



**COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS  
OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
May 25, 2013**

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**CNPBC Board of Directors and Staff**

(contact c/o: CNPBC office)

<p><b><u>PRESIDENT/BOARD CHAIR</u></b> Karen Parmar, ND Fort Langley, BC</p>	<p><b><u>BOARD MEMBER/VICE-CHAIR</u></b> Stefan Kuprowsky, ND Gabriola Island, BC and Vancouver, BC</p>	<p><b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b> Chris Spooner, ND Vernon, BC</p>
<p><b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b> Cameron McIntyre, ND North Vancouver, BC</p>	<p><b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b> Mary Manning Surrey, BC</p>	<p><b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b> Wesley Barnaby Langley, BC</p>
<p><b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b> Gary Bechard Campbell River, BC</p>	<p><b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b> Barry Long, LL.B. North Vancouver</p>	
<p><b><u>REGISTRAR &amp; CEO</u></b> Howard Greenstein, B.Sc. (Hon.), M.A., M.B.A. Suite 840, 605 Robson Street Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3 (604) 688-8236 (B) (604) 688-8476 (F) e-mail: <a href="mailto:registrar@cnpbc.bc.ca">registrar@cnpbc.bc.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT</u></b> Debbie Ferreira Suite 840, 605 Robson Street Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3 (604) 688-8236 (B) (604) 688-8476 (F) e-mail: <a href="mailto:office@cnpbc.bc.ca">office@cnpbc.bc.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>COORDINATOR, REGULATORY PROGRAMS</u></b> Phillipa Stanaway, B.A. (Hon), M.A., J.D. (604) 688-8236 (B) (604) 688-8476 (F) e-mail: <a href="mailto:pstanaway@cnpbc.bc.ca">pstanaway@cnpbc.bc.ca</a></p>

## **CNPBC Committees**

### **Discipline Committee**

Chair – Barry Long  
Members – Chris Spooner, Stefan Kuprowsky,  
Karen Parmar, Cameron McIntyre, Gary Bechard

### **Examination Committee**

Chair – Sanjay Mohan Ram  
Members – Jonathon Berghamer and Melissa  
Tofsrud

### **Finance and Administration Committee**

Chair – Chris Spooner  
Members – Cameron McIntyre, Gary Bechard

### **Inquiry Committee**

Chair – Richard Meyer  
Members – David Bayley, Penny Seth-Smith

### **Patient Relations Committee**

Chair – Cathryn Coe  
Members – Sanjay Mohan Ram, Mary Manning

### **Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostic Referral Committee**

Chair – Lorne Swetikoff  
Members – Deborah Phair, David Scotten, Garrett  
Swetlikoff, Brian Martin, Chris Spooner, Kathy  
McInnis, Gary Bechard, Ian D. Schokking, Glenda  
MacDonald, Michael Kelly

### **Registration Committee**

Chair – Howard Greenstein  
Members – Wesley Barnaby, Karen Parmar

### **Quality Assurance Committee**

Chair – Stefan Kuprowsky  
Members – Tasreen Alibhai, Mary Manning

**Annual General Meeting – Agenda - May 25, 2013**

**TIME:** 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
(Registration from 1:00 – 2:00)

**LOCATION:** SFU Woodward's  
149 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC

- 2:00 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER –**  
1.1. Introduction of Board Members
- 2:10 2. **ACCEPTANCE OF 2013 AGM AGENDA –**
- 2:15 3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF 2012 AGM –**
- 2:20 4. **REPORTS –**  
4.1 Read  
(a) President  
(b) Registrar/CEO  
(c) Finance  
(d) Registration  
(e) Quality Assurance  
(f) Inquiry
- 3:45 4.2 Grouped motion  
4.2.1 Discipline  
4.2.2 Examination  
4.2.3 Patient Relations  
4.2.4 Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostics Referral  
4.2.5 Advertising
- 4:00 5 **AWARDS – K. Parmar**
- 4:30 6 **ELECTIONS – Pending Vacancies:**  
6.1 2 Year Term  
6.2 2 Year Term
- 4:45 7 **OTHER BUSINESS –**  
7.1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5:00 8 **ADJOURNMENT - Next AGM, SPRING 2014**

**Annual General Meeting – Minutes -April 28, 2012**

**TIME:** 9:40 AM – 12:30 PM

**LOCATION:** BCIT Downtown Campus  
555 Seymour Street  
Vancouver, BC

- 9:40** | **2. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – K. Parmar called the meeting to order.  
**2.1. Introduction of Board Members by K. Parmar**
- 9:45** | **5. ACCEPTANCE OF 2012 AGM AGENDA** – Agenda accepted with amendment made to the year to 2012.
- 9:50** | **6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF 2011 AGM** – Minutes adopted as presented.
- 9:55** | **7. REPORTS** –
- 8.1 Read**  
**(g) President**
- Q – Will copies of the public education campaign ads be placed in our community?  
A – The goal is to have ads places in all communities.  
Q – Can anything be done to lobby the government to differentiate between NDs and those holding themselves out to be NDs?  
A – This would be a function of the BCNA.  
Q – What is the update on lab access?  
A – The BCNA continues to lobby for lab access.
- Motion From the Floor:** That the President’s report be accepted as presented.
- Motion Carried**
- (h) Registrar/Registration**
- Motion From the Floor:** That the Registrar/Registration report be accepted as presented.
- Motion Carried**
- (i) Finance**
- Q – Are any of the regulatory bodies funded by the government?  
A - No
- Motion From the Floor:** That the Finance Committee’s report be accepted as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**(j) Quality Assurance**

Q – Does ACLS count toward CE credit?

A - Yes

**Motion From the Floor:** That the Quality Assurance Committee’s report be accepted as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**(k) Inquiry**

**Motion From the Floor:** That the Inquiry Committee’s report be accepted as presented.

**Motion Carried**

11:45

**8.2 Grouped motion**

8.2.1 Discipline

8.2.2 Examination

8.2.3 Patient Relations

8.2.4 Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostics Referral

**Motion From the Floor:** That the Discipline, Examination, Patient Relations Committee and the Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostics Referral reports be accepted as presented.

**Motion Carried**

12:00

**9 AWARDS – L. Swetlikoff**

Wesley Barnaby – Public Service

Mary Manning – Public Service

David Bayley – Regulatory Function – Service for over 20 years as the Chair of the Examination Committee from 1988-2011.

12:30

**10 ELECTIONS – Pending Vacancies filled by acclamation.**

**10.1 2 Year Term** – Cameron McIntyre, ND

**10.2 2 Year Term** – Chris Spooner, ND

12:35

**11 OTHER BUSINESS – No other business**

12:40

**12 ADJOURNMENT - NEXT AGM – MAY 25, 2013**

## **President's Report**

I am pleased to present this report as I complete my second year as College President and Chair of the Board. I have now completed 3 terms on the board, and if re-elected would be pleased to serve for my last available successive term. This has been a busy and exciting year. The College has continued to accomplish a great deal with limited resources.

As you all know, one of the College's key functions is to deal with patient complaints and in this way to assure the quality of services to the public. The commitment of the Inquiry Committee members, the close working relationship with our Registrar, and the cooperation of our registrants have resulted in effective complaint management for our College, profession and the public.

The College continues to take a proactive approach to the management of complaints and the Inquiry Committee process. This year, several complaints were resolved at early stages of the process, and zero complaints went to a Health Profession Review Board (HPRB) hearing or mediation. This proactive approach has saved considerable time and stress for both registrants and members of the public, and ensured that complaints were resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the complainant and registrant wherever possible. This approach also manages the College's resources well.

Of course, early resolution of complaints is not always possible. This year, the Inquiry Committee issued one Citation for a Discipline Hearing. Inquiry and Discipline proceedings are often expensive, both for registrants and for the College. However, they are essential to the self-regulation of the profession. The College must continue to respond to an increased emphasis on legal process for Health Profession Regulators, and must commit adequate resources to perform its essential functions well. We are fortunate that our Inquiry and Discipline Committee members are experienced and willing to work closely with our Registrar and staff toward "best practices" in all of our procedures.

Our Registration function has been well managed and we have had zero registration complaints go to the HPRB for review.

The Scope of Practice Panel has reviewed a number of procedures and areas of practice and made recommendations to the PDR Committee, the Inquiry Committee and the Board. The Board approved a proposal for parenteral treatment of Lyme disease, now available on the CNPBC website. It also reviewed and approved several aesthetic procedures.

In the recent Physician Relations Report, we announced that IUD insertion/removal had been approved by the Board, along with educational requirements. The Willow Clinic, through BC Women's Hospital, has asked that we form a list of all interested NDs. A theoretical group training session is being planned for the fall, with practical training to follow. The frequency of the training courses will be determined as interest develops. Naturopathic doctors must have a minimum of 3 years of extensive clinical experience in pap tests and female gynecological examinations prior to taking the IUD training. Feel free to talk to me directly if you have further questions regarding this procedure.

The PDR Committee continued its work, establishing a sub-Committee to review new drugs. After extensive study, the Board in accordance with the Committee's recommendations approved new drugs on the market for use and a list was distributed in December.

The Board has commenced discussion of the possibility of approving further certifications and specialties. The Board has placed this issue on the agenda for its annual planning session this summer. It



will likely appoint a task force to study the issue and make recommendations to the Board after ensuring that the diversity of views within the profession is considered. Certification and specialty issues are governed by the bylaws and this process will be necessarily thorough and transparent.

The College is in good financial shape and is well managed. Dr. Chris Spooner will report on some of the details later, but I want to commend the Finance Committee and the Registrar and Debbie Ferreira for a sustained effort over a number of years to implement revised and effective budgeting and accounting procedures. The Board has been aware of cost pressures in areas such as legal services and we have made provision for this in recent budgets. Our planning has been quite accurate.

The Quality Assurance Committee has continued to do a lot and we are fortunate in having a number of volunteers serving on the Committee and serving as advisors.

The College has pursued an initiative to have an ACLS certification and recertification process that will more closely match the needs of our registrants. Dr. Cameron McIntyre has been the Board's representative and has met with representatives of the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the BCNA and others. There will be a modified course which more closely matches our registrants' needs, but will still have the endorsement of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We will announce details shortly.

The College and the BCNA have continued to meet regularly, and we collaborated on a public awareness campaign using bus shelter ads to put out the consistent message that the public should seek out licensed Naturopathic Physicians. We are also examining the possibility that we may collaborate on some internet-based public awareness efforts, where our differing mandates allow.

The College is also participating with 23 other Colleges through the HRO (Health Regulatory Organizations) in a broad, multi-year public awareness campaign. Our College has advocated that this campaign should stress the message that licensed and regulated health professionals provide safe treatment that the public can trust. It appears that this will be the main message of year one of the campaign.

Howard and I have met with Daryl Beckett, Director of Professional Regulation for the Ministry of Health and we continue to have good relations with the Ministry of Health. We have kept the Ministry of Health informed of the College's view that laboratory and diagnostic access for the patients of our registrants is vital to ongoing, safe prescribing by our registrants. We have also discussed the existing roadblocks. While there has been acknowledgement of this, there was little official progress this year on this front, although there were small advances in some areas. We have also been engaged in a dialogue with the Ministry concerning existing pressures for new certifications and possibly specialties. Such dialogue with the Ministry of Health is essential to progress in these areas.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of our Registrar, Howard Greenstein, for his diligence in maintaining key collaborative relationships on behalf of the College, while managing within a legal environment that has become increasingly complex.

I also want to acknowledge the excellent job done by Howard and Debbie and to introduce you to Pip Stanaway, our newest staff member. I especially want to acknowledge and thank all of the dedicated volunteers, both registrants and members of the public, who serve on College Committees and the Board, and as examiners and inspectors, and who make it possible for a small College like ours to do such effective work. The active participation of our registrants is essential to maintaining the self-regulation of our profession.

I am looking forward to the coming year, when we will continue to build upon advances with naturopathic physicians' scope of practice, as well as continuing to enhance the College's effective operations in ensuring the safety of the public. I look forward to your continued involvement in the College and the effective self-regulation of our profession.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Karen Parmar, ND,  
President

### **Registrar/CEO's Report**

The past year has been very busy at the College. Sincere thanks go to all the members of the Board for their commitment and support during this productive year. I want to thank all Committee chairs and members, inspectors, examiners and advisers for their dedicated contributions. The College continues to meet all challenges despite limited resources. I want to congratulate Debbie Ferreira, who celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the College this year and we welcome Pip Stanaway, who has been with us for six months.

One of the ways that the College leverages our resources is by building collaborative relationships. The HRO (Health Regulatory Organization) has continued to evolve this year and we are currently involved in various joint projects, including a public awareness campaign, model policies in the patient relations area and model procedures in technical areas like the public notification requirements under the HPA. We also maintain collaborative relationships with other provinces and continue to participate in the Canadian National Coordinating Council (CNCC), hosted by CAND. Liaison and collaboration with BCNA on matters of mutual interest continued productively this past year.

I was pleased to work with the Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostic Referral (PDR) Committee and sub-Committee of experts who reviewed new drugs coming onto the market and made recommendations to the Board, which were approved and announced. I was pleased to teach the Standards, Limits and Conditions portion of the upgrading course required to be certified in prescribing authority, managed by the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine (BINM), which is taught by members of the faculty of the UBC School of Pharmacy.

I was also pleased to work with the Scope of Practice Expert Panel in examining leading edge issues in scope of practice. Many interesting issues were studied and recommendations were made in such diverse areas as aesthetic medicine, parenteral antibiotics in the treatment of Lyme disease, IUDs and allergies.

I have also been privileged to work closely with the dedicated and experienced members of the Inquiry Committee, which deals with one of the most essential functions of the College. The public and the profession have been very capably served by the Inquiry Committee this year.

As you know, the College has undertaken to be proactive and work with registrants to resolve complaints at the earliest possible stages of the complaint process. I want to thank registrants that have taken this seriously this past year and have had early resolutions. Any registrant can receive a complaint against them. Some registrants have found that making an extra effort to listen to a dissatisfied patient and attempting to address the patient's concerns has resulted in the early resolution of the patient's complaint.

If you receive a complaint against you, our experience from the Registrar's Office and the Inquiry Committee, especially in light of the time and expense that an HPRB Review can cost the registrant, strongly suggests that you should make every effort to resolve the complaint directly with the patient at the earliest possible point. While this may seem challenging, especially if you feel that you have provided good service correctly, one must view these issues in terms of patient satisfaction and also in terms of reasonable resolution of complaints.

Once a complaint has been made, insurers want to be notified before you take any action to resolve the complaint. It is worthwhile giving some thought to complaint prevention. Recent cases suggest that registrants should always consider issues of informed consent, consider the management of patient expectations and listen to a patient's expressions of dissatisfaction and try to assist the patient with regard to that dissatisfaction if possible. When registrants are respectful, kind and take their patients' concerns seriously, they may be less likely to receive formal complaints.

We are very pleased that our College has not had one complaint that has gone all the way to a full HPRB hearing. However, please note that at the end of every Inquiry Committee complaint, the College must, by law, inform the complainant that they have the right to request a review of the College's decision from the HPRB. An HPRB review is at no cost to the patient. However, the process can be very costly for the registrant. Therefore, it is better for everyone involved if the complaint can be resolved before there is a possible HPRB review.

I also want to mention the Examination Committee and its excellent work. They have continued to develop all of the College's examinations. The Quality Assurance Committee continued developing required QA practices in line with leading-edge practices in health regulation.

The Finance and Administration Committee continued to monitor the financial systems implemented over the past five years and a budget was developed to meet the demands for 2013. The Registrar, the Finance Committee and the Board have worked together in accurately monitoring and predicting cost pressures, particularly in the area of legal services, which have continued to increase as forecast.

The Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct developed by the Patient Relations Committee have continued to be very useful during the Inquiry Committee process. The Committee continues to work on essential issues. The whole area of professional misconduct, including sexual misconduct, is a primary mandate for this Committee and we look forward to collaborative efforts in developing policy and educational materials with other Colleges through the HRO in the coming year. The Committee has been given a task by the Board to consult with the Inquiry Committee and recommend any required revisions to the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct.

The College has made great progress in moving forward with the implementation of prescriptive rights and the full scope of practice for naturopathic physicians. The College continues to deal with cutting-edge issues in health profession regulation effectively with limited resources. The collaboration and cooperation of registrants, Committee volunteers and related bodies has been essential to this success. I particularly want to thank President Dr. Karen Parmar for her leadership, decisiveness and strong support. It is a great pleasure to work with her. It is an honour to serve as your Registrar.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Greenstein, B.Sc., M.A., M.B.A.  
Registrar & CEO

### **Finance Committee**

Thanks go to Committee members Cameron McIntyre, ND and Gary Bechard.

I would like to recognize the diligent work of our Registrar, Mr. Howard Greenstein and Debbie Ferreira. Their continued efforts have dramatically improved our bookkeeping and accounting functions to the point that we now have the financial statements earlier than at any time in the last 6 years.

We continued to use the accounting firm Lam Lo Nishio to maintain the College's routine bookkeeping using QuickBooks. BDO Dunwoody, LLP continues as the accounting firm for the College. BDO Dunwoody prepared the financial statements for this AGM.

We continue to see growth in the profession and realize increased revenues from that growth. However, increased staffing requirements and legal fees, arising from the increased responsibilities the College has assumed with the expansion of the naturopathic scope of practice, has meant that we have had to raise dues for the first time in 4 years. The College is on solid financial ground but ongoing costs specifically related to the cost of fulfilling the College's mandate under the HPA, including complaints investigation, registration, quality assurance and disciplinary matters, have increased as predicted. The Finance Committee anticipated that legal fees associated with these mandated functions would increase. Costs associated with inspectors and investigations, as well as legal fees, increased as a result of the number and complexity of complaints investigations. There have also been significant costs associated with investigations in anticipation of an upcoming discipline hearing. The financial picture supports the fact that our forecasts have been accurate.

With regard to the increase in dues, we have tried to keep the increase to a minimum. We implemented a fee for advanced certifications, which was anticipated in our bylaws for years, in an attempt to distribute costs proportionately based on the higher risk associated with certified procedures and costs associated with regulating them.

We have not had a dues increase in four years and, while the profession is growing and our revenues are increasing as the number of registrants increase, we have put off implementing programs targeted at increasing regulatory capacity. Even though the statements show a small year-end surplus, this exists only because of a vacancy in staff that was not filled until late in the year. Had the position been filled throughout the year, then the result would have been a deficit. This supports the fact that there was a need for the dues increase that was implemented for the 2013 year. That increase will support the badly needed filled position, as well as the projects listed in the budget forecast and announced at the end of 2012. These include:

- Investment in our Information Technology (I.T.) for database, automated registration, intranet, and Pharmanet
- Public education campaigns with respect to the College and licensure (with BCNA, HRO)
- Increases to other operating expenses with regards to investigations, website and computer maintenance/upgrading and office expenses
- Insurance for directors and officers, inspectors, and staff

- Consulting on standards and other issues
- Legal fees for Discipline Hearings and bylaws amendments

Overall, the year-end financial statements reflect the fact that the College has been very busy pursuing its core mandates and the reality that the legal environment has continued to be complex, requiring a great deal of care, due diligence and legal advice. The 2012 year-end statements support the College's budget planning for 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Chris Spooner ND  
Chair, Finance Committee

### **Registration Committee**

The number of registrants increased so that by the end of 2012, there were 416 full registrants and 83 non-practicing registrants for a total of 499 registrants. There were 42 new licenses granted in the 2012 calendar/fiscal year. The number of registrants continues to grow annually.

The College is reviewing all Registration processes to ensure compliance with requirements.

Thanks go to Dr. Karen Parmar and Mr. Wesley Barnaby, members of the Committee, who have reviewed non-routine applications and have decided upon policy recommendations.

Finally, special thanks go to Debbie Ferreira, who coordinates all individual applications before the Registrar reviews them. Over the past ten years, Debbie has assisted hundreds of NDs to become licensed. Congratulations, Debbie on your 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the College.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Greenstein, B.Sc., M.A., M.B.A.  
Chair, Registration Committee

### **Quality Assurance Committee**

The QA Committee continues to be a very active and productive Committee. Thanks go to members Tasreen Alibhai and Mary Manning, as well as advisors Briana Peddle, Ron Reichert, Gaetano Morello, and Debra Heald, who is a BC registrant but practices in Alberta.

**The next CE period runs from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014. All registrants should complete a Self Review and a Peer Review with a colleague by the end of 2014.**

Forms are available on the CNPBC Website under QA. The forms do not need to be mailed in, but must be kept in a file in case you are ever inspected for a Practice Review. All registrants need 40 hours of CE during this 2-year period. Certification hours are still required for Acupuncture, Chelation, Oxidative, Prolotherapy and Hyperbaric, but can now be counted as part of the 40 hour CE requirements.

There is a new CE policy to assist registrants. If a registrant attends a longer seminar in their certification area, it can be counted for 2 CE periods over 4 years at a rate of 2 CE hours for each of 2 CE periods.

This should make it easier to obtain these required hours. Any hours over the 4 hours needed for the certification can then be applied to Category C as general hours for the first of the CE periods.

**Those with prescribing authority certification are required to obtain an additional 10 hours of prescribing/pharmacotherapy CE (of their choice) for this CE period.**

We continue our random and targeted Practice Reviews of 6 clinics annually. This review of naturopathic doctors' offices and practices is intended as an educational and quality assurance exercise. Registrants who have gone through this process report that it is a fair and beneficial experience.

Based upon these reviews, we want to issue a reminder. It is imperative that you have certification in prescribing authority if you are doing any IV therapy or other certifications such as Chelation, Oxidative, Hyperbaric and Prolotherapy, using any botanicals or amino acids that appear on the BC Drug Schedules or any other scheduled items. This is a legal requirement. Naturopathic physicians in BC need certification in prescribing authority in order to practice using many current naturopathic practices.

One of the projects the QAC has been working on is a re-write of the Guideline Series, which is an in-depth review of guidelines for good clinical and office practices. It has been re-named "Clinical Practice Guidelines" to more accurately describe the content. It is aimed at new graduates who are just starting out in practice and has many useful tips and advice on how to handle various aspects of a naturopathic practice. Even experienced naturopathic doctors will benefit from specific sections dealing with various problems encountered in a practice.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefan Kuprowsky, MA, ND  
Chair, Quality Assurance Committee

### **Inquiry Committee**

It is my pleasure as Chair of the Inquiry Committee to work with all the dedicated people that work so hard to make the Committee function. I would like to express my gratitude for the support that each and every one gives to the Committee.

I would like to thank Committee members Dr. David Bayley, ND and Dr. Penny Seth-Smith. Their vast experience and dedication to the Committee results in decisions that the Committee strives to ensure are based on real practice experience and are rational.

I am pleased to say that members of the profession have continued to step forward as volunteers to serve as inspectors and have attended the special training that was developed for inspectors as a joint project between CNPBC and the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC, now being offered regularly through BCIT. All of our inspectors have gone through the training. Additionally, a special training was conducted recently as a start to an ongoing series of meetings and educational events for inspectors.

Our inspectors now include Dr. Tawnya Ward who fills the function of Chief Inspector, Dr. Eric Chan, Gregg Turner, Dr. Caleb Ng, Dr. Rebecca Pitfield, Dr. Isis VanLoon, Dr. Deidre MacDonald, Dr. Seema Kanwal, Dr. Aaron VanGaver, Dr. Cher Boomhower and Dr. Bob VanHorlick. We have also used the services of a very experienced investigator, Jim Thomasen of Pinnacle Investigation.

In 2012, the Inquiry Committee dealt with 13 new complaints. A number dealt with alleged professional misconduct by registrants. Others concerned dissatisfaction with treatment, informed consent, scope of practice issues, as well as mistreatment or taking advantage of patients. A further 11 complaints were dealt with by the Registrar and involved non-registrants. A number of these complaints were complex and involved extensive investigation and consideration of many factors, as well as legal, ethical and policy considerations. A number of additional concerns were resolved with the assistance of the Registrar before they became formal complaints.

Of course, Debbie and Howard have continued to provide excellent support for the Committee's work and they were joined late in 2012 by Phillipa (Pip) Stanaway, who is doing a great job in providing staff support to the Inquiry process. The efforts of the Committee and Registrar in becoming proactive in resolving complaints early in the process have had positive results. The Inquiry Committee appreciates the involvement of the Registrar in facilitating complaint resolution and the cooperation of the registrants involved and urges all registrants who experience a complaint being filed to participate in early complaint resolution efforts wherever possible.

The procedures of the Inquiry Committee continue to be reviewed and refined in response to the amendments to the Health Professions Act, as well as new decisions emanating from the HPRB and the courts. In addressing increasingly complex issues, the College is often in a position where external legal advice is necessary. The College has a duty to protect the public and thus must investigate diligently any complaints and take appropriate actions, often with the benefit of legal advice. The procedures adopted by the Inquiry Committee must be consistent with the overarching public policy considerations of transparency, accountability and fairness. The Inquiry Committee continues to do its utmost to ensure that its procedures meet these goals. The College has ensured that appropriate resources have been dedicated to this essential mission.

The mandate of the Inquiry Committee is to protect the public. The philosophy in carrying out the mandate is to work with the registrant to ensure that they use best practices. The Inquiry process is not punitive in nature. The Inquiry Committee serves the profession of naturopathic medicine in BC by investigating and resolving complaints by consent wherever possible, in order to ensure the protection of the public. In rare cases, resolution by consent is not possible. At that point, the Inquiry Committee can direct the Registrar to issue a Citation for a Discipline Hearing under the *HPA*. This occurred once in 2012.

I would like to publicly thank the Committee members, the inspectors, and staff for their ongoing dedication in making the work of the Inquiry Committee a success and pursuing a process that ensures the confidence of the public and a reputation of which the College and its members can be justifiably proud.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Meyer, J.D.  
Chair, Inquiry Committee

### **Discipline Committee**

The Registrar issued one Citation for a Discipline hearing in 2012. A Discipline Panel was appointed and a hearing was initially scheduled for June 2013. The hearing is estimated to take 5-7 days. After the

hearing date was set the parties encountered procedural difficulties and subsequently agreed to reschedule the hearing to September 2013, to provide some additional time to address these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Long, LL.B.  
Chair, Discipline Committee

### **Examination Committee**

The Examination Committee, with Dr. Berghamer, Dr. Kanwal, Dr. Pitfield and myself, have spent the year revising the various sections of the CNPBC Oral Examinations to make it more complete and rigorous for the candidates, as well as more applicable to real-life practice situations. We still have our vision to create clinical based cases for the examination to assess critical thinking processes that the students have learned over 4 years of Naturopathic Medical School.

I would like to take this time to thank the committee members and examiners for all their hard work for the year – bravo and well done!

Over this summer, the committee will meet again to re-evaluate and critique the changes made to the exam over the year, and fine tune it again for the next sitting of examinations, which will be August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Have a great summer everyone!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sanjay Mohan Ram, B.Sc.(Hon.), N.D.  
Chair, Examination Committee

### **Patient Relations Committee**

The Patient Relations Committee welcomes new members Dr. Sanjay Mohan Ram and Mary Manning, as well as Pip Stanaway as staff to the Committee. The Committee will be recommending revisions to the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct in consultation with the Inquiry Committee, for review, approval, and distribution by the Board. The new Codes are expected to include guidance on prescribing, social media, and the responsibilities of business owners, among other issues.

Committee members recently attended a seminar open to all professions in the HRO (Health Regulatory Organization), which discussed boundaries within patient/practitioner relationships. Representatives from 16 health professions in BC attended and attendees were given opportunities to exchange ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathryn Coe, ND  
Chair, Patient Relations Committee

### **Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostic Referral (PDR) Committee**

The PDR Committee was established under the CNPBC bylaw revisions required by the Naturopathic Physicians Regulation in order to implement prescriptive authority and diagnostic access. Last year, the PDR Committee created a sub-Committee to review new drugs that come onto the market. The sub-



committee includes Dr. Deborah Phair, ND, who is also a registered pharmacist, and pharmacist PDR Committee members Dr. Glenda MacDonald, BSP, Pharm D, RPh., and Kathy McInnes, B.Sc. (Pharm), RPh, CSPI. The new drug approvals and exclusions were recommended by the PDR Committee and approved by the Board and were announced in December 2012. This past year, the PDR Committee also recommended approval for a protocol to treat Lyme disease by parenteral antibiotics, which was approved by the Board and announced.

The PDR Committee will continue to have a major role in clarifying prescriptive authority and making recommendations on new scheduled items as they become available, as well as reviewing the current exclusions on a case-by-case basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lorne G. Swetlikoff, B.Sc., N.D.  
Chair, PDR Committee

### **Advertising Committee**

The Board gave the Advertising Committee a renewed mandate and appointment. The Committee will be reviewing existing advertising policy and making recommendations to the Board regarding necessary revisions. The Committee will also be considering changes in marketing techniques with the advent of new technologies and social media, and recommending relevant policies for Board consideration. Thanks to Committee members Dr. Scott Tyler, ND and Ken Wiesner. The Chair has also consulted with the Registrar on a number of advertising issues related to individual registrants.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Todd Farnsworth, ND  
Chair, Advertising Committee