

# COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Inquiry Case #18-22 - Complaint Outcome Report

On **July 25, 2018**, the College received correspondence from a member of the public expressing concerns with a registrant's online newsletter articles disseminating false information, unethical and potentially dangerous information about Parkinson's disease.

On **August 10**, the Inquiry Committee commenced an investigation. The registrant was notified of the complaint on the same day.

On **August 23, 2018**, the registrant responded to the allegations.

The inspection took place between **August 10** and **October 16, 2018**.

On **October 22, 2018**, the Inquiry Committee reviewed the allegations, the registrant's written answer, and additional documentary evidence, including practice guidelines and scientific literature.

The Inquiry Committee found that the evidence collected in the inspection report was sufficient to inform the allegations and disposed of the case under ss. 33(6)(c) and 36(1)(b) of the *Health Professions Act* after identifying the following concerns:

- Lack of critical thinking skills and evidence-informed writing in the interpretation and selection of the scientific literature for the information provided in the online newsletter articles on Parkinson's disease, leaky gut and adrenal glands and potential effect on public confidence (Standard of Practice 13),
- Lack of insight and self-awareness of risk to a potentially vulnerable public in recommendations made regarding Parkinson's disease (Standard of Practice 13)
- Publication of information outside of dietetic scope of practice (e.g., pesticides and adrenal gland fatigue as a medical diagnosis) (Standard of Practice 2).

The Inquiry Committee determined that the overall risk of harm to the public was low. However, the Committee was concerned by the lack of evidence-based information published and the potential harm of the registrant disseminating this information through their private practice and clinical nutrition work at a major local hospital.

On **November 9, 2018**, the registrant signed an undertaking where they agreed to:

- Complete identified coursework and readings in evidence-informed practice, critical thinking and scientific writing
- Submit a report of learning outcomes gained from the courses and readings, and how this influences their practice as a regulated health professional, and
- Submit for review seven medical charts from recent clinical nutrition practice, including specific cases related to Parkinson's, diabetes care, gastro-intestinal disease, auto-immune or degenerative disease and one of the cases that involved the practice of Restricted Activity A (design of enteral nutrition).

The Complainant was notified of the decision on **November 21, 2018**.

A copy of the signed undertaking is saved in the registrant's file permanently, in accordance with section 69 of the CDBC bylaws.

**97 days** were required to resolve the case.