



College of Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CTCMA)

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2006 on November 26, 2006, at the SFU Theatre, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC.

Board Members Present:

Arden Henley (Board Chair), Jenny Hu (Board Member), Mary Watterson, Registrar, Philippe Souvestre (Board Member), Mary Wang (Board Member), John Yang (Board Member).

Also Present:

Patrick Chan, Charter Accountant

Tom Karisumi, Auditor

6 staff of CTCMA and 82 registrants

Apologies:

Karen Stewart

Catherine Cameron

Arthur Lee

Juliana Yung

Meeting began at 2:10 with Arden Henley in the Chair.

- 1) **Call to Order**
Chair Arden Henley confirmed the presence of the quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.
- 2) **Confirm Quorum**
60 registrants in attendance and no proxies presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3) **Introduce Guests:**
Arden Henley, on behalf of the Board, welcomed everyone to the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the College and introduced the Board Members, and the accountant.
- 4) **Adoption of the Agenda:**
The Chair noted "Vote of Appreciation" of the Agenda, Agenda approved.
- 5) **Approval of the Minutes of 2005 AGM on Feb 19, 2006:**
Minutes adopted.
All in favour, no contrary.
- 6) **Convention Standing Rules:**
Convention standing rules were circulated when registrants came to the meeting.
Approved by majority.

7) **Proposed Resolutions:**
No proposed resolutions.

8) **Chairman's Report:**

Chair wished to express gratitude to countless individuals in China who shaped the development of Traditional Chinese Medicine over the course of centuries, and introduced it to Canada. He also wished to thank past and present Board members, whose vision resulted in the formation of the College. Chair acknowledged and expressed gratitude to his predecessor, Mason Loh, who served as Chair for eight years during the challenging formative years. Thank the provincial government of BC for recognition and support for the College. Acknowledged and thanked the staff of the College for their tireless work in their endeavours. As appointed by the government of BC, he thanked all registrants, who dedicate themselves to working tirelessly to ensure good health to all the people of the province.

From the perspective of the Board and the Chair, where are we now and what are our aspirations for the future? The College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of BC provides the regulatory foundation for the profession of Traditional Chinese Medicine. To be viewed by the public as trustworthy and accountable a profession, it must have a regulatory foundation. Western medicine, law, nursing, naturopathy, and many other professions have long rested on such foundations. The active principle is self-regulation. Empowered by provincial legislation, the *Health Professions Act*, the health professions regulate themselves in the form of licensing bodies known as Colleges. The capacity to self-regulate is measure of the profession's maturity and credibility. Self-regulations bestowed by provincial governments and *only* provincial governments. This is the arrangement agreed upon in the Canadian Constitution. No other level of government or organization is entitled to grant licences to practice medicine.

The primary responsibility of the College is to protect the public by carrying out this regulatory work effectively and ethically and it is the sole body empowered by legislation to do so. Any other body that claims this right does so fraudulently and any individual who claims the right to practice based on recognition by such an organization is misrepresenting themselves. A second responsibility of the College (which it shares with the provincial government) is to assure that no other body misrepresents itself to the public as having this mandate. Recently the College had occasion to assert this right.

The College has an obligation to carry out its regulatory activities in a judicious, fair and consistent manner. We have made substantial progress in this respect over the past year and it will continue to be a major priority. The continued refinement of the contents and process of licensing exams based on objective and scientific criteria is the key to progress. The refinement of core competencies is another key factor in this area, as is further clarification of the profession's scope of practice. The College is also involved in a continual evaluation and evolution of its own legal and administrative framework. Under the very capable direction of Board member, Art Lee, a set of proposed changes to College by-laws is being prepared. Two relate to the issue of incorporation and increasing Board membership from 9 to 12.

After an interim period during which the College was ably assisted by Stan Nichol, the College has now appointed Dr Mary Watterson as its Registrar. Dr Watterson was hired after a rigorous selection process involving all members of the Board of Directors. As many of you know, Dr Watterson, is an experienced practitioner and internationally recognized advocate of TCM and TCM Regulation in North America. Her appointment represents one of the major accomplishments

of 2006 and, at the same time, symbolizes the next stage of professionalism into which TCM is entering in BC and Canada.

Further sounding the note of professionalism, over the past several months the College has participated in key meetings with the Ministry of Health, the Private Colleges and Training Institutes Agency (PCTIA) and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB). One of the major themes of these meetings has been a clarification of the College's role in the context of practitioner education. Two outcomes of these discussions have been:

- 1) CTCMA will cooperate with PCTIA in accreditation of TCM Colleges. CTCMA will provide specific expertise about the suitability of curriculum and instruction in preparing students for licensing and practitioners.
- 2) CTCMA will advise DQAB about curriculum and instruction issues in the context of evaluating colleges and programs for degree granting rights.

A focus on the quality of education and ultimately the prospect of degree granting programs reflect substantial steps forward for the TCM profession. In this respect he would like to take note of efforts presently being made to develop a unified voice for the profession in the form of a Federation. The greater the harmony and unity that we achieve and communicate to the larger society, the more the treasure chest of TCM opens to the society.

One of the accomplishments of this Board over the past year is the settlement of a longstanding dispute with its former Registrar, Mr. Randy Wong. The meaning and significance of settlement is this: the parties agreed to stop disagreeing. In this case, disagreeing through legal action. In settling the case the College is neither repudiating the actions of the previous Board nor is it agreeing to the rightness of Mr. Wong's claims against it. It is simply agreeing through legal means (a settlement) to end the dispute. The position has been taken that legal measures and counter measures are too costly to maintain or bring harmony to the community.

He also wanted to reiterate that the College is apolitical. It is not aligned with any political party nor does it take a position on any issues other than issues that directly concern the regulation of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

You are called to a great and important task. With increasing costs of health care and the changing demographics of society in North America, the present form of western medicine is not sustainable. Alternatives are no longer a luxury or the esoteric possession of the one cultural or professional group or another. They are an absolute necessity. An outsider by profession and by ethno-cultural heritage, it seems to him that TCM has a vital role to play. An observer of emerging professions in North America, three factors contribute to growth:

- 1) The capacity for civilized collaboration and dialogue within the profession.
- 2) The differentiation of the profession from other professions in the same field, in this case, health care.
- 3) The integration of the precision and objectivity of the scientific method.

The Chair is deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve on the board for the benefit of the people of BC and the profession of TCM.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee - Jenny Hu

It has been a pleasure to chair this committee. There have been some difficult times and issues these past two (2) years. We need to focus on the future of college. The College and registrants must work together to share the goal of good health care for all of BC. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the experience.

The Registrar presented a summary of the financial report to the AGM.

Quality Assurance Committee – Philippe Souvestre

The committee has been busy this year focusing on (2) two main items: continuing education and the practice and policy statement.

The Quality Assurance Committee is mandated to review the Standards of Practice and to enhance the Quality of Practice by reducing incompetent, impaired or unethical Practice among Registrants. The Committee shall establish and maintain a continuing Competency Program to promote high Standards of Practice among Registrants and it shall recommend and monitor Continuing Education regarding conditions of Registration renewal. The Committee shall meet on a regular basis.

The Committee met twice in 2006 and continues sustained action in:

- ◆ Continuing Education
- ◆ Practice Statements and Advisory Statement Policy
- ◆ Reviewing the quality and scope of CE programs submitted by Registrants for registration renewal
- ◆ Reviewing and analyzing CE programs submitted by organizations/individuals
- ◆ Developing educational material to assist the practitioner in maintaining continuing competency
- ◆ Developing supportive resources for registrants in order to develop, maintain and communicate the required Standards of Practice, including educational programs to prevent improper and exaggerated professional advertisement issues
- ◆ Elaborating on education programs for the profession and public
- ◆ Elaborating on a specific medical Code of Ethics
- ◆ Working closely with other committees including the Scope of Practice Committee to ensure continuing competency in the field of acupuncture and TCM.

The Committee always welcomes constructive suggestions to promote high standards of practice.

Discipline Committee - Philippe Souvestre

The Committee shall function in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in the Health Professions Act and the College Bylaws. The Committee meets as required and shall report its findings and issue recommendations to the Board through the Chair or Registrar.

The Discipline Committee met formally once in November. The first disciplinary hearing took place in July.

During the process, the Committee's operational mechanisms, as determined in the HPA and College Bylaws, have been working satisfactorily and successfully.

There is no pending case scheduled at this point in time.

Examination Committee - Mary Wang

Mary noted the error on the Chinese page of the report.

The Examination Committee had three meetings in 2006.

The Committee has worked with the Registrar who is in charge of operating the Examination Development Team in the continuing development of examinations for the four registrant categories. There were three examinations offered this year with 54 candidates for the Dr. TCM exam, 158 candidates for the Herbology exam and 264 candidates for the Acupuncture exam.

Based on the research references and legal counsel information, the Examination Committee working with the former registrar, Stan Nicole completed the discussion of the Examination Policies which were initiated by, Dr. Tingting Jiang, in Sept. of 2004. The Examination Committee submitted its report to the board in May of 2006. The board approved the policies in principle.

The Committee recognizes the need to continue to improve and develop the examination process while working on setting of policies and establishing goals for the future.

Registration Committee – Mary Wang

The Registration Committee consists of 6 members appointed by the Board: 4 Practitioners and 2 Public Representatives (at least one of whom must be an appointed board member).

Board approval of the appointment of a second Public member is pending. Since the Public Board meeting in March of this year, the Board decided the members of the Registration Committee as follows:

Registration Committee met 5 times during the past 12 months:

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| a) licenses issued during the year | 220 |
| b) student licenses issued during the year | 107 |
| c) de-registration | 32 |

registrants breakdown (at November 26, 2006)

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|------------------------------|-----|
| Doctors of TCM | 301 |
| Registered TCM Practitioners | 245 |
| Registered Acupuncturists | 620 |
| Registered TCM Herbalists | 56 |
| Student registrants | 609 |

Currently we have 1,831 registrants in total.

Patient Relations Committee – Philippe Souvestre

1. An educational program for all Registrants re: guidelines of professional conduct and boundaries and ethics of professional practice.
2. Establishing procedures by which the college deals with complaints of professional misconduct of a sexual nature.

The Committee will be focusing on the development of guidelines and programs in respect to the Registrant-Patient relationship.

Standards and Education Committee – Arden Henley

Standards of Education Committee had four meeting in 2006.

A function of the Standards of Education Committee is to evaluate the suitability of credentials submitted by applicants in meeting the two year university or equivalent for student membership in the College. Using standard reference materials from Universities has enabled the Committee to attain a higher degree of consistency. This standard and its implementation are the subject of ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health has encouraged the College to take an advisory rather than regulatory position in relation to education. The College will now serve as advisors to the PCTIA College accreditation process in the context of TCM schools. PCTIA has a clear legislative mandate in relation to school approval. Collaborative work between the College and PCTIA is now underway with The School Approval Handbook proving invaluable as a document of reference.

An exciting development in TCM education in BC is the application by 5 TCM schools to become degree granting. In this context CTCMA serves an advisory role in relation to the Degree Quality Assessment Board, Ministry of Advanced Education. DQAB determines the suitability of education institutions and programs for degree granting status. An initial meeting between the Board and the College took place in October. The College's School Approval Handbook proved to be an invaluable document.

Over the next year the Standards of Education Committee will:

1. Further clarify the two year university education requirement.
2. Study the CTCMA/PCTIA protocol and evaluate the effectiveness of the collaboration with PCTIA.
3. Provide advice to the Degree Quality Assessment Board as required.

CTCMA Registrar's Report:

It is my pleasure to submit the Registrar's report to the AGM. I would first like to acknowledge and thank my able predecessor, Mr. Stan Nicol. My experiences during the first three months working at the College confirm my absolute confidence in our profession.

The work of our dedicated staff combined with the contributions of our registrants, public Board and committee members have enabled the College to accomplish its mandate. It has been a busy and productive year.

The Staff is outstanding. We have the right mix of people with the knowledge, skills and abilities to accomplish the work at hand. I am indeed fortunate to work with such a team, and would like to introduce them: Michele Koon, Krista Liu, Dawn Stevens, Doris Tu, and Angus Yuen.

The Board members under the guidance of our Chair, Dr Arden Henley, are exemplary in fulfilling their duties. The commitment and enthusiasm of our Board is greatly valued. The Staff support the Board and Committees in fulfilling their mandate.

The College has had a busy year in 2006. In June, the second Dr. of TCM Examination was conducted and during October and November the regular Acupuncture and Herbology examinations were administered. There is an ongoing evaluation and refinement of the examination process.

The College is collaborating with the Private Colleges and Training Institutes Agency (PCTIA) in order to develop quality assurance standards in the delivery of education for our student registrants and for the patients attending clinical teaching facilities.

The professional competencies are being revised into 2006 draft. The feedback from educators, practitioners and academics in the field are currently being processed. This is the beginning of an anticipated 3 year schedule. The unique body of knowledge of TCM and Acupuncture is a compendium of what an individual must know and be able to do to accomplish work in the profession. The compendium is often referred to as core competencies. The purpose for identifying the profession's body of knowledge is to establish the content basis for:

- ◆ a registration testing program
- ◆ a continuing competency program
- ◆ entry-level education
- ◆ continuing education programs
- ◆ improvement of professional knowledge and practice
- ◆ development of national standards for practice

In its duty to protect the public, the College monitors and investigates allegations of unauthorized practice, such as registrants and non registrants. A comprehensive plan for effectively addressing such unlawful activities is currently being developed with the assistance of legal counsel. It is anticipated that the plan will be in full force early in the New Year.

Under regulation our profession is blossoming. In health professions generally this is a significant change. On Thursday, November 23rd MOH released a document on health care reform that will impact all health professionals.

In closing, many thanks to all Board and committee members, and other volunteers, who have so freely and graciously contributed to a successful year. It is your support that enables the College to accomplish its mandate to serve and protect the public.

Questions & Answers:

Question was raised about new board members. Count was done and if no recount required the official announcement will be made on December 8, 2006.

Question was raised regarding different health care professionals practicing acupuncture. What is CTCMA doing to safeguard the public? CTCMA is looking to see what the government reform has in mind, and CTCMA has (3) three months to respond to the reform and will be doing so.

A last question was asked about examinations being done annually and if that would be changed to having them more frequently. Registrar responded that college is growing up and taking the same route as other colleges with regard to annual exams. Also, it was noted that there are (4) four different types of exams held by the college now.

Suggestion that the website of the College list registrants throughout BC, in a more user Friendly format so the public will be able to see if a practitioner is registered with the College.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.