

Credentials Committee Report

THE PAST YEAR saw another increase in applications for membership in the College. The Credentials Committee and College staff reviewed 282 applications (RPBio = 159, BIT = 79, RBTech = 11, Trainee (RBTech) = 13, Student = 20). On a year-to-year basis we continue to see growth in applications and membership (2012 = 187, 2013 = 227, 2014 = 265). With the recent approval by the provincial government of the new categories of Applied Biology Technician and Applied Biology Technician In Training, we expect an even busier 2016!

The membership of the Credentials Committee has grown to accommodate the increased workload. In late 2015, we welcomed three new members: RPBios Leandro Torella, Sean Sharpe, and Miriam Marshall. I am looking forward to not only their assistance in reviewing files, but also their perspectives on the credentialing process. Although we gained three new members, two long-serving members of the Committee resigned. I thank Liz Stanlake and Janet Rynestad for their valuable service to the Committee and the College.

I must acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the remaining Committee members. Joyce Boon (Vice Chair), Rob D'Eon, Guy Gilron, Pierre Johnstone, Eric Lofroth, Derek Marcoux, Sandra Meidinger, Gerry Naito, Brent Philips, Roy Rea, and Jocelyn White worked tirelessly to quickly and thoroughly review a large number of applications. Also, their knowledge of applied biology in all of its forms, and their keen eagerness to maintain a high standard of professionalism for members of the College is essential in our continuing efforts to improve the overall purpose and functioning of the Committee.

The Credentials Committee met twice in 2015, most recently in November, to discuss and finalize a number of initiatives designed to improve the transparency and efficiency of the application process. We made a recommendation to the Council and prepared the necessary form to allow applicants to apply a maximum of seven months (RPBio) and five months (RBTech) of volunteer experience (post degree) toward the required three years of 'work' experience in Applied Biology (see <https://www.cab-bc.org/application-forms-sent-office/confirmation-volunteer-experience-form-rpbio>).

As a second outcome from the meetings, we identified procedural efficiencies that will allow applications to be

processed and reviewed more quickly. Understandably, applicants hope for an immediate review from the Committee and a quick decision from the Registrar. Unfortunately, the high number of applications and the rigour demanded by the **College Rules** can lead to a three to four month decision period. Although our volunteers have many responsibilities outside of their commitments to the Credentials Committee, we ask that they review each application within two weeks of receipt. A fully digital application portal expedites this process and College staff now process and deliver applications for review at the time they are received, not in large batches, as in the past. However, turnaround time by reviewers can be greatly slowed by poorly presented or documented materials from the applicant and heavy workloads of College staff, especially following a flood of applications!

On that note, I want to recognize the College staff for their continued support of the Credentials Committee. Each member of the Committee finds a considerable amount of time in their busy work schedule to conduct College business. The Registrar, Linda Stordeur, RPBio, the Assistant Registrar, Rebecca Mersereau, RPBio, and the Administrative Assistant, Jillian Stewart, BIT, recognize that commitment and do everything in their power to ensure that the volunteer's time is well spent and effective. Working together, the staff and members of the Committee make an important contribution to the governance and workings of the College. I thank them for the high level of professionalism that they bring to the Committee's business. 

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Johnson, RPBio, Chair, Credentials Committee

