



College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners & Acupuncturists of British Columbia

2016 – 2017 Annual Report

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Chair's Message

Dear TCM colleagues,

The Board took positive action of educational priority by providing every registrant with a copy of the Jurisprudence Handbook in order to protect public safety and serve public interests.

One would expect that such support and assistance from the College would be a positive step toward a great understanding of jurisprudence and the important legal principles practitioners need to know.

Although the acupuncture and TCM professions have been legislated for 20 years and 17 years respectively, a survey taken in 2012 by the Mustel Market Research Group reported that only 1% of the population know about it. A recent survey showed that the awareness had grown to 6%. That is still not sufficient and the College has developed a public communication strategy to inform individuals seeking TCM treatment to provide those members of the public with access to ensuring that their practitioner is a licensed TCM health professional. About the relationship between the College and the associations, we have strengthened our communication with associations. Through discussions, the similarities and differences between the respective responsibilities and purposes of the College and the associations have been clarified.

The College continues to be successful in meeting the objectives and timelines of the Strategic Plan 2015-2019 and is moving forward with projects and activities to further enhance the

overriding mandate of the College to ensure the delivery of safe and effective TCM treatment.

The Dr.TCM examination has been aligned with the competencies developed in 2015. British Columbia is the only province in Canada offering licensing examinations for Dr. TCM registration. The Education Program Review has been implemented with the first curriculum review using the Entry-Level Competencies. Traditional Chinese medicine is an independent and comprehensive medical system complementary to conventional medicine, requiring comprehensive and systematic training. As the regulatory body, our vision is to protect public interest through continuously improving the standards of practice, competency, education and ethical conduct. The College is willing to collaborate with all other provincial regulatory bodies to move the professional standards forward especially the Pan-Canadian Examinations.

In the Fall of 2016, I attended the Fall Symposium of the British Columbia Health Regulators (BCHR). At the Symposium, Ms. Cynthia Johansen, Chair of the BCHR, presented on the History of the BCHR: How We Got Here. The organization was started in 1996 as the Health Regulators Organization of BC (HRO). An emphasis was made on the value of working together collaboratively to promote effective and efficient regulation in the public interest, and how that collaboration can facilitate our work with the Ministry of Health. Another major emphasis was on our duty and objects to protect public safety and interests at all times as a whole. Collaboration with the BC Health Regulators continues to be productive in the mutually shared mandate of protecting the public.

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Bao Qi Cao,
Chair

Registrar's Message

The College has had a year filled with activities and successful outcomes thanks to support and dedication from our registrants, public volunteers and at the operational level by a hard-working staff team.

There has been significant energy and collaboration at many levels – all of which has resulted in the College taking a leadership role and embracing our mandate to serve and protect the public.

The Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists Regulation (TCMPA Regulation) Amendment Proposal was first submitted to the Ministry in July 2015, and an updated version submitted earlier this year. In developing the TCMPA Regulation amendments, over the past eight years, the CTCMA has conducted an extensive consultation process with stakeholders including members of the BC Health Regulators, the Ministry's Professional Regulation staff, and TCM practitioners, educators and academics provincially and nationally. The following is a summary of the key items.

- Remove the word "acupuncture" from the Health Professions Designation Regulation since TCM is one profession. This will resolve years of confusion and misunderstanding among the public, other health professionals, health authorities and government. The 1999 establishment of the CTCMA subsumed the College of Acupuncturists that had been established three years earlier. The designation lists two professions: TCM and acupuncture.
- Rename the College to the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners of British Columbia for further clarity to primary stakeholders, especially the public and other health professionals, that the College regulates the one profession of TCM.
- Revise the definition of TCM to accurately reflect practice and to expressly include all TCM practitioners. By doing so, present confusion as to whether the College regulates one profession or two (TCM and acupuncture) will be dispelled, which will promote greater understanding and expectations for all stakeholders, including members of the public and our colleagues in other health professions.
- Add the prescribing authority of the Schedule of Restricted Chinese Medicines to the master list in the Health Professions General Regulation Restricted Activities. The regulation of prescribing authority for these Chinese medicines with identified risks will facilitate public access to safe TCM herbal medicine treatment.

- Alignment of the TCMPA Regulation to the Health Professions Act (HPA) model by authorizing TCM practitioners to perform identified restricted activities which are part of the current scope of practice. The alignment will enable the College to effectively regulate TCM practitioners through standards, limits and conditions to ensure the mitigation of risk.
- Amend section 6 of the TCMPA Regulation. For over twenty years the profession has been successfully regulated in BC without any regulatory matters involving the 5 subsections of section 6. Registrants practice in collaboration with other health professionals with respect to these duties, which will be reinforced through the standards, limits and conditions establish by the College for the restricted activities. Additionally, the restricted activities proposed regarding TCM Point Injection Therapy (PIT) will require advanced practice certification.

The primary goal of the proposed Regulation Amendment is to ensure that the College continues to be able to effectively regulate TCM practitioners with respect to public protection while preserving and enhancing public confidence in the provision of TCM services in British Columbia. It is also intended to ensure continued access for patients to services currently being provided by TCM practitioners, which the public assumes to be adequately regulated.

The adoption of the scope of practice and restricted activities approach contained in the HPA Model is necessary to ensure that the regulation of TCM practitioners is fully consistent with that of other health professions in British Columbia. In 2016, the Scope of Practice Standards was developed to ensure patients receive safe, professional and consistent standard of care. Currently under review by the Ministry of Health, a consultation period will be undertaken later this year with registrants and other stakeholders.

Mary S. Watterson,
Registrar & CEO

Board of Directors

Mission

Ben Bao Qi Cao, Chair

DISTRICT 1 ‡

Bar-Chya Lee, Vice-Chair

UNTIL FEBRUARY 2017 Ⓞ

Queenie Choo

UNTIL FEBRUARY 2017 Ⓞ

Kuo Hsiang Reagan Chu

DISTRICT 1 - SINCE JANUARY 2017 ‡

Paul Sit Cheong Ho

DISTRICT 1 - UNTIL JANUARY 2017 ‡

Oleh Ilnycky

SINCE MARCH 2017 Ⓞ

Te Cheng Kao

DISTRICT 1 - UNTIL JANUARY 2017 ‡

John Yung Chou Lee

DISTRICT 1 ‡

Joseph Ranallo

DISTRICT 2 ‡

Jocelyn Stanton

SINCE MARCH 2017 Ⓞ

Weijia Tan

DISTRICT 1 ‡

Mark Warkentin

UNTIL JANUARY 2017 Ⓞ

Noelle (Sandra) Wilking

SINCE FEBRUARY 2017 Ⓞ

Weidong Yu

DISTRICT 1 - SINCE JANUARY 2017 ‡

‡ REGISTRANT MEMBER
Ⓞ PUBLIC MEMBER



The College serves and protects the public interest by regulating and advancing safe, ethical and quality traditional Chinese medicine practice in British Columbia.

The College is committed to protecting the public by ensuring that anyone holding themselves out as practicing or qualified to practice traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture is registered through the College. Moreover, the College strives to ensure that registrants establish, maintain and continually improve the quality of care they provide to their clients. Working with external agencies and partners provincially, nationally and internationally, the College will actively work to continuously improve the high standards of care that government, clients and the general public expect through ongoing review, assessment and analysis of trends and issues in the field of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture.

Discipline Committee

Chair: Joseph Ranallo †

Members: Paul Chang-Jen Chen †; William MacLeod ☉; David MacPherson ☉

The Discipline Committee is mandated to:

1. Deal with matters related to the Professional Medical Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct;
2. Conduct evaluation of investigation results handed over by the Inquiry Committee;
3. Issue citation for and conduct hearing session(s); and
4. Consider and take action if necessary as follows:
 - a) dismiss the matter
 - b) reprimand the respondent
 - c) impose limits or conditions
 - d) suspend respondent's registration
 - e) cancel respondent's registration
 - f) fine the respondent
 - g) assess costs (or part of them) of the hearing against the respondent

In 2016, a number of potential hearings were averted through increased work at the Inquiry Committee level in implementing strategies developed through on-going meetings with legal counsel and other BC Health Regulators.

There were no Disciplinary Hearings held in 2016 - 2017.

Education & Examination Committee

Chair: Ben Bao Qi Cao †

Members: Bradley Matthews †; Eric Xing-Hua Pu ☉; David Robitaille ☉; Hannah Shen †; David Wong †

The education and examination committee is responsible for

- (a) determining eligibility to write examinations,
- (b) reviewing education programs in British Columbia for compliance with the entry-to-practice standards, and
- (c) reviewing and making recommendations to the board regarding
 - the examinations required for registration in each title/category of registration,
 - the recognition of education programs, and
 - the entry-to-practice standards an applicant is required to meet in order to register with the College.

Following the Committee's review and update to the education requirements in Schedule E of the College bylaws and the Education Program Review (EPR) process to reflect the Entry-Level Occupational Competencies for TCM practitioners, the EPR process has been implemented and the eight TCM education programs in BC will complete reviews this year.

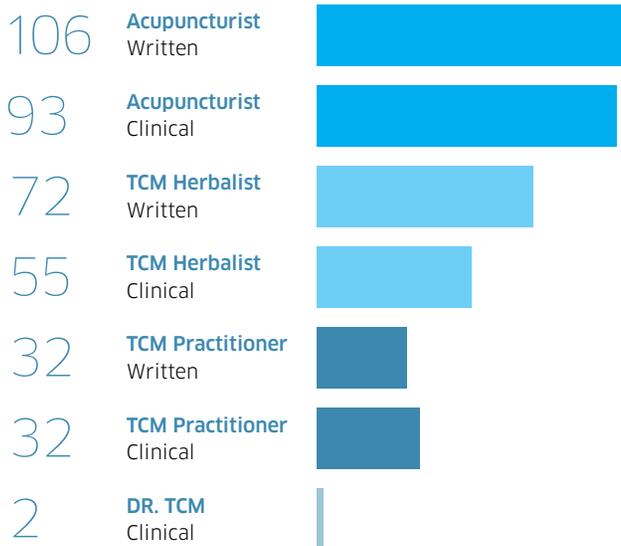
The Committee also initiated a review of the Dr. TCM Examinations to align the examination to the Entry-Level Occupational Competencies. Following the completion of the review, the Dr. TCM Examination was updated and the examination that will be offered in 2017 will be based on the Entry-Level Occupational Competencies for Dr. TCM.

Through a working group, the Committee completed draft certification competencies for TCM practitioners to practice point injection therapy. Once finalized, the competencies will define point injection therapy as practiced by TCM practitioners and enable the College to recognize training programs and practitioner abilities.

A project was initiated to develop an interactive safety course to serve as a bridge between a potential TCM practitioner's classroom studies and a novice TCM practitioner's practice. The interactive safety course will replace the Safety Examination with an aim to be engaging, fun and interactive to enable a potential TCM practitioner to gain the necessary knowledge and its practical application for safe practice.

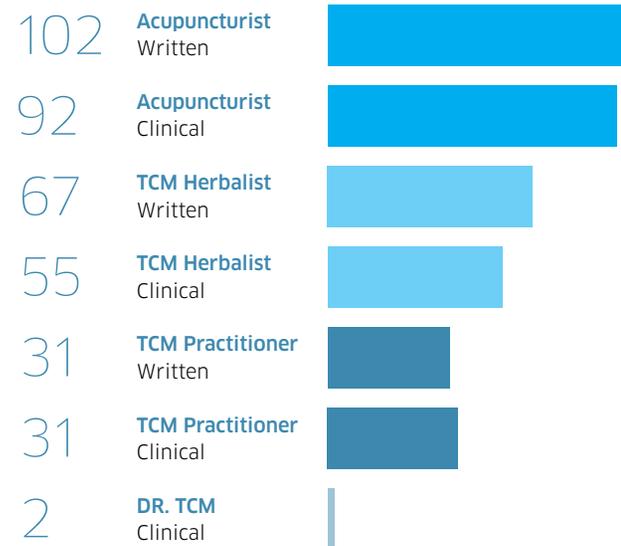
Total 392

Examination Applications



Total 380

Examination Candidates



Application Results



Candidate Results



Finance and Administration Committee

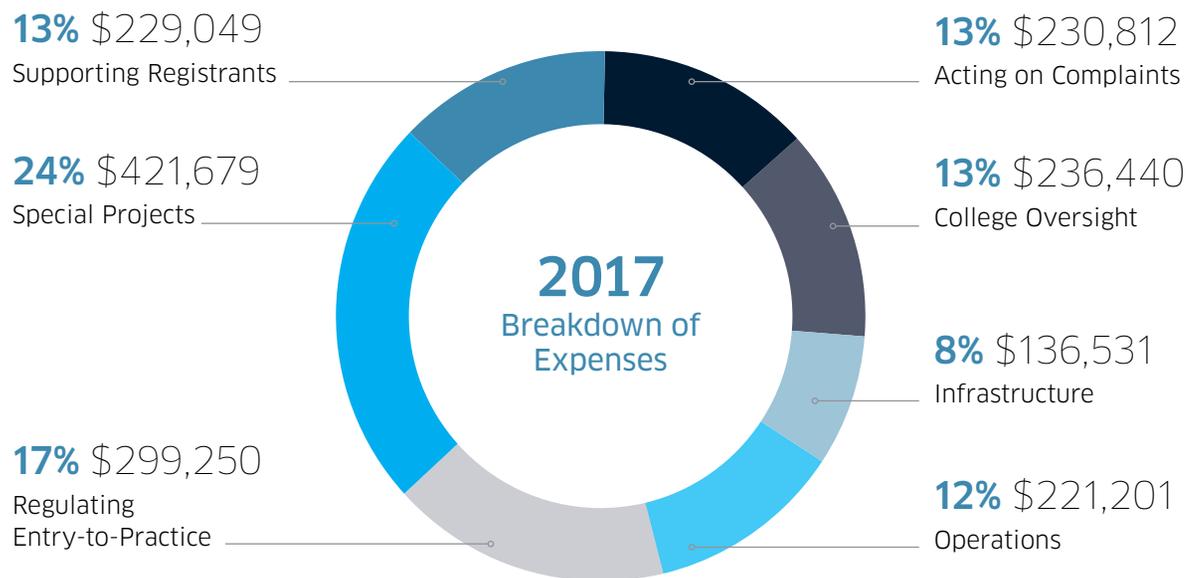
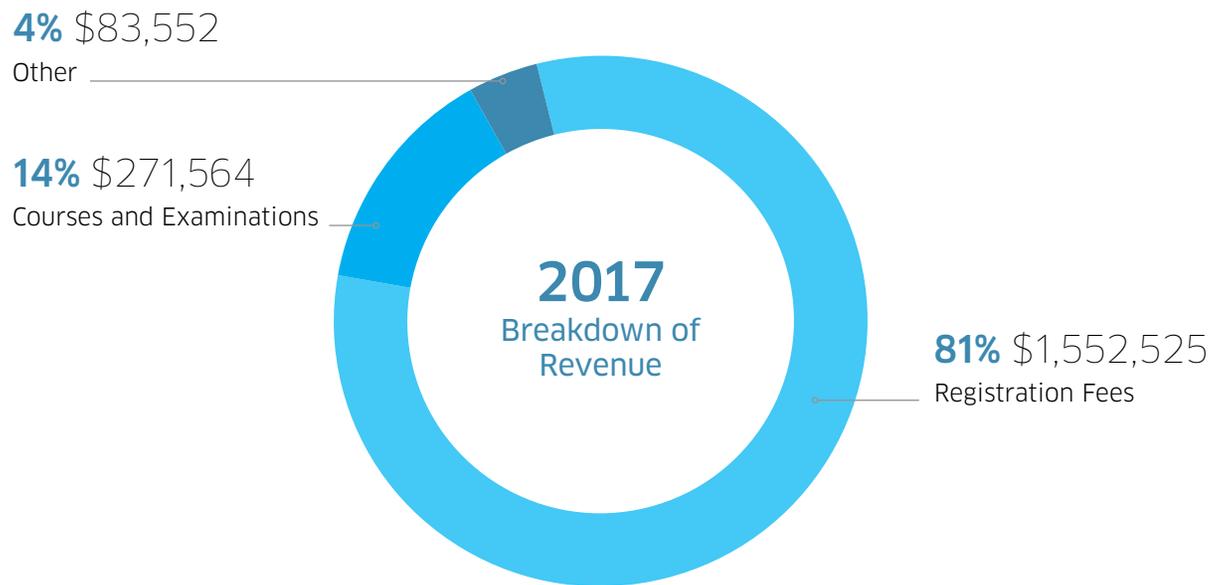
Chair: John Yung Chou Lee †

Members: Ben Cao Qi Cao †

The Finance and Administration Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its mandate by

- overseeing the College’s budget;
- reviewing operational and capital expenditures;
- reviewing the College’s financial systems; and
- governing the annual financial audit by an external public auditor.

Financial Overview



Inquiry Committee

Members: Adrian Chaster ☉, Melissa Carr ‡, Louise Demorest ‡, Tahmineh Nikookar ‡, Vivienne Stewart ☉, Jennifer Strong ‡, Weijia Tan ‡

The Inquiry Committee is mandated to

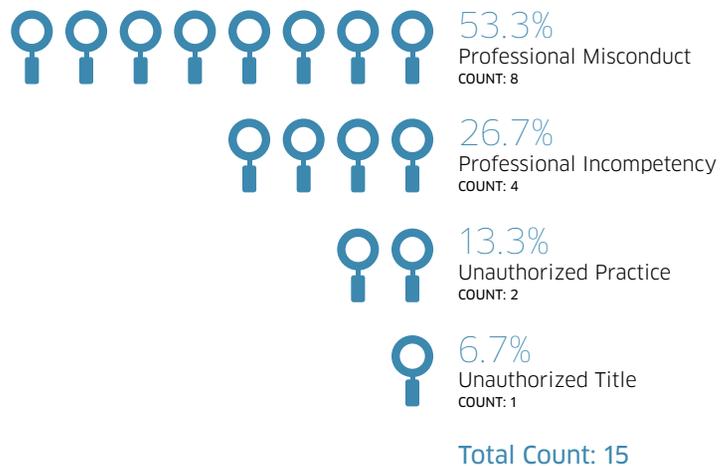
- investigate written complaints made regarding the practice of a College registrant and matters related to professional practice; and
- investigate matters involving unauthorized practice by non-registrants.

The Committee met for 28 meetings in 2016 – 2017. Inquiry Committee members meet in panels of three to review complaints. Each panel consists of three members of which at least one is a public member. The Committee directs investigations, resolves complaints and issues citations for hearings.

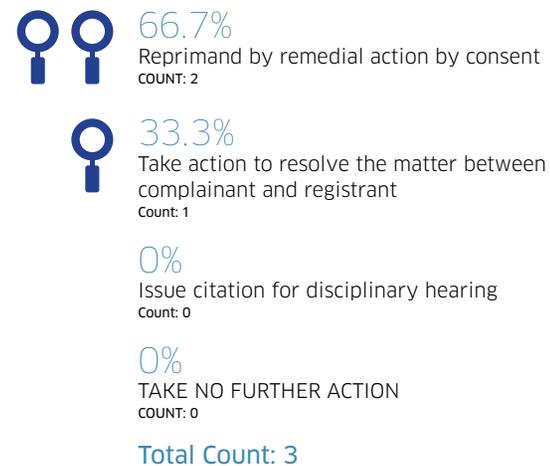
The Committee continued to work on the following:

- collaborate with other committees for both remedial and preventative action;
- work with MSP in investigations and prevention of future misbilling infractions; and
- work with liability insurance providers to ensure compliance with section 90 of the bylaws.

Investigations Opened



Investigations Closed



Patients Relations Committee

Chair: Kuo Hsiang Reagan Chu, Chair †

Members: Catherine Cameron †; Paul Sit Cheong Ho †; Jason Tutt †

The Patients Relations Committee is mandated to deal with complaints of professional misconduct of sexual nature by

- establishing and maintain procedures to deal with such complaints;
- developing and coordinating educational programs for professionals and the public;
- developing guidelines for professional conduct; and
- providing information to the Public regarding the College's complaint and disciplinary process

The Framework for a Model Patient-Practitioner Relationship Program for BC Health Regulators was adopted this year. The Framework will serve as a guideline in developing a program for registrants of the College.

There were no meetings held in 2016 - 2017.

Quality Assurance Committee

Chair: Weijia Tan †

Members: Delphia Johnstone ☉; Adina Kuerban †; Eyal Lebel †

The Quality Assurance Committee is mandated to

- review the standards of practice and to enhance the quality of practice and to reduce incompetent, impaired or unethical practice among registrants;
- establish and maintain a continuing competency program to promote high standards of practice among registrants; and
- recommend to the Board continuing education requirements and any other requirements for revalidation of registration.

The Committee is continuing work on the development of a Quality Assurance Program (QAP) to support practitioners in meeting the established standards. The QAP is also intended to ensure patients receive safe, professional and consistent

standard of care and treatment outcomes. Essential competencies for the practice of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture have been developed and are currently under study by the thirteen-member QAP Consultation Working Group.

Through the Scope of Practice Working Group, the Committee completed a draft Scope of Practice Standards document that describes the professions' practice under the Ministry's regulatory framework, and establishes the standards, limits and conditions that will be required for practice.

A Chinese Medicine Working Group was established to review the schedule of Chinese medicines listed in Appendix B of the Regulation Amendment Proposal, July 2015. This work resulted in an update to the list of Restricted Chinese Medicines in the Proposal.

The Committee held three meetings in 2016-2017 for the above work and to review and recommend quality assurance policies.

Registration Committee

Members: Luke Bin Cao †, Fei Che †, Paul Chang-Jen Chen †, Peter Wood †, Terence Yu ☉

The Committee is mandated to

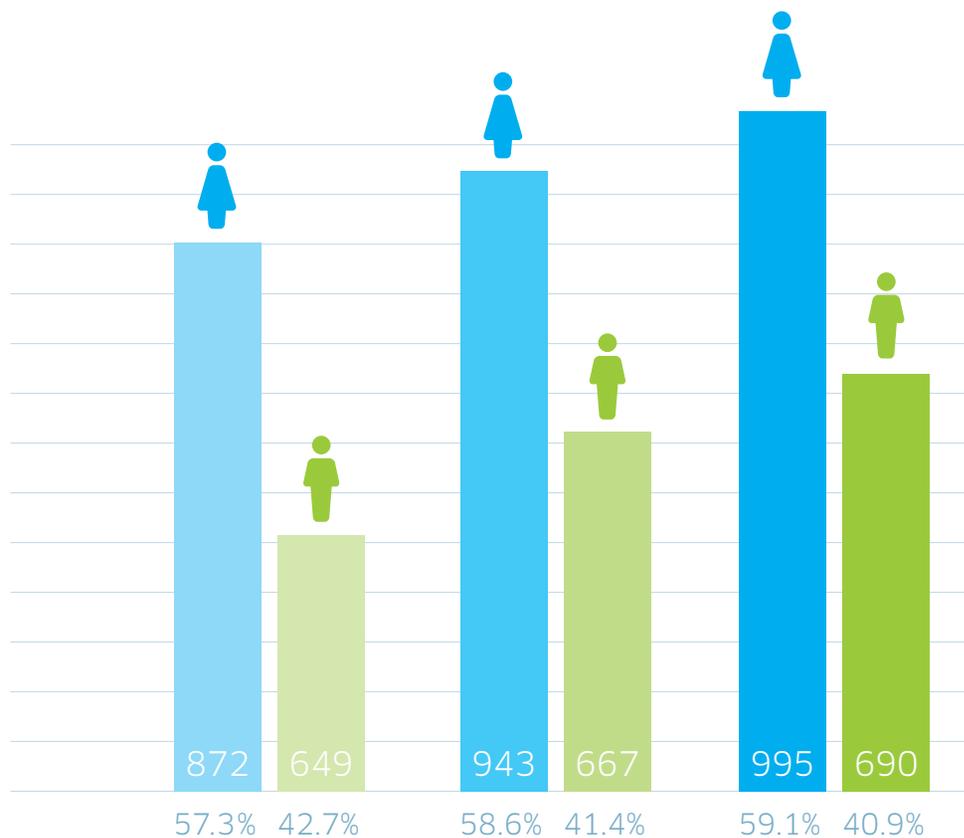
- review and approve the registration of a person as a registrant of the College
- consider approval of the following information submitted for registration application purposes:
 - accredited colleges or chartered/approved universities for registration applicant purposes
 - good character for registration applicant purposes
 - evidence of authorization to work in Canada for registration applicant purposes
 - provide decisions pursuant to CTCMA Bylaws sections 48, 50, 51, 53, 58, and 59

The Committee held nine meetings to review registration applications in 2015 – 2016. The Committee issued 176 new full practicing registrations and 176 new student registrations.

The Committee continues to collaborate with other BC Health Regulators to share resources and address common topics and responsibilities.

Registration by Category	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
Non-Practicing	118 5.2%	103 4.8%	107 5.1%
Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Dr.TCM)	310 13.7%	317 14.8%	300 14.4%
Registered Acupuncturist (R.Ac.)	846 37.5%	806 37.5%	771 37%
Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Herbalist (R.TCM.H)	31 1.4%	33 1.5%	34 1.6%
Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner (R.TCM.P)	498 22.0%	454 21.1%	416 20.0%
Student	456 20.2%	434 20.2%	453 21.8%
Total	2259 100%	2147 100%	2081 100%

Registration Committee Gender of Practicing Registrants



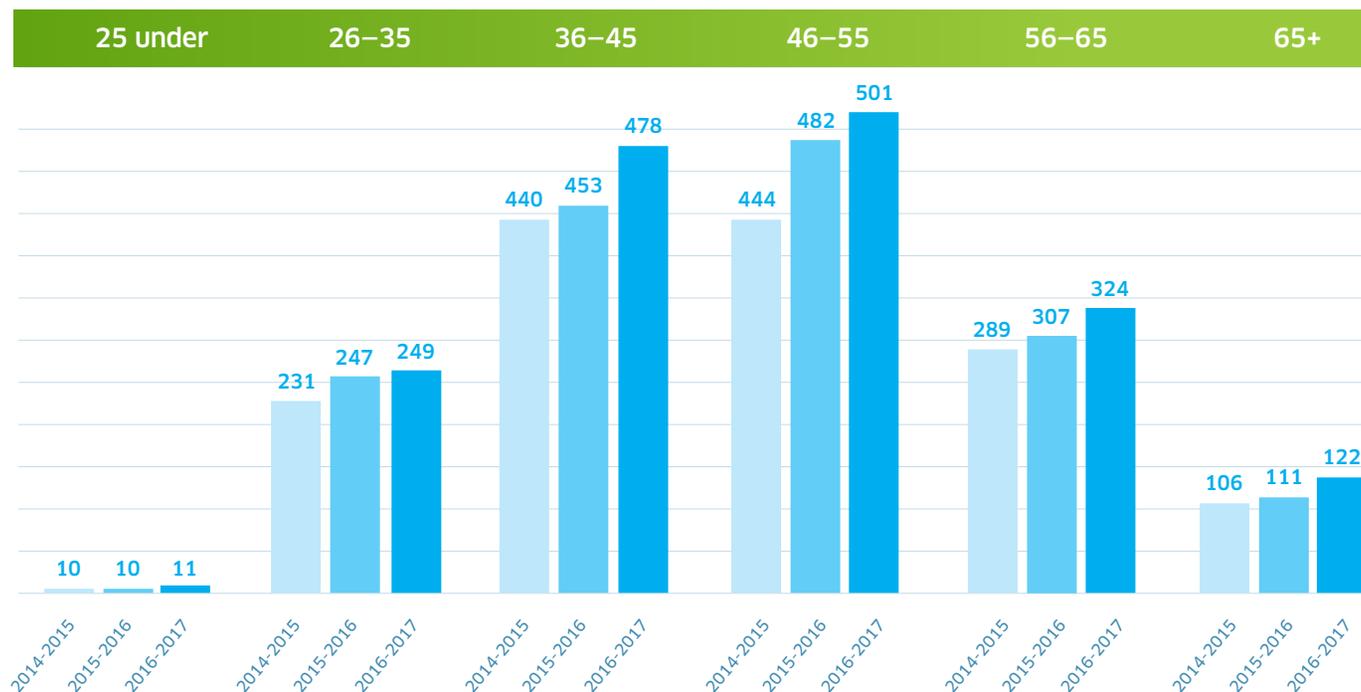
Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total	1521	1610	1685

Primary Language Spoken in Clinic

	Frequency	Percentage %
Cantonese	128	7.6
English	1106	65.5
Korean	38	2.3
Mandarin	324	19.2
Other	89	5.1
Total*	1685	100

*Includes Estonian, Farsi, Finnish, Japanese, Russian and Unknown.

Registration Committee Age of Practicing Registrants



Where Practicing Registrants are Practicing and were Educated

Where Practicing Registrants Were Educated			Practice Location of Practicing Registration		
British Columbia	1007	60%	International	5	.3%
United States of America	35	2%	Metro Vancouver	1166	61.9%
Canada	19	1%	Okanagan	46	2.7%
International Non-Asia	43	3%	Other Areas in BC	202	12%
International Asia	320	19%	Other Provinces in Canada	35	2.1%
Unspecified	261	15%	Vancouver Island	231	13.7%
Total	1685	100%	Total	1685	100%



**College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Practitioners & Acupuncturists
of British Columbia**

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