

October 7, 2019

CDRAF Board of Directors Report

The CDRAF Board of Directors is pleased to present this update on activities during the past 12 months.

1. National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE)

The CDRAF and some member Dental Regulatory Authorities (DRAs) have been concerned about the governance structure of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) for a number of years. The RCDC governance structure as established by the RCDC Act does not allow for oversight by the DRAs and has no mechanism for ensuring that the public interest is paramount in its decision making. This governance problem became particularly obvious in 2018 when the RCDC Council unilaterally raised fees and reported that the Part 2 (Oral Component) was unsustainable.

As a result, the CDRAF Board unanimously determined that the RCDC could no longer be the organization responsible for administering the NDSE. The following is an excerpt from a presentation by CDRAF Chair, Dr Martin Gillis to the RCDC council and provided to NDEB in December 2018:

Jack and I come before you to let you know the position of the CDRAF Board on the future of the administration of a specialty certification process and to suggest a new beginning for entry level Specialty Certification Examinations.

Following the events in July, August and September, the CDRAF Board formed a working group to identify alternatives to having an RCDC administered NDSE as the certification process for dental specialties. The working group has met 3 times and identified a number of potential options. Yesterday afternoon the working group reported its activities to the CDRAF Board which unanimously endorsed our message to you today.

The working group and the CDRAF Board agree that having a “capstone” process following a specialty program is the most desirable option and recognize the dedication of RCDC volunteers in providing a “capstone” examination for the past number of years.

The working group and the CDRAF Board have thoroughly reviewed the legislation establishing the RCDC and the NDEB and have determined that the public interest can only be served if the NDSE is administered by the NDEB because the NDEB’s governance structure allows direct oversight of the examination process by the provincial dental regulatory authorities. In addition, eliminating the duplication of having 2 entry level examination organizations will allow the development and administration of entry level specialty certification examinations in an efficient and cost-effective manner. For example, using NDEB’s contracts and experience with electronic examinations.

The CDRAF Board recognizes that there is a difference between evaluating for entry level competence for a beginning specialist and evaluating excellence for fellowship. The CDRAF is supportive of development and administration of exams by RCDC for fellowship. It is not the intention of the DRAs to diminish the proud traditions and culture that the RCDC has built during its history.

The working group has held discussions with NDEB and the NDEB will only consider this if it is a collegial undertaking. The CDRAF is therefore recommending and requesting that RCDC and NDEB initiate a collegial consultation to develop an agreement that would result in NDSE being administered under the governance of NDEB. The CDRAF is confident that this new beginning will serve the public interest and maintain the mandates of both NDEB and RCDC.

The ten provincial regulators are unanimous in their support of this direction and recognize that this will require discussion in your council and with NDEB. They will support a collegial process that results in the RCDC approving and supporting the NDSE being administered by the NDEB and a fellowship process developed and administered by the RCDC.

The Working Group subsequent to a presentation by NDEB in February 2019 understood that NDEB would not be able to administer the NDSE in 2020. This resulted in four distinctly different alternative pathways being proposed by the Working Group to the CDRAF Board in April 2019. The multiple pathway approach to specialty certification created unease among some stakeholders. The NDEB revisited and is pursuing the December 2018 proposal in which it would work with RCDC to deliver the NDSE in 2020.

At the August 2019 CDRAF Board meeting an update was provided by NDEB to the Board. NDEB had several meetings with RCDC to create the transition plan to administer the NDSE in 2020, going to a written format with no oral component and changing the NDEB by-laws as required.

A five-year service contract will be developed for NDEB - RCDC as NDEB felt that due to logistics this schedule is reasonable. The Service Agreement will be a roadmap to assist NDEB with its human resources, financing and budgeting processes to deliver exams for the nine national dental specialties. The registrations for the 2020 NDSE will be available on-line and NDEB is working on that process. CDRAF will be provided with regular updates on progress during the transition period.

The CDRAF is supportive of NDEB assuming responsibility for the NDSE, commencing in 2020.

2. National Dental Specialty Recognition

Following receipt of feedback on a process for the recognition of Dental Specialties adopted in early 2018, the CDRAF rescinded the adoption and developed a new process. A revised draft document has been approved, in principle, by the CDRAF Board and is awaiting acceptance by the Boards/Councils of the provincial Dental Regulatory Authorities (DRAs). Final approval will be considered at the CDRAF Board meeting in October 2019.

3. Working Group on National Competency Standards for General Dentists

The CDRAF Strategic Plan includes developing National Competency Standards for General Dentists. In consultation with ACFD, NDEB and CDAC, CDRAF established a Working Group on National Competency Standards for General Dentists. The Working Group has established a process to develop Standards including receiving input from all provincial DRAs and workshops with stakeholders.

The first workshop was held in November 2018. During the review of current documents, it was determined that public interest input on clinical and non-clinical competencies was required early in the process. The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO), through its Patient Relations Committee and with members of the L'Ordre des dentistes du Québec (ODQ), prepared consultation materials on "non-clinical" competencies for the Working Group and Board's consideration. Assuming approval from respective Boards/Councils, the Board recently agreed that the RCDSO should conduct the consultation on behalf of DRA's. Feedback from the consultation will be analyzed by the Working Group. A representative from the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry (ACFD) has now been included on the Working Group.

When public interest input has been received and analyzed on both clinical and non-clinical competencies, a draft document will be developed and circulated to all stakeholders prior to it being considered for approval by the CDRAF Board. Once approved, CDAC will be requested to include the CDRAF competencies in the Accreditation Standards.

4. CDAC Initiatives

The two joint Working Groups of CDRAF and CDAC have been amalgamated into one with two objectives: One is to review the current governance structure of CDAC with a main priority to establish CDAC as an independent not-for-profit corporation. The second focus will be on reviewing the processes for accreditation, site visits and international reciprocal agreements and investigate methods to improve efficiency and cost effectiveness. These objectives will be pursued once the governance structure has been revised.

In June 2019, a number of Registrars and representatives of CDAC attended the ACFD Deans Committee meeting in Vancouver. Following thorough discussion, CDRAF, CDAC and the Deans supported CDAC governance changes including the establishment of CDAC as an independent organization. All three groups also agreed that summaries of CDAC accreditation reports will be provided to the provincial DRA where the dental school is located. A Working Group, comprised of Frédéric Duguay (CDAC), Jack Gerrow (CDRAF), Dr. Dan Haas (University of Toronto) and Dr. Cathia Bergeron (Laval University), is developing a template for these summaries.

A follow-up meeting of CDRAF and the Deans will take place in the fall of 2019.

At the August 2019 Board meeting, the Board reviewed the written proposal from CDAC on 'Becoming an independent legal organization'. It was noted that human resources will be one of the biggest challenges in working on this initiative and that CDAC will be asking for input from the working group and DRAs. It was confirmed that CDRAF and ACFD will be included at the initial stages of developing a revised governance structure for CDAC. There were approximately 40 site surveys delayed in 2019 which should be completed by the end of the year.

5. Direct to Consumer Initiatives

CDRAF has received correspondence expressing concerns regarding direct to consumer (DTC) initiatives. While regulation is a provincial responsibility, CDRAF is a forum which facilitates discussion among the DRAs. All provincial DRAs are aware of DTC initiatives and are carefully reviewing this care delivery model to ensure that the public's interest is protected.

6. Virtual and Tele-Dentistry

The CDRAF Board will give consideration to developing national guidelines for virtual and tele-dentistry. Some of the provinces are already working on guidelines within their jurisdictions, but the Board feels that a national document would be beneficial.

7. Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)

An online article from *The Globe and Mail* regarding a position paper on autologous cell therapy published by Health Canada was brought to the attention of the CDRAF Board. Registrars were canvassed for information on what is being done in other jurisdictions.

In discussions with Health Canada, a teleconference call was arranged to discuss the position paper. It was reported that in Health Canada's position paper, Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) is not within the scope of the policy position paper. However, recent media attention created confusion between PRP and autologous cell therapies by putting both in the same category. Pursuant to this and other enquiries, Health Canada agreed to post an Information Update as public communication and the DRAs were given the opportunity to assist in the development of this document.

The document was circulated shortly following the teleconference meeting.

8. Malpractice Coverage Minimums

Mr. Ed Dermit, President of CDSPI, attended the April 10, 2019 Board meeting and gave a presentation on Malpractice Coverage Minimums.

9. Canadian Pain Care Forum (CPCF) and Opioids Crisis

CDRAF was asked by the Co-Chair of the Canadian Pain Care Forum if Dr. David Mock would participate in the CPCF for a Canadian Pain Strategy as a national representative of dentistry. The Board authorized Dr. Mock to be involved in this initiative, given his prior work on the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction on a national level.

The CDRAF Board continues to work with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and facilitates the distribution of information in this important area. Dr. David Mock, an RCDSO Council member and representative on opioids, has also agreed to be the CDRAF representative on this issue. He provides reports to CDRAF on a regular basis.

10. Website

The mission of CDRAF has changed substantially with the adoption of the Strategic Plan (2017-2020). To reflect this change, a new CDRAF website, www.cdraf.org, was launched in January 2019.

11. Request from ACFD to consider Academic Licenses

Following the adoption of the MRA on General Dentistry and the MOU on Dental Specialties, academic pathways for unrestrictive licensure have been eliminated. ACFD has indicated that the Faculties of Dentistry are experiencing increased challenges in recruiting academics. A joint ACFD/CDRAF working group has been created to review current legislation and policies and investigate the potential for common regulatory practices.

12. National Repository

CDRAF is supportive of NDEB providing a national repository for all documents required for initial certification for both graduates of accredited and non-accredited dental programs. The NDEB was asked to proceed with establishing the National Repository but continue to accept the letters from the Deans indicating individuals recommended for graduation as an acceptable alternative to a final transcript of record for graduates of accredited Canadian

undergraduate dental programs only. NDEB will continue to require a final transcript of record for all other graduates.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Martin Gillis, DDS
Chair

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