

## **OEMAC President's Report to AGM June 18, 2014**

As my (almost) two year term as President of OEMAC comes to a close, I am pleased to provide you with a final update. It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve the membership, and it is with optimism and confidence that I turn the reins over to Sidney Siu as your new President. My focus for this final report is to sincerely thank the many individuals who have supported me and who have made possible the progress that OEMAC has made in restoring its financial health, and realizing the strategic goals and objectives set nearly a year ago at our Board retreat.

### **Hellos, Good-byes and Thank yous!**

Thanks to Oscar Howell, Past-President, for the wonderful wisdom and guidance he has provided me throughout my term. As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Oscar has pulled together a remarkable slate of representatives from across this great country that will surely rejuvenate the organization. Following due elections process, the proposed slate of nominees was acclaimed on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and approved by the Board May 22, 2014. Although Oscar leaves our Board, Atlantic Canada will be well represented as we welcome to two new Board members from the East; Vince Wong from St. John's, Nfld. and Rachel Fox from Moncton, New Brunswick. I am very pleased Sue Rideout-Vivian, also from St. John's will continue on as our Secretary Extraordinaire.

As we move west across the country, Steve Martin remains our sole Quebec representative. Steve has been instrumental in keeping the Quebec contingent viable. He has been a tireless supporter of OEMAC. He was the Scientific Chair for the Montreal conference and has voluntarily translated many of our documents, saving OEMAC significant translation fees. On the heels of such a fun and successful meeting in Montreal in 2013, I was hopeful we could entice someone from Quebec to join the Board. I will continue to work behind the scenes to make this a reality, as it is very important for us as a national organization to ensure that our Quebec colleagues are fully represented.

Thanks to Ray Copes for his years of service as Board Chair and we are very pleased he will remain on as Ontario representative. With the change in by-laws, the position of Board Chair is now held by the President. We say another thank you and good-bye, this time to Pravesh Jugnundan, who has been our Treasurer over the past two years, as well as Ontario representative. We will still be in touch as Pravesh assumes his new role as Chair of the OMA OEM Section. Thanks to Sol Sax for staying on as Ontario rep and for his many years as Chair of the Meritorious Service Awards (MSA) Committee. Joel Andersen has kindly agreed to take on this task. Welcome to Aaron Thompson as our newest Board representative for Ontario.

Hello Manitoba. For the first time in many years we have a resident of Manitoba, Allen Kraut from Winnipeg, who joins our ranks as representative for Manitoba/Saskatchewan. It is with regret that we say yet another thank you and good-bye to Niels Koehncke who has supported us so well as the

Manitoba/Saskatchewan representative for many years, and for his role as Education Committee Chair. Niels was also the Scientific Conference Chair for the excellent Saskatoon conference in 2010.

Continuing to travel west, I offer my sincere thanks to Femi Adekeye in Calgary for his years as representative of Alberta/Northwest Territories and as Chair of the Strategic Planning and Membership Committee. Thanks also for attending the annual CMA meeting on my behalf. Femi has kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. Also in Calgary, Antia Daniel is a second representative of Alberta/Northwest Territories. Thanks to Antia for his active participation on the Editorial Board for our electronic newsletter Occ Doc Talk.

Last but not least we arrive in Vancouver where Danie Gouws is our BC/Territories representative. I am very grateful to Danie, who three years ago as a brand new Board member became Scientific Chair for the very successful 2012 Vancouver meeting. Danie has devoted countless hours to OEMAC as Governance Chair, drafting new by-laws to ensure compliance with the new Not for Profit legislation. Most importantly, Danie has agreed to fill the position of Vice-President and signaled an interest in hosting the conference back in Vancouver at a future date.

## Summary of Work

The following is a summary of the work that has been completed over the past two years, some of which has already been shared with you in previous updates from the President.

### Finances

Most of all I am very pleased as your President to discuss our current financial position. As an organization that was in financial peril when I began my term as Treasurer in 2010, with careful budget management and excellent support from the Strauss Management team and our current Treasurer, we have been able to not only meet our budgeted requirements but to begin to restore our financial savings. Over the past two years we have deposited \$20,000 into our MD Management account .

*This year we are in a position to deposit \$25,000 into our investment fund* which will bring our total to approximately \$65,000. With continued membership renewal attention, conference profits including improved sponsorship investments and a conservative but active portfolio in investments we are now more comfortable. We must continue very close stewardship of our funds going forward. At present our portfolio has earned 7.4% for 2013 and our savings are \$35,000 approximately.

### Governance

We have worked for almost one year under the new By-Laws. One noticeable difference this year will be the date of the AGM, scheduled June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 rather than at the usual time and place in early October, at the annual scientific conference. A requirement of the new bylaws is that the annual general meeting must occur at least six months in advance of the fiscal year end, December 31<sup>st</sup>. The AGM will take place by teleconference, and the existing quorum of 5% of members in good standing must be met.

### Strategic Planning

At our Board retreat in Montreal in September 2013, we reviewed our strategic direction and updated our vision and mission statements as well as determining goals and objectives.

**Vision statement:** To be the pre-eminent association for physicians practicing occupational and environmental medicine in Canada

**Mission Statement:** OEMAC provides a forum for collaboration, education and advocacy for physicians practicing occupational and environmental medicine in Canada

**Goals and Objectives:** Goals include providing a content rich website; advocacy on specific topics of importance to OEM physicians; providing quality continuing education opportunities for the spectrum of physicians practicing OEM; regular communications with members; promotion of OEM professionals and recognition of members for contributions to the field. Detailed objectives to meet these goals are posted on the website.

### ***Membership***

At present we have 215 Active members, 33 Emeritus members, 3 honorary members and 11 non-resident members. Membership is steady although it continues to be a challenge to get members to renew in a timely fashion. This year we have added a *free Student membership* category and are working on a non-physician category.

### ***OEMAC Website***

The renewed website was launched in December 2013 and has been very popular as documented by our first measure of “hits”; in one month 433 visits with 322 unique visitors. Website updates also include *categorized key word searchable archived presentations* from the last several years of our annual scientific meetings. There is an *updated inventory of all OEM training programs* and current *links to OEM/OEH resources*. The members’ directory remains and improvements in searching functions are in the works.

### ***Occ Doc Talk (ODT) Weekly Electronic newsletter***

November 12, 2013 marked the inaugural edition of ODT; we are now at Edition 33. This week we will be highlighting the AGM and our new slate of Board members and officers. We have received many accolades from our readers. ODT has proven to be a great way to communicate timely news, share relevant Canadian and international content to our members and provide important updates in standards and legislation. Thanks to my partners Sidney Siu and Antia Daniel on the Editorial Board.

### ***MultiView Advertising Revenue***

This past year has seen a new revenue stream for OEMAC coming from advertising both in Occ Doc Talk and on the website, generating over \$7,000 to date. Make sure to click on any interesting ads to help hold our advertisers’ interest. All ads are reviewed by our Editorial Board before posting.

### ***OEMAC Annual Scientific Conferences***

Our 2013 Montreal conference was a great success. Planning for the *32nd Annual Scientific Conference* is progressing very well under the excellent guidance of Ken Corbet, Jerry Beach and their planning committees. This is our third year for Poster presentations; annual conference sponsorship and profits continue to climb. Mark your calendar for *Edmonton Westin September 28 to 30, 2014*.

OMSOC has scheduled their education day and AGM to dovetail with the OEMAC conference. The *33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Conference* will be held in *Toronto at the Intercontinental Hotel on Front, September 27 to 29, 2015*.

### *Advocacy*

Our objectives under advocacy include responding to government, agency or association requests for a statement on position; collaborating with OMSOC and CBOM for specific issues; providing member updates on current developments (e.g.) new standards and remaining an active member of the IOMSC (International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative). The issues of Sick Notes and Choosing Wisely® are examples of current requests for position statements, and participation in the International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative (IOMSC) provides an international voice for OEMAC.

### *Sick Notes*

The issue of sick notes came to a head in January 2014 when Dr. Scott Wooder, President of the Ontario Medical Association made comments to the media regarding the completion of sick notes, as essentially a waste of time, designed only to meet obligatory employer requirements. You have read in Occ Doc Talk the joint response from OEMAC, OMSOC, and the Chair of the OEM Section of the OMA. This issue clearly requires a continued committed conversation. To that end, Sidney Siu has indicated that he will work closely with our partners on this during his mandate as President. The topic has also been raised with the Canadian Medical Association.

### *Choosing Wisely® Canada*

Choosing Wisely® was originally launched in the US in February 2012. It is a campaign where medical societies come to consensus on a list of five things in their field of expertise (evidence-based) that would be considered of questionable value in patient care, such as unnecessary investigations or tests. ACOEM has recently published its list of “Five things Physicians and Patients Should Question”. Wendy Levinson is spearheading the Canadian initiative and OEMAC and OMSOC will work together to support this project.

### *International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative (IOMSC)*

The inaugural meeting was held at the 2013 ACOEM meeting, jointly hosted with the Society of Occupational Medicine. Representatives from 17 countries were present including OMSOC and OEMAC. A Consensus Statement was developed to safeguard and improve the health and wellbeing of people at work by ensuring safe and healthy work environments, including a healthy psychosocial work environment. A Summary of Proceedings was developed and is posted on the website. The next meeting will be held in London, England on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Sol Sax has kindly agreed to represent OEMAC in my place, as our youngest son is getting married in Hawaii at that time!

### *Recognition—Meritorious Service Award (MSA) and Mastromatteo Oration*

There have been 45 recipients of the prestigious MSA since its inception 27 years ago, most recently awarded to Steve Martin, Howard Hamer and Oscar Howell. It is OEMAC’s official recognition of individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the organization and/or to the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Both the nomination process, including selection criteria and the composition of the selection committee are being revamped.

The Mastromatteo Oration is another honour conferred to an individual who has demonstrated a sustained and significant contribution to Occupational Health. The first address was first delivered by Ernest (Ernie) Mastromatteo in 1991 and in 2013 we were treated to Louis Patry's presentation. It is important for us to reflect on the contributions of our esteemed colleagues and I urge you to do so by nominating someone or to put forward a suggestion for the Mastromatteo Oration to the Board.

### *Final Remarks*

I would like to thank the entire Board for their support and leadership over the past two years and also thanks to Jonathan Strauss, our Executive Director and his team. I am most proud of the fact that with diligence and oversight we have brought our financial house into order; we have updated our by-laws and we have increased our communication with members through our weekly Occ Doc Talk newsletter. The website has also been refreshed and I hope will continue as a rich resource for members. I look forward to staying on as your Past-President and I will be busy as the Scientific Chair for the 2015 OEMAC annual conference in Toronto. I will certainly be tapping a few shoulders for help, and know that with the generosity of this fine organization, I will receive it.

Sincerely yours,

Maureen Cividino

President, OEMAC