



# Newsletter

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

January-March 2007

## Message from the Registrar

Since enactment of the *Medical Act, 2005*, one of the College's priorities has been development of a strategy for communicating with medical practitioners, the public and the media. To this end, it is the intent of the College, on the recommendation of Council, to employ a part-time communications and media relations consultant.

In 2006, the College issued its first comprehensive annual report. The College website has been redesigned with the intention to make more information about the College available through the Internet. The website will prove to be one of the most cost-effective means of ensuring that all medical practitioners and any others interested in the College's affairs are fully informed.

A quarterly newsletter will be another means of regular communication. Initially, it will be distributed in hardcopy by mail along with other

mailings. It will also be available on the College website. Our goal is to make the newsletter available by e-mail and on the website. This will allow the College to keep members properly informed in the most cost-efficient way possible.

Features in this edition include information from Health Canada on animal-sourced insulins as well as results from last year's Council elections.

Future issues will see new features. One already planned is a summary of issues that have been brought before the Complaints Authorization Committee. Many allegations received each year are resolved without proceeding to a discipline hearing. Often, the allegations involve issues faced by many medical practitioners. The outcomes and advice given to medical practitioners will provide valuable information to medical practitioners in similar situations.

Other Colleges across Canada publish summaries of allegations that provide the recommendations or decision from the College, without providing identifying information on the complainant or respondent. We believe that as we follow that approach, the information provided will be useful for medical practitioners in the province.

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This newsletter contains a supplement on a recent decision by an adjudication tribunal. The case has been widely publicized, but this supplement is being issued by the Council as formal notification to members of the College of the decision. The supplement includes the official summary of the decision as well as excerpts from the tribunal's findings. The Council believes these excerpts will be instructive to medical practitioners in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The tribunal decision centred on patient/doctor boundaries, an increasingly common area of discussion in the profession nationally. The September 2006 issue of *Dialogue*, the magazine of the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, contains a useful article on the subject as well as summaries on related discipline and complaints decisions. You can find *Dialogue* online at <http://www.cpso.on.ca/Publications/Dialogue/dialtoc.htm>. **Ω**

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## New members elected to Council

Balloting for the first Council elected under the *Medical Act, 2005* ended on June 30, 2006.

Of the 310 ballots received, two were declared invalid and four were deemed spoiled.

Elected to the Council were:

### St John's/Mount Pearl

Dr. John Collingwood  
Dr. Barbara Grandy  
Dr. Vinod Patel  
Dr. Arthur Rideout

### Remainder of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dr. Larry Alteen  
Dr. Wilson Moulton  
Dr. Gurmit Manhas

The Council is comprised of seven members elected by licensed medical practitioners in the province;

four members appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services, three of whom are not medical practitioners; and two appointed by the minister from a list of four nominated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association. **Ω**

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## New animal-sourced insulin available

Health Canada has asked that the following information be distributed to medical practitioners in the province regarding animal-sourced insulins.

In 2006, Health Canada granted market authorization to Wockhardt UK for two pork insulins, Hypurin Regular and Hypurin NPH.

The demand for animal insulins has declined in Canada with advances in recombinant and biosynthetic human insulins for treating diabetes.

While most patients with diabetes now use human insulins, a small number cannot manage their disease with biosynthetic insulins. Some concern has been expressed about the availability of animal-sourced insulins and Health Canada indicates some physicians may be unaware that animal-sourced insulins are still available in Canada.

Further, updated information on animal-sourced insulins can be found at Health Canada's website: [http://www.hc.sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/brgtherap/activit/fs-fi/qa\\_qr\\_insulin\\_02\\_2006\\_e.html](http://www.hc.sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/brgtherap/activit/fs-fi/qa_qr_insulin_02_2006_e.html). **Ω**

## New Address?

Let us know within 30 days, please.

The College's register must contain your current mailing address and your primary practice address.

When you change your practice location, mailing address or other similar information, take a few minutes and forward the information to the College by e-mail, facsimile or regular mail.