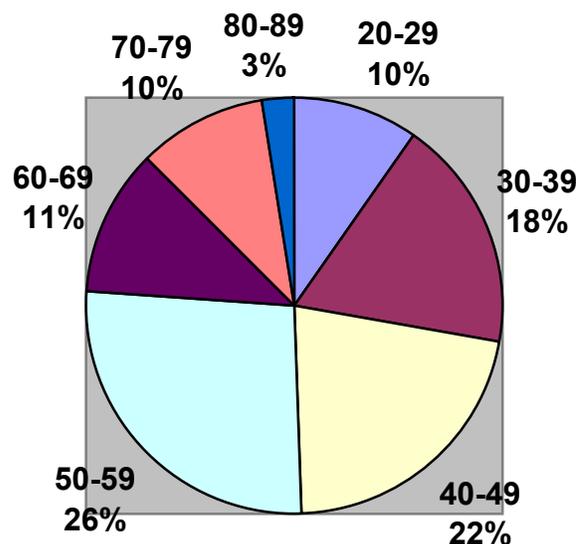
Using the information from the October 2006 session as a foundation for the program, Dr. Mullett then matched the standards of practice with quality indicators from the World Health Organization. The result is a number of tools and process guides that will facilitate Registrants' adopting the new program. Dr. Mullett has completed her work for the College. The next phase and challenge for the Committee will be to construct the actual program requirements. This work is anticipated to be complete in fall 2007.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

What is a Denturist? Just a person, a professional, a toothfairy, or a shoulder to cry on? It is just a person trying to do their job the best that they can! They have to make teeth for their patients so that they can chew well and, at the same time, trying to make them attractive. Sometimes patients expect a lot, sometimes too much. Sometimes they will remake their work, just to please a patient. Most often they will succeed, however sometimes they will not. Some days they will doubt themselves and wonder why they do what they do, other days they will be on top of the world, unstoppable, God's gift to denturism. Over the years the job will get easier, the patients will get less fussy and their relatives will get less demanding. Most of their customers will become more grateful and with time, most will become old friends. They won't ask the price, they won't question the technique, and they wouldn't think of going elsewhere. They are just glad that you are there to listen to their stories and to reminisce about the times gone by. Oh, by the way, it is understood that you will make them the best set of teeth ever.

Rod Hughes

Age Distribution of a BC's Denturists



There are currently 202 Active Denturists registered with the College of Denturists of British Columbia.

The average age of an Active Denturist in British Columbia is 50.

CDBC's Strategic Plan

In September 2005, the then Board of the College completed a new strategic plan. The plan set out a broad range of activities that the Board deemed valuable to the organization. The seven categories include:

- Staff and Board relations,
- Board and Registrant relations,
- Communication,
- Inter-professional relationships,
- Policy development,
- Professional competencies and ethics, and
- Governance and administration.

Within each category were a number of short, medium, long term and ongoing goals. The end of the fiscal year represented halfway on the plan's timeline. Thanks to the diligent work of the staff, the Board is pleased to report great progress.

The two largest and complex tasks are redrafting bylaws for the College and creating a new quality assurance program for Registrants. Both of these items will be dealt with separately in this newsletter. Additionally, the Board has moved to strengthen its relationship with Vancouver Community College and the Denturist Association of BC. To this end, the Registration Committee met with VCC to discuss education and examination issues and is very pleased that the Denturist Association has had representatives attend both Board and QA meetings. Another important aspect of the plan is strengthening the College's relationship with Registrants. The Board has agreed to hold periodic regional meetings to increase accessibility for Registrants outside of the Greater Vancouver Regional District. The first of these sessions was held in Victoria last October.

A further session to report the ongoing development of the QA program was held in June. Approximately 100 people took part in this educational and hugely successful session. The next session to report the ongoing progress will be held in conjunction with the College's Annual General Meeting. Please plan on attending!

Changes at NAIT & VCC

There are exciting changes planned or taking place at both NAIT and VCC. NAIT and the College of Alberta Denturists have reached an agreement to change the previous two year internship to one year as part of the NAIT program. This effectively makes NAIT's program a three year program with students being eligible to challenge the College's exam upon graduation. Students are placed in clinics and offices during the third year but remain students of NAIT throughout the process. Students from NAIT are required to register with this College as students, prior to providing any service in this province. If the student is planning on challenging the clinical exam in BC, they must complete the internship portfolio requirements. However, if a student is successful in challenging the licensure exams in Alberta, they can then move directly to BC under the Labour Mobility Provisions of the Agreement on Internal Trade and the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between BC and Alberta.

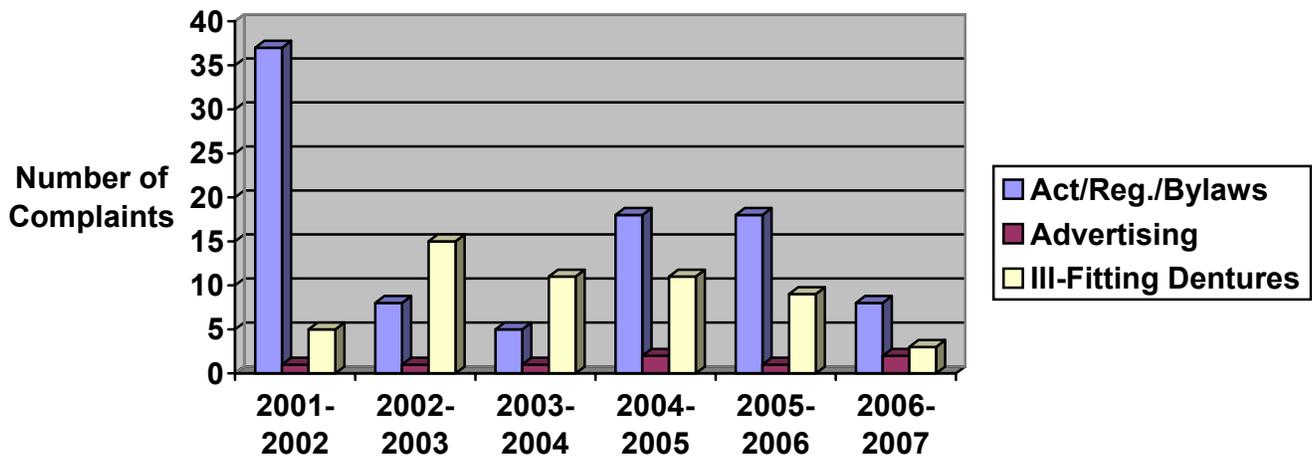
VCC has developed a fifth semester for the purposes of delivering advanced practice education and opportunities for students to complete their internship requirements. Further, there are exciting long term plans for the denturist department including a dedicated clinic for Denturist students.

*Please check out our
2006-2007 Annual
Report at
www.cd.bc.ca*

Tail-End Insurance

All Registrants are required to carry professional liability (malpractice) insurance by the Bylaws so long as they are in active practice. The bylaws do not however, require coverage for individuals who no longer practice or retire from practice. Different insurers and different policies have different approaches to this situation. Some policies include, what is known as tail-end insurance while others specifically exclude any continuing coverage. Although the College does not anticipate changing the insurance requirement to include tail-end coverage, all Registrants should be familiar with their policy and, if it is not included, consider purchasing appropriate coverage. The nature of the issue is that most insurance ceases when coverage ceases regardless of whether the insurance was in effect when the service was provided. If a malpractice suit was filed by a patient after a Registrant ceases to practice, the retired member would face the total extent of costs and awards even though they were covered by a policy when they provided the service. With legal and court costs potentially running into six figures, any dreams of a comfortable retirement could soon be just that. In order to protect you and your family's future, please talk to your insurance provider about tail-end coverage.

Overview of Complaints April 2001 to March 2007



A Reflection from Silver Star

I thought I would relate a personal thought about how our relationships are enhanced not only professionally, but also personally, by attending meetings and especially conventions. While the exchange of technical and clinical information is undoubtedly an integral part of getting together (not to mention the continuing education credits), it is our sharing of personal and often humorous stories that contribute towards the greatest feeling of camaraderie.

While attending the last convention at Silver Star, I was seated at a table with a group of denturists I had never met. After initial introductions and completion of the workshop, we began to share stories about patients (you know the type) who either challenge you, or make you scratch your head and wonder why you chose to become a denturist in the first place. Nothing made us feel more human and closer as a group than the sharing of these stories. Whether you were a student, recent graduate, or seasoned practitioner, we could all relate. There was the case of the patient who upon receiving her new dentures, called a few days later to complain. There were no sore spots, no difficulty chewing or speaking, however, the patient was now experiencing difficulty with her hair!??? Then there was the case of the two elderly sisters who, due to financial constraints, were “sharing” a set of complete dentures.

The stories are endless and we all have them; so don't think that you're alone. I only wish that someone would compile them in a book some day.....hmmmmm.

Gary V. Feldman

Registrant Reminder !

The College's 3 year continuing education cycle will end on December 31, 2007.

Each Registrant must have obtained 5 continuing education credits in 2007 and must have obtained at least 30 credits in the previous 3 years.

Please refer to your College Bylaws, specifically section 45, for more information.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact the College office if you are unsure of your current continuing education status.

The Articulator is the newsletter of the College of Denturists of British Columbia. It is meant to provide information to Registrants, members of the public, and other organizations. In the event of a disagreement between information in this newsletter and the Health Professions Act, Denturist Regulation, bylaws, or policies of the College, the wording of the Act, Regulation, bylaws and policies take precedence. Letters and articles are welcome. The College serves the right to edit submissions for length or to refuse to publish any letter or article. Copyright August 2007. Visit www.cd.bc.ca for more information.

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