

### **Board of Directors**

Members of the Board of Directors for 2007-2008 were Marie Lamey, Julia Mohrs, Lucy De Pieri, Inge Burger, Jude Dawson.

(An ex-Board member, Iain Marrs, acted in an advisory capacity, editing various documents and the newsletter.)

### **Report from the Board – Summary of Actions and Events**

The focus this year has been on

- ✓ increasing the benefits of membership
- ✓ increasing membership
- ✓ increasing public awareness of the society

### **Financial Summary**

A summary of the Society's finances is appended to this report.

### **Members**

Our membership numbers currently stand at:

Registered	29
Resident	11
Student	7
Associate	8

### **Meetings with Members**

Meetings with members were initiated to get feedback from individual practitioners about their needs and how the society could function better to provide more benefits and service to the members. Over the course of several months feedback was collected and analyzed so we could proceed to work on projects that were important / high priority to the members. It became quite apparent that the case conference was high priority, as well as community events, member certificates, increasing membership, professional brochures and supporting the members through support groups for addressing issues that come up in practice. With our limited resources, we focused on accomplishing as much of this as we could.

## **Graduation Packages**

In order to encourage new membership, the VHA was contacted and we obtained a list of those who would graduate in September 2007. Packages were put together that included;

- A letter of congratulations
- A BCSH brochure
- A Code of Ethics
- A coupon for a discounted membership (resident for the price of student)
- A list of the benefits of membership

These packages were personalized and delivered to the graduation ceremony. The result was 2 new members.

## **Joining HANS**

To increase the exposure of our membership directory to the public, it was decided that one cost effective way to do this would be to join the Health Action Network Society (HANS). The professional membership costs \$180 per year and provides us with a listing on their website directory, and in their quarterly publications. We also have the opportunity to have articles published with them, or postings on their website for free. The HANS handles over 25,000 inquiries from the public each year.

## **Certificates**

One of the issues that had been looked at for some time was the member certificates. After much discussion a final product was agreed upon – it looked professional and could be used for 5 years before reprinting, thus cost effective for the Society. Certificates were mailed to the current membership, sent between November and January, and they continue to be mailed to each new member, as they join. Renewal stickers will be mailed out each year with receipt of membership payment.

## **Application for Designation**

This continues to prove to be a very difficult task. However, at this time we are working with a lobbyist to help us accomplish our goal in this matter.

## **NHPD**

We are continuing to monitor this, but there has been nothing new to report this year, as the work that needed to be done on this front was accomplished

by last year's board members, Allyson Burden and Bev Van Hatten. Thanks to you both for your great work and contribution.

### **Website**

One week after the new board was elected, it was brought to our attention that the old domain name bcsocietyofhomeopaths.ca had been purchased and was being used for promotion of things definitely not related to homeopathy. Our webmaster was contacted and his suggestion was to increase the content of our own website and to promote it. Members who still had the old domain name linked with their own websites were personally contacted and made aware of the issue. A notice was also put in the Bulletin to make the members aware of the problem.

The website is a resource that has a lot of potential for expansion. Two things that have been added are:

**Member bios:** This is an opportunity for members to have a full page bio and photo linked to the directory. It is a great opportunity for exposure, especially if you don't have your own website. There is a <bio> "button" beside the member name which opens up the bio page.

**Designations:** Because we are not a regulated profession, there is no one single designation that makes it clear to the public who has standing as a qualified homeopath. After many, many inquiries from the public about what all those letters behind the members' names mean, a list was compiled and entitled Designations Defined, and this was posted on the website in January of this year.

Other areas where the Board would like to see further additions include information about homeopathy for the public. This would include such matters as 'What is Homeopathy and the Benefits of Homeopathic Treatment,' for example. This is something that we have been asking the members to contribute since October 2007. Because nothing has been received this continues to be on the agenda. The information submitted would also be of use in putting together a brochure.

### **Bulletin**

The Bulletin continues to be a valuable communication tool, to foster community, and a venue for our members to share ideas. Many thanks to Lucy De Pieri, Iain Marrs and, more recently, Fran Cudlipp for putting together a top notch publication every time. However, the issue of not having enough contribution from the members continues to be a problem.

Therefore, it was decided at the last AGM to reduce the frequency of the Bulletin and only produce it when there is enough material.

### **Newsgroup**

The Newsgroup continues to provide the members with means of instant communication and we thank those of you who have joined, participated and given feedback.

### **Brochures**

Professional brochures (glossy, colour) for the members about homeopathy, presenting the benefits of treatment, were on the agenda but due to limited resources this did not get completed this year.

Brochures about the Society, designed for the purpose of exposure to the public, were put together to have on hand and, most recently, were delivered to HANS to have available at their 'Alternative Therapies for Cancer' event, and in the reception area of their office. These will prove to be useful to have on hand for other events such as Health Shows, talks at Community Events and even corporate health days.

### **Intake Forms**

This is another item that was on the agenda for this year and which has not yet been completed. These generic, Board-approved intake forms would be available to any member in Adobe format, and would be an added benefit to everyone, especially new graduates. Along with the brochures these forms would offer an option making it easier to start a new practice. This would relieve the burden of each individual practitioner having to do it themselves.

### **Contact us**

The last two items on the agenda are meant to serve to help homeopaths set up their practice. The idea is that the more practitioners we have practicing homeopathy, the bigger the community. Our strength is in numbers. From a higher profile, public awareness would grow and we would have more patients and more support.

If you have any suggestions for the Board, or feedback, please feel free to contact us. We can only do so much so any help is greatly appreciated.

Please volunteer your services if any of these projects described above are of interest to you.

Marie Lamey

[ml@bcsh.ca](mailto:ml@bcsh.ca)

Julia Mohrs

[jm@bcsh.ca](mailto:jm@bcsh.ca)