
ANNUAL

REPORT

1993

**Alberta
College
of
Optometrists**

I N D E X

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1993 - 1994 COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Dr. G. Lyn Graham
Chairman
Edmonton

Dr. D. Tom Lampard
Past Chairman
Red Deer

Dr. Richard E. McCormack
Vice Chairman
Edmonton

Dr. Shawn P. Rooney
Secretary-Treasurer
Edmonton

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Dr. Daniel M. Holyk
Calgary

Dr. Robert B. Erlandson
Lethbridge

Dr. Mona Purba
Calgary

REGISTRAR

Dr. Al A. Starko
Edmonton

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present to Government the first Annual Report of the Alberta College of Optometrists.

Amendments to the Optometry Profession Act in 1992 allowed for the formation of the Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) to function as a separate entity from the Alberta Association of Optometrists (AAO).

Our mandate is to protect the interests of the public and to this end much of our first year was spent defining and redefining existing Regulations; designing and implementing position papers; and establishing current standards of practice guidelines for use by optometrists. We also administered examinations for optometrists wishing to become licensed to practice and become TPA certified in the province. Many of these tasks began prior to the ACO-AAO division and were successfully completed by the ACO under the direction of the Past Chairman, Dr. Tom Lampard.

The ACO continues to evolve and looks forward to continued co-operation with Government in our common goal of providing the best possible level of eyecare to Albertans.

Ongoing discussions with Government concerning legislative changes to our Act; changes to the parameters of investigation by the Practice Review Board and continual updating of what is considered current and acceptable standards in advertising all took up a certain amount of the ACO Council's time. However, the majority of time was spent researching and planning how our profession would deal with utilization of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (TPAs). These matters included the establishment of standards required for an optometrist to become TPA certified; discussing the appropriate means of achieving those standards with our members; assistance in organizing the 100 hour TPA course in conjunction with the Alberta Association of Optometrists; setting and proctoring and notifying our members of the results of the examination; and working with the Government Eyecare Discipline Advisory Committee (EDAC) to develop a position paper recommending changes in legislation permitting the

optometric use of TPAs.

Although many have been involved in the TPA initiative, a few of our members deserve special mention: Dr. Gordon Hensel did a great deal of the organizational work for our TPA course; and Dr. Perry Wilson continues to work with the EDAC on behalf of the College. Both members volunteered an extraordinary amount of extra time on behalf of our profession.

It speaks highly of our profession that a full two thirds of our membership received TPA certification in the first year that such certification was made available in Alberta.

I also wish to express my gratitude to the past and present ACO Councils who have given of their time to assist in reaching the aforementioned objectives as well as day-to-day College administration. My thanks are also extended to Dr. Al Starko, ACO Registrar, who continues to add his experience and expertise to this position.

The continued improvement in the required standards of optometric practice can only better serve the needs of Albertans throughout the province. It remains the ACO's intent to maintain and to continue to improve these standards on behalf of our citizens.

G. Lyn Graham, O.D.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The Communications and Public Relations Division is responsible for both internal and external communications.

These responsibilities include keeping members informed about College activities on an ongoing basis. This may involve newsletter-type publications and circulation of individual memos as the need arises.

External communications include release of information to and responding to requests and questions from individuals, groups, government and other professional associations.

The most recent project has been the publication of an information pamphlet entitled "In Your Best Interest" for use by individual practitioners, consumer groups and Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The pamphlet outlines the College's public responsibilities which include dispute resolution, maintenance of standards of practice, licensing requirements and discipline functions.

M. K. Purba, O.D.
Director
Communications and Public Relations Division

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Members: Dr. Robert A. DeMara, Chairman
Dr. David R. Bickell
Dr. Dennis A. Heimdahl
Dr. Neil N. Starko

The Discipline Committee was directed by the Registrar of the Alberta College of Optometrists to conduct two Hearings in 1993. In accordance with the amendments to the new Optometry Profession Act, these Hearings were held "in public" as opposed to "in camera" as was the experience in the past. The effects of these changes allows any interested members of the public to attend discipline hearings. The intent is to promote accountability for all involved parties.

Two matters appearing before the Discipline Committee dealt primarily with inappropriate billings to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). In the first matter, the accused optometrist was found guilty on charges of billing AHCIP for a service on a day other than when the service was performed. In the second matter, the accused optometrist was found guilty of billing AHCIP and patients in an inappropriate manner; including billings for partial exams and single procedures when no evidence of doing so was found on patient records or could be substantiated by the accused.

The Discipline Committee feels these types of billing infractions are of the most serious nature and, as such, have handed down maximum fines and stipulated repayment to AHCIP for those fees obtained in an inappropriate manner.

Both cases were appealed to the ACO Council. The ACO Council upheld the ruling of the Discipline Committee in the first matter while the second matter will be heard on appeal by the ACO Council in 1994.

Robert A. DeMara, O.D.
Chairman

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

OPTOMETRIC ETHICS COMMITTEE

Members: Dr. Allan H. MacKenzie, Chairman
Dr. Kenneth W. Gellatly
Dr. Steven W. Krein
Dr. Dennis A. Heimdahl

The following list itemizes the inquiries and requests submitted to and dealt with by the Optometric Ethics Committee in 1993:

[a]	Media announcements (i.e. newspapers)	2
[b]	Tradenames submitted for approval	9
[c]	Signage (content and size) requests for approval	6
[d]	Yellow Page listings (box ads, content, listings under optician section, logos submitted for approval)	9
[e]	Media advertising (brochures, professional cards, mail drops)	5

The Optometric Ethics Committee also reviewed the existing guidelines for Yellow Page advertising and the use of tradenames.

Allan H. MacKenzie, O.D.
Chairman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD

Members: Dr. Dennis N. Twerdun, Chairman
Dr. Len R. Bistriz
Dr. Gordon Hensel
Dr. Rod Huszar
Dr. Dave Koopman
Dr. Richard Paziuk
Dr. David Schmidt

It is anticipated that all ACO members will have been reviewed by the Practice Review Board (PRB) by mid 1994. Individuals who graduated in 1993 and who began practice in Alberta after July were not reviewed in 1993. New grads will be added to the random selection list in 1994 after they have been in practice for at least a twelve month period.

The PRB will begin the second round of reviews of all practitioners in the province sometime after the scheduled May, 1994 PRB Meeting. A five year rotation list will be incorporated at that time. As well, a computerized data base is being implemented to track all subsequent reviews. This data base will be kept at the ACO office and it is hoped this will improve the present recordkeeping system utilized by the PRB. A more accurate assessment of the review to final disposition will in the future be tracked via an individualized computer program.

The amalgamation of the PRB and the Facilities Assessment Committee as per the terms of the new Optometry Profession Act necessitated new report forms. Two formats will now be incorporated into one and, in the future, will be used by PRB members conducting practice reviews.

A draft of a PRB directive regarding therapeutic pharmaceutical agents and vision therapy will be finalized in 1994, will be presented to the ACO Council for approval, and subsequently circulated to all ACO members.

Dennis N. Twerdun, O.D.
Chairman

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

[a] 1993 Membership Statistics

[i]	Active Members.....	225
	[Male = 194 Female = 31]	
[ii]	Part-time Members.....	9
	[Male = 6 Female = 3]	
[iii]	Non-active Members.....	34
	[Male = 24 Female = 10]	
[iv]	Visiting Project Optometrist.....	1
	[Male = 0 Female = 1]	

[b] Summary of Complaints

Two formal complaints regarding inappropriate billing practices were initiated and investigated in 1992/93. These complaints have been referred to the Discipline Committee for hearing.

The orders resulting from these two separate discipline hearings are in the process of appeal initiated by the practitioners involved in each case. These appeals have not been concluded as of December 31st, 1993.

No new formal complaints have been lodged with the Registrar in 1993. However, the ACO handled 43 grievances in 1993. These grievances were referred to Grievance Chairmen located throughout the province in various regions. Most cases were resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

The Grievance Chairmen are:

Dr. Barry Nolt, Edmonton and area north
(including Red Deer)

Dr. Alan Jones, Calgary and area

Dr. Doug Howes, Lethbridge/Medicine Hat

Al A. Starko, O.D.
Registrar

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Registration Committee consists of the following members:

Dr. Larry Kanters, Chairman
Dr. Bob DeMara
Dr. Don Martin
Dr. Laurie Newman
Dr. Dan Holyk

(after November 1st, 1993)

Dr. Laurie Newman, Chairman
Dr. Bob DeMara
Dr. Don Martin
Dr. Cindy Kruschel

In June, 1993 the Committee examined a record total of 19 candidates who had applied to challenge the Alberta College of Optometrists Registration Examinations. The examinations consisted of five 3 hour exams in each of the following subject areas: Clinical Optometry; Pathology; Physiological Optics; Embryology and Physiology; and Optometrical Optics. In addition, examinations were also held in the following subject areas: Identifying pathology via slides; juris prudence respecting the Optometry Profession Act; and a practical patient clinical examination.

Of the 19 candidates who challenged the exam, one candidate did not complete the examinations; three candidates failed one 3 hour exam; two candidates failed two 3 hour exams; three candidates failed 3 or more exams; and one candidate failed the patient practical exam.

Candidates who passed all components of the registration examinations were invited to apply for licenses with the Alberta College of Optometrists if all other requirements for registration were met. Those candidates who failed one or two segments of the three hour comprehensive examinations were invited to write supplemental exams on September 10th,

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

1993. The candidate who failed the patient practical examination undertook re-examination in mid-October, 1993.

The three candidates who failed three or more parts of the Registration Examinations were informed they may reapply to challenge the exams after a period of one year. One candidate appealed the Registration Committee decision to the College Council. The Council upheld the Registration Committee initial decision.

The Registration Committee met in the Fall of 1993 to discuss revisions to the registration process. Recommendations will be submitted to the Alberta College of Optometrists in 1994.

Larry Kanters, O.D.
Past Chairman
and
Laurie Newman, O.D.
Chairmen

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

UNIVERSITIES CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

The Universities Co-ordinating Council (UCC) Committee consists of the following members:

Dr. Ben Doz, ACO Representative
Dr. Don LeDrew, ACO Representative
Dr. Al Starko, ACO Registrar
Dr. John Kuspira, Academic Representative
Mr. Larry Henderson, Government Personnel

The UCC conducted a review of the academic credentials submitted by applicants wishing to write the Alberta Registration Examinations in June, 1993. Nineteen applicants submitted their credentials and all applicants were approved to sit the exams.

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENT**

Alberta College of Optometrists

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended

December 31st, 1993

Gardiner Karbani Audy + Partners

Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the
Alberta College of Optometrists:

We have audited the balance sheet of Alberta College of Optometrists as at December 31, 1993 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the College's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College as at December 31, 1993, and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

*Gardiner Karbani Audy
+ Partners*

March 9, 1994
Edmonton, Alberta

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 1993

ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash		\$
Temporary investments, Note 2		9,444
Total current assets		<u>85,275</u>
Capital Assets, Note 3		94,719
		<u>13,231</u>
		<u>107,950</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable		16,398
Deferred revenue		<u>27,653</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>44,051</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Balance, beginning of year		-
Excess of revenues		<u>63,899</u>
Balance, end of year		<u>63,899</u>
		<u>107,950</u>

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL:

Chairman

Secretary-Treasurer

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 1993

	Actual	Budget	Variance Favourable (Unfavourable)
	\$	\$	\$
Revenues:			
Member dues	201,491	198,805	2,686
Professional corporation dues	9,685	7,000	2,685
Examination and registration fees	10,909	4,000	6,909
Interest	7,752	3,000	4,752
Contribution from Alberta Association of Optometrists, Note 4	<u>50,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>47,000</u>
	<u>279,837</u>	<u>215,805</u>	<u>64,032</u>
Expenditures:			
Administrative and executive, Schedule I	191,341	190,500	(841)
College committees, Schedule II	21,289	14,200	(7,089)
Amortization	<u>3,308</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>4,192</u>
	<u>215,938</u>	<u>212,200</u>	<u>(3,738)</u>
Excess of revenues	<u>63,899</u>	<u>3,605</u>	<u>60,294</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

Detailed Schedules of Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 1993

SCHEDULE I

Administrative and Executive:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Variance Favourable (Unfavourable)
	\$	\$	\$
Annual general meeting	5,985	6,000	15
Audit and accounting	3,000	3,000	-
Bank charges	98	100	2
Computer maintenance	1,882	3,000	1,118
Contingency	-	10,000	10,000
Council travel, accommodation and per diem	9,169	17,000	7,831
Insurance	1,026	1,900	874
Legal	72,405	36,500	(35,905)
Office supplies	4,262	8,000	3,738
Postage and courier	2,626	4,000	1,374
Printing	3,807	5,000	1,193
Rent	11,983	12,000	17
Telephone	5,416	6,000	584
Think Tank	4,878	3,000	(1,878)
Wages, benefits and subcontract	<u>64,804</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>10,196</u>
	<u>191,341</u>	<u>190,500</u>	<u>(841)</u>

SCHEDULE II

College Committees:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Variance Favourable (Unfavourable)
	\$	\$	\$
Communications	140	-	(140)
Discipline	5,749	2,500	(3,249)
Ethics	133	-	(133)
Legislative	2,877	-	(2,877)
Practice Review Board	2,071	7,000	4,929
Registration	10,319	4,000	(6,319)
Universities Coordinating Council	-	700	700
	<u>21,289</u>	<u>14,200</u>	<u>(7,089)</u>