

TO: CDSBC Quality Assurance Committee

FROM: Dr. David Tobias, President
Dr. Erik Hutton, Vice-President
Dr. Kerim Özcan, Treasurer

DATE: April 16, 2015

SUBJECT: **CDSBC Quality Assurance Program**

This message is a follow-up to the quality assurance workshop that was held on February 21, 2015, and the direction that the Board provided shortly thereafter. The Board Officers are providing it for the benefit of the Quality Assurance Committee members who were unable to attend the workshop.

As discussed at the workshop, and as the Board and Committee members are well aware, public expectations of health professions colleges are higher than ever before. This includes the expectation that colleges will develop and administer a robust quality assurance program.

Quality assurance of health professionals in British Columbia is also a priority of the provincial government. The Ministry of Health has signaled its intentions through the enactment of section 26.1 of the *Health Professions Act*. While it is not clear when this section will be put in to force, the language clearly contemplates that health professions colleges will one day be required to administer some type of audit process. Informal discussions with the Ministry indicate that section 26.1 is a response to the perceived inadequacy of some of the quality assurance programs presently in force.

Beyond external expectations, the Board is aware that the present quality assurance program is not sufficient. The Board has long believed that pro-active development of the quality assurance program is necessary, and that belief was reinforced by the presentations at the workshop. The result was a direction from the Board to begin work on a revised quality assurance program.

The Board does not necessarily envisage any particular program – and there are many different models – but aspires to develop a program that promotes career-long hands-on learning, encourages collaboration among colleagues, and produces improved patient outcomes.

The Board is therefore tasking the Quality Assurance Committee as follows: Research and develop a comprehensive mandatory quality assurance program that goes beyond reporting educational or practice hours. The program should be objective, credible, inclusive, and administratively realistic.

This will be a challenging project, worthy of the Quality Assurance Committee's collective talent and dedication. The result will benefit all British Columbians.

Dr. David Tobias, President

Dr. Erik Hutton, Vice-President

Dr. Kerim Özcan, Treasurer