



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Statutory Committee Annual Reports **2020-2021**

- Discipline Committee.
- Executive Committee.
- Fitness to Practise Committee.
- Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee.
- Patient Relations Committee.
- Quality Assurance Committee.
- Registration Committee.

Statutory Committee Annual Reports

Following are the 2020-2021 annual reports from the College's Statutory Committees as required under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. The reports cover the period from April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021.

Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee as a whole met once during the reporting period, on July 17, 2020 for its annual training. An optional refresher training for new Committee members or for those who wanted a review was held on July 3, 2021.

In the fall of 2020, the Committee initiated a Request for Proposals for the role of ILC. A Selection Committee was formed, and proposals were subsequently reviewed. A new contract was awarded to Rosen Sunshine LLP in December 2020.

Hearings Completed

Panels of the Discipline Committee completed one contested and six uncontested Discipline Hearings in the reporting period.

CONO & Leslie Ee (CONO file DC19-01)

- Hearing date: April 7, 2020
- Decision and Reasons issued on April 24, 2020

The Registrant had admitted to the allegations of professional misconduct and a Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon prior to the hearing. The Panel concluded that the facts supported a finding of professional misconduct and found that the Registrant committed acts of professional misconduct as admitted in the Agreed Statement of Facts.

Total cost to the College: \$34,400. The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$6,500, which amounted to 19% of the College's costs.

CONO & Elvis Ali (CONO file DC20-01)

- Hearing date: July 16, 2020.
- Decision and Reasons issued on August 19, 2020.

The Registrant had admitted to the allegations of professional misconduct and a Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon prior to the hearing. The Panel concluded that the facts supported a finding of professional misconduct and found that the Registrant committed acts of professional misconduct as admitted in the Agreed Statement of Facts.

Total cost to the College: \$21,146. The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$6,400, which amounted to 30% of the College's costs.

CONO & Helen Cohen (CONO files DC19-03)

- Hearing date: September 28, 2020.
- Decision and Reasons issued on October 27, 2020.

The Registrant had admitted to the allegations of professional misconduct and a Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon prior to the hearing. The Panel concluded that the facts supported a finding of professional misconduct and found that the Registrant committed acts of professional misconduct as admitted in the Agreed Statement of Facts.

Total cost to the College: \$29,011. The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$3,500, which amounted to 12% of the College's costs.

CONO & Helen Cohen (CONO files DC19-04)

- Hearing date: September 28, 2020.
- Decision and Reasons issued on October 28, 2020.

The Registrant had admitted to the allegations of professional misconduct and a Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon prior to the hearing. The Panel concluded that the facts supported a finding of professional misconduct and found that the Registrant committed acts of professional misconduct as admitted in the Agreed Statement of Facts.

DC19-04 total cost to the College: \$11,591. The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$3,500, which amounted to 33% of the College's costs.

CONO & Taras Rodak (CONO file DC18-01)

- Hearing dates: October 5 -7, 2020; November 16, 2020.
- Decision and Reasons issued on February 12, 2021.

A panel of the Discipline Committee completed a four day (excluding penalty hearing) contested hearing regarding Taras Rodak, referred to the DC by the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) on June 7th, 2018. The Registrant had admitted to some of the allegations of professional misconduct in the Notice of Hearing, and contested others. The Panel made findings on some, but not all, of the allegations.

The penalty hearing was completed in the next reporting period.

CONO & Yelena Deshko (CONO file DC19-05)

- Hearing date: December 7, 2020.
- Decision and Reasons issued on March 1, 2021.

The Registrant had admitted to the allegations of professional misconduct and a Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon prior to the hearing. The Panel concluded that the facts supported a finding of professional misconduct and found that the Registrant committed acts of professional misconduct as admitted in the Agreed Statement of Facts.

Total cost to the College: \$47,060. The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$11,000, which amounted to 23% of the College's costs.

CONO & Anna Blaszczyk (CONO file DC20-03)

- Hearing date: March 19, 2021.
- Decision and Reasons issued on April 7, 2021.

The Registrant had admitted to the allegations of professional misconduct and a Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon prior to the hearing. The Panel concluded that the facts supported a finding of professional misconduct and found that the Registrant committed acts of professional misconduct as admitted in the Agreed Statement of Facts.

Total cost to the College: \$24,213. No costs were awarded in this case and the Panel accepted this aspect of the Proposed Order. It was more important for the public interest that the Registrant could ensure she had the financial ability to purchase tail insurance.

In accordance with paragraph 10 of section 23(2) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, Decisions and Reasons of the Discipline Committee are publicly available on the College's website.

New Referrals from the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee

Specified allegations against the following Registrants were referred to the Discipline Committee by the ICRC during the reporting period:

- Natasha Turner (DC20-02).
- Anna Blaszczyk (DC20-03).
- Allan Bortnick (DC20-04).

Statistics

- Number of uncontested Hearing Days - **5** (two matters were heard on the same day).
- Number of contested Hearing Days – **4**.
- Reinstatement Hearings – **0**.
- Divisional Court Reviews – **0**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND
Chair

Executive Committee

During the reporting period the Executive Committee held 5 meetings, all of which were held by teleconference.

The Committee's work can be contemplated in two distinct contexts, the work it does on behalf of the Council between meetings of the Council (pursuant to section 12(2) of the Code and the work it undertakes as a standing committee responsible for providing overall governance direction and monitoring on behalf of the College.

Work undertaken on behalf of the Council

During this reporting period, the Executive Committee considered the following matters on behalf of the Council of the College, typically because the timing and urgency of the matters precluded deferring the matters to the next full Council meeting:

- Review and acceptance of the quarterly unaudited financial statements (Q4 2019-20, Q1 and Q2 2020-21);
- Governance Report implementation of the College Council.

Work undertaking in governing the College

During this reporting period, the Committee considered important governance aspects including:

- Public member appointments and the process;
- Committee Appointments;
- Discussed the Report on the Registrar-CEO Performance Review for fiscal year 2019-2020;
- Reviewed and discussed the new proposed Registrar-CEO Performance Review Process and corresponding Forms in support of the new process;
- Establishing COVID-19 Reopening Guidelines;
- Stakeholder communications;
- Council's own evaluation process;
- The Operational Plan for the College's next fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kim Bretz, ND
Council Chair

Fitness to Practise Committee

There were no referrals to, or hearings of the Fitness to Practise Committee between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND
Chair

Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee

During the reporting period the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) held 14 meetings, two of which were held by teleconference and 12 of which were held by video conference.

Closed matters

The Committee completed its review and closed 27 matters with the number of dispositions as follows:

- No Further Action – **4**.
- Letter of Counsel - **11**.
- Oral Caution - **3**.
- Specified Continuing Education and Remediation Program (SCERP) - **0**.
- SCERP & Oral Caution - **2**.
- Acknowledgement & Undertaking - **0**.
- Referral to Fitness to Practice - **0**.
- Referral to Discipline Committee - **5**.
- Referral to Discipline Committee & Letter of Counsel - **2**.
- Frivolous and vexatious - **0**.

Health Inquiries

Under section 58 of the Health Professions Procedural Code, the ICRC can make inquiries into the health of a registrant if it believes that the Registrant is incapacitated. There were no health inquiries conducted during the reporting period.

Appeals

Two decisions of the ICRC were appealed to the Health Professions Appeal Review Board in the previous reporting period. One matter is currently being reviewed by the Board. Regarding the second matter, the request for review was withdrawn.

New investigations

The ICRC approved 26 Registrar's investigations in the reporting period based on the information received from the following sources:

- Public inquiries - **13**.
- Matters reported by Registrants - **0**.
- Matters reported by other College departments - **3**.
- Referral from ICRC to CEO - **6**.
- Referral from QAC to ICRC - **3**.
- Referral from another regulator - **1**.

In addition, the ICRC received nine formal complaints about Registrants of the College.

Complaints and Registrar's Reports filed with the ICRC included one or more of the following concerns:

- Advertising - **13**.

- Inappropriate/unsatisfactory patient care - **7**.
- Failure to comply with the Standard for IVIT/Injections – **4**.
- Failure to comply with the Standard for Requisitioning Laboratory Tests - **4**.
- Practising outside the Scope - **2**.
- Failure to keep records in accordance with the standards of the profession - **1**.
- Failing to comply with an order of a panel of the College - **1**.
- Failure to comply with a Cease-and-Desist letter from the College - **1**.
- Failure to abide by an undertaking given to the College - **2**.
- Inappropriate billing procedures - **6**.
- Sexual abuse, violation of professional boundaries - **5**.
- Unprofessional Conduct with an employee - **1**.
- Failure to notify the College within 30 days of any current charges - **1**.

Advertising continues to be a concern, as a majority of the matters reviewed by the ICRC have been of this nature.

There were 10 COVID related matters for this reporting period, 4 Complaints and 6 Reports.

Complaints/Registrar’s Reports Investigation Timelines

The average length of a Complaint/Report investigation during the last reporting period was 456 days, with the shortest investigation completed in 70 days and the longest - in 2102¹ days.

Financial data: Complaints/Registrar’s Reports Investigation

The cost of an investigation includes the College’s legal expenses, investigators’ fees (where formal investigator appointments are required), experts’ fees, the ICRC per diems, and mailing costs. The average amount spent on a matter in the reporting period was \$4,996.72. The lowest cost of the investigation was \$187 and the highest - \$13,937.80.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Erin Psota, ND
Chair

¹ Four files from 2015-2016 were on hold until late 2018 pending receipt of the judgment in relation to a relevant criminal charge.

Patient Relations Committee

During the reporting period the Patient Relations Committee held 2 meetings.

No applications for Funding for Therapy/Counselling were received during this period, however, the Committee continued to monitor the four previously approved applications for Funding. The College's funding program managed by the PRC provided \$4,725.00 to applicants during the reporting period and \$15,667.10 since it's inception.

During the reporting period, the Committee finalized its review and published updated Registrant and Patient Guides.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Sam Laldin, Chair

Quality Assurance Committee

The Quality Assurance Committee held 8 meetings during the reporting period.

Self-Assessment Program

- Total Registrants required to complete the Self-Assessment by March 31, 2021: **1511**
- Total Registrants who completed the Self-Assessment by March 31, 2021: **589**

Continuing Education (CE) Credits

- CE Applications received – **509**.
- CE Applications approved - **382**² (75%).
 - Live/in-person courses – **135** (35%).
 - Online/webinar course – **247** (65%).
- Number of approved applications pertaining to specialized requirements:
 - IVIT - **8** (2%).
 - Pharmacology - **82** (21%).
 - Jurisprudence - **16** (4%).

Continuing Education Reporting (Group III)

- Registrants required to their submit CE logs by September 30, 2020 – **449**.
- Registrants' reports received - **443** (99%).
- Registrants with log discrepancies requiring correction - **70** (16%).
- Deferral/extension requests received – **16**.
- Deferral/extension requests approved – **8**.

Peer & Practice Assessments

- Registrants selected for a Peer & Practice Assessment - **0**³.
- Deferral requests received – **0**.
- Deferral requests approved – **0**.
- Registrants who went inactive or resigned prior to completing their Assessment – **0**.
- Total number of Peer & Practice Assessments completed – **0**.
- QA Committee Ordered Assessments – **3**.

Other

- Registrants referred to the ICRC for non-compliance with the QA Program: **2**

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Barry Sullivan, Chair

² The QA Committee is currently awaiting more information on 41 of the 125 courses not approved, before making a final determination.

³ Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the QA Committee suspended all Peer & Practice Assessments during the reporting period.

Registration Committee

During the reporting period noted, the Registration Committee met 11 times. In total, the Committee reviewed 6 applications for registration, 4 life Registration applications and one class change (over two-years) in this reporting period. In addition, the Committee reviewed program policies related to Registration and Examinations and set remediation plans for exam candidates who had made two unsuccessful attempts of a College examination.

Entry-to-Practise

A total of 72 applications for registration were received between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021. Of these, 6 applications for registration were referred to the Registration Committee for review for one or more of the following reasons:

- Reasonable doubt of the applicant having practised the profession in another regulated jurisdiction (under subsections 7(3) of the *Registration Regulation*) – 1.
- Reasonable doubt that the applicant will practise in a safe and professional manner based on prior conduct – 1.
- concerns regarding a physical or mental condition or disorder (under subsection 3(4) of the *Registration Regulation*) – 2.
- currency [under subsections 5(4)(a) and 5(2)(b) of the *Registration Regulation*] – 4.

The Registration Committee disposed of these six referrals as follows:

- Directed that a certificate of registration be granted – 2.
- Directed that a certificate of registration be granted after the completion of additional training or examinations – 4.

No assessments were conducted to determine substantial equivalency via the College's Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) program.

Registration

During this reporting period, the Registration Committee reviewed one application for class change from Inactive to General (over two-years) as required under paragraph 6 of section 10(1)(6) of the *Registration Regulation*, and four applications for Life Registration, as required under section 23(1) of the College by-laws.

Examinations

Under the *Registration Regulation*, the Registration Committee is required to set remediation plans for examination candidates who have made two unsuccessful attempts of a College examination. The Committee set 22 such remediation plans during this period.

The Committee also finalized amendments to and approved the Ontario Biomedical Exam blueprint and finalized updates to the Ontario Clinical Sciences Exam blueprint.

Policy Updates

The Committee discussed policy timelines effected by COVID-19 restrictions for the Standards of Practice for Intravenous Infusion Therapy (IVIT) and Prescribing.

The Committee finalized amendments to and approved the Registration Policy, the Language Proficiency Policy, the PLAR Program Policy and the new PLAR Appeals Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Danielle O'Connor, ND
Chair