

### **Board of Directors**

Members of the Board of Directors for 2011-2012 were Marie Lamey, Susan Forbes, Inge Burger, Lucy De Pieri, Lynn Mackay and Ashley Lough (April 2011 to January 2012).

We want to sincerely thank Ashley Lough and Inge Burger for their participation and support in serving on the board over the past few years. Their presence and input will be genuinely missed as we take on new challenges in the upcoming year.

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

The focus this year has been on

- ✓ Standards and Competencies
- ✓ Website
- ✓ BCSH brochures

### **Financial Summary**

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

### **Members**

Our membership numbers currently stand at:

Registered	32
Resident	15
Associate	10
<u>Student</u>	<u>03</u>
TOTAL	60

### **CBC Marketplace:**

A letter was sent to the CBC Ombudsman regarding the CBC Marketplace show "Homeopathy: Cure or Con", that aired in January 2011. In late May 2011 we received a reply from the CBC Ombudsman and essentially the response was that a review of the program had already been completed. To read a copy of his findings go to: [www.cbc.ca/ombudsman/pdf/2011-05-11-Robbins.pdf](http://www.cbc.ca/ombudsman/pdf/2011-05-11-Robbins.pdf)

### **Standards & Competencies Document:**

July 16<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for participating organizations to review the Standards and Competencies Document and send feedback with respect to formatting, typographical errors and grammar. This was a large task, as the document was 98 pages. Susan and I reviewed the document and sent 7 pages of corrections and suggestions to Heidi Schor at the CCH. We are still currently waiting for the final changes to be made and sent back to us.

We did use this comprehensive document to begin our own BCSH Standards of Practice Document. This was emailed to members on March 11, 2012. We started with a 98 page document and have spent more than 50 hours of our volunteer time working to get it this far.

Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 are not referenced anywhere in the document and were only left as attachments as topics of discussion with the members to see if we should leave such appendices attached – obviously with much editing if this is the case. Also, Appendix 3 is referenced but the reference is highlighted in the document for removal if it is decided to be the case.

It still does need much work, which is why we want input, comments and help from the membership.

### **Occupational Title Protection**

The following are needed to complete the Application for Occupational Title Protection:

- Standards of Practice
- Disciplinary Action
- Membership exam

The goal this year was to have the Standards of Practice Document completed in time to vote on at this year's AGM. However due to the size and importance of the task, we have a draft ready for member input, with the goal of having the final draft ready to vote on next year at the AGM.

The Disciplinary Action, we will work on in the upcoming year, and have a draft ready for comment at the next AGM.

The Membership Exam needs to be discussed. We could work with the VHA to have an outline done and ready for comment at the next AGM.

The document we are presenting is a draft only, and we welcome any concerns, comments, questions or suggestions from our members. It is important that the Standards of Practice reflect the needs of our members as we move into the next stage of being recognized as health care professionals.

**Newsgroup:**

The Newsgroup continues to provide the members with means of instant communication. It has been very active this year, with many people sharing and communicating thoughts and issues surrounding us as homeopaths, as well as providing much useful information and resources.

The BCSH approved intake forms have been added to the Newsgroup homepage so that all members have free access to the files.

Lucy has posted the following on the Newsgroup under the Files section:

- Books and More
- Pharmacies
- Proving Websites
- Supplies

Lynn completed her research on the Insurance companies who offer practice insurance for homeopaths and this has also been posted to the Newsgroup.

If you have anything to add to these lists, please email Lucy with the info.

**Website:**

In September 2011 we received notice from our webmaster, Brian, that he would be retiring as of November 30, 2011 and will no longer be providing web services. We set up a new website and transferred control of the website to the Society, including the Domain and Hosting and renewal that had all previously been managed by Brian.

The new website is up and running, however there is still much work to be done and we are still working on some problem areas. There is a big learning curve involved in doing all the editing and new content ourselves but we are getting there. We do appreciate feedback and suggestions of what you would like to see added so we have some input in what the members want out of the website.

The directory is being done in a database format so it will be easier for the public to search (by city and by membership level) as well as to add new members. Also, there will be a contact link in the directory that will directly email the member to facilitate contact between a patient and the homeopath. The email will no longer be posted on the directory, which will prevent spammers from getting your email address as well. This should be completed by the end of March 2012.

**Bulletin:**

Along with the website changes, it seemed like a good time to change the format of the Bulletin as well. The plan is to incorporate this into our new website as a blog/journal type addition, which will be easier to manage and can have regular postings as articles are submitted. If you would like send your comments and feedback regarding this change, please do so.

At this time, this is still something that needs to be done. Once the directory is completed, this will be an area of focus for the upcoming year. We will still need articles from the Membership to post, so please do send them along to Lucy.

**Media Exposure:**

As decided at last year's AGM to have a PR firm represent us in the media, we contacted 5 PR Firms in Vancouver. They all agreed that it is not in the best interests of the profession to have a PR person to represent us, and urged us to find someone in our community to be a trained spokesperson. It is the job of the PR firm to do the training and this can be costly. There is one company who is willing to work with us on a smaller scale.

We looked into ways to get funding for this as well and discovered some options for getting grants for non-profit organizations. Filling out the grant application is a very big task and takes some skill. If there is any member who has experience in this kind of writing, please let us know and we can get started on this. Or, if anyone has any other ideas for areas of funding, please let us know.

**West Coast Women's Show:**

We reserved a booth at the West Coast Women's Show in Abbotsford, held October 2011. It was a 3 day event and we handed out close to 450 BCSH Brochures and collected many signatures for our petition and for the NHPPA petition. Overall it was a great event and our presence definitely had a positive impact. There were many people who said they were looking for a Homeopath but did not know where to find one.

This is a venue that would be worthwhile to continue to attend. However, with volunteers in short supply it was very draining for those who did volunteer to help. We noticed that the booth for the Massage Therapy Association of BC had a surplus of volunteers and asked how they did it. They informed us that they received CEU credits for volunteering with the association events. We have added this to our AGM agenda for the members to vote on, as it seemed like a good idea. Promotion of homeopathy as a profession should definitely be encouraged.

## **HANS**

We renewed our membership with HANS again this year, as a means to increase the exposure of our membership directory to the public.

Opportunities still exist to have articles written about Homeopathy, as well as patient testimonials and events.

## **Brochures**

We currently have a professional writer developing a brochure for our members. At this time we are in communication with them and will work with what is in our budget to produce these. We plan to have them available as soon as possible.

## **Contact us**

Our continued focus is on membership and the visibility of our members to the public in order to increase growth in our 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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