

## Report of the Diabetes Committee 2010

The diabetes committee had two main objectives for the past year; to produce a power point for our members to present to their local diabetes educator sections and to have the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) submit a guest editorial in our Canadian Journal of Optometry (CJO).

We are pleased to report that the power point (PPT) will soon be uploaded to the “members only” portal of the CAO web-site. We feel that interaction with the diabetic educators is key to promoting our role in the care of Canadians living with diabetes. There are 28 slides on diabetes and the eye complete with speaking notes in both official languages. A special thanks to Dr. Suzelle Pelletier of Dalhousie N.B. and Dr. Langis Michaud of Montreal Que. for their work on translation. We would also like to thank Dr. Chris Hudson for sending along slides on NVD and NVE. We included 14 supplementary slides and notes on various common eye conditions, such as AMD and LVC that often are asked during the discussion following eye care presentations. To promote the utilization of the PPT we are recommending that each provincial association consider giving continuing education credits to optometrists making the presentation to a diabetes educator section. Our committee will be providing the coordinates of every diabetes educator section in the country to you soon. Our committee also recommends having each optometry association promote the PPT within their province. We need to discuss ways to facilitate this.

Our committee is recommending that CAO be represented at the CDA/CSEM in Edmonton in October with a booth such as we had in Montreal in 2008. The cost of a booth is approximately \$4000.00. It was at that meeting that we identified the diabetic educators as the key people with whom CAO needed to connect. In addition to the retinal camera, with better light control, we are considering some booth upgrades such as a video splitter, eye imaginations, guest book for send/take home resources and tracking. We are going to formally invite the VIP's of CDA to drop by and meet us.

We are also pleased to report that we have attained our goal of having the CDA submit a guest editorial to the CJO. In her article, Margaret Beatty, Vice President, Research, Professional Education and Government Affairs, states that “As optometrists, you play a vital role in the care of your patients who have diabetes or prediabetes to screen, diagnose and prevent the onset and/or progression of retinopathy”. This year we plan to focus on developing relationships with VIP's of the CDA in Toronto and share with them the collaborative agreements that optometry and ophthalmology have agreed to. There is also a definite need to review the printed material that CDA distributes to the public to ensure that their messages are up to date.

Our committee contacted Dr. Meyers, one of the presenters of the lecture on diabetes at the CAO conference in Charlottetown, to inform him of the Canadian units of blood sugar. He was very appreciative of this gesture.

Dr. Michael Dennis reported that the COOP “Rx Pad” campaign from the BCAA's members' perspective the campaign did not have a great impact on their practices. Michael points out though, that the development of the COOP required dialogue between the BCAA CEO and the CDA and that this in itself was a positive move forward on establishing an ongoing relationship between CDA and optometry. The most important objective of the Rx Pad campaign was to have CDA endorse optometry and this objective was met. Michael is taking feedback from the BCAA members on the Rx Pad design and he has agreed to revamp the program to reflect the BCAA members concerns. Once tweaked, he feels that he can then recommend that the program go national.

I was asked to be the spokesperson for CAO for an interview for Vim and Vigor Magazine recently. This publication is made available to Canadian hospitals as reading material for waiting rooms. I was asked several questions on the Canadian experience with diabetic eye disease with emphasis on statistics. We plan to upload the “Frequently asked Questions” to our portal as a resource to CAO members should they need a quick reference fact sheet.

Goals that the diabetes committee continue to pursue are having the words "optometrist or ophthalmologist" replace " eye care specialist" in the clinical practice guidelines, to obtain approval of using CDA's logo with CAO's on appropriate forms, have CDA put a link from their dictionary definition of "optometrist" to the CAO website, and have a research optometrist published in the Canadian Journal of Diabetes.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the OAO for their recent document titled "Guidelines for the Collaborative Management of Persons with Diabetes Mellitus by Eye Care Professionals"

I should also like to thank the members of the diabetes committee; Dr. Henry Smit, Dr. Marta Witer, Dr. Michael Dennis, and Dr. Garry Best for their hard work and support over this, busy last year.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Richard Lee