



AGM 2014

# Executive Director's Report

MPS has continued to be involved in a number of initiatives, as documented by our President, Dr. Abdulrehman. Advocacy has been a primary focus of this Board and there have been many opportunities to advance the public's awareness of the role of psychologists and the lack of adequate public support for psychological services. We have continued to determine fair fees for private practice psychologist and, this year, an increase in recommended fees was supported by the Board. As well, we have initiated discussions to determine the way in which MPS might represent the interests of public practice psychologists. Other advocacy efforts have involved the beginning of alliances with politicians interested in increasing access to psychological services, responding to media requests and to articles involving mental health and psychology, collaboration in the expansion of the Mind your Mental Health campaign, support for the CPA practice arms, and developing alliances with healthcare professionals.

This past year, MPS also has moved toward increasing services to members. We held another successful Member's Night, have offered free continuing education in addition to our Annual General Meeting; and have increased our dissemination of information about opportunities for education in our community. Our members will continue to receive preferred rates for the new (and, we think, improved) liability insurance offering. We have made efforts to increase the involvement of students, including with our new Student Award Fund and Student Poster Competition. I wish to thank our student representative, Julie Erickson, for her can-do attitude and hard work on our Poster Competition (along with volunteer Kristen Reynolds). Thanks also to Dr. Greenwood for his work on our first Art Raffle, with funds to go to our student fund.

As an initial step toward developing colleague assistance, we are in the process of forming an Ethics Consultation Service to be available to our members. When the committee membership is finalized, a working group will begin to develop the process for this consultation service as well as for other services that the committee might offer or suggest. Fortunately, there are good examples available to us from a number of other small associations that have working and successful Ethics Committees.

A critical new member service has been the development of a new website and improved group email service to our members. There has been a great deal of Board as well as administrative time involved in the planning and development of the website. We are pleased to have engaged the services of Mokhtar Joundi, of MJ Designs, to design our website and to act as our webmaster. As Executive Director, I have appreciated his creativity and initiative, and appreciated his quick responsiveness to requests. In the coming months, you will continue to see improvements, including an increase in information relevant to psychological practice, on our website. We also may look to our membership for your opinions about the use of social media to engage and involve you in our affairs and disseminate information.

With the formation of a number of new committees, we have increased opportunities for members who may not be able to participate on our Board to participate in key tasks of our association and enable us to expand the reach of our advocacy and member service efforts.

Once again, I want to express my appreciation for the fine group of psychologists on our Board, with whom I am blessed to meet monthly and (with many) to have much regular contact. Thank you to our President, Dr. Abdulrehman and our Past-President, Dr. Piotrowski, both of whom have lived and breathed MPS and who have been my directors and partners. I want to give my personal kudos to the other dedicated Board members as well, for their above-and-beyond contributions and their cooperation with administrative tasks.

Thank you as well to our endlessly cheerful, efficient and cooperative Administrative Assistant, Heidi Tucker. She has made it a pleasure to work on all of the behind-the-scene details involved in keeping MPS running and I am exceedingly grateful for our partnership.

As I noted last year, the successes and progress of MPS are dependent not only on the work of the Board, but also on the support and action of our entire membership. It is critical that the membership responds when MPS champions a cause, particularly when it involves requests for political action. The more that MPS members are involved, the more effective we will be in ensuring access to Psychology, appropriate respect for and use of psychologists in health care, and adequate compensation. As well, the more that you volunteer to assist with MPS, the better we will be able to expand our member services.

Finally, it is important to note that MPS continues to operate in an accountable, fiscally responsible manner, with a tight budget, to represent the advocacy and service needs of Manitoba psychologists.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Sztaba, Ph.D., C. Psych.  
Executive Director