

# Council Highlights

Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta met in Edmonton on September 8 & 9, 2011. Significant outcomes of the meeting included:

## **Finance & Audit Committee**

Following extensive discussion and input from College executive, managers and the Finance and Audit Committee, Council agreed to set the annual member fee at \$1900 to achieve a balanced operating budget for 2012. Details of the budget, including context, drivers, and major revenue and expense areas, can be found in the October issue of *The Messenger* (due out October 4, 2011).

## **Buying vs Leasing Office Space**

Based on formal research that concluded there is a financial advantage to owning office space, Council approved the creation of a five-year Capital Reserve Fund which will see a portion of each year's annual fee designated to a building fund. For 2012, Council earmarked \$150 of the annual fee for this fund.

This decision is not a commitment to buy within five years but rather puts the College in a favorable position to purchase or build property when the right opportunity arises.

## **Sharing information to the Alberta Electronic Health Record (EHR)**

Council approved in principle a detailed Framework related to Alberta's EHR Regulation. The Framework outlines how the College will meet its mandate to support physicians in sharing patient information appropriately with authorized individuals via the Alberta EHR. The initial focus will be on primary care, and enhancing the safety, quality and continuity of care.

The College's Medical Informatics Committee will continue working on this Framework to support physicians and to ensure collaboration with other key groups.

## **Government Relations**

Council confirmed the College's approach to government relations, including the attendance at political functions for all political parties. For the College, this government relations activity will further its goal of being more visible, more strategic and an integral partner in the design and implementation of health care policy.

## **Strategic Plan Implementation**

Council approved in principle a draft document outlining how the College's management team will report on strategic plan targets and measures. The team will refine the document and report regularly to Council on its progress.

## **Regional Tour Program**

Council approved changes to the Regional Tour program that will see Council members be more active in reporting College activities. Ideas included hosting a panel presentation with other health organizations, regular College updates at monthly Zone and Forum meetings, and possible involvement as an observer on the Primary Care Network Committee. A more detailed plan will be presented at a future Council meeting.

## **Amendment to Registration criteria - English Proficiency**

Effective October 1, 2011, all applicants from non-English speaking countries must provide evidence of English proficiency. Only candidates with medical education and patient care experience in a country that has English as a first and native language will be exempt from English language proficiency testing.

## **Physician Prescribing Practices (PPP) Program – Rules for Participation**

Council approved updates to PPP rules surrounding retention of the physician copy of the Triplicate Prescription. The revised rules allow more options for physicians to manage and maintain medical

records, while ensuring effective tracking of the triplicate number.

## **Assessment and Competency Enhancement (ACE) Program**

Council approved a draft description and set of rules for the College's ACE program. A formal 60-day consultation process will now begin to collect feedback from the Minister of Health and Wellness and College members.

ACE assists regulated members (those with 'at risk' practices, or who are not meeting expected standards of care and conduct) to identify deficiencies in their practice and to improve their performance.

## **NHSF Procedures List**

Following recommendation from the Non-Hospital Surgical Facility (NHSF) Committee and the Medical Facility Assessment Committee, Council approved the addition of Lipectomy, Brachioplasty, Facial implants (chin, nasal & cheek) and Hysteroscopic Tubal Sterilization to the list of approved procedures in NHSFs.

## **Nominating Committee Terms of Reference**

Council approved changes to the Nominating Committee Terms of Reference which adds two non-Council members, and incorporates the roles and responsibilities of the current Recruiting Committee (which will retire in January 2012).

## **2013 Council Meetings**

Council approved the following dates for its 2013 meeting schedule: March 7-8; May 30-31; September 5-6; December 5-6.