The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board

Mandate

The PMPRB is an independent quasi-judicial body created by Parliament in 1987 under the Patent Act. The PMPRB protects consumer interests and contributes to Canadian health care by ensuring that prices charged by manufacturers of patented medicines are not excessive.

The PMPRB reports to Parliament through the Minister of Health. The Annual Report, which covers each calendar year, includes a review of the PMPRB's major activities, analyses of the prices of patented medicines and of the price trends of all drugs, and reports on the R&D expenditures as reported by patent-holding drug manufacturers.

Jurisdiction

The PMPRB is responsible for regulating the prices that patentees charge for prescription and non-prescription patented drugs sold in Canada for human and veterinary use to ensure that they are not excessive. If, after a public hearing, the Board finds that a price is excessive it may order the patentee to reduce the price and take measures to offset any excess revenues it may have received. The PMPRB reviews the “factory-gate” price at which the manufacturer sells the product to wholesalers, hospitals or pharmacies. The PMPRB's jurisdiction covers patented medicines marketed or distributed under voluntary licences. The PMPRB has no authority to regulate the prices of non-patented drugs, including generic drugs sold under compulsory licences, and does not have jurisdiction over prices charged by wholesalers or retailers nor over pharmacists’ professional fees.

In Canada, Health Canada assesses new medicines to ensure that they conform with the Food and Drug Act and Regulations. Formal authorization to market or distribute a medicine is granted through a Notice of Compliance (NOC). A medicine may be temporarily distributed with specified restrictions before receiving a NOC, as an Investigational New Drug or under the Special Access Program (SAP).

The PMPRB regulates the price of each patented drug product, including each strength of each dosage form of a patented medicine. This is normally the level at which Health Canada assigns a Drug Identification Number (DIN).

Members of the Board and Senior Staff

Chairperson: Robert G. Elgie
Vice-Chairperson: Réal Sureau
Members:
Anthony Boardman
Ysolde Gendreau
(her term ended on October 24, 2000)
Ingrid Sketris

Executive Director: Wayne D. Critchley
Secretary of the Board: Sylvie Dupont
Director of Policy and Economic Analysis: Ronald Corvari
Director of Compliance and Enforcement: Laura Y. Reinhard
Director of Corporate Services: Robert Sauvé
Senior Counsel: Claude Lesage
Members’ Biographies

The Board consists of no more than five part-time members appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of five years.

Robert G. Elgie, LL.B., M.D., F.R.C.S. (C)

Dr. Elgie, a lawyer and neurosurgeon, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Neurosurgery), was the founder and first Director of Dalhousie University’s Health Law Institute from 1991 to 1996. He was also the part-time Chair of the Workers’ Compensation Board of Nova Scotia from 1992 to 1996. Dr. Elgie has taught at the Medical Schools of Queen’s University and the University of Toronto, and has held several positions with the Scarborough General Hospital, including Chief of Medical Staff. In 1977, he was elected to the Ontario Legislative Assembly and subsequently served in several Cabinet positions. He resigned from the Ontario Legislature in September 1985 to become Chair of the Workers’ Compensation Board of Ontario where he served until 1991. In October 2000, Dr. Elgie was appointed to the Ontario Press Council. In May 2001, Dr. Elgie was awarded an honorary degree by Dalhousie University: Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, in recognition of his outstanding personal achievements. Dr. Elgie was appointed Member and Chairperson of the Board in March 1995 and re-appointed in March 2000.

Réal Sureau, FCA

Mr. Sureau, a chartered accountant, is President of Sureau Management Limited. From January 1997 to February 2000, he was Director of Business Development of the Montréal Baseball Club. From June 1995 to June 1996, he was President of the Order of Chartered Accountants of Québec. Through the years, he was a member of several committees of the Order, including the Disciplinary Committee, the Professional Practice Committee, the Professional Development Committee and the Committee on Government Finances. He was Vice-President, Finance, at Forex and Canam-Manac. Mr. Sureau sits on the board of directors of many organizations, including Gaz Métropolitain and the Institut de réadaptation de Montréal. Mr. Sureau was appointed Member and Vice-Chairperson of the Board in October 1995 and re-appointed in October 2000.

Anthony Boardman, Ph.D.

Dr. Boardman is the Van Dusen Professor of Business Administration in the Strategy and Business Economics Division, Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He graduated from the University of Kent at Canterbury, England, (B.A., 1970) and Carnegie-Mellon University (Ph.D., 1975). Prior to taking up his position at UBC he was a professor in the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Boardman’s current research interests include privatization, cost-benefit analysis and strategic
management. During his career, he has published over 65 academic articles or books, including *Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice*. Dr. Boardman has been a member of the editorial board of the *Economics of Education Review*, and has been a referee for many leading academic journals. He has been a consultant to many private and public organizations including Vodafone, Stora Enzo, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the Treasury of New Zealand and all levels of government in Canada. He is also an excellent teacher and, as a member of the MBA Core Team at UBC, has won the Peter Larkin award and the Alan Blizzard award. Since 1995, Dr. Boardman has been a member of the Pharmaco-economic Initiative Scientific Committee which makes recommendations to B.C. Pharmacare on the cost-effectiveness of new drugs. Dr. Boardman was appointed Member of the Board in January 1999.

**Ysolde Gendreau,**

*B.C.L., LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D.*

Dr. Gendreau is Professor of intellectual property law and competition law, Faculty of Law, Université de Montréal. She is also sessional lecturer at McGill University, where she teaches intellectual property law. A member of the Québec Bar since 1985, she is counsel with the firm Gowling Lafleur Henderson. She is a member of the executive committee of the Canadian Association of Law Teachers (Association canadienne des professeurs de droit) and of the International Association for the Advancement of Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property (ATRIP). She publishes extensively and delivers many lectures on intellectual property law in Canada and abroad. Dr. Gendreau was appointed Member of the Board in October 1995. She completed her term on October 25, 2000.

**Ingrid S. Sketris,**

*BSc(Phm), Pharm.D., MPA(HSA)*

Dr. Sketris is a Professor at the College of Pharmacy and School of Health Services Administration and an Associate Professor of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University. She is a consultant to the pharmacy department of the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax. Dr. Sketris is a graduate of the University of Toronto (BSc(Phm), 1977), University of Minnesota (Pharm.D, 1979), University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences (Residency in Clinical Toxicology/Pharmacy Practice, 1980) and Dalhousie University (MPA(HSA) 1989). She is a fellow of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Dr. Sketris is currently on the Editorial Boards of the Canadian Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, Clinical Therapeutics, and Drugs and Therapeutics for Maritime Practitioners. She was a member of the scientific advisory panel of the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment from 1996-1998. Dr. Sketris’ research interests include examining the impact of changes in Pharmacare policy and the use of drugs and health services particularly related to the population of Nova Scotia. In June 2000, Dr. Sketris was awarded a Chair in health services and nursing from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation/Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Cosponsored by the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation). She has numerous publications in the area of transplantation therapeutics and pharmacoepidemiology. Dr. Sketris was appointed Member of the Board in May 1999.