

# Meeting of the Council

April 23, 2004

**Present:**

President and District 1 Councillor Wayne Rubner, District 2 Councillor Amin Bardai, District 3 Councillor Howard Rose, District 4 Councillor Erica Gregory, District 5 Councillor Rita Thomson, District 6 Councillor John Hope, District 7 Councillor Carol Gee, and Government Appointees Jo Ann Groves and Peter Rubin.

**Absent (with notice):**

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dean Robert Sindelar and Government Appointee Marina Ma.

**Staff (at various times):**

Registrar Linda Lytle, Deputy Registrar Brenda Osmond and Administrative Assistant Samantha Lam.

**Guests (at various times):**

Janice Moshenko, Director, Continuing Pharmacy Education and Rosey Brenan, President, Rodon Communications.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Rubner called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

He stated the College mission statement:

*To ensure British Columbia pharmacists provide safe and effective pharmacy care to help people achieve better health.*

**AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**

The following item was deleted from the agenda

6.01 CG-2 Governance Style (duplicate entry)

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the January 30, 2004 Council meeting were approved by consensus.

## **OUTCOME DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

### **Council Project 2004**

Further to the January 2004 decision to present a series of public forums to promote the profession of pharmacy as this year's Council project, communications consultant Rosey Brenan lead a workshop session to assist the Councillors with the development of project details and implementation plans.

Councillors will obtain contacts for groups interested in having a speaker present at their event(s). Further project details will be discussed at the June Council meeting.

### **International Pharmacy Services**

As directed at the September 2003 Council meeting, Registrar Lytle has provided Councillors with copies of all relevant media reports and other publications relating to the provision of international pharmacy services (IPS) to US patients. To date, there is no evidence-based information that links the perceived drug shortages and drug price increases with IPS. Health Canada has directed its inspectors to confirm that neither counterfeit nor unapproved drugs are being kept in pharmacy inventories in Canada. No problems have been identified.

Registrar Lytle will keep the Councillors up to date so that they can continue to monitor the situation.

### **Medical Marijuana**

Deputy Registrar Brenda Osmond provided Council with an update and answered questions on the topic of medical marijuana. She informed Councillors that Health Canada is planning to launch a pilot project (possibly in BC) that would make medical marijuana available through specific pharmacies for patients whose diagnoses have been confirmed by a physician in accordance with Health Canada's criteria.

Patients will continue to receive authorization to purchase medical marijuana from Health Canada. As well, they will be issued a card with photo identification. Trained and certified pharmacists would work with authorized patients to decide on the appropriate dose, dosing schedule and route of administration.

### **Methamphetamine Precursors**

North American law enforcement agencies are concerned about the increased production and use of illegal methamphetamine. Due to the relative ease of methamphetamine production, law enforcement officers are urging greater control of the precursors, one of which is pseudoephedrine.

The federal government has enacted the Precursor Control Regulations, which deal with bulk quantities and wholesaler supply of targeted substances. Quantity limitations, and extensive reporting procedures are required.

The National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee's drug schedule places pseudoephedrine in the Unscheduled category, meaning that it can be sold from any retail outlet. The committee will be reviewing the current scheduling status of the drug.

Council directed Registrar Lytle to prepare a *Bulletin* article alerting pharmacists to be aware of pseudoephedrine sales and to report any significant increases in product sales to their local RCMP or the national Crime Stoppers line at 1.800.222.TIPS.

## **NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

### **College Awards Program**

Council discussed ideas for revamping the awards program. Direction was given to Registrar Lytle to have new award program criteria for review at the June Council meeting.

### **Melatonin Status**

Melatonin, a hormone produced by the pineal gland of animals, is the active ingredient of drugs that help to regulate circadian rhythms and improve sleep quality related to sleep disorders or jet lag. To date, no melatonin-containing product for human use has been approved for sale by way of a product licence in Canada.

Melatonin needs market authorization from Health Canada before it may be sold in Canada. All Natural Health Products (NHP) that are sold without a product licence are noncompliant with the NHP Regulations and are subject to the NHP's Compliance Policy for NHPs. This policy explains that Health Canada prioritizes enforcement activities on a risk-mitigation basis.

Under this policy, melatonin is categorized as a Priority 1 NHP substance. This means that as of June 1, 2004, Health Canada will focus compliance efforts with respect to melatonin NHPs for which a product licence application has not been received by the NHP Directorate.

Single-entity amino acids are listed as Priority 2 substances, which means that enforcement actions will take place January 1, 2005.

Until a Natural Product Number or a Homeopathic Medicine Number is granted, melatonin products and single-entity amino acid products are not approved for sale as a NHP and are considered unapproved drugs in Canada.

Council requested that the Registrar include an article in the *Bulletin* directing pharmacists to the College website for up-to-date information and to add this topic to the June Council meeting agenda for further discussion, depending on its legal status at that time.

## **MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

### **Registrar's Executive Report**

Registrar Lytle provided monitoring reports and updates on the following topics:

### ***Practice standards: Professional Development and Assessment Program***

Activities and events relating to practice standards: professional development and assessment program were provided and discussed for the information of the Councillors, noting that Knowledge Assessment (KA) results were sent in late March to the 158 pharmacists who participated in the December and February KA sittings. Ninety-five per cent of the participants met the standards approved by the Board of Examiners.

### ***Pharmacy Technicians***

Provincial activities related to this outcome have been delayed due to similar efforts being undertaken at the national level and in other provinces.

### ***Pharmacist Empowerment and Autonomy***

A year-long series of *Bulletin* articles was launched in the March-April issue, focusing on pharmacist empowerment and autonomy, using “real life” examples and providing options for pharmacists to consider for use in resolving their concerns. The options focus on using the Framework of Professional Practice to guide discussions between employee pharmacists and their managers or employers.

### ***Involving Pharmacists in Key Initiatives***

A website review is underway to ensure its usefulness and efficiency. Website users will be invited to participate in an online survey to express their views about the website and to provide suggestions for improvement.

### ***Financial Health: College***

The Registrar reported full compliance with this policy's requirements.

### ***Communication Reporting: Registrar to Council***

The Registrar reported full compliance with this policy's requirements.

### ***Charitable Donations***

The Registrar reported full compliance with this policy's requirements.

### ***Delegation of Approval of Collaborative Agreements***

In accordance with Council policy, College staff have approved a collaborative agreement for anaemia management of hemodialysis patients. It is a detailed algorithm in which a nurse assists in gathering laboratory data and providing the data to the pharmacy. Both the pharmacist and the nurse review the protocol and agree on the appropriate medication and dose to be used. The medications involved are iron supplements (oral and intravenous) and drugs to stimulate red blood cell production (erythropoietin hormone replacement therapy).

### ***Authority Delegated to the Registrar***

The Registrar reported full compliance with this policy's requirements.

### ***Role of the President***

The requirements of the Council policy on the role of the President have been met.

### ***Relationship with the Public and other Key Stakeholders***

Activities and events relating to relations with the public and other key stakeholders were provided to demonstrate compliance with the policy.

### ***Tobacco-Free Pharmacies***

Activities and events relating to the tobacco-free pharmacies initiative were provided to demonstrate compliance with the policy.

### **Council Monitoring Reports**

#### ***Registrar's Job Description***

The requirements of the Council policy on the Registrar's job description have been met.

#### ***Governance Style***

The requirements of the Council policy on governance style have been met.

#### ***NAPRA Board of Directors***

Registrar Lytle advised that the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Board of Directors requires a new appointee for a term starting in October 2004.

### **Professional Practice Policies Review**

Councillors reviewed selected Professional Practice Policies (PPP) to determine if revisions or other updates were required.

*It was moved, seconded and carried.*

Council rescinds the following policies:

- PPP-6 Pharmacies in Private Membership Clubs
- PPP-8 HIV/Aids Prescription PharmaNet Records

Council requested that the Registrar prepare a *Bulletin* article regarding PPP-2 Release of Prescription Information. Pharmacy Security (PPP-5) will be brought forward at the June meeting for simplification.

Council will continue its review of the policies starting with PPP-9 at the June meeting.

## **NONPOLICY DECISIONS**

### **Bylaw 35(3) and (4) – Release of Prescriber Identification to Data Compilers**

British Columbia's *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)* became law on January 1, 2004. The existing College Bylaw 35(3) is inconsistent with the new legislation. In order to harmonize College practices with the new provincial legislation, the College needs to repeal this bylaw.

Once the legislative change is approved by Order-in-Council, pharmacists will be able to engage more fully in drug use management strategies and emerging initiatives to enhance patient safety.

*It was moved, seconded and carried.*

Council recommends the removal Bylaw 35(3) and (4) and the deletion of the words "practitioner or" in Bylaw 35(2).

### **Wyeth Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia Award Recipient Selection**

Councillors and College staff identified nominees to be submitted to the Bowl of Hygeia Award Selection Committee for the selection of this year's award recipient.

### **Meeting Assessment**

Councillors completed the Council Assessment Meeting Assessment form. President Rubner will compile the data and report the results at the June meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.