



FALL/ CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2012

Season greetings to all members past and present, below you will find updates and news from past and future CSORN events.

CSORN Conference June 2012- Toronto

Our CSORN Conference in Toronto was a great success. Claire Brown the conference coordinator, facilitated an interactive, educational, and entertaining day. The attendance was impressive, with 89 nurses from across Canada. A relaxing evening followed at the Toronto Yacht Club, where attendees networked with peers and enjoy the majestic view of Toronto Harbour, while nibbling hors d'oeuvres and sipping wine. Great job Claire!

Minutes from the 2012 General Meeting can be viewed on the website: www.csorn.ca

COS/CSORN Conference June 2013- Montreal, Quebec

Please mark the date and plan to attend next year's Canadian Ophthalmic Society (COS) Symposium at the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure, June 14th to June 17th. The official nursing CSORN conference day will be **Saturday June 15th**. This year's Conference Coordinator is Carole Desharnais. Carole works at Montreal Jewish General Hospital as an Ophthalmic Nurse. Carol has been busy organizing the upcoming CSORN Conference for 2013, and it promises to once again be very informative, and interesting.

The year 2013 is a voting year for CSORN members. Should you wish run or nominate a member for the Executive position of Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, please contact Janet Powers our CSORN President.

Updates will be included in the Spring Newsletter. Please check the COS website www.eyesite.ca for more information, and to register for next years CSORN Conference. A reminder that to be eligible for reduced rates for COS you must be a CSORN member (\$25). Non-members pay a higher rate to attend the CSORN Conference Saturday June 15, 2013.

A reminder that CSORN Membership Registration MUST be completed by January 31, or a \$10 late fee will apply!

Future Conferences

ASCRS – San Francisco April 19th- 23rd, 2013

COS- Montreal, Quebec, June 14th-17th, 2013

CSORN- Montreal, Quebec, June 15th, 2013

Provincial /Local Updates

Saskatchewan Chapter *(submitted by Charlene Talbot)*

Eight members attended the “Clinical Skills In Ophthalmology” Conference in Saskatoon this September. This conference provided an evidence-based update on the assessment and management of common ophthalmologic conditions.

We are commencing two new research studies immediately in the Eye Centre: branch retinal vein occlusion and central retinal vein occlusion.

We continue with our “Falls Prevention” and Diabetic retinopathy screening clinics, both urban and rural. Through the Diabetes Initiative funding, we are screening clients for diabetes related and general vision issues. We have been attending clinics for 6 sessions in 3 weeks both, Spring and Fall.

We are presently starting the process of linking equipment and integrating networks for the development of the electronic health record.

Quebec, Montreal *(submitted by Carol Desharnais)*

Montreal Jewish General Hospital has been providing patients with a monthly opportunity to get much needed explanations on diagnosis and treatment straight from experts.

The JGH has been collaborating with McGill University and MUHC to help patients with glaucoma to control and stabilize their vision. One Monday a month, approximately 30 people gather for a presentation by Dr. Marc Renaud, a JGH ophthalmic technician and the project manager, Carole Desharnais a JGH ophthalmic nurse, and Dr. Kasner. Mr. Renaud explains the causes and consequences of glaucoma, while Carol demonstrates how to properly administer daily eye drop medication. In the final portion of the session, patients can ask for specifics about their condition. When patients leave the team are hoping that patient’s questions will be answered. This program has been modeled after similar diabetic information clinics in Canada and the US.

Ontario Chapter *(submitted by Rosemary Bickerton)*

The Ministry of Health in Ontario has cracked down on the cost of cataracts and reduced funding for cataracts. A “cost per case of” of \$497 has been set for all cataracts. The impact of this funding has been enormous to cataract centres in Ontario, as doing cataracts for this cost is very difficult. The cost includes everything such as nursing salaries, supplies, medications, and pre and post op care. The government has been very vague about what exactly is included in the \$497, but basically the onus is on the hospital to make sure they meet this target, and if

not the funds will come out of the global budget of the hospitals, as OHIP will not pay the difference. Hence, many smaller hospitals have given up doing cataracts completely, as they are unable to meet this target, and have moved cataracts to the larger centres, where efficiencies are greater and the cost per case is lower. The moving of cataract surgery has affected many hospitals, especially in Toronto area, where cataract surgery has moved to major "Eye Centres". In Ottawa to meet budget targets, The Ottawa Hospital Eye Care Program has reduced the number of cataracts by 15%, which has affected everyone. We have closed OR days, and reduced nursing hours significantly. We are looking at efficiencies everywhere to meet the budget.

On a more cheerful note, the Ottawa Chapter held their annual dinner meeting on Nov. 29th, 2012. We had a presentation on Corneal Surgery, DSAEK and DMEK. Forty-five members renewed their CSORN registration that evening.

Five nurses from Ottawa attended the American Academy of Ophthalmology ASORN, in Chicago. We met 4 other Canadian nurses at the meeting, 2 nurses from Brampton and 2 from Alberta. Looking forward to our National meeting in Montreal 2013.

B.C Chapter (submitted by Catherine Callaghan)

Our B.C. group has met four times this year. We are very lucky to have had between 20-50 members, attend the dinner meeting. The last three meetings our guest speakers have spoken about the benefits of premium lenses, updates in retinal surgery, and last week the Ocularist for our Eye Care center spoke about ocular prosthetics. All worthwhile topics, everyone enjoyed the opportunity to expand their knowledge and network with nurses throughout the lower mainland of Vancouver.

At our next meeting, the B.C. chapter will vote on increasing funding requests for those wishing to attend ophthalmology conferences.

June 1st the B.C. government joined the rest of Canada by paying for foldable monofocal IOL's. This has run fairly smooth for all the facilities through the lower mainland. Presently the ophthalmologists are able to use the three main vendors of IOL's- Alcon, AMO, and B&L. The plan was to wait 1 year, prior to setting up a RFP for IOL's. The government has found it very expensive, so the "Supply Chain" has started the process six months earlier than initially anticipated. The concern of many ophthalmologists is that there will not be enough input by them given and the RFP will go to the lowest bidder.

From our Executive we would like to wish each of you a very healthy, happy, and prosperous holiday season.

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Kathy Bruce, Vice President
Wanda Mulrooney, Treasurer
Marlene Griffin, Secretary

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For members in:

**Québec,
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please send your registration form
with your \$25 cheque
to our treasurer
Wanda Mulrooney**