



Executive Director's Message



A New Logo and Fresh Look for The OSMT

By now you will have noticed that *Advocate* has a brand new look. This is the first issue that features the OSMT's new logo, a fresh design, and is printed in full colour! The logo was unveiled at the last AGM and members who received the 2007 membership renewal mailing directly will have already seen it. Here is the full story for all.

Inspired by the Board's commitment during recent strategic planning sessions to strengthen and revitalize the Society's image, a new logo was created for the OSMT by Landgraff Design.

The symbol was fashioned to represent the unique identity of our membership. The hexagon was selected because of its relevance to laboratory science. The hexagon is a universal

symbol often used to illustrate many chemical formulae and molecular structures. Scale and motion were achieved with the arrangement of three hexagons to relate to the science that happens in the lab. A trillium, to represent Ontario, shapes in the white space between the hexagons.

The three different colours can represent

different aspects of the profession: red reflects blood and can even look like a Petri dish from above; grey/silver represents technology; and blue feels like good health, sterile and clinical environments, vials or glassware.

We hope our members are pleased with the OSMT's new logo and the refreshing design of *Advocate*. ❖



Should Medical Laboratory Assistants and Technicians Be Regulated In Ontario?

This has been a burning question for quite some time and yet one that continues to remain unanswered. Some say "yes", some say "no", and others say "maybe". But lately the question appears to be simmering on the back burner.

Last year, in a pro-active move to gain the regulation of lab assistants and technicians under its regulatory umbrella, the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario (CMLTO) made a submission to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to consider the regulation of lab assistants/technicians. To our knowledge, the request still sits with the Minister.

The OSMT's position is that the decision 'to regulate' or 'not to regulate' should not be

made with preconceived and perhaps erroneous assumptions about what regulation is or isn't. Decisions made in today's highly politically-charged environment must be made with the agreement, support and a sound understanding of lab assistants and technicians, of what it means to be a 'self-regulated health profession' and the willingness to embrace the associated responsibilities.

With this in mind, the OSMT Board has contracted with a highly experienced research specialist, Ricki Grushcow of Research/Strategy Group, to carry out a survey, independent of the OSMT. This approach was taken so as not to inhibit candid dialogue from participants and to produce a completely unbiased report on the results of the study.

The survey is well underway at the time of writing this report. The research consists of focus group sessions with MLTs, certified and uncertified MLA/Ts and MLAs in various regions of Ontario, an on-line survey for all lab technologists, technicians, and assistants in the province who wish to participate, and interviews with lab-related stakeholders such as employers, unions, and training institutions.

A report of the findings will be made available to all participants as well as to others concerned with the outcome and recommendations of this research survey.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, other laboratory professionals, and stakeholders for their valuable input and participation. ❖