

### **Board of Directors**

Members of the Board of Directors for 2007-2008 were Marie Lamey, Susan Forbes, Julia Mohrs, Lucy De Pieri, Diane Doble and Inge Burger.  
(An ex-Board member, Iain Marrs, provided his services in editing.)

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

The focus this year has been on

- ✓ increasing public awareness of the society
- ✓ increasing the benefits of membership
- ✓ increasing membership
- ✓ communication with government

### **Financial Summary**

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

### **Members**

Our membership numbers currently stand at:

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| Registered | 27 |
| Resident   | 10 |
| Student    | 5  |
| Associate  | 12 |

### **Students-Graduation Packages**

In order to encourage new membership, for the second year, the VHA provided a list of the graduates for September 2008. 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
- . A business card holder labeled with "compliments of BCSH"

These packages were personalized and delivered to the graduation ceremony.

## **Students-Introduction and awareness of BCSH**

Also, for the second year, Marie and Inge went to the VHA to speak with the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students about the Society, the Case Conference and to encourage membership. The biggest challenge seems to be the confusion about distinguishing the roles of the different Societies. We are hoping that our continued interaction with the students will prove to be the solution for this problem. An alternative solution would be to change the name of our Society to an Association, as this may need to be done anyway in the future for the Application for Designation. The cost of this would be approximately \$40-\$50.

## **Health Shows**

In order to increase public awareness of the Society members through the website Directory, we decided to make an appearance at both the Vancouver and Victoria Health Shows. We handed out about 300 BCSH brochures to an eager public. Many people were asking if there were local schools to attend, so in response to this demand we decided to add links to the two local schools to the website. Encouraging new students will serve to grow our professional community.

## **HANS**

We renewed our membership with HANS again this year, as a means to increase the exposure of our membership directory to the public. In September we were approached by the advertising director who offered us an opportunity to have a sizeable colour ad in their quarterly publication with our membership included. We put together an ad comparable to the ad for the BC Naturopathic Association, and it was printed in the winter issue. This ad will run for 4 issues (1 year).

Opportunities still exist to have articles written about Homeopathy, as well as patient testimonials and events. These will be pursued in the next few months.

## **Website**

The website continues to be an area of development. Two more things that have been added for the public this year were:

**Links to Schools:** As mentioned above, there were many inquiries at the Health Shows about where to learn Homeopathy, so links to the Vancouver Homeopathic Academy and Luminos Courses were added to the homepage.

**What to expect when you see a Homeopath:** This was added for several reasons. The first being clarification and security of the public. The second being distinction between Homeopathy and other modalities. It is in PDF format.

The “Member Bio” link is still available on the directory but is very under utilized at this point. It is a great opportunity for exposure, especially if you don’t have your own website.

The other area of improvement on the website was to make the directory more user-friendly. It is now laid out geographically and alphabetically. This makes it easier for the public to find a practitioner in their area without searching several areas of the directory. Membership category is highlighted for distinction. It is also easier for maintenance of the directory. The website directories of the other health professions were used as a model for these changes.

Other areas where the Board would like to see further additions include information about homeopathy for the public. This will be an area of focus for the upcoming year. The information used will also be of use in putting together brochures on specific topics/conditions.

### **Brochures**

Professional brochures for the members will be one of the main areas of focus for the upcoming year. We will be contacting some of the other health professions to find out who does their brochures for them and using what they have as models for our own.

Brochures about the Society, designed for the purpose of exposure to the public have proven to be useful for such events as the Health Shows and for distribution at Health Food Stores.

### **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 Fran Cudlipp for their contribution and hard work in putting together this publication. The frequency of the Bulletin is such that it is produced only when there is enough material. This will remain the case unless there is more consistent contribution from the members.

### **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.

## **Intake Forms**

This item is almost completed. They will be available for the 2009 graduates. These generic, Board-approved intake forms will be available to any member in Adobe format. A lawyer will be contacted to put together the “Terms of Acceptance” and “Consent to Treat” forms.

## **Application for Designation**

The Ministry of Health was contacted to enquire about our application and what we needed to do to facilitate the process. The reply was that they still have our application from when the Liberal Government closed the office that was looking at the applications, but since the Ministry of Health took over this division/branch, they have been busy updating the Health Professions Act for the existing professions. At this time, this not-so-small task is nearing a close, and should be completed by the summer. We were informed that at that time we would be contacted and informed as to what we need to do.

We have set August 1, 2009 as the date to contact them for follow up, if they have not done so by that time.

## **NHPD/ BILL C-51**

In the summer we were contacted by the government to invite us to a meeting with the TCM practitioners regarding Bill C-51. This meeting was designed to answer our questions and also for them to take information back with them so as to troubleshoot problem areas of focus. Marie and Lucy were in attendance as well as members of the CSH and WCHS. We were informed that the main focus of this bill was to update the Food and Drug Act, and that most of the issues people had was in fact as a result of issues with the NHPD. We continue to receive information from them which is posted to the Newsgroup. The Health Action Network Society is also actively involved with constitutional lawyer and regulations expert, Shawn Buckley, so we are also kept up-to-date on this end of the issue. (His website is [www.nhppa.org](http://www.nhppa.org)).

## **Contact us**

Our continued focus is on membership and exposure of our members to the public for increased growth in practices and community. 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.

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