



CAAA Annual General Meeting

Online Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Attendees: 150 Registered Members, Paul Hu, Frank Yeh, Janelle Kulak

Minutes: Janelle Kulak

1:05 PM Meeting called to order

1. Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of 2019 AGM minutes

Minutes from last year's AGM were not read aloud. They had been mailed to members February 3, 2020. The motion to approve the 2019 AGM minutes was adopted.

3. Opening remarks and President's Report – Boxin Wanglin

Good Afternoon my colleagues,

It has been a privilege honor to serve as the president of the council.

First, I would like to introduce our council: Heather Thompson, Yang Su, William Zhao, Carmen Lawlor, Helen Anderson, and James Dai.

We continue to work towards regulation under the Health Professions Act. During this procedure, we experienced and were impacted by the change of government, economic problems, and expansion of scope of practice by adding point injection, and COVID 19 pandemic. Our priority, transition from the Health Disciplines Act (HDA) to the Health Professions Act (HPA), was delayed.

The council and committees work to understand our roles and responsibilities base on integrity, fairness, transparency, no bias, and honesty. We must work on good communication.

Please read Annual report for more information. Thank you for your support.



4. Registrar/Executive Director Report – Paul Hu

Dear Members,

Thank you very much for taking the time to join the virtual annual general meeting.

According to the Bylaws, I am required to present my written report about activities of the College since last AGM. Those activities have been summarized in the 2019 Annual Report, which had been posted on the College website for your review.

Today, I will report about the journey of the profession to the Health Professions Act. The reason is that the COVID – 19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to people's life and work, including and especially to members of the Acupuncturist profession. Some of the challenges are related to the fact that we are the only profession that remains under the *Health Disciplines Act*. Many members contacted the office, inquiring about the status of the transition to the *Health Professions Act*. To answer members' questions and in the spirit of transparency, I reviewed the record related to this important project and prepared this report. The information presented in this report is supported by documents and communication record listed. However, some documents and information are privileged and confidential, and I cannot share them with you. Your understanding is appreciated.

1. The *Health Professions Act* (HPA) was proclaimed in December 2001. Since then, Government of Alberta has been working to bring all regulated health professions under the HPA. The Acupuncturist profession had an opportunity to complete the transition in 2006 but was not successful due to various reasons.

I received a copy of an open letter to Acupuncturists in Alberta about the efforts of the profession to complete the transition prior to 2011. It was very insightful and provided a lot of useful information for our consideration, even today.

2. The College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta (CAAA) was appointed to govern the acupuncturist profession since January 1, 2011. From 2013, the CAAA embarked on the journey to complete the transition to the HPA, and an Ad Hoc Committee was appointed.

- May 13, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes
- 2013 CAAA Annual Report

3. The Ad Hoc Committee worked with Alberta Health on the last version of the regulation policies proposed for the acupuncturist profession under the HPA, and reviewed the feedback from the consultation.



- Proposed regulation policies under HPA – August 2006
 - Summary of Acupuncture Policy feedback – September 2006
4. The Ad Hoc Committee completed the review in October 2014 (version 5) and submitted to Alberta Health for legal draft. A timeline was committed to complete the transition. However, there was a change to Government in 2015 and the timeline was not followed.
- Proposed regulation policies Version 5
 - Timeline for bringing the CAAA under the HPA
5. In 2016, there was a big change to council membership. The new council reviewed the proposed regulation policies and made some revisions. Three major changes were: *point injection (restricted activity) was added; Tui Na (spinal manipulation and joint mobilization, both restricted activities) were added; registration category of student membership was added.* The revised version (version 6) was submitted to Alberta Health December 20, 2016.
- Proposed regulation policies Version 6
6. In 2017, the CAAA invited representatives from Alberta Health to present to the CAAA council about the transition to HPA. Alberta Health had attempted to complete the transition by 2018. However, there was not much progress with the transition. In October 2017, the CAAA submitted a letter to the Minister of Health, requesting a meeting to discuss about the transition. We did have a meeting with the MOH on March 15, 2018 with the support of a member, but no timeline was committed due to limited resources and competing priorities.
- Letter to Minister of Health dated October 10, 2017.
7. As such, the CAAA council decided to retain Mr. James Casey as legal counsel to speed up the transition at its February 2018 meeting. At the same meeting, Council made further changes to the proposed regulation policies, resulting in Version 7.
- CAAA Council meeting minutes February 24 & 25, 2018.
 - Proposed regulation policies Version 7.
8. The proposed regulation policies (Version 7) were provided to Mr. Casey for review. Mr. Casey provided detailed feedback dated March 15 and March 16, 2018.
- Memo review of the proposed regulation policies dated March 15, 2018



- Memo regarding legislative proposal for the CAAA dated March 16, 2018
9. To keep members informed and engaged, the CAAA offered in-person information sessions regarding the importance of the transition in both Calgary (March 23, 2018) and Edmonton (March 28, 2018), as well as at the Annual General Meeting in April 2018 in Red Deer.
 - Why do we need the transition to the HPA
 10. Legal advice regarding proposed regulation policies was presented to all council members at its March 24, 2018 meeting.
 - March 24, 2018 CAAA Council meeting minutes
 11. On March 28, 2018, the CAAA had a meeting with Mr. Casey regarding his feedback on the proposed regulation policies. At April 21 and 22, 2018 meeting, Council further discussed feedback from legal counsel and decided to form a Task Force to work on the transition. The terms of reference for the Task Force was approved at April 29, 2018 council meeting.
 - April 21 & 22, 2018 CAAA Council meeting minutes
 - April 29, 2018 CAAA Council meeting minutes
 - HPA Transition Task Force Terms of Reference
 12. The Task Force took immediate action based on advice from legal counsel. On June 9, 2018, chair of the Task Force presented the draft regulation policies to Council.
 - June 9, 2018 CAAA Council meeting minutes
 13. Considering feedback from Council, the Task Force made further changes to the proposed regulation policies which were presented to Council on August 11, 2018. At that meeting, Council also decided, by vote in response to the question from legal counsel, that the CAAA would be flexible with proposed restricted activities to prioritize the transition.
 - August 11 & 12, 2018 CAAA Council meeting minutes
 14. Between October 2018 and December 2018, the CAAA conducted internal consultation with members on the proposed regulation: proposed regulation policies were posted on the CAAA website October 9, 2018; a document Understanding the Proposed Regulation Policies was posted on November 1, 2018;



in-person consultations were offered on November 2, 2018 in Edmonton and on November 5, 2018 in Calgary.

- Proposed regulation policies for Acupuncturists under HPA
 - Understanding the proposed regulation policies
15. October 24, 2018, the CAAA submitted a meeting request to the Minister of Health to discuss about the transition matter. Considering midwife and acupuncturist were the only two professions under the *Health Disciplines Act*, the CAAA had attempted to complete the transition with the midwife profession. As such, council decided to retain Alberta Counsel for some support.
- Letter to MOH dated October 24, 2018
16. HPA Transition Task Force reviewed the feedback from the consultation, and a summary of the feedback was posted on the CAAA website on November 26, 2018. Chair of Task Force presented the feedback from consultation to Council on December 8, 2018.
- Summary of feedback from consultation dated November 26, 2018
 - December 8, 2018 Council meeting minutes
17. On January 18, 2019, the CAAA did have an opportunity to meet with the office of the MOH, which was attended by the CAAA legal counsel, Mr. James Casey as well. Unfortunately, the priority of Government at that time was the provincial election. Although they recognized the readiness of the transition for the acupuncturist profession, no timeline was committed.
- Briefing Notes for the January 18, 2019 meeting
18. After the new Government was formed, the CAAA resumed its efforts on the transition. On May 2, 2019, the CAAA submitted a letter to the MOH, Mr. Tyler Shandro.
- Letter to MOH dated May 2, 2019.
19. On June 27, 2019, the CAAA had a meeting with the Minister of Health. It was a positive meeting, and Government showed real interest to complete the transition. In July 2019, a copy of the proposed regulation policies was submitted to Alberta Health.
- Proposed regulation policies provided to Alberta Health



20. Around the same time period, members of AAATCMD also approached Alberta Health, advocating for point injection therapy as Advance Practice.
21. Alberta Health provided its feedback regarding the proposed regulation by email dated August 14, 2019, which was circulated to all council members. The message in the feedback was very clear: encouraging the CAAA to complete the transition first without seeking expansion of scope of practice and committed to expediting the consultation. The feedback from Alberta Health was presented to all council members.
 - Email feedback dated August 14, 2019.
22. On August 20, 2019, Council had a teleconference meeting. A written report was prepared by the CAAA office to all council members regarding background related to the transition. At the meeting, Council decided to conduct a survey.
 - Report to Council for its August 20, 2019 meeting
 - August 20, 2019 CAAA Council meeting minutes
23. Considering different opinion among council members, the CAAA sought legal advice on this matter. Legal advice was strong and clear: complete the transition first and consider expansion of scope of practice after the transition is completed.
 - Legal advice dated September 3, 2019
24. After the survey was completed, Council had a meeting in September 2019 and decided by vote to move forward with the transition without the advanced activities, considering the importance of the transition and the survey results.
 - September 14 and 15, 2019 Council meeting minutes
25. With Council decision, the CAAA treated it as priority. To speed up the process, legal counsel was retained to draft the Regulation. The first version of the Acupuncturist Profession Regulation was submitted to Alberta Health on October 7, 2019.
 - Draft Acupuncturist Profession Regulation dated October 7, 2019
26. After a meeting to review the feedback with Alberta Health, a revised version of the Acupuncturist Profession Regulation was submitted November 5, 2019.
 - 2nd version of the Acupuncturist Profession Regulation dated November 5, 2019



27. Government showed real interest to complete the transition by the end of 2019. Unfortunately, Government received concerns about perceived operational errors and other concerns. The CAAA Council did not have the opportunity to assess the impact of the concerns expressed to Government on the transition to the HPA yet. In addition, the COVID pandemic definitely delayed the transition.
28. The CAAA has still been working with Government on the transition, with the hope to get it completed by the end of 2020.

The summary above listed the major steps of the CAAA journey to the *Health Professions Act*. All information provided is based on facts and evidence. It is clear that our members were engaged and involved in the process through the information and consultation sessions, and Council decisions are available in Council meeting minutes posted on the CAAA website.

Transition of the acupuncturist profession to the *Health Professions Act* serves the best interest of the public, Government and the profession. Looking back, August 2019 was a real opportunity for the profession. Government did show real interest in accelerating the transition and provided reasonable and pertinent feedback. Although the transition did not happen as we expected, we do appreciate Government support and confidence in our profession. We did learn a lot from our experience. As a profession, I sincerely hope that we will be able to deal with different opinions and take coordinated actions. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Meanwhile, it is important that we respect opinions although they may be different from ours.

To conclude, I want to thank all members of council, committees and ad hoc committees for their guidance, commitment and hard work. I also want to thank all members who have demonstrated their passion, professionalism and prudence during the pandemic, as well as my colleagues for their dedicated services. With united efforts, I firmly believe our profession will have the opportunity to be recognized and integrated to the healthcare system.

Thank you all.

5. Budget Finance & Audit Committee Report – Yang Su

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present my Treasurer/BFAC's report on the 2019 Audited Financial Statements and BFAC activity for AGM.

Our agenda for this report will include:

- BFAC Activity
- 2019 Financial Statements Highlights



- 2020 Outlook and Challenges

1. BFAC Activity

Within BFAC, we are dedicated to preserving the financial integrity of our organization by following the principles of Responsibility, Accountability, Sustainability and Transparency.

- First of all, let me introduce members of BFAC: Sarena Armsworthy, Jay McCoy, Jingzhao(Vicky) Wang, William Zhao and myself Yang Su.
- In 2019, we set the following as our goals:
 - Kept up-to-date records as well as an audit trail for all transactions
 - Make sure all committee spending with inline of the budget
 - Review all internal processes and reporting methods to the council
 - Appointing an external professional auditor
 - Prepare a financial report to the AGM

To meet our goals, we did the following in 2019:

Review the Travel, Expense and Honorarium Policy for council & committee members;
Modified the Honorarium Policy for the continuing education speaker;
Review the Administration Fee Schedule.
And conducted a very thorough internal audit in November 2019.

To ensure financial accountability, the following procedures have been adopted:

Continued develop policies for managing the fees and expenses;
Improved the guideline for committees to develop their budget;
Conduct internal audit to ensure policies and standards are followed;
Internal audit by BFAC is critical to ensure transparency and integrity. Two internal audits are proposed: one in June, another one in November;
Contract external professional bookkeeping firm to ensure consistency and quality;
Appoint an external independent auditor to conduct a thorough financial audit.

2. 2019 Financial Statements Highlights

For the full details of Financial Statements, it has been posted on CAAA website. Members can check and review at any time. I will list some key areas to share with members:

Total Revenue \$ 853,187.00, up \$121, 620.00 from last year.

Committee expense \$312,794.00, up \$11820.00 from last year.

Legal fees \$77,090.00, up \$16,758.00 from last year.

Conduct and Competency Committee expense up \$55,231.00 from last year.

The cost of last two will increase unprecedentedly in 2020.



For examples, these is an ongoing complaint case has been cost CAAA over \$100,000.00 so far and still counting.

3. 2020 outlook

2019 was a difficult year for us. It is a year of internal and external difficulties. Externally, the acupuncture industry has been squeezed and rejected unprecedentedly, and its market share continues to decline. Internally, there is serious disunity, internal divisions are become more and more dangerous, racial discrimination is intensifying, political retaliation is endless, and gossip is full of social media has become the norm.

Here, I ask three questions for everyone to think about and find out the answers.

- a. What caused our unsuccessful transition to HPA last year? Who should bear the main responsibility for this? AB government documents show that the acupuncture legislation was going to discussed in various professional organizations in the health care last September, and the provincial councils passed the approval before February this year.
- b. What is the reason, there is always a very small number of people or an association the overwhelms the interests of the CAAA?
- c. Why are there a very small number of people out of nothing, spreading rumors everywhere to attack others? What is its intention?

The sudden Covid-19 has caused us all to suffer immeasurable loses in business, economically and even spiritually. In any case, we still have to work harder to eliminate the difficulties and strive to complete the transition and avoid the acupuncture profession being include in the stage two reopening list again.

This year will be my third term. I sincerely thank you for giving me this great opportunity to serve everyone and do something useful for you and CAAA. For CAAA supreme interest, I have no doubts. As for my merits and demerits, I am convinced that justice is free.

Yang Su
Treasurer of CAAA

6. Registration & Program Review Committee Report – Lindsay Babcock

Good afternoon everyone!



COLLEGE & ASSOCIATION OF
Acupuncturists
OF ALBERTA

My name is Lindsay Babcock, and I am reporting on behalf of the Registration and Program Review Committee, also referred to as the RPRC. I was appointed as Chair of the RPRC in mid-April of this year. Also serving on this committee are Jessica Stankowski, Zoe Zhao, Sarah Martins, Shenping Zhao, and Zhaocheng Han. Thank you for your time on this committee. I would also like to thank previous chair and committee members Jessica McDonald and Heather Thompson for their help in preparing this report, as well as for their time serving on the committee. Several CAAA office staff are also vital to the functioning of RPRC - primarily Paul, Jenney, and Frank. Frank was recently hired for the new role of Director of Competence and Education, and is already proving to be a valuable resource.

The RPRC is primarily responsible for matters relating to proper registration of acupuncturists working in Alberta, as well as evaluating the adequacy of comprehensive acupuncture training programs in Alberta. For registration, we are involved in Restricted Registration applications, as well as Registrations and Registration Renewals. With acupuncture training programs, we conduct site visits and review applications for new programs. I will discuss each of these areas in more detail.

A current issue that is relevant to most members, will be the practicing hours requirement for registration renewal at the end of this year. We recognize that no one was practicing their regular hours for several months. The RPRC has discussed the issue, and will continue the discussion with Council and the CAAA office staff. When we have figured out what we can do, we will communicate with membership what they need for registration renewal this year.

Until these recommendations can be communicated, I would like to remind everyone of the indirect hours portion of the registration renewal, which could help fill your required hours for the year. Indirect hours include teaching, research, observation, and professional services. I will expand on what each of these areas could look like. Teaching can be academic classes, CEU's that you are qualified to teach or assist with, or classes like Tai chi or Qi gong. Research can include formal research as well as research review that you provide a review to substantiate it. Observation can be at another acupuncture clinic where acupuncture or herbology is practiced. Professional services include serving on committees or professional associations. Please note, some indirect hours do overlap with CEU categories - please make sure you only count these hours for one or the other.

The RPRC usually conducts annual site visits of every Acupuncture Program in Alberta. The last site visits occurred in 2018. The site visits in 2018 were much more extensive than previous years, and there were ongoing discussions related to those site visits into 2019. Site visits also haven't happened this year yet, due to COVID-19. Our process for site visits is under review, and may change to reflect what is more typical with other governing bodies and their related educational programs.



The RPRC has been working on a more comprehensive Minimum Standards document, called the MSPAE - Minimum Standards for Professional Acupuncture Education. The process so far has resulted in frustration to all parties involved. We are continuing to place a high priority in completing this document, and are exploring different avenues to reach that goal.

In the past year, there were a couple complaints received by the CAAA from the public, regarding practitioners within the framework of Restricted Registrations. As part of our response to these complaints, we are developing documents and framework to help guide restricted registrants and their supervisors in understanding their roles. Most recently, an email was sent to members requesting feedback for the proposed Supervision Guide. The proposed Supervision Guide has been reviewed by RPRC and Council, and circulated to acupuncture programs for feedback. Now it is your turn - if you would like to review the document and provide feedback, you can find the document on the CAAA website. Your feedback is requested before Friday, August 14.

7. Conduct & Competence Committee

Paul discussed the resignation of CCC chair, Amanda Ballas and that no report had been received. Paul asked acting Co-chairs, Brenda Kohut and David Dennis to give the report.

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the report for the Conduct and Competency Committee for the past year. There is no doubt that Covid-19 is, and continues to be, of major concern in all facets of our day to day lives. With the re-launch of Phase 2 and continued practice during Covid-19, the College provided our members with the CAAA Guidelines for Re-opening, and Relaunch Guidance of Wellness Services listed on our website to guide our return to practice safely. Please refer to the News and Announcements section for reference, and for updated changes as they occur throughout the pandemic.

CCC Members:

Thank you, to all of the volunteers for their contribution to the CCC over the past year. Currently, Brenda Kohut and David Dennis are acting Co-Chairs for the CCC. The committee routinely hears formal complaints as a panel comprised of at least three members. As such, we are looking for more members to join our committee. For more information about the committee, the Terms of Reference can be found by clicking the following weblink: http://acupuncturealberta.ca/pdfs/tor/Terms-of-reference_CCC.pdf



If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, you're encouraged to contact David Dennis or Brenda Kohut via the CAAA. All positions are volunteer, and we are always looking for members who are eager to serve in the public's best interest.

CCC Hearings:

In 2019, the College received a total of 16 complaints made against members. The basis for some of these complaints included:

- Patient (or family of patient) regarding the conduct, skills, judgement, and/or fitness to practice of an Acupuncturist
- Practice of acupuncture without authorization to do so
- Insufficient record keeping for insurance purposes
- Allegations of misconduct made by both patients and by Acupuncturists, towards Acupuncturists. Allegations of misconduct comprised of half of the complaints received by the College.

CCC Developments:

1. The CCC has currently developed a policy regarding an alternative complaint resolution process, between a complainant and the regulated member should both parties agree to this process. This policy is currently pending approval and more information will become available should the approval for this process be granted.
2. The CCC is currently working towards the development of a policy regarding the release of hearing decisions being made available for public viewing. The committee will utilize references from other jurisdictions to serve as a foundation for these policies.

The Committee strives to develop these policies while maintaining Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Impartiality, Fairness, and Responsibility for the public, and our members.

In closing, the committee would like to thank you for taking the time to read this report. We hope that everyone continues to stay healthy and safe throughout the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Dennis & Brenda Kohut, Acting Co-Chairs of the CCC



8. Examination Committee – Lowell Ask

Prepared by Examination Committee (EC) Co-Chairs:

Lowell Ask
James Dai

Introduction of the EC and support persons:

EC Members

Don Fan
Yucheng Chen
Rose Galikas
Ricky Wang

EC Consultants

Boxin Wanglin
Echo Dawn Houle

Direct Office Support

Paul Hu - Executive Director and Registrar
Jenney White - Registration and Examination Coordinator
Frank Yeh - Director of Competency and Education

Meeting Support

Janelle Kulak - Communication Coordinator and Assistant to the Executive Director

In addition to this list, the EC would like to thank all who participated as examiners and support staff.

We are announcing that senior member Don Fan has resigned from the EC to focus on other parts of his life. Don has served the EC since 2010. Don's efforts have spanned a decade of service, and most people will never fully realize how much he has contributed to our profession. A very special thanks to you Don!



Since we last reported at the 2019 AGM, the EC successfully offered the October 2019 registration exams alongside the Pan-Canadian written exam. We are happy to report the following statistics:

Pan Canadian Written Exam

- 71% Pass Rate across Canada
- 65% Pass Rate for Alberta

Safety/JP Exam

- 76% Pass Rate for Alberta

Modalities

- 70% Pass Rate for Alberta

Acupuncture Points

- 59% Pass Rate for Alberta

Pan Canadian Clinical Case (January 2020)

- 88% Pass Rate across Canada
- 88% Pass Rate for Alberta

Important changes are being implemented this year regarding the Pan-Canadian exams. Notably, the written MC and Case study exams are being combined into a single CBT format. This format change will provide the opportunity to offer two exam sittings per year.

A Pan-Canadian practical exam is also in development, yet the date for implementing this exam is not yet known. On April 6th, members of the EC attended a Blueprint development session for the Practical Assessment. As we have more information, the Alberta acupuncture schools will be notified appropriately.



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Alberta Safety Exam retake candidates have been deferred to this October. The decision to defer candidates was based on Alberta Health Orders, physical distancing protocols, as well as availability of the exam facility.

Members of the EC have participated in Pan-Canadian Exam activities both in-person and online. Since the pandemic, all activities have been online. Currently and historically, in-person meetings are almost always held in Ottawa, so we would personally like to recognize the efforts of James Dai, Don Fan, Rose Galikas, Ricky Wang, Yucheng Chen, and Echo Dawn Houle. Thanks for putting your clinics and lives on hold to accommodate these meetings.

Thank you to all the EC members and examiners for your hard work. Thank you to the office staff for your invaluable support. Thank you to the Alberta acupuncture schools for educating great candidates for registration, and thanks to all members for your continued trust.

Sincerely,

Lowell Ask and James Dai

9. Member Services Committee – Lyla Yip

A. Welcome the members of the MSC.

Member Services Committee included: Carol Xu (Chair) Kyle Picard (newest member) Margaret Kennedy MuChun Chen Kirsten Carson Lyla Yip Lindsay Babcock ((moved to the Reg. & Prog.Review committee) Sarah Martins (moved to the Reg. & Prog.Review committee)

Six Meetings held in 2019: January 13 - online (at least 2 hours) April 7 - in person (all day in Red Deer) June 23 - in person (all day in Calgary) August 25 - online (at least 2 hours) October 27 - online (at least 2 hours) November 4 - online (at least 2 hours)

B. Purpose of the Membership Services Committee:

It is important for members to understand the different purposes of the CAAA and the MSC.

- Article 2.1 of the CAAA Bylaws states:



The College is established under the Act (Health Discipline Act) and, pursuant to the Act and Regulation, is required to regulate the profession of Acupuncturists in Alberta in the public interest.

• Article 7.5 of the CAAA Bylaws lists the responsibilities of the Member Services Committee:

(a) Assist with non-regulatory functions that promote public awareness of acupuncturists, acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine. (b) Provide representation for the profession on matters including but not limited to, healthcare service providers, insurance companies and other funders. (c) Carry out any other non-regulatory activities approved by Council that support members in the provision of safe and effective acupuncture services. (d) Advising the Council on continuing education opportunities for approval of Continuing Education Units (CEU).

C. MSC Accomplishments in 2020

MSC accomplished responsibilities as indicated in the by-laws are outlined below:

1. Promoting Public Awareness

Developed a standardized program to promote 'Public Awareness'. Guidelines have also been prepared for participants to follow and they will be reimbursed for their efforts.

According to the MSC Survey, 53% showed a willingness to promote public awareness for the fair compensation of \$200 for a 2 hour presentation.

Once the CAAA finalizes the approval to use this program, we hope interested people apply to make use of it.

We hope interested members will contact the CAAA to utilize this program.

2. Representing the Profession

- To Other Health Care Professionals - Participation in *IP Launch*

In September each year, the university of Alberta in Edmonton holds an *IP or InterProfessional Launch* for their students entering a health care profession. This was the second year MSC members represented Registered Acupuncturists as part of the Health Care Professional team. What better way to educate other Health Care Professions to show that we share a common purpose and that is Health Care for everyone.

- To Insurance Companies



Unfortunately, there was not enough time to check out the numerous insurance companies.

The MSC hopes to accomplish two goals by communicating with insurance companies: a). ensure our members receive adequate insurance coverage at minimal cost and b). represent Acupuncture as a Regulated Health Profession.

More work needs to be done to achieve goal b. If Insurance companies provided more acupuncture coverage, it may draw more customers to enrol with their company. At the same time, health costs (in terms of sick time, pharmaceutical drugs, physiotherapy, etc) would go down. This of course needs the literature and research to support it.

- To Government Officials

When reaching out to those involved in political lobbying we received this guidance on communicating on behalf of the profession:

- Contact your MP, MLA or the Minister of Health and say :
“Hello, my name is _____, and I'm a new professional in Calgary and a constituent living in _____ riding. I was hoping to make an appointment with him/her to discuss _____.
- Arrange for an in-person meeting
- Avoid bringing lots of notes
- If documents are requested, send by email before the meeting
- Bring - - - only a one page document that contains: how acupuncture impacts health spending with a link they can go to for more info focus on how it lowers healthcare budgets etc. the key is to make them care during the meeting and give them the most basic - - resources they need to move forward direct them to other websites with more information (eg. NADA) bring a business card
- In Tradeshows either in Calgary, Edmonton or Red Deer.

Representing Acupuncture as a Profession at Tradeshows is a future consideration and can be in a similar format as presented at the IP Launch.

3. Continuing Education for Professional Development

MSC Organized Workshops in 2019:

1. Dr. Fu Yi presented 4 sessions :- Classical Chinese Medicine
2. J. Tanguay from Blue Cross presented:- Insurance Billing and Fraud Education
3. A. Sinkovskaia presented :- Draping Techniques for Effective Treatments
4. Police presentation regarding Sexual Abuse



- Results from the Survey showed the top three seminar topics ranked as follows:
1. Techniques - numerous styles mentioned 2. Mental Health/Pain issues/Professional Development 3. Chronic Health Issues/ Fertility issues / Women Health
- The preferred location for seminar ranked as follows:
1. Calgary, 2. Red Deer, 3. Edmonton
- The preferred frequency to hold 2 hour seminars each year was at least one every four months
- Presenter names frequently suggested through the survey included:
Matt Callison, Dr. Dong FuHui, and Master Tung
- Specific Topics indicated were Scalp Acupuncture, Fertility and Women's Health and Sports Medicine.
- Survey results also showed there was an 84% interest to attend a workshop/conference (lasting 3-5 days) presented by an international speaker on various topics that covered theory and practice. International speakers mentioned are ranked as follows:
1. Dave Shipley (abdominal acupuncture) 2. David Bray (Pre/post natal issues) 3. Daniel Zizzi (Japanese acupuncture) 4. J.R. Worsley (5-element acupuncture)

4. Other Activities

- Development of a 'Welcome Package'

For the Welcome Package our goal was to provide members with more resources as they begin their careers in Acupuncture. We added sections for:

- CAAA member support contacts The benefits and challenges of owning a business versus being an employee Alberta Healthcare resources (for example, mental health and crisis hotlines) How to maintain documents for tax season as an Acupuncturist How to direct bill and charge for Motor Vehicle Accident patients How to find a mentor How to construct patient intake and consent forms New direction for the Sexual Abuse policy A link to the 'Welcome Package' will be made available through the CAAA office.

- Development of a 'Mentorship Program'

- The 'Mentorship Program' can be found inside the 'Welcome Package' in the section 'How to find a Mentor.'



- The survey results indicated that 59% of members were interested in becoming a mentor.
- The survey also indicated that 75% were interested to participate in Peer Group Meetups. Perhaps those interested in becoming a mentor could set up Peer Group meetings and this could also help those in need of mentorship.

- **Social Event Planning**

The MSC had the goal of creating more events for members to socialize and network with each other to maybe find mentors and create support throughout Alberta Acupuncturists. We had planned a game-board cafe event earlier in the year but it was postponed due to COVID. We intended to host a 40 person 'hangout' and ask those that attended what they preferred in the future for mingling.

Results from the Survey showed a 70% interest to have a social event, preferably in Calgary, Red Deer or Edmonton, in that order.

Ideas suggested from the Survey for a Social Event are listed below:

1. BBQ
2. Luncheon
3. Dinner
4. Other (eg. dance, hike, seminar with lunch...)
5. Dinner & Theatre

- **Developed a Questionnaire to Survey the membership online**

Results of this Survey are as follows:

- 72 of the 740 registered members (or 10%) participated in the online survey. The results of the survey helped prepare this report.

Hopefully in the future there will be a greater response and a better designed questionnaire. It is a great way for all members to contribute to the advancement of Acupuncture as a profession.

- **Research Projects - How to Approach**

People are skeptical and scared to try something 'new' like acupuncture unless it is 'proven' to work 'scientifically'. They don't realize that acupuncture has worked for thousands of years, and can be considered the longest Longitudinal Research Study in history.

Today lots of acupuncture research exists and is ongoing in China and the USA. However, it is important to have ongoing research to maintain the credibility of acupuncture as a professional entity,

Information obtained from the MSC Survey indicated over 60% were interested in research especially if it was logistically designed, properly administrated and support from the CAAA.



Numerous research topics were suggested, and I broadly categorized them and ranked them as follows: 1. Fertility and Women's Health; 2. Mental Health; 3. Chronic Diseases (varied)

A comment received on the survey indicated the CAAA/MSA does not have the capacity to lead a research project and I would have to agree. However, the MSA could try to collaborate with other institutions such as the U of A, insurance companies, and the government (Federal or provincial or both) to make a joint effort to perform Costs/Benefit Analysis to determine if acupuncture treatments can lower healthcare costs (eg. by reducing the number of surgeries, reducing costs to treat pain, improve patient's quality of health, etc.).

There are several research methods such as Quantitative (eg. scientific experiments) and Qualitative (eg. surveys, questionnaires, interviews, case studies, literature reviews, database analysis ...).

Most of us are not trained to do research and would not know where to begin, therefore the MSA should collaborate with other organizations, such as the University of Alberta, for guidance. The MSA could also look into applying for Federal or Provincial Research Grants.

D. Summary

The MSA has worked hard this past year to:

Develop a *Public Awareness Program* which can be utilized by its members and has provided representation for the profession of acupuncture by:

- attending the IP Launch at U of A
- contacting Insurance Companies
- Contacting Government officials
- Trade Shows - future participation
- 3. Advised the Council on continuing education topics
- 4. Performed Other non-regulatory Activities
- Developed Welcome Package
- Developed Mentorship Program
- Social Event Planning
- Developed Questionnaire to Survey Membership
- Research - How to approach

10. Nomination & Election Committee Report – Jay McCoy

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Council election was held by mail-in vote exclusively. The response to this style of vote was quite good: out of 766 eligible voters we received 316 ballots by the cut-off date of June 30th. The ballots were counted by the NEC and the process was overseen by two scrutineers (Boxin Wanglin and Izabella Costa) on July 5th.



The results are listed in alphabetical order by last name:

Ask, Lowell
Ebertz, Vanessa
Grainger, Cindy
McFarlane, Michael
Phillips, Michelle
Stankowski, Jessica
Wang, Fu-Lin (Frank)

On behalf of the NEC, I congratulate all of the newly elected Council and wish to thank everyone for voting this year.

Jay McCoy (Chair)
Sarena Armsworthy
Jennifer Wang
Dr. Ricky Rana

11. New business

No new business.

12. Question and Answer period

Members asked questions to CAAA Registrar, council and committees. Some topics discussed were regarding use of herbs, practice hour requirements for 2021 renewal, and our bylaws.

13. Messages & Comments from New Council Members

Five of the newly elected council members for the 2020 – 2022 term each gave a short speech.

13. Closing Remarks – Vice President, Heather Thompson

14. More Questions & Comments from Members

A couple more members asked questions and provided comments.



COLLEGE & ASSOCIATION OF
Acupuncturists
OF ALBERTA

A motion to adjourn the meeting was adopted.

4:02 PM Meeting adjourned

DRAFT

President Initial: _____

VP Initial: _____