

Candidate: Dr. Pooya Hemami



Biography

I am a bilingual primary care optometrist practicing in Ottawa, and am concurrently also engaged as an investment research analyst and supervisory analyst at Edison Group. As a Past-President of the College of Optometrists of Ontario, I have a longstanding deep interest in regulation and in applying multidisciplinary and evidence-based approaches towards advancing policies that serve the public interest, improve transparency, enhance member engagement, and advance the profession. My MBA degree provides me with insights into the dynamics and varied perspectives involved for the oversight and management of an organization. I have served on the Council of the College for over three terms, and during which I have participated on numerous statutory committees (including Registration, Quality Assurance, ICRC, Executive, and Discipline). I also helped establish the Audit, Finance and Risk and Governance/HR standing committees. I was an inaugural member of the Canadian Optometric Evaluation Committee, a Director of FORAC and a Member-representative of the OEBC. I have collaborated with other optometric leaders through my activities with the Tripartite Group (OAO, the College, University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science) and with the Eye Health Council of Ontario (Optometry and Ophthalmology). A graduate of the University of Montreal School of Optometry, I have over 20 years of clinical practice experience, mostly in Ottawa, and have also practiced in Quebec. Finally, I have applied my financial background (CFA

charterholder) in various oversight roles at the College to help promote responsible and prudent asset management.

Describe an experience where you contributed to protecting the public interest.

To help improve access to care, I worked with Council and key stakeholders to propose expanding the scope of optometric practice and easing the current limitations surrounding the prescribing of drugs by optometrists.

To develop genuine support for the decisions being made, it is important to work constructively and collaboratively with everyone involved. Whenever I chaired a panel or committee meeting, I sought ways to engage with all members of the group so that everyone's input and perspectives could be shared within the overall discussion, and with the aim of achieving a consensus on the topic(s) at hand.

CV

Education

- Doctor of Optometry, University of Montreal (1996 - 2000)
- Master of Business Administration, McGill University (2002 - 2006 part-time)
- Chartered Financial Analyst (2011)

Regulatory-related experience

- President, College of Optometrists of Ontario (2017 - 2019)
- Vice-President, College of Optometrists of Ontario (2015, 2016, 2023)
- Director, Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC) (2017 - 2019)
- Member representative, Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) (2017 - 2019)
- Treasurer, College of Optometrists of Ontario (2011 - 2014)
- Representative, Canadian Optometric Evaluation Committee (COEC) of FORAC (2014 - 2017)
- Council Member, College of Optometrists of Ontario (2010 – 2019, 2022 - present)

- College of Optometrists of Ontario Committee experience:

- Executive (2013 - 2019, 2023; Chairperson in 2017 - 2019)
- Governance or HR/Governance (2017 - 2018, 2022; Chairperson in 2017 - 2018)
- Registration (2008 - 2012, 2020 - 2021, 2024)
- Audit Finance and Risk (2019, 2023, 2024)
- Inquiries, Complaints and Reports (2015)
- Quality Assurance (2013 - 2014, 2022)
- Discipline (late 2010 - 2014, 2016 - 2019, 2022 - 2024)
- Fitness to Practice (2012 - 2014)
- Clinical Practice Panel (2006 - 2007, 2016)

Practice background and affiliations

- Actively engaged in primary care-oriented optometric practice in Ottawa
- Previously worked in other clinical settings and also in refractive surgery co-management
- New Therapeutic Privileges (NPT) Certification in Quebec (2018)
- Member, Ontario Association of Optometrists

Additional Professional experience

Supervisory and Investment Research Analyst, Edison Group (2012-Present)

- I prepare valuation and research reports covering publicly-traded companies operating in the healthcare sector, and also supervise reports prepared by other research analysts across multiple sectors and industries

Equity Research Associate/Analyst, Desjardins Capital Markets (2007-2012)

- I performed detailed financial and strategic analysis of publicly-traded companies operating in the healthcare sector