

Membership Update

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Membership Renewal and Recruitment Drive

A total of 40 OMSOC members have renewed for 2016 – the Board approved a deadline date of May 31, 2016, and final reminders will be sent to those members who have not yet renewed. Recruitment letters have been sent to all non-member Royal College fellows, and a French version has been sent to all Quebec Collège des médecins OM specialists for whom we have contact information. The three OM residency program directors will also be contacted, inviting their residents to become members of OMSOC.

Continuing Professional Development Committee

Mike Schweigert (as outgoing Chair) and Ken Corbet had a teleconference with the Royal College CPD Accreditation Committee in January 2016 to address the areas of deficiency in the OMSOC application identified by College. A description for the position of Chair was approved at the April 2016 Board meeting and has since been forwarded to all members with a request for volunteers for a two-year term. Nominations received by the Executive will be forwarded to the Board for appointment in June 2016.

Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

Martine Baillargeon and her committee have written a letter outlining their concerns about the occupational medicine content of the Primer on Population Health, and await a formal reply. Martine continues as a member of the PHELO examination committee (Population Health, Ethics, Legal and Organizational) and is exploring the possibility and process of appointing an OMSOC member to the Internal Medicine examination committee. The Committee continues its work on a Canadian UME curriculum in occupational medicine.

2016 OMSOC Working Groups

Practice Profile Survey – Ken Corbet, Louis Patry, and Anil Adishes continue to review data and analysis from the Survey, with the aim of posting a report on the OMSOC website by the end of June 2016. An analysis of ‘early career’ respondents will then be undertaken – we hope these results will be of particular interest to the OM residency training program directors.

Review of Membership Categories – at the April 2016 Board meeting, Aaron Thompson presented a two-page document describing the benefits and drawbacks of allowing *all* specialists practicing occupational medicine in Canada to be eligible for OMSOC membership with voting privileges. Polarized views on this issue remain: increased membership revenue is less important than the skills, experience, and professional networks that these potential members could contribute to OMSOC. There is strong consensus that OMSOC’s role as the NSS cannot be compromised by a change in membership definitions. Aaron and Ken will continue to define this issue, with the possibility of a membership vote later in 2016.

Licensure and Liability issues relating to Interprovincial OM consulting – Steve Tsekrekos and his committee prepared a background paper for the April 2016 Board meeting and have prepared a letter for the provincial medical colleges that describes in detail the nature of ‘interprovincial’ OM consulting. A clear and concise response has been received from the Alberta College, and the BC, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland colleges are next on the list. A short membership survey is planned for June 2016; this project also has potential as a MOC Section 3 Learning Activity at our conference in December 2016.

Website Report

Bruce McGoveran and the Secretariat Central have prepared a detailed work outline and budget for review and approval by the Board in June 2016. This proposal includes the ‘interim’ hosting of learning resources from the Ontario Champions program; OMSOC will seek funding for this portion of our website from Ontario WSIB when contracts for each of the Ontario medical schools are renewed in 2018.

Royal College Specialty Committee in Occupational Medicine

As previously announced, Mike Schweigert has been appointed as Chair of the Committee for a further two-year term (2016-2018). Jalees Razavi has been appointed as Chair-elect, and Joan Saary will continue as a Regional Representative and OMSOC Observer. The Royal College has initiated discussions about changing the name of the specialty to include ‘environmental’ medicine – OMSOC awaits a formal invitation for comment, and we anticipate polling our members for input, as this may warrant a change in the name of our association.

International Occupational Medicine Societies Collaborative (IOMSC)

Three IOMSC papers have been finalized, distributed to member organizations, and approved by the OMSOC Board 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

Ken Corbet and Joan Saary attended the IOMSC teleconference in March 2016 – final drafts of an IOMSC Constitution and the 2015 IOMSC Survey Report have been sent for comment to member societies – the ‘societal needs’ framework used by OMSOC for its 2015 Survey has been specifically referenced in the IOMSC report. IOMSC is preparing a paper based on the survey for publication by the end of 2016. The next meeting of IOMSC is on September 15-16, 2016 in Amsterdam, Netherlands – Ken Corbet and Joan Saary will attend and have been invited to present key findings from the OMSOC 2015 Survey to our international colleagues.

In Memoriam

Professor J Corbet McDonald passed away peacefully in Montréal on April 25th 2016, at the age of 98 years. Dr. McDonald was the founding Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and created the Institute of Occupational Health, serving as Director for many years. Dr. McDonald had an eclectic research career with notable contributions in the area of asbestos and health and health services research. He played a major role in modernizing the Québec Public Health System in the early 1970s through his contribution to the Castonguay Commission.

Upcoming Conferences

June 20-23, 2016 - [PREMUS 2016](#) - 9th International Scientific Conference on the Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders. Toronto, Ontario

August 7-9, 2016 - [71st Annual International Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man](#) (INCDNCM) University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Zoonotic diseases are the major focus of the meeting, which serves as a research forum for physicians, scientists, veterinarians, specialists and public health professionals. Symposia will focus on all aspects of emerging infectious diseases in humans and animals.

September 24-26, 2016 – [Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association Annual Conference](#) – Tucson, Arizona.

September 25 –27, 2016 – [Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada 34th Annual Scientific Conference](#) - The Westin Resort and Spa, Whistler, BC.

December 2-4, 2016 – Occupational Medicine Specialists of Canada Conference and AGM – being held in conjunction with the [New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine](#). Content and particulars to follow.

Regulatory Consultations

Ontario Ministry of Labour - [Proposed changes affecting the control of hazardous substances under the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#). This consultation relates predominantly to occupational hygiene and occupational exposure limits, but includes respiratory protection programs (“the worker must be physically able to perform the work while wearing a respirator”) and reducing the periodicity of asbestos exams to every five years. The OMSOC Executive encourages any member with an interest in these topics to provide comment.

Job Postings

Medical Director – Aberdeen, Scotland. Permanent, full-time position in the Oil and Gas sector, reporting to the Medical Director, Occupational Health Europe: medical advisory services, including offshore medic support, medical fitness to work programs, technical consultations, clinical assessments, health screening and surveillance, and support for business development initiatives in the UK Oil and Gas sector. For full details, contact:
James Baron +44(0)1727 817 643 jbaron@keypeople.co.uk

Shell Canada - Occupational Health Physician - Fort McMurray, AB – Full-time position based at Albian Sands North of Fort McMurray, eligible for Fly-in/Fly-out (based out of Calgary or Edmonton) if the successful candidate prefers not to relocate to Fort McMurray, AB. Please refer to the [Shell Canada Job Posting](#) for full details and contact information.

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control - Public Health/Occupational physician - Environmental Health Services – Vancouver, BC. For full details, please contact:

Dr. Tom Kosatsky
Medical Director, Environmental Health Services (EHS)
Ph: 604-707-2447
Email: Tom.Kosatsky@bccdc.ca

Choosing Wisely Canada

Joan Saary continues as our OMSOC champion for the Choosing Wisely Canada initiative and attended the inaugural Choosing Wisely Canada (CWC) National Meeting in Toronto on March 30th, 2016. Andre Picard, health columnist at The Globe and Mail, and Daniel Wolfson, Executive Vice President of the ABIM Foundation, were two of the keynote speakers. It was a well-attended event with 300 representatives from Specialty Societies, health informatics, healthcare organizations, and researchers.

Choosing Wisely Canada:

- has been endorsed by all provincial and territorial medical associations
- is now a truly national campaign in Canada and has spread to over 15 other countries with Canada leading the international effort
- is working with Canadian medical schools to introduce new content into the undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education curricula
- Is exploring further partnerships with Canadian health care organizations

A process of review of the OMSOC recommendations is underway - many thanks to Aaron Thompson and Ray Copes for their assistance with this process.

[Choosing Wisely Canada Website](#)

[Choosing Wisely Canada Patient Website](#)

The Alberta Medical Association [CWC Webpage](#) provides an example of how provincial medical associations are linking clinical guidelines and other practice resources to each of the CWC topics.

Tools for Practice

[Supporting Employee Success](#) This resource was created by a team led by Dr. Ian Arnold (an OMSOC Emeritus member) and his wife, Suzanne Arnold, PhD, supported by the Great-West Life Centre for Mental Health in the Workplace. It provides a process to plan for the return to work and accommodation of employees with mental health problems. As we build our OMSOC website, look for this and additional resources in the Mental Health section.

[Physician Education on Preventing Needless Work Disability](#) – since 2013, the University of British Columbia CPD, in partnership with the BC Collaborative for Disability Prevention (BCCDP) and Worksafe BC, has developed learning resources and events to help physicians achieve more effective disability management. Have a look at their webpage for resources that are helpful when working with an employee's treating physician.

[Can My Patient Safely Drive on Long-term Opioid Medication?](#) Also produced by the University of British Columbia CPD, this on-line module will provide you with 0.75 MOC Section 1 credits

and is a good resource when managing an employee using opioid medications who drives or undertakes safety-sensitive work.

[Occupational Exposure Limits – State of the Science](#) – NIOSH Science Blog, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This webpage provides links to the 10 papers published in a recent supplement of the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* – these papers provides a window into the history, current issues and methodologies, and the future of occupational exposure limits.