

Membership Update 2015

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President's Message

As I start my second year as President, I think I'm getting the hang of it! A lot of work (and a challenge for someone with procrastination traits), but a real opportunity to stay abreast of national issues in occupational medicine, work with (and learn from) great colleagues on important issues, and raise the profile of OMSOC and the specialty of occupational medicine, nationally and internationally.

Warm regards,

Ken

2016 Working Groups

Since our Board and Annual General Meetings in September 2015, the Executive has provided support for our four Working Groups for 2016:

Review of Membership Categories

The Executive has proposed that our current membership categories be collapsed so that all specialists practicing occupational medicine in Canada be eligible for membership with voting privileges, in the hope we could recruit additional members, with attendant experience, professional networks, and skills to support the activities of OMSOC. Polarized views on this issue remain - [Aaron Thompson](#) will chair a review of this issue and report his findings to the Board, with consideration of a vote at the next AGM.

Licensure and Liability with Interprovincial Occupational Medicine Consulting

Many of our members provide opinions on fitness assessments, medical surveillance results, and disability claims for employees living outside of their province(s) of licensure – raising questions about licensure and liability. This issue has turned out to be quite complex, with differing opinions expressed by the provincial medical colleges. [Steve Tsekrekos](#) will chair a review of this issue, with consideration of a membership survey in 2016, and report his findings to the Board.

Practice Profile Survey

The results of our 2015 Survey were presented at the September AGM with excellent comments and input received from the membership. Ken Corbet, Anil Adishes, and Louis Patry will review data and analysis, with the aim of posting the results on the OMSOC website by the end of Q1 2016.

Governance

[Ken Corbet](#) and the Executive, with the support of Secretariat Central, will address a number of internal OMSOC matters and report to the Board. Key issues include a review and update of Bylaws, Directors' and general liability policies and premiums, task descriptions and guidelines for the Executive, Board, and Standing Committee Chairs.

Committee Update

Continuing Professional Development Committee

The position of Chair for this committee remains vacant - the Executive will prepare a description of the CPD Chair's responsibilities and poll the membership for nominations, with review and appointment by the Board. The Royal College CPD Accreditation Committee has granted OMSOC provisional 2-year limited accredited CPD provider status - a teleconference is planned for January 2016 to address the areas of deficiency identified by College.

Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

Of the revisions to 37 of the Medical Council of Canada *Objectives for the Qualifying Examination* submitted by the committee, 22 were accepted – congratulations to [Martine Baillargeon](#) and her team for this accomplishment! Martine now sits on the Council's PHELO test committee and, should a vacancy arise, OMSOC will seek a member to serve on the Internal Medicine test committee as well. The Committee will continue to champion OMSOC's submission to the AFMC *Primer on Population Health* textbook.

International Occupational Medicine Societies Collaborative (IOMSC)

Ken Corbet and Joan Saary attended the IOMSC teleconference on November 12, 2015. Final versions of three documents were released; these have been reviewed by the OMSOC and approved for posting on our website:

- The history of occupational and environmental medicine
- The training of occupational medical practitioners
- Roles and responsibilities of occupational medicine specialty societies

The next meeting of IOMSC will be September 15 & 16, 2016 in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

CMA Specialist Forum

The Canadian Medical Association's twice-yearly Specialist Forum has been discontinued in favour of a more cost- and time-efficient Stakeholder Engagement Framework – engaging National Specialty Societies as content experts through consultations, working groups, and task forces. This model will be piloted and adjusted as necessary in 2016 – Ken Corbet will participate in a webinar to discuss this new model in Q1 2016.

OMSOC in 2016: Key Dates

February 2016: Membership Renewal

Expect an email inviting you to renew your membership. You can help keep our costs to a minimum by responding quickly. Thank you in advance for supporting OMSOC!

March - June 2016: Conference and AGM Planning

OMSOC will conduct a learning needs assessment and plan its 2016 conference and annual general meeting. We need your help - please give careful consideration to the needs assessment survey you will receive – it is key driver for the conference curriculum.

2-4 December 2016: Conference and AGM

OMSOC will hold its 2016 conference and annual general meeting in conjunction with the New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, a repeat of very successful joint meeting in 2012. Content and particulars to follow.

Upcoming Conferences

February 12-13, 2016

[Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring.](#)

University of California San Francisco

March 10-12, 2016

[Toxic Substances in the Workplace and the Environment & Updates in Occupational and Environmental Medicine](#)

University of California San Francisco

April 10-13, 2016

[American Occupational Health Conference](#)

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Chicago, Illinois.

June 20-23, 2015

[PREMUS 2016](#)

9th International Scientific Conference on the Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders

Toronto, Ontario

Holiday Wishes

On behalf of the Executive and the Board, I wish all our members and their families a happy and safe holiday season, a time for all of us to reflect, recoup, and recharge.

-Ken