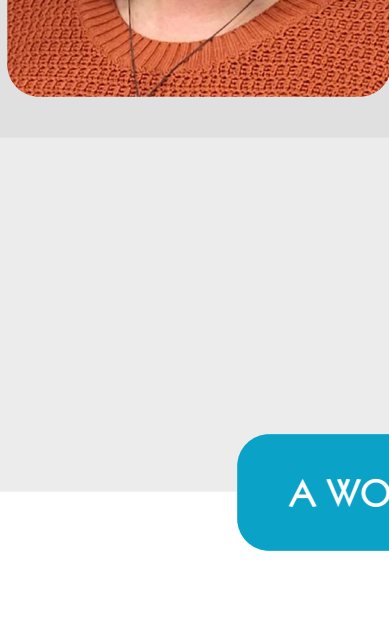




Update for Members

September 2023



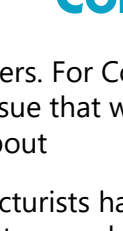
I can't believe it's fall again. Another year has passed so fast! I'm happy to be able to provide another positive update on the progress the College is making towards regulatory excellence.

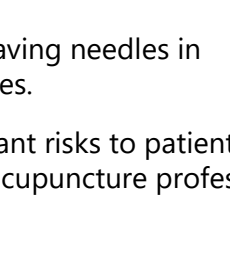
I would like to thank all of those members who attended our Townhall this month, and encourage those who couldn't attend to take some time to watch the recording (link below) to learn a lot of good information about your College.

I am also providing an update on some important updates in terms of College governance - we have seen a few changes in our leadership, our regulatory committees have been hard at work, and we've published two policies and procedures.

I'd also like to encourage everyone to read the Conduct Corner article below, as we have been seeing an increase in calls about unsafe practices regarding acupuncture needles.

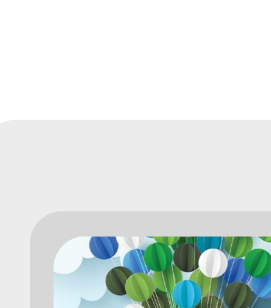
I hope everyone has a safe and productive fall season.


Erin Stroud
Executive Director & Registrar



A WORD FROM COLLEGE STAFF

Conduct Corner



Andrea Snow
Complaints Director

Hello again members. For Conduct Corner this quarter, I'd like to bring awareness to an issue that we have been receiving an increased number of calls and emails about

Situation: acupuncturists have been inadvertently leaving needles in patients and/or not properly disposing of used needles.

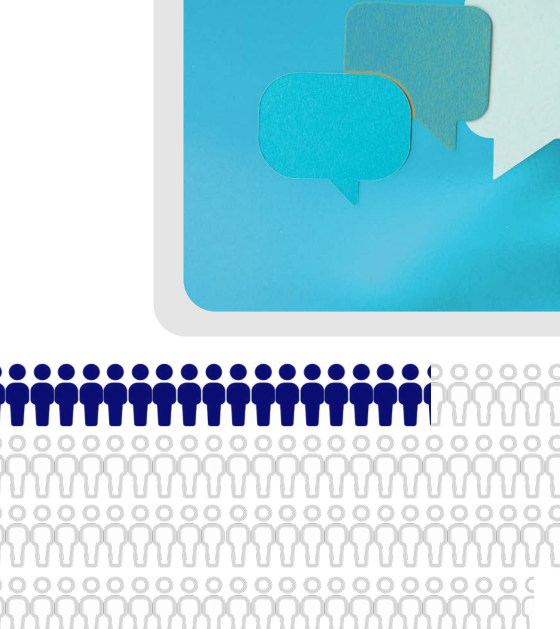
Consequence: These concerns not only pose significant risks to patient safety, but also erode the trust patients place in the acupuncture profession, ultimately diminishing the integrity of the industry.

What acupuncturists can learn from these concerns:

To prevent such incidents, acupuncturists should adopt a systematic approach. This includes counting and documenting the number of needles inserted and withdrawn to ensure these numbers match, and then properly discarding the needles. Consistently implementing this practice can significantly enhance patient safety.

Take some time to revisit the [Standards of Competency and Practice](#), particularly focusing on needle cleanliness standards. This provides essential information crucial for effective and safe practice of acupuncture.

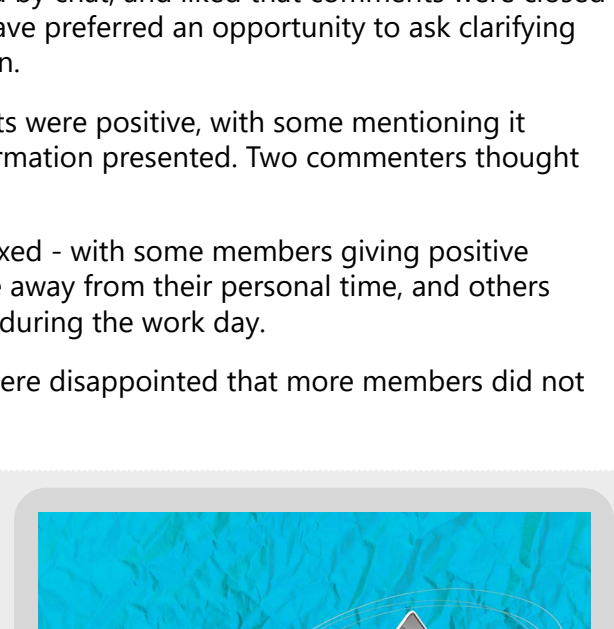
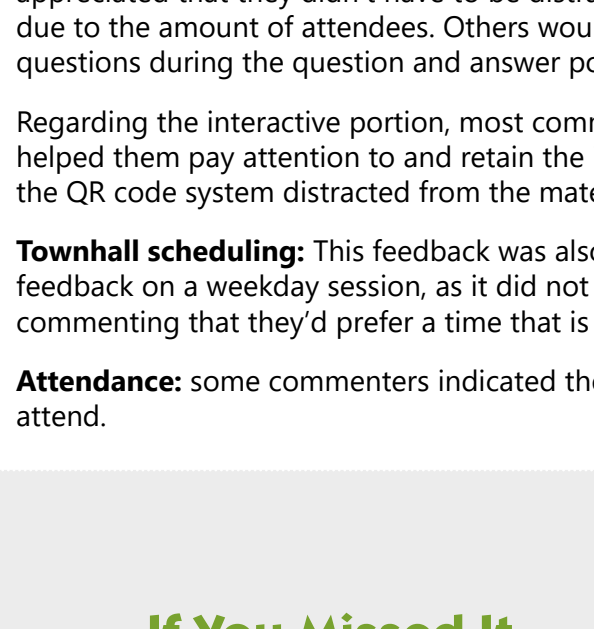
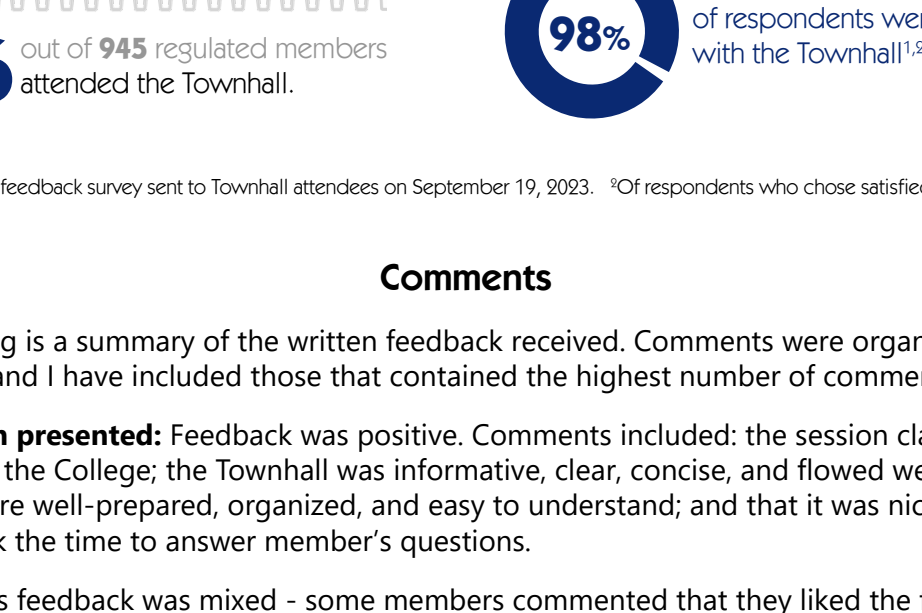
TOWNHALL



Thank You

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in the recently held Townhall. It was wonderful to hear from our members, answer their questions, and to learn a little bit about them. We hope our Townhall participants found the session as productive as we did, and that they came away with some valuable information about their College and their profession.

Member Feedback Regarding the Townhall



¹SOURCE: Townhall feedback survey sent to Townhall attendees on September 19, 2023. ²Of respondents who chose satisfied or unsatisfied.

Comments

The following is a summary of the written feedback received. Comments were organized into categories, and I have included those that contained the highest number of comments:

Information presented: Feedback was positive. Comments included: the session clarified the functions of the College; the Townhall was informative, clear, concise, and flowed well; the speakers were well-prepared, organized, and easy to understand; and that it was nice that the College took the time to answer member's questions.

Format: This feedback was mixed - some members commented that they liked the format, appreciated that they didn't have to be distracted by chat, and liked that comments were closed due to the amount of attendees. Others would have preferred an opportunity to ask clarifying questions during the question and answer portion.

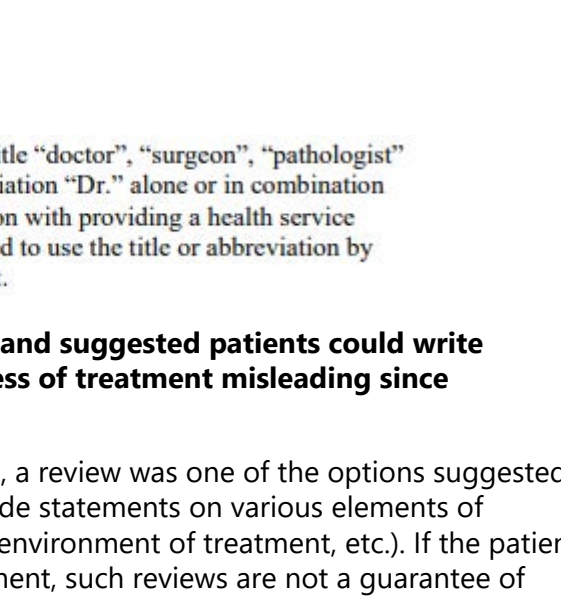
Regarding the interactive portion, most comments were positive, with some mentioning it helped them pay attention to and retain the information presented. Two commenters thought the QR code system distracted from the material.

Townhall scheduling: This feedback was also mixed - with some members giving positive feedback on a weekday session, as it did not take away from their personal time, and others commenting that they'd prefer a time that is not during the work day.

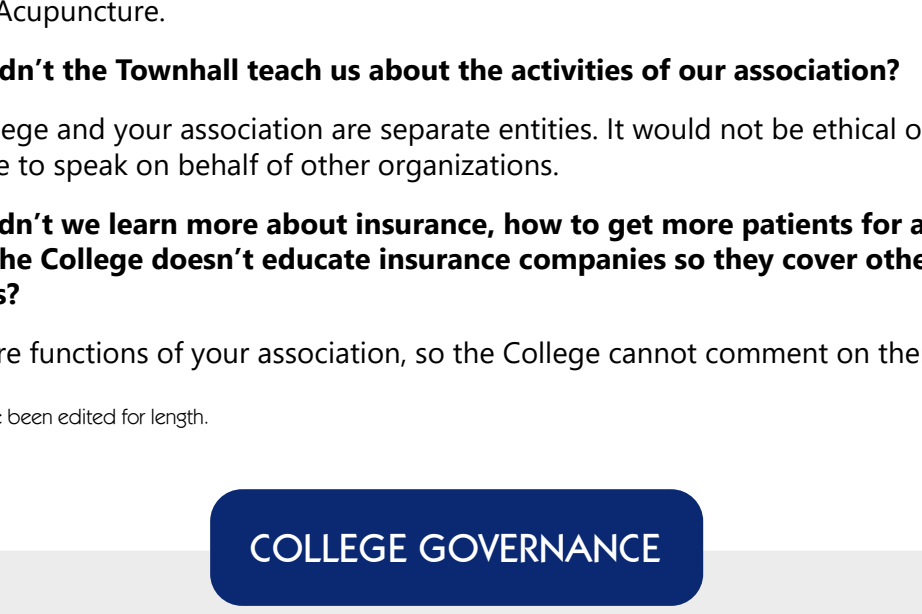
Attendance: some commenters indicated they were disappointed that more members did not attend.

If You Missed It

If you were unable to attend our Townhall - it is now available on our website [here](#). I encourage everyone to take the time to watch it. The information presented will empower you with more knowledge about your profession.



Answers to Additional Questions



In the feedback survey, some clarifying questions were asked. Here are the answers to those questions³.

Q: Why does the College let physiotherapists and chiropractors perform dry-needling, and why doesn't the College educate the public about the difference between dry-needling and acupuncture?

A: The College regulates acupuncturists and has no authority over the regulations of physiotherapists or chiropractors. According to the *Health Professions Act*, the College is not permitted to advocate for changes to regulations, nor to promote the profession, including for public awareness.

Q: I did not realize that the title of Doctor of TCM is not authorized in Alberta. Can you show us the legislation that covers protected titles?

A: Traditional Chinese Medicine is not regulated in Alberta, so the title of Doctor of TCM is not authorized, pursuant to the following sections in the [Health Professions Act](#):

Use of titles, etc.

2 A regulated member of the College of Acupuncturists of Alberta may, as authorized by the regulations, use any of the following titles, abbreviations and initials:

- (a) doctor of acupuncture;
- (b) acupuncturist;
- (c) repealed 2001 c21 s29;
- (d) intern acupuncturist;
- (e) R. Ac.;
- (f) Ac.

Schedule 1 Section 2:

(7) No person shall use the title "doctor", "surgeon", "pathologist" or "oncologist" or the abbreviation "Dr." alone or in combination with other words in connection with providing a health service unless the person is authorized to use the title or abbreviation by this Act or another enactment.

Q: You mentioned it is unethical to accept tips and suggested patients could write a review instead. Aren't reviews for effectiveness of treatment misleading since acupuncturists cannot guarantee results?

A: If a patient wishes to express their appreciation, a review was one of the options suggested in lieu of accepting tips. Patient reviews may include statements on various elements of treatment (i.e. positive interactions with staff, the environment of treatment, etc.). If the patient chooses to comment on the results of their treatment, such reviews are not a guarantee of similar results for other patients.

Q: When I took my jurisprudence exam, it stated that you cannot allow anyone to call you doctor in the presence of a patient. Is this still the case?

A: This may have been true under the *Health Disciplines Act*, but this is no longer the case under the *Health Professions Act*. Regulated members are now authorized to use the title Doctor of Acupuncture.

Q: Why didn't the Townhall teach us about the activities of our association?

A: The College and your association are separate entities. It would not be ethical or proper for the College to speak on behalf of other organizations.

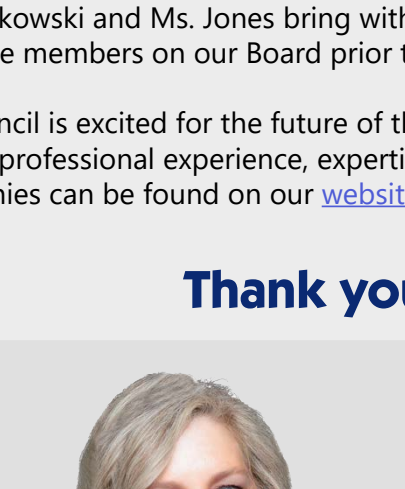
Q: Why didn't we learn more about insurance, how to get more patients for acupuncture, and why the College doesn't educate insurance companies so they cover other TCM modalities?

A: Those are functions of your association, so the College cannot comment on them.

³Questions have been edited for length.

COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

The Council has New Leadership!



Jessica Stankowski
Chair



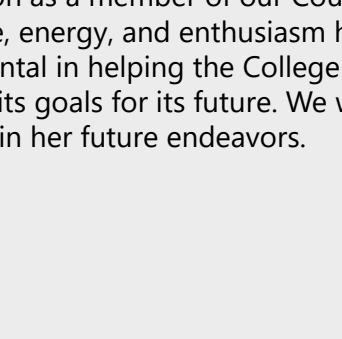
Tamara Jones
Vice-chair

In July 2023, the Council elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

Ms. Stankowski and Ms. Jones bring with them a wealth of College governance experience, as they were members on our Board prior to being appointed to their leadership positions.

The Council is excited for the future of the College as these individuals continue to offer their years of professional experience, expertise, and knowledge to their new roles. Council member biographies can be found on our [website](#).

Thank you Michelle Phillips



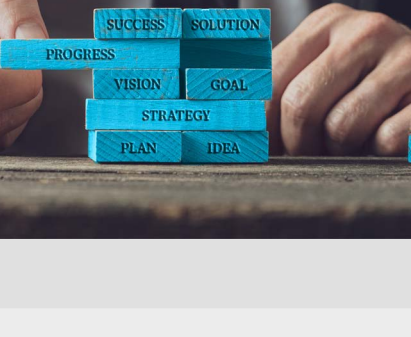
Michelle Phillips
Former Chair
Chair, Finance, Risk, and Audit Committee



Dee Holstine Vander Valk
Former Council Member

Dee Holstine Vander Valk Retirement

Ms. Dee Holstine Vander Valk has retired from her position on the Council. We would like to express our gratitude for her service and dedication as a member of our Council. Her guidance, energy, and enthusiasm has been instrumental in helping the College move towards its goals for its future. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



We Need Your Skills and Expertise

The College is currently recruiting for the following Regulatory Committee members:

- **Acupuncture Education Review Committee**
1 position
- **Complaints Review Committee**
2 positions
- **Registration and Examinations Committee**
2 positions.

This is a great way to give back to your profession. For more information and how to apply, check our [website](#).

The closing date for these opportunities has been extended to **October 10**.

Regulatory Committee Members earn annual CCP credits.

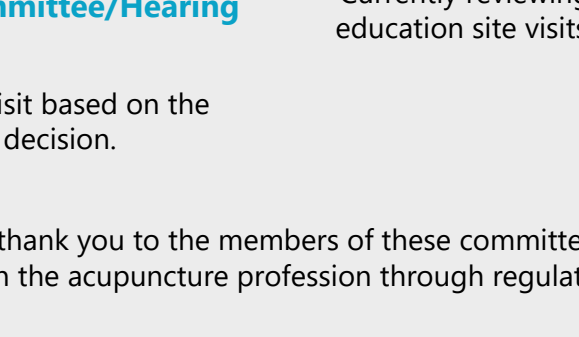
Making Progress on Our Strategic Plan Goals

In the last quarter, the College completed and published two new policies and procedures:

- Registration Policy and Procedure.
- Records Management Policy and Procedure.

The completion of these policies brings the College one step closer to achieving our goal of building and sustaining effective operations and governance as outlined in our [2023-27 Strategic Plan](#).

These new policies and procedures are available to members and the public on the [Governance Documents page](#) on our website.



The Regulatory Committees have been Busy!

Here are some of the activities they have been up to in the last quarter:

Competence Committee

- Provided subject matter expertise for two complaint files.
- Provided feedback on three Standards of Practice.
- Reviewed renewal and CCP survey results.
- Providing advice regarding College-directed CCP activities.
- Providing feedback on subject matter expert guidelines.

Complaints Review Committee/Hearing Tribunal

- Completed one practice visit based on the requirements of a hearing decision.

Registration Committee

- Conducted exam re-scores.
- Reviewed Exam Survey results.
- Provided feedback on exam forms.
- Reviewed exam statistics and provided advice for exam improvement.

Acupuncture Education Program Review Committee

- Held inaugural meeting.
- Currently reviewing data from previous education site visits.

We would like to extend a thank you to the members of these committees for dedicating their time and expertise to strengthen the acupuncture profession through regulatory excellence.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

