Message from the Chair
Jill Rihela

On July 1, 2005, the College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia officially began its sixth year of operation. As I sat down to write my message, I could not help but take a brief stroll down memory lane reflecting on occupational therapists’ quest for self-regulation in British Columbia. It has been a long but rewarding one.

continued on page 2…
Message from the Registrar
Kathy Corbett
Reflecting on Continuing Competence

Competence refers to the capacity of an occupational therapist to integrate and apply the essential competencies required for safe, effective, and ethical practice in a designated role. The Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada describe the knowledge, skills and abilities required for practice. Continuing competence speaks to occupational therapists actively maintaining and enhancing their competence over the course of their professional life.

The college recently completed a pilot study to solicit feedback from registrants on the first component of its continuing competence program. Sixty-three registrants completed a self-assessment tool, and based on this exercise of reflecting on the essential competencies in the context of their practice they developed a professional development plan. Participants were also asked to rate the instruction guide and suggest supports the college might provide to assist registrants with continuing competence activities.

We are certainly encouraged by the initial results of the pilot study. Registrants confirmed that the self-assessment process was helpful in guiding reflection on the essential competencies and useful in identifying areas for growth. They also found the overall process relevant and meaningful to their practice. The Continuing Competence Committee is studying the results in detail, and will use the feedback to refine the tools before recommending the final version to the board for registrant distribution.

COTBC Update
The COTBC Update is published by the College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia.

2005 Board Members
Occupational therapists
Jill Ribela, Chair
Jeff Bomface
Jennifer Dickson
Caroline Elmann, Vice-chair
Jan Gauthier
Angenita Gerbracht
Public members
Lynda Casey
Mary O’Callaghan
Nancy Sheehan
Registrar
Kathy Corbett

The Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada – 2nd Edition (2003) describe the essential competencies and performance indicators required of an occupational therapist to practise in B.C. and serve as a platform for developing programs such as continuing competence, practice guidelines, and advisory statements. They were developed by the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO).

In the meantime, it is important that you understand the context, i.e. why the college is addressing continuing competence.

The public has a right to expect that occupational therapists demonstrate continuing competence throughout their careers. Indeed, the government recently underscored this accountability to the public by requiring self-regulating health professions to “establish and maintain a continuing competency program to promote high practice standards” [Health Professions Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 183, section 162(2)]. See page 11 for more details.

continued on page 4…

Message from the Chair
Celebrating Five Years of Service
Did you know?

• The British Columbia Society of Occupational Therapists (BCSOT) began to lobby the government for legislation to self-regulate in the early 1970s.

• In the mid 1980s, BCSOT joined forces with five health professional associations to strengthen our lobbying position with the government. They were the associations for respiratory therapists, dietitians and nutritionists, speech and language pathologists, cardio technologists and public health inspectors. We formed a collaboration called the B.C. Health Professionals Legislative Committee, on which I sat.

• In May 1988, the government responded to our request with a commitment to draft legislation for self-regulation. In the interim, BCSOT received protection of the title “Occupational Therapist” under the Society Act as well as authority to begin registering therapists. The registrar at this time was Susan Backman (now Gintrisoski), with our present registrar Kathy Corbett taking over in 1990 and continuing with BCSOT until 1997. Other registrars who followed included Catherine Backman and Yvonne Toep.

• More than 25 years later, in 1993, the Health Professions Act was proclaimed offering health professionals like occupational therapists the legal means to protect the public by regulating their practice. The first board of the College of Occupational Therapists of B.C. was appointed in December, 1998, chaired by Dawn Daechsel. The inaugural board, consisting of six registrants and three public members, had the mammoth task of laying the foundation necessary for registering over 1000 occupational therapists by July 1, 2000, and holding the first board election before the end of that year. The foundation building began by developing bylaws and gaining government approval, establishing full financial operations and hiring a registrar, all in a few short months.

From these few historic highlights, you can appreciate that the road to self-regulation has been a long and challenging one. I wish to thank the countless volunteers and staff, both occupational therapists and non-therapists for their vision, dedication and hard work in getting the college to where it is today – a healthy, vibrant organization fulfilling its mandate to provide a structured continuing competence approach. They asked: Don’t we trust that occupational therapists are responsible for maintaining and enhancing their own competence? Is the time spent on doing such a task worth it? How will this be monitored by the college? Can we be sure that all occupational therapists will have the insight to assess their performance?

These are all important questions. Registrants can be assured that these questions and others will be the subject of our ongoing discussions with you as we move to launch our first component and develop the other elements of the program over the next year.

In the meantime, it is important that you understand the context, i.e. why the college is addressing continuing competence.

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continued on page 4…

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- From these few historic highlights, you can appreciate that the road to self-regulation has been a long and challenging one. I wish to thank the countless volunteers and staff, both occupational therapists and non-therapists for their vision, dedication and hard work in getting the college to where it is today—a healthy, vibrant organization fulfilling its mandate to protect the public by regulating the practice of occupational therapy in British Columbia. A milestone provides an opportunity to take stock and celebrate accomplishments. To mark the occasion, the board approved a new design for the 2005-06 validation seal for your registration certificate. Registrants who have been registered for five years have received a new certificate. I encourage you to display your certificate in your workplace. Heighten the awareness among clients and colleagues that occupational therapy is a self-regulated profession.

- I look forward to seeing many of you at the November 5th annual general meeting. Mark your calendar, come and meet past board members, and enjoy the presentations and celebrations that are more stories to share and accomplishments to acknowledge.

...let’s celebrate!

Message from the Registrar
Kathy Corbett

Reflecting on Continuing Competence

Competence refers to the capacity of an occupational therapist to integrate and apply the essential competencies required for safe, effective and ethical practice in a designated role. The Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada describe the knowledge, skills and abilities required for practice. Continuing competence speaks to occupational therapists actively maintaining and enhancing their competence over the course of their professional life.

The college recently completed a pilot study to solicit feedback from registrants on the first component of its continuing competence program. Sixty-three registrants completed a self-assessment tool, and based on this exercise of reflecting on the essential competencies in the context of their practice they developed a professional development plan. Participants were also asked to rate the instruction guide and suggest supports the college might provide to assist registrants with continuing competence activities.

We are certainly encouraged by the initial results of the pilot study. Registrants confirmed that the self-assessment process was helpful in guiding reflection on the essential competencies and useful in identifying areas for growth. They also found the overall process relevant and meaningful to their practice. The Continuing Competence Committee is studying the results in detail, and will use the feedback to refine the tools before recommending the final version to the board for registrant distribution.

A few participants in the study wondered about the need for such a structured continuing competence approach. They asked: Don’t we trust that occupational therapists are responsible for maintaining and enhancing our own competence? Is the time spent on doing such a task worthwhile? How will this be monitored by the college? Can we be sure that all occupational therapists will have the insight to assess their performance?

These are all important questions. Registrants can be assured that these questions and others will be the subject of our ongoing discussions with you as we move to launch our first component and develop the other elements of the program over the next year.

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continued on page 4…
Reflecting on Continuing Competence

Given this, continuing competence programs can be viewed as a proactive way to promote the competence of all registrants. Our first component is based on a reflective practice approach: the review of one’s own application of the essential competencies in practice to determine learning needs, then developing a plan to address areas needing improvement. Self-determined activities are undertaken to gain new or update existing competencies required for quality occupational therapy practice. The responsibility for ensuring competent practice rests with the registrant.

The self-assessment and professional development plan is the first component of our program. For other continuing competence program components, we will continue to look to other health regulators’ experience and research, collaborate with other occupational therapy regulators in Canada, and, as we have with other initiatives, continue to engage registrants in the process.

I strongly believe that occupational therapists are committed to lifelong learning. This involves applying a current evidence-based approach to practice, as well as acquiring new skills when one’s practice context changes or trends influence service delivery. Clients trust that we keep our professional skills and knowledge current— that we know what we are doing!

Credible continuing competence programs are one way we earn the public trust in our ability to self-govern.

Acknowledging College Staff

If you contact the college, it is very likely you will talk either with Jill Langridge or Darlene Hay. Jill and Darlene provide valued support to the everyday functions that make our college operations smooth and efficient.

Jill, the executive assistant, focuses mainly on the registration process. She looks after everything from helping applicants (or renewing registrants) with their questions, to making sure all the required information is ready for the registration committee, to updating the database.

Darlene is our receptionist and office assistant, helping with such things as directing calls for quick responses, making sure committee materials get to members on time, preparing college mailings, and keeping our filing system up to date.

The quality of their work is outstanding and I know that without their contributions, I would not be as efficient in my role as registrar. I thank them for their tremendous energy, teamwork and dedication to excellence. It is a pleasure working with them.

Kathy Corbett, Registrar

Left, Jill Langridge, Executive Assistant to the Registrar and Darlene Hay, Receptionist and Office Assistant.

“...continued from page 3

Client Relations Committee

A new practice resource entitled Drawing the Line: Professional Boundaries to Prevent Misconduct of a Sexual Nature is currently being written and the first draft will be reviewed by the committee and board later this Fall. Content was developed from a review of other regulatory organizations’ approaches and feedback on the registrant survey and interactive workshop conducted at last year’s AGM. The document focuses registrants’ attention on the nature of a therapeutic professional relationship with respect to trust and responsibility that comes with being in a position of power due to therapists’ professional knowledge and skills. By taking this approach, the committee believes that it will reinforce registrants in understanding how sound, ethical practice builds a platform for prevention of sexual misconduct. This committee is chaired by Jan Gauthier; members include Lynda Casey, Erwin Fung, Tannis Romer, Allyson Muir and Registrar Kathy Corbett.

Code of Ethics Review Steering Panel

Over the past year, the panel conducted an environmental scan of current practices and issues surrounding professional codes of ethics. An initial draft was prepared and feedback obtained from the board at a facilitated session held during the September 24 board meeting. Results of this meeting were not available prior to press time. The feedback from the board session will result in a revised draft and confirmation of the plan for a wider advisory group consultation process. The steering panel includes members from the Quality Assurance and Client Relations Committee. It is chaired by Cathy Busby and Judi Moscovitch; members include Allyson Muir, Mary O’Callaghan, Susan Rechel and Registrar Kathy Corbett, as well as Dr. Jan Storch, an external ethics advisor and professor from the University of Victoria.

Standards Committee

Work on the college’s second practice guideline — Managing Client Information (working title only) is progressing well, with a draft expected to be provided to the board later this Fall. The committee has met face to face but also used peer-to-peer distance technology to discuss evidence relating to documentation and to review drafts in an attempt to reduce the costs associated with face-to-face meetings and more importantly, creates an archive of our process and evidence. This will be evaluated once this project is completed. The committee is chaired by Helen Turner; members include Sarah Bryant, Sandy Daughen, Suzanne Leach, Hilary MacInnis and Registrar Kathy Corbett.

Continuing Competence Committee

Results of the pilot study are being studied. The committee is very grateful to the 63 registrants (number received at press time) who completed the self-assessment tool and provided feedback regarding its usefulness in identifying areas of future growth. For further details, please read the Registrar’s Reflection beginning on page 3. The committee is chaired by Emma Christensen; members include Dawn Daechsel, Isabelle Biwott, Risa Greenwood, Jennifer Dickson and Registrar Kathy Corbett.

Interested in committee work?

Please complete the committee expression-of-interest form which can be downloaded from the COTBC web site. Be sure to indicate your area of interest.

Committee Quick Takes

Busy year ahead! A glance at the highlights of the committee activities below will reveal that registrants will likely see the launch of new guidelines and the first component of our continuing competence program over the next twelve months.

2005 Board Election Ballots Enclosed with this Issue

Please read the materials carefully. All candidates must be returned in the prescribed forms and no later than 4:00 p.m., on November 23, 2005. Those received after this date will not be counted. Ballots will be counted by November 25 and the candidates informed on November 28.

Many thanks to the Nominations Panel who work hard to ensure that registrants are aware of opportunities for participation in college activities, both at the board and committee level.
Reflecting on Continuing Competence

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Please read the materials carefully. All candidates informed on November 28. Election results will be posted on the COTBC web site the first week of December. The new board takes office on February 1, 2006. If you have any questions, please direct these to the COTBC office at 866-386-6822.

Many thanks to the Nominations Panel who work hard to ensure that registrants are aware of opportunities for participation in college activities, both at the board and committee level.
Fostering a Public Interest Perspective – How are We Doing?

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IS A SELF-REGULATING PROFESSION. OUR ENABLING LEGISLATION, THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, ENTRUSTS THE PROFESSION TO REGULATE ITSELF BY FULFILLING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO “SERVE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC”. THIS MEANS WE MUST ASSURE THE PUBLIC OF SAFE, COMPETENT AND ETHICAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, BUT ALSO RECOGNIZE OUR ULTIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.

The College of Registered Nurses of BC (former RNABC) frames the privilege of self-regulation and accountability to the public this way:

Self-regulation does not assume exclusive control by the profession. Legislation that incorporates appropriate principles for regulation, including meaningful and effective public participation in the process, is an important component of effective self-regulation. Government oversight of the profession’s regulatory functions and public representation in the decision-making process are key mechanisms to ensure that the profession remains accountable to society at large. (RNABC, 2000)

COTBC actively fosters a public interest culture in our organization. We start with a board and committee orientation focused on our public mandate. At meetings we model it by decisions based on furthering the public interest, and we reinforce it in our publications and presentations.

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Public Member Profiles

Nancy Sheehan

I love my life; I get to do what I love and be paid for it. I also recognize our ultimate accountability to the public. It assures the public of safe, competent and ethical occupational therapy, but also recognizes our ultimate accountability to the public.

Nancy retired in 2001 after 13 years as Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of B.C. In addition to her COTBC work, she takes on special projects such as a recent accreditation review for the Ontario College of Teachers. She was also invited to join the COTBC as an external member from January 1, 2001 to January 31, 2004.

Lynda Casey

IBC citizens have a right to safe, competent and ethical occupational therapy care, having a lawyer on the board is one way of ensuring that the public’s rights are not overlooked when developing processes for self-regulation. Lynda Casey has been a member of the Law Society of British Columbia for 24 years, and joined the board in the Fall of 2002. She is a sole practitioner, concentrating her practice in the areas of wills and estates, corporate-commercial and real estate. She does not act as legal counsel for COTBC but offers perspectives that are helpful to other board members, particularly in the area of legal process.

“I believe that self-regulation is important to a profession and that retaining that right should be taken seriously. I’m impressed with how the college has taken an active role in developing self-governing processes and resources. It’s a good position to be in, and they are not likely to lose the right to self-govern,” she noted.

Lynda feels the college has found innovative ways in which to fulfill its mandate in a financially responsible way.

“Sharing office space and staff with the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. (2000).

Reference

Registered Nurses Association of B.C. (2000). The Regulation of Nursing: Statement of Principles. Vancouver, BC: Author. (Note the RNABC is now the College of Registered Nurses of B.C.)
Fostering a Public Interest Perspective - How are We Doing?

Occupational therapy is a self-regulating profession. Our enabling legislation, the Health Professions Act, entrusts the profession to regulate itself by fulfilling its responsibilities to “serve and protect the public”. This means we must assure the public of safe, competent and ethical occupational therapy, but also recognize our ultimate accountability to the public.

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COTBC actively fosters a public interest culture in our organization. We start with a board and committee orientation focused on our public mandate. At meetings we model our decisions based on furthering the public interest, and we reinforce it in our publications and presentations.

The public perspective is reflected in both our board and committee structure. Three public members, appointed by government, serve on the board thereby actively participating in the decisions that guide the work of the college. A public member also serves on five of our seven committees – providing another level of public participation and direction for college activities. Their important role assists us to consider viewpoints other than that of the profession itself.

Our public members kindly agreed to provide their perspective on the college’s progress in our first five years and what may lie ahead.

Public Member Profiles

Nancy Sheehan

“I’ve been lucky, retirement offers us the power to do only that which we truly wish to do. Given this, the college is very fortunate that Nancy Sheehan chooses to stand as one of our public board members. Nancy retired in 2001 after 13 years as Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of B.C. In addition to her COTBC work, she takes on special projects such as a recent accreditation review for the Ontario College of Teachers of the teacher education program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Appointed by the B.C. government in 2001, Nancy began her third term this past January, marking four plus years with COTBC.

Nancy is not new to the workings of professional self-regulatory organizations. She spent 10 years on the board of the B.C. College of Teachers, appointed by the government as the academic representative. This college has 64,000 registrants compared to COTBC’s 1450 but, according to Nancy, the smaller number can have its advantages:

“...I’ve enjoyed the smaller board and it’s been easy to work with the occupational therapists who are organized and very process oriented. I think it’s part of their training - their goal is to find solutions and help people. With a small group which welcomed their establishment as a college the registrants looked to the work of the new college with interest and support.”

Nancy has noted other differences as well. For instance, many complaints investigated by the College of Teachers were of a sexual nature whereas no such complaints have been reported at COTBC. Nevertheless Nancy’s previous experience has been instrumental in helping to develop the college’s financial, organizational and inquiry policies and procedures.

“The college is very welcoming and has included me in all sorts of activities,” explained Nancy. As a result, Nancy feels that the college embraces the public members’ opinions and understands that the public plays a key role in the organization.

“When I first came onto the board, I knew very little about occupational therapy. I knew it was associated with physiotherapy due to the School of Rehabilitation Sciences at UBC,” she said. Nancy feels that the college has done an excellent job in its first five years, and now that the registration and other processes are in place it’s time to increase awareness of its public role. “One of the challenges the college faces now is to develop literature that will help the public to understand what occupational therapy does and how to access it. This is a long term but very important role for a regulatory body.”

In addition to her board responsibilities, Nancy sits on both the Inquiry and Registration Committees. She was also vice-chair of the board from February 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004.

Lynda Casey

“It is my belief that self-regulation is important to a profession and that retaining that right should be taken seriously. I’m impressed with how the college has taken an active role in developing self-governing processes and resources. It’s a good position to be in, and they are not likely to lose the right to self-govern,” she noted.

Lynda also feels the college has found innovative ways in which to fulfill its mandate in a financially responsible way. “Sharing office space and staff with the College of Dental Hygienists, and collaborating with other occupational therapy regulatory bodies across Canada have saved costs for registrants,” she explained.

Lynda, like Nancy, has also found occupational therapists to be process-oriented. She describes the occupational therapists she has met through the college as “very nice people, not emotional, resolving issues through process. It speaks well for the profession.” Lynda, however, would like to see them actively promoting their profession and raising their profile.

“Health care is becoming more and more important but I don’t think there is a high profile regarding what OT is all about, suggested Lynda. She also would like to see the profession adopt national standards and access so that Canadians can receive the same level of care regardless of where they live.”

For the college, Lynda believes it’s important that the inquiry processes are in place but sees the educational component as equally important.

“We need to support registrants as the environment changes. We have to give them the tools they need to deal with the changes and be forward-thinking so we fulfill our mandate of protecting the public.” This belief serves her and the college well as she sits on the Client Relations Committee which is working on the professional boundaries document that will help prevent misconduct of a sexual nature.

Lynda says she enjoys her participation in the college, meeting lots of people with different expertise and therefore differing points of view.

“It’s a good group to work with, and the active participation speaks well for the organization,” she concluded.

Non-public Members profiles continued on page 8…

References

Registered Nurses Association of B.C. (2000). The Regulation of Nursing: Statement of Principles. Vancouver, BC: Author. (Note the RNABC is now the College of Registered Nurses of B.C.)


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Visit us online @ www.cotbc.org Visit us online @ www.cotbc.org
Mary O’Callaghan

In a climate of increasing public accountability, risk management becomes extremely important so having a COTBC board member with this expertise is very advantageous. Mary O’Callaghan is a Senior Principal with KPMG Advisory Services in Vancouver, and joined the college board in 2002. Her day-to-day work involves advising companies on how to manage their business contacts, including by identifying their core business competencies and improving their effectiveness and efficiency. This has also involved strategic planning, and when the college requested a public member with experience in this area, Mary was appointed by the government.

“I understand the role of occupational therapy now as an integral part of the health-care team. It is a privilege to work with a motivated and smart board and registrar. The profession promotes itself by doing, and doing with integrity. They could be the ‘poster child’ for how a regulatory organization should be run,” concluded Mary.

Although due to other commitments Mary has to resign from the board effective January 31, 2006, she will continue to participate on the Quality Assurance Committee’s Code of Ethics Review Steering Panel.

Cancellations of Registration

Annual registration was completed by the end of August and the college would like to thank all registrants for facilitating a smooth registration process.

The college is legally required to maintain a current public register which provides for specific information about a registrant to be available to the public. This includes personal and business contact information. Each year, the college responds to an increasing number of requests from employers, clients and other organizations to verify a person is registered and is in good standing. The college has the right to know that their occupational therapist is registered and legally able to provide occupational therapy services and use title. Public notification of cancellations of registration is provided as a public service.

Please contact the college to confirm a person has been reinstated and is a registrant in good standing with the college. Status may have changed following the date of this publication.

Mary O’Callaghan

Building a new occupational therapy organization in B.C. cannot be done without dedicated board and committee members. Within the first five years, several enthusiastic occupational therapists representing all parts of B.C.’s workforce with the public members to make COTBC a college to be proud of, and occupational therapy a profession to count on.

Occupational therapy rose to a higher level of professional delivery through its effective self-regulation. It takes considerable time to build the public’s trust and it is important to guard it carefully. Those who worked tirelessly in these formative years took this privilege seriously. Mechanisms were carefully built to assure the residents of B.C. that those who use the title of occupational therapist and practise occupational therapy are qualified to provide safe, competent and ethical care.

COTBC has strong support from the government, the public and its registrants – an excellent position from which to begin its next five years.
Mary O’Callaghan

In a climate of increasing public accountability, risk management becomes extremely important so having a COTBC board member with this expertise is very advantageous. Mary O’Callaghan is a Senior Principal with KPMG Advisory Services in Vancouver, and joined the college board in 2002. Her day-to-day work involves advising companies on how to manage their business risks, for example by identifying their core business competencies and improving their effectiveness and efficiency. This has also involved strategic planning, and when the college requested a public member with experience in this area, Mary was appointed by the government.

“I understand the role of occupational therapy now as an integral part of the health-care team. It is a privilege to work with a motivated and smart board and registrar. The profession promotes itself with a motivated and smart board and registrar. The profession promotes itself with a strong brand and reputation as one of the best in the world.”

Mary has also been involved in the college’s strategic planning and participated in the development of the self-regulatory model. She feels it is crucial to maintain a strong board and the trust of the registrants so they will support the college if times tough times come.

How Far We’ve Come!

Building a new occupational therapy organization in B.C. cannot be done without dedicated board and committee members. Within the first few years, several enthusiastic occupational therapists representing all parts of B.C. worked with the public members to make COTBC a college to be proud of, and occupational therapy a profession to count on.

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Cancellations of Registration

Annual registration was completed by the end of August and the college would like to thank all registrants for facilitating a smooth registration process.

The college is legally required to maintain a current public register which provides for specific information about a registrant to be available to the public. This includes the public contact information, name, and

The following individuals were cancelled from the register as of September 30, 2005 by request of the registrar to be cancelled from the register:

Jennifer Anesty
A11626
Sharon Ansink
A19285
Lisa Bava
A11202
Karen Beck
A15553
Angela Bonville
A29976
Leanne Cleland
A15534
Margaret Cuff
A06906
Patricia Ryder
A10593
Manmeet Dhilion
A20235
Donna Dion
A22400
Margaret Dodson
A17648
Kate Donovan
A16647
Moya Doyle
A08880
Jody Edamura
A00520
Catherine Ellen
A25870
Wendy Ferguson
A05755
Michelle Ferguson
A09669
Carolina Flores (P)
A00068
Leanne Hounce
A10880
Anne Kirnchard
A09866
Megan Lilley
A12779
Collin Leung
A01015
Cindy Liu
A20515
Lou MacKey
A04155
Jannantin Mack (P)
A15597
Karen Martin
A26150
Gail McKenzie (P)
A01563
Twin Mills
A01649
Sherril Murray
A09702
Vianna Nadalin
A20504
Carolyn Neil
A10105
Marie Nelson
A01123
Jennifer Penn
A16089
Andrea Prager
A12567
Paola Purdon
A25997
Stephanie Rathenaert
A25597
Lisa Reade (P)
A12567
Ruth Wiltens
A25997
Alison Ritchie
A01593
Charlotte Roughledge
A25997
Jane Routledge
A25997
Paula Rowland
A25997
Robin Shervin
A25997
Munirah Shiji
A15589
Pamela Olsen
A15573
Rachel Slater
A25997
Corina Staibnby
A25997
Heather Stone
A25997
Karen Trenholm
A16089
Laurie Tulip
A16089
Carol Vickey
A16089
April Watson
A25997
Lisa Wood
A25997
Chiyomori Yatsu (P)
A16174
?(provisional registrant)

Non-practising Registrants

The following individuals currently hold non-practising status for 2005-2006:

Hans Adomeit
A01086
Lindsay Alford
A12004
Jacqueline Allen
A00084
Kim Bille
A27044
Sara Bishop
A01055
Holly Blackwell
A18130
Melanie Bos
A11064
Dian Boudreau
A00084
Teresa Bouchard
A18130
Donna Bramston
A00084
Donna Brown
A00084
Suzanne Bruton-Tooms
A00084
Roberta
A00084
Patricia Bustramante
A02389
Marianne Catherin
A11023
Darlene Clarke
A27044
Patricia Conrad
A21913

Individuals named must apply and have their registration reinstated from the college before resuming use of title and continuing to provide occupational therapy services and use title. Public notification of cancellations of registration is provided as a public service.

Please contact the college to confirm a person has been reinstated and is a registrant in good standing with the college.

Status may have changed following the date of this publication.

Visit us online at www.cotbc.org

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Update on ACOTRO – Our National Connection

On the Making of a National OT Supply-Based Database

Presently, the profession does not have the ability to tabulate the number of occupational therapists eligible to work in Canada.

Last Fall, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), which had previously developed national databases for physicians and regulated nursing professions, announced that they had received funding from Health Canada for a Health Human Resource Database Development Project to address information gaps by developing national, supply-based reporting systems for five health professions. Occupational therapy was identified along with pharmacology, medical radiation technology and medical laboratory technology. The project for occupational therapy includes phased development over a thirty-four month period, from the initial meeting held in January 2005 to October 2007, when the first report will be published.

CIHI will be developing and maintaining the new national health human resource database; however CIHI’s function as a data custodian ensures that ownership of the collected data always remains with the original data provider. COTBC will be one of the data providers.

CIHI is a recognized leader in the collection and dissemination of health information, and a large part of its success is the ability to effectively address issues around privacy, confidentiality and data quality.

The Health Human Resources Databases Development Project will result in the creation of a national occupational therapy database that will support health human resource monitoring and evaluation, planning, research and policy activities, by providing a new source of timely, quality information in a very important part of the health delivery system: occupational therapists.

Excerpt from Barb Worth, registrar, College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) published in On the Record Winter 2005, COTO.

COTBC Registrar’s Note: The COTBC is collaborating on this project with all the other provincial OT regulators along with CIHI to aim at “harmonizing” the data we will collect and report to CIHI. The work is in the early stages and this phase is focused on reaching agreement on the data elements we will collect and report on. This may ultimately change the manner in which we currently collect information.

Collaborating on a National Database of Education Resources

In the Spring of 2004, ACOTRO joined with other national organizations1 to develop a national database of continuing professional education resources. This database, OT Education Finder, is accessible to any occupational therapists seeking resources to update their skills and knowledge. Situated on the COT website at www.cotbc.ca, registrants can search for resources in several ways such as keyword, location, cost and essential competencies. Once learners have identified their learning needs, for example by using the college’s self-assessment tool currently being pilot tested, they can use OT Education Finder to locate resources ranging from journal articles to doctorate programs.

There is no cost to search for resources. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy organizations are encouraged to post resources. There is also no cost to post free resources, and other posting fees are reasonable and designed to cover the ongoing maintenance of the database. All resources are screened prior to being included in the database.

Legislation Updates – Changes to the Health Professions Act

Quality Assurance Program to be Required

[Health Professions Act – Section 26.1]

Recent amendments to the Health Professions Act2 will require health regulatory colleges to establish a program of quality assurance. While the college already has a Quality Assurance Committee and has articulated a quality assurance program philosophy and principles, the mandate and role of the committee will change.

The amendment also provides authority for the assessment of professional performance of registrants using assessors appointed by the quality assurance committee. If following the assessment there is a deficiency identified in the manner in which a registrant’s practice is being conducted, the quality assurance committee may recommend practice improvement through training, education, examinations or other remediation activities.

As of now, the government has not proclaimed this section to be in force. This provides time for the COTBC to plan for the change, work with other health regulators and research the best approach for our profession.

Also, in response to this amendment, the Health Regulatory Organizations of B.C. partnered to commission a report on quality assurance in health professions regulation. The 2005 report, Quality Assurance in the Regulation of Health Professions in British Columbia: Philosophical Approach, Principles and Assumptions, will be used by B.C. health regulators to guide development of quality assurance programs. The report was also submitted to the Ministry of Health to serve as a potential springboard for discussions on model bylaws and to provide our perspective on the task ahead for regulators.

Self-Assessment Information to be Protected

[Health Professions Act – Section 26.2]

Amendments in this section will provide protection for registrants around the use and disclosure of information provided or gathered as part of the quality assurance program.

Confidentiality of self-assessment prepared by a registrant for the purpose of continuing competence program is protected.

In addition, information or a self-assessment prepared for the purposes of a quality assurance program or continuing competence program may not be received as evidence in a proceeding under the Health Professions Act (such as Inquiry or Disciplinary) or in a civil proceeding.

1Health Professions Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 181.

CAOT Exam Results

If you still hold a provisional practicing registration and have received your exam results from CAOT please be sure to forward the results to the college. Your registration status will be changed to full registration and the condition requiring that you practise under general supervision will be removed. A new registration card and your registration wall certificate will also be provided.

In the event that you were unsuccessful in passing the exam, please be sure to notify the college.

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Address Changes – Let us Know!

Keeping all your contact information up to date is a critical component of registration.

It is your responsibility to ensure your contact information is accurate and current. Up-to-date contact information ensures college mailings are received in a timely manner. Also, COTBC is required under the Health Professions Act to maintain a public register. Information on the status of your registration is accessible to the public by contacting the college. The Act mandates that the register include the registrant’s name, business address and business telephone number.

The college provides members of the public with your registration status, business address and business telephone number when requests for information are received. If you are self-employed, be advised that business contact information (even if it is the same as your personal contact information) is disclosed on the public register.

To update your registrant file, please provide the information in writing via mail, fax or email message to registration@cotbc.org.

How to reach us
Kathy Corbett, Registrar
Jill Langridge, Executive Assistant
Darlene Hay, Receptionist and Office Assistant

Telephone 250-386-6822
Toll Free in B.C. 866-386-6822
Fax 250-383-4144
Email info@cotbc.org
Web www.cotbc.org
For registration questions: registration@cotbc.org

Upcoming events
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, November 5, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel
Richmond, B.C.

Board Meetings
Friday, November 4, 2005
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Richmond, B.C.

Elections
Completed ballots due at COTBC office November 23, 2005, 4:00 p.m.

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to
COTBC
Suite 219 – 645 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1G2

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