

Diabetes Committee Report

The year 2010 was a busy, productive one for the diabetes committee. We welcomed Dr. Dianna Leong, (WW 94) to our committee. She is very active in diabetic eye care in Calgary and she has demonstrated a keen interest in sharing her skills and enthusiasm with us nationally. Dr. Michael Dennis retired from our committee however he has offered to remain as a resource to us as he has been appointed to the National Advocacy Committee of CDA. Welcome Dianna and thank you Michael.

This year's agenda was to tie up some unfinished business from 2009. We now have a direct website link to CAO from CDA webpage on vision health (<http://www.diabetes.ca/diabetes-and-you/living/complications/vision-health/>) and to CAO's website ("find an optometrist") on the CDA Rx pad fact sheet. Thanks to Glenn Campbell for facilitating this. The Rx pad was edited in content by Drs. Chris Hudson and Tim McMahon of UW in conjunction with the committee. The task was to provide a more clinically correct version for health professionals while still maintaining an easily understood message for the general public. Thanks to Chris and Tim for sharing your expertise with us.

One of our goals was to have a joint CDA/CAO endorsed form for providing eye examination results for persons living with diabetes to their PCP. It is a concern among the medical community that some optometrists are not sending reports to them and that some optometrists will only send a report with the signed consent of the patient. Hopefully by the time of the OLF we will have a favourable response from the CDA to our joint form.

Our CJO editor, Leslie Laskarin, worked with CDA to promote Eye Health Month in CDA's "Diabetes Dialogue". As an initial step CDA provided us with a space for a PSA in the CDA quarterly magazine. "October is Eye Health MonthWhen detected early, many vision problems are reversible - and in some cases preventable. For more information on how diabetes can affect your eyes, visit [diabetes.ca /vision-health](http://diabetes.ca/vision-health) or speak to your optometrist. You can find a local optometrist with the help of the Canadian Association of Optometrists at www.opto.ca". Thanks to Leslie for her work on this.

The CDA/CSEM was a great success for optometry. The Alberta Association of Optometrists arranged for the booth set up including a continuous loop of the "educate the educators" PPT running on a large flat screen. Many thanks to Brian Wik and the staff of the AAO for this and the support of the local optometrists Drs. Annu Kaul, Tanner Udenberg, Kim Ngo, Kelly Tran, Rina Singh, Ruby Mangat, Treasa Wong, Jane Thrall, Jennifer Ash, and Monzer Al-Bekai for volunteering each four hours of their time at the booth. We had three key messages. Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in those aged 25-65, the CDA and CAO have a formal partnership that outlines that optometrists provide diabetic eye exams, and the availability of a local optometrist presenting the "educate the educators" PPT to their local DE chapter. From the dialogue with the DE's in 2006 compared with 2010, optometry has come a long way. The vast majority of DE's use optometrists as a referral source for their diabetic patients. A few endos and GP's were unclear as to the various imaging instruments we use and the variability in the billing of these tests.

The National Aboriginal Diabetes Association (NADA) wants to work more with CAO on updating their diabetic eye care pamphlets. They were very appreciative of the excellent work that Dr. Paul Chris has done for aboriginal people.

Also at the CDA/CSEM I was able to get a ticket to the awards banquet where our Dr. Michael Dennis received a CDA National Volunteer Award for his role in promoting optometric eye care to those living with diabetes. The next CDA/CSEM will be in Toronto October 26-29, 2011.

Recommendations

1. Book exhibit space and collaborate with the Ontario Association of Optometrists for the 2011 CDA/CSEM
2. Promote the use of the CDA/CAO report form
3. Track provincial coverage for diabetic eye exams
4. Promote the Retinopathy Chapter of the 2008 CDA Clinical Practice Guidelines to our members.
5. Communicate with the schools to ensure that consultation reports are taught as part of clinical protocol.

Respectfully submitted
Dr. Richard Lee
Chairman Diabetes Committee