

# SCOPE *newsletter*

QUALITY PHARMACY CARE IN SASKATCHEWAN

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## SCP President's Inaugural Address

Good afternoon President Lyons, distinguished guests, and colleagues. It is with great honour that I accept the responsibility of President of the College of Pharmacists. I look forward to serving my fellow pharmacists and the public. I would first like to recognize Barry Lyons on a job well done. I look forward to continuing to work with Barry and to receiving his advice and guidance throughout my term.

This conference is always a time of reflection as we honour the fifty, twenty five, and ten year grads. It is impressive to see just how much our practice has evolved. Their ability to adapt to the ever-changing environment has allowed pharmacists to continue to be among the most trusted and valued health professionals.



2014-15 President, Spiro Kolitsas

For those of you who don't know me, I am a proud graduate from the U of S, Class of '91. Upon graduating, I moved back to Regina to begin my career in community pharmacy. Like many young graduates, my efforts at the start of my career were to try and become the best pharmacist I could and to change and improve the well-being of my patients, as well as to make a difference. The relationships I have developed throughout my career with my patients and colleagues have provided me with meaning and purpose. Although that continues to be what I strive for today, I became interested in joining Council several years ago, primarily as a way of giving back to the profession which has been very enriching for me. It was becoming very clear to me that the environment in which I was working in was rapidly evolving. I wanted to have a voice in that change.

When I graduated, I never thought I would be able to prescribe for minor ailments, accept PACT referrals, check for creatinine levels at a community setting, or work as part of a primary health care team. Pharmacists are now asthma educators, certified diabetes educators, and certified geriatric pharmacists. I have realized that to change is to grow and change is happening at a significant pace. I was somewhat reminded of this by a recent event at our pharmacy. I had a 79 year old patient present with a prescription for Macrobid®. Everything looked fine, however, I decided to use the technology available to me to check her creatinine levels. I obtained her weight and her height and calculated her creatinine clearance. Her clearance was such that I decided that this prescription was not appropriate for her and got the prescription changed to Cipro® by the family doctor. The patient called me two days later in tears, wanting to speak to me. I thought, "What happened!" She wanted to inform me that

Continued on page 5

## SCP COUNCIL 2013-2014

### PRESIDENT

Barry Lyons, Saskatoon

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Spiro Kolitsas, Regina

### PAST PRESIDENT

Kim Borschowa, Radville

### DIVISION 1

Shannon Clarke, Estevan

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### DIVISION 6

Leah Perrault, Swift Current

### DIVISION 7

Bill Gerla, Humboldt

### DIVISION 8

Justin Kosar, Saskatoon

### EX OFFICIO

Dean David Hill, Saskatoon

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

### PUBLIC MEMBERS

Barbara deHaan, Biggar

Pamela Anderson, Regina

### STUDENT OBSERVER

Andrew Plishka

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### ANDREA CRAIN

Administrative Assistant

### JEANNE ERIKSEN

Assistant Registrar

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Administrative Assistant

### LORI POSTNIKOFF

Field Officer

### GINGER RITSHIE

Administrative Assistant

### JEANNETTE SANDIFORD

Field Officer

### AUDREY SOLIE

Administrative Assistant

### AMANDA STEWART

Administrative Assistant

## Council Highlights

Council met on Friday, May 30, 2014 in Saskatoon just prior to the joint Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan (PAS)/Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA)/ Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (AFPC) Annual Conference.

At each Council meeting Council receives an update on initiatives taken to further our Strategic Goals:

- 1. Vision - Quality pharmacy care in Saskatchewan** - The COMPASS™ (Community Pharmacists Advancing Safety in Saskatchewan) pilot project is well underway with plans for phase 2 to start this fall. This pilot will include up to 80 pharmacies becoming involved in the process that has been started by the nine initial pharmacies from the first pilot.
- 2. CQI** - Continuous Quality Improvement through the COMPASS™ program will focus on medication safety (patient) and safe medication practices (pharmacy).
- 3. Public safety** - the College is moving forward with our enhanced role in the Prescription Review Program (PRP); development nationally of the pending compounding vs. manufacturing document coming out of the Thiessen Report; as well as the amendments to *The Pharmacy Act, 1996* (the "Act") that are underway.
- 4. Standardized pharmacy services** - through our efforts on many NAPRA committees and working groups, we have assisted with the development of the new Competencies at Entry-to-Practice for both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, as well as a national standard for pharmacy practice management systems which is currently out for stakeholder consultation.
- 5. Self-regulated profession** - with the opening of *The Pharmacy Act, 1996* for amendment, we will be moving forward with the introduction of pharmacy technicians as a new health profession and members of our College.
- 6. Positive image and essential member of the health care team** - with the introduction of the latest six conditions for minor ailment prescribing we are continuing to enhance the offerings by pharmacists to the public.
- 7. Public policy supporting health** - we anticipate that, with the amendments to the Act regarding administration of medication by injection and other routes, pharmacists in this province will have a similar positive impact on the vaccination rate in Saskatchewan as pharmacists have had in other provinces.
- 8. Optimum public use of pharmacy services** - our CQI initiative through the COMPASS™ pilot project is focused on improving the safety of our services for the public of Saskatchewan.

Council heard that the utilization of the eHR Viewer by pharmacists is growing. The CDM QIP (Chronic Disease Management Quality Improvement Project) however, is showing a downward trend.

The number of Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) CeRX integrated pharmacists is beyond the original expectations. As of March 31, 2014 there were 736 pharmacists in 223 pharmacies. The target for 2013-2014 was 455 pharmacists.

Council received an update on the **NAPRA developments**: The new Gateway for International Pharmacy Graduates (IPG) is entering the final testing stage for the website. The new Gateway will allow IPGs to submit their documentation to one source that the provincial regulatory authorities will be able to access. This means that instead of requiring duplicate copies of documents to be issued to the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC), and to each provincial regulatory



## VISION

Quality Pharmacy Care in Saskatchewan

## VALUES

Visionary Leadership

Professionalism

“Patient First” care

Accountability

Effective Communications

Collaboration, Education

## KEY ACTION AREAS

Increased Public Involvement

Organizational Structure Review

Practice Re-design and Regulatory Reform

Citizenship in the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists (SCP)

body, candidates for registration, will now submit documentation only once. The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists (SCP) has been preparing for this new system and integration into our in1touch system.

For those IPGs that are currently in-process with SCP, this new gateway will not impact on their status.

The online bridging program for pharmacy assistants that are interested in becoming regulated pharmacy technicians once *The Pharmacy Act, 1996* is amended is available to Saskatchewan residents. It is encouraged that all applicants who meet the eligibility requirements for sitting the PEBC Evaluating Exam do this step first as it is the entry point for certification with PEBC. This certification will be a requirement for registration and licensure with SCP. Please check the PEBC website ([www.pebc.ca](http://www.pebc.ca)) for further details.

NAPRA is working on the development of a national standardized pharmacy system management process. These draft system requirements have been shared with eHealth Saskatchewan for comment.

## ELECTIONS

In April 2010, bylaw amendments were passed to protect the offices of President, President-Elect, and Vice-President from election by designating these positions as members of Council. These amendments also provide Council with the flexibility to appoint members to fill vacancies at their discretion should they occur as a result of this process.

Notices of election were mailed according to the bylaws to eligible members in Divisions 2,4, 6 and 8. One nomination was received from each of Divisions 2 and 6 and Sheldon Ryma and Leah Perrault were declared elected by acclamation, respectively. Two nominations were received for Division 8 and Justin Kosar was declared elected by majority vote. No nominations were received for Division 4 and according to Council policy, we asked for volunteers. Seven members put their names forward for consideration and we are pleased to report that Tamara Lange has been appointed to Council from Electoral Division 4 to serve the two year term beginning July 1, 2014.

Council would like to thank the members who volunteered to join Council to further the work of the College.

Therefore, the constitution of Council effective July 1, 2014 will be:

President - Spiro Kolitsas, Regina

President-Elect - Bill Gerla, Humboldt

Vice-President - Justin Kosar, Saskatoon

Division 1 - Shannon Clarke, Estevan

Division 2 - Sheldon Ryma, Prince Albert

Division 3 - Geoff Barton, Meadow Lake

Division 4 - Tamara Lange, Saskatoon

Division 5 - Jarron Yee, Regina

Division 6 - Leah Perrault, Swift Current

Division 7 - Bill Gerla, Humboldt

Division 8 - Justin Kosar, Saskatoon

Past-President - Barry Lyons, Saskatoon

Ex-Officio - Dean David Hill, Saskatoon (until July 31, 2014) and Dean Kishor Wasan, Saskatoon (from August 1, 2014) of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

Public Members - Pamela Anderson, Regina and Barbara-Ann deHaan, Biggar

Council received a report on the **COMPASS™ Pilot Project** which began in September 2013 and continues until August 2014.

Council approved the “scaling up strategies” developed by the Steering Committee which is made up of representatives from the pilot pharmacies, SCP Council, Saskatchewan Health, U of S College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Canada, and two public representatives (family and patient advisors).

Please see page 7 for a more detailed article on COMPASS™.

Council received a report from the **Registration and Licensing Policies Committee** regarding a review of the Conditional Practising membership requirements going forward. As enhancements to our scope of practice become embedded in the role of the pharmacist, there is awareness that new graduates need some time in actual practice to hone their skills and to build confidence in a busy pharmacy practice. The committee introduced an "orientation to practice" period where one can become comfortable not just with the new environment of a workplace, but also with the many demands of a pharmacist's time and energy that may not have been the case through their structured practical experiences program. Changes to the registration requirements will require bylaw amendments with draft amendments to return to Council later this year.

The **Professional Practice Committee** also submitted their report to Council:

- Work is to continue on the proposed private counselling rooms for all pharmacies by January 1, 2016. All applicants for new pharmacies and pharmacy renovations are being informed of this proposed requirement for a proprietary pharmacy permit. Should you have any questions please contact the College office prior to beginning work on any pharmacy construction.

- Thanks to the work of Sara Pryce, SPEP student with medSask and under the direction of Karen Jensen, the Exempted Codeine Products documents in the reference manual have been updated: “Tools for the Pharmacist Regarding Exempted Codeine Products” and a handout for patients.
- The committee reported that work has begun on the requirements for training and education regarding administration via injection and other routes. This will include an update on accidental needle stick policy based on the new Ministry of Health “Blood and Body Fluid Exposure” policy paper released in October 2013. Please watch the College website and email for information as it is released.

This past winter SCP was fortunate to have three SPEP students working with us on many issues arising out of our submitted amendments to the Act. Our thanks go out to Chet Mack, Casey Balon, and Cherie Hrynychshyn for their assistance with the many projects that they completed, many of which we will be utilizing as we prepare for the regulatory changes that the amendments to the Act will bring.

After an extensive process, NAPRA has finalized and released two updated documents: *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice* (March 2014) and *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice* (March 2014). This work was conducted to modernize the content, reflect expansions in scope of practice (prescribing, administration of drugs, medical laboratory tests) and to properly integrate with competencies for pharmacy technicians. Council has approved these documents so that we may align our licensing policies with those of the other provincial regulatory authorities nationally.

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## Drug Schedule Amendment – Bisacodyl

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This is to confirm that the Schedule III listing of Bisacodyl has been amended to read:

“Bisacodyl and its salts [except when sold in concentrations of 5 mg or less per oral dosage unit or 10 mg or less per rectal dosage unit/suppository in package sizes containing no more than 50 mg of bisacodyl].”

**This means that products containing bisacodyl and its salts in concentrations of 5 mg or less per oral dosage unit or 10 mg or less per rectal dosage unit/suppository in package sizes containing no more than 50 mg of bisacodyl may be sold from any retail outlet and are considered Unscheduled.**

Bisacodyl containing products sold in concentrations higher than those stated or in larger package sizes are available to the public from the self-selection area of the pharmacy (Schedule III) only. This also means that these products may only be sold from a pharmacy and only when a pharmacist is in attendance (i.e., would be included in an approved lock and leave area of the pharmacy if there is not always a pharmacist present during the hours of operation).

This bylaw change became effective upon the approval of the Minister of Health and the publication of the Saskatchewan Gazette as of May 23, 2014.

Continued from SCP President's Inaugural Address...

for the first time in two weeks she was able to sleep because the medication she received was appropriate for her and she wanted to thank us for taking the time and for caring. Two years ago I would not have been able to make that kind of impact in my patient's life. For me, it put something into perspective that we have come a long way. I believe the pace of this evolution is speeding up.

Regardless of change, the one thing that continues to provide our direction is our vision. We exist to provide quality pharmacy care in Saskatchewan. The way we provide pharmacy care in Saskatchewan is evolving. It is different today than it was five years ago and will be different five years from now. Our customers of the health care system, the public, are demanding more access to quality health care. We know that generic pricing is having an impact. Health care and government is now focused on the delivery of cost effective optimal care. This has created a shift towards more cognitive services and soon expanded scope of practice with pharmacists soon providing injection services.

We have seen the positive impact that prescriptive authority has provided in our practice. The expansion of the minor ailments list, medication assessments, and PACT services further add value to the health care team.

We have seen the positive impact of technology with everything from PIP access to the eHealth viewer for lab values to automated fill robots. Our ability to embrace the benefits of technology will help us evolve and fulfill our vision.

These changes will require the optimization of technicians to be allowed to function fully within their scope of practice. This team approach will allow pharmacists more freedom in their expanded role. This of course will require significant changes to the College as well to the pharmacy practice model.

Our ability to practise well within our scope of practice has yet to be fully realized. Nowhere is that more evident than our role in primary health care. The development of a primary health care coordinator will enhance the role of the pharmacist in the primary healthcare team. This will be examined closely with our partners at PAS with the hope of establishing a funding model. As change is happening at a relatively fast pace the College had developed, several years ago, a strategic plan and identified many key action areas to help guide us through this evolution. These include increasing public involvement, organizational structural review, practice redesign and regulatory reform, and citizenship. These guiding principles will allow us to focus our energy in a way that best allows us to regulate the profession.

I hope to continue to foster the great working relationship the College has with the Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan

(PAS) Board, as we do have many common interests; as well as the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSS); the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) and Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA). This evolution will require inter-professional collaboration with all health care professionals

I look forward to working and communicating with the citizens of our profession in shaping this evolution of pharmacy into something that will solidify our role with our end: Positive Image and Essential Members of the Health Care Team

In closing, I would like to thank Ray Joubert for his support. My short tenure on Council has given me a new appreciation for work that Ray does for us. It is easy to see why Ray is so highly respected by his peers. However, Ray does not work alone so I must also acknowledge Jeanne, Lori, Jeannette, and the rest of the SCP staff for their dedication to the performance of the College.

I would like to acknowledge the retiring members of SCP and PAS and welcome the new members who will serve as Council and PAS Board representatives. Thank you for your involvement. I would like to encourage all those who may be considering getting involved to do so in whatever capacity you can; join a committee, run for Council, or join the PAS Board.

I would also like to thank my family, especially my wife Sofia for her support. She has made it easier for me fulfill my responsibilities to best of my abilities.

I am honoured to serve the people and pharmacists of this province and thank Council for their vote of confidence in electing me as President. I look forward to working with and hearing from all of you throughout this evolution in providing quality pharmacy care to the people of this province.

I leave you with two quotes:

*“The secret to change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new”*

– Socrates

*“If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves”*

– Thomas Edison

Thank you,

Spiro Kolitsas, BSP  
SCP President 2014-15

## Prograf™ and Advagraf™ Are Not Interchangeable

Tacrolimus, an immunosuppressive drug indicated for the prevention of solid organ transplant rejection, is available as **two formulations**, and we would like to remind pharmacists that they are **not interchangeable**. **Prograf™**, the immediate release formulation is dosed every 12 hours<sup>1</sup>, while **Advagraf™**, the extended release formulation is to be taken every 24 hours<sup>2</sup>. Mix-ups between the two formulations have led to serious harm, including cases of biopsy-confirmed acute rejection of transplanted organs and toxic effects due to overexposure<sup>3</sup>. ISMP Canada released a safety bulletin regarding this issue in 2009<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Prograf product monograph. Markham (ON) AstellasPharma Canada Inc; revised 2013 Sept 26 [cited 2013 Apr 17]. Available from: <http://www.cmsastellas.ca/uploads/pdf/2013-09-26-Prograf%20PM-Approved.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Advagraf product monograph. Markham (ON) AstellasPharma Canada Inc; revised 2013 Sept 26 [cited 2013 Apr 17]. Available from: <http://www.cmsastellas.ca/uploads/pdf/2013-09-26-Advagraf%20PM-Approved.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Prograf and AdvagrafMixup. Can J Hosp Pharm. 2009 Sep-Oct; 62(5): 417-418.

<sup>4</sup> Tacrolimus (Advagraf and Prograf): risk of serious medication errors Drug Saf Update 2009. January [cited 2013 Apr 17]; 2(6):4-5. Available from: [http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dDocName=CON035990&RevisionSelectionMethod=Latest](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON035990&RevisionSelectionMethod=Latest).

Tacrolimus is a critical dose drug, and it is imperative that patients receive the correct dosage to balance the risk of toxicity with the risk of rejection. This is achieved only through individualized drug dosing based on careful monitoring of therapeutic levels. Both tacrolimus and Neoral™ (the other commonly used Calcineurin Inhibitor) have many drug interactions<sup>1,2,5</sup>, which can negatively impact drug levels. Many drugs metabolized by CYP3A4 should be avoided (such as erythromycin and clarithromycin), while some other inducers/inhibitors of CYP3A4 may be used only with judicious monitoring by the transplant center. In addition, NSAIDs should be avoided in all solid organ transplant recipients, due to the increased risk of nephrotoxicity. Please feel free to contact the Saskatchewan Transplant Pharmacy office at (306) 655-5976 if you have any questions.



<sup>5</sup> Neoral product monograph. Dorval (QB) Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc; Revised 2013 Jan 28 [cited 2013 Apr 17]. Available from: <http://www.novartis.ca/products/en/pharmaceuticals-s.shtml>

## TB Prevention and Control Saskatchewan Program

There have been recent reports of prescriptions for tuberculosis medications being filled in the community. TB Prevention and Control Saskatchewan is a program for all residents of this province with suspected or diagnosed TB infection of disease. The program works to identify, prevent, treat and provide follow-up for clients with TB. All patients with suspected TB should be referred to the program for appropriate diagnosis and treatment.

All anti-tuberculosis medications are prescribed and dispensed from TB Prevention and Control Saskatchewan and their pharmacy located at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Medications are provided at no charge to all residents of the province regardless of who regularly funds their health services. Medications will also be provided to immigrants and visitors to the province.

The following drugs are available through the program:

Amikacin injection 500mg/2ml  
Ethambutol tablets 100mg, 400mg  
Isoniazid syrup 10mg/ml, tablets 100mg, 300mg  
Levofloxacin tablet 500mg  
Moxifloxacin tablet 400mg  
Pyrazinamide tablet 500mg  
Rifampin capsule 150mg, 300mg, suspension 25mg/ml



Please contact TB Prevention and Control Saskatchewan at (866) 780-6482 should you receive a prescription for any of the above medications during weekdays. Should treatment be required on the weekend or holiday, please call the RUH switchboard at (306) 655-1000 and ask to have the TB physician on-call paged.

Further information can be obtained in the Formulary under the Hospital Benefits List, Appendix 1, or on the Saskatoon Health Region website at [www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca](http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca)



The Community Pharmacists Advancing Safety in Saskatchewan (COMPASS™) pilot project began in September 2013 with the first phase of the pilot expected to wrap up in August 2014. So far the pilot has been an excellent experience and a resounding success with the pilot pharmacies expressing the value the program has brought to their practice.

The second phase of the pilot will begin later this fall, so please watch for recruitment notices and plan to get involved. This is an excellent opportunity to improve quality assurance in your pharmacy and gain invaluable practice with the program. You will not be disappointed with the experience.

This point of phase one is an excellent time to take stock by reviewing some of our statistics.

Initially there were 11 pharmacies that had signed on to be a part of the pilot. However, two pharmacies had to discontinue; one due to a pharmacy ownership change and the other due to a pharmacy manager change. Therefore, the following statistics were collected from nine pilot pharmacies.

There have been a total of 459 incidents reported to the CPhIR (Community Pharmacy Incident Reporting) system over the 10 months of the pilot. In the first few months, as the pilot pharmacies were coming on board and receiving training on the tools, they had reported the lowest number of incidents. The following are the statistics of incidents reported to the CPhIR system;

September – November 2013:	11 incidents reported
December 2013 – February 2014:	323 incidents reported
March – May 2014:	125 incidents reported

All nine pilot pharmacies have submitted at least one incident to the CPhIR system.

The top three types of incidents reported were:

- Incorrect quantity = 123
- Incorrect dose/frequency = 80
- Incorrect prescriber = 67

The outcomes of reported incidents were as follows:

- NO ERROR = 407
- NO HARM = 48
- HARM = 4

The majority of the incidents reported were for what we like to refer to in the pilot as 'good catches'. These are incidents that were discovered prior to the patient receiving the prescription and therefore allowed the pharmacy staff to revise their process

to ensure that it did not precipitate an error in the future which might reach the patient and cause harm.

Next, as of the end of May 2014, five of the nine pilot pharmacies have completed or started their online data entries for the MSSA (Medication Safety Self-Assessment). The MSSA is completed over 2-3 one-hour sessions by all or a portion of the pharmacy staff. Once the MSSA is completed, the results are then entered into the MSSA section on the CPhIR website. The MSSA is intended to be a proactive look at 10 different key elements (areas), which contain 20 distinguishing characteristics and 89 self-assessment items. Some of these key elements include patient information, drug information, environmental factors, patient education, etc. Feedback from the pilot pharmacies indicate that although completing the MSSA was time intensive, it was a very positive process that provided a good starting point for proactive improvements. It is anticipated that all the pilot pharmacies will have completed their MSSA by the end of the pilot project.

Lastly, four of the nine pilot pharmacies have held an official quarterly meeting. The quarterly meetings are intended to discuss and develop plans of action in three different areas.

The first area for discussion is medication errors that require plans of action either because they are reoccurring or are of greater severity e.g. caused mild, medium or severe harm.

The second area for discussion is on key elements, core distinguishing factors or self-assessment items, that were identified in the MSSA that need a plan of action for improvement. It is recommended to choose one key element, one core distinguishing factor or one self-assessment item to improve at one time.

The third area is staff education. During the quarterly meeting, any staff education requirements that are needed are identified and a plan of action is determined.

The CPhIR website includes a quality improvement tab that provides an electronic document for recording any discussion or plans of action that have been determined in the three areas. Even though some of the pilot sites have not had a

quarterly meeting, we understand from discussions with the pilot pharmacies that some have held staff meetings at which time quality related discussions were held and plans of action determined.

The statistics from the first 10 months are very favorable. The pilot pharmacies have worked very hard to incorporate the COMPASS™ tools into their workflow and they report seeing excellent benefits and have made many improvements. A large number of pharmacies have indicated that being a part of the

pilot has changed their way of thinking with respect to quality assurance. They look at errors and improvement opportunities differently and are more aware of potential safety issues. During a focus group that was held very recently, the pilot pharmacies were able to voice what has gone well over the 10 months and what has been more of a challenge. As the second phase of the pilot starts to gear up, likely this fall, and more pharmacies are recruited, the pilot pharmacies' comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the program.

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## Entry to Practice Competencies for Pharmacists and Entry to Practice Competencies for Pharmacy Technicians

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The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) released the second revision of their document, *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice (March 2014)* and the original document *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice (March 2014)*. The following information is from the introduction of these documents.

The document on professional competencies at entry to practice is one of the foundational documents that form the basis of the National Model Licensing Framework which describes the entry to practice requirements for initial licensing of pharmacists across Canada. This framework supports the requirements for labour mobility under the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). The document on professional competencies at entry to practice exists to guide the development of educational outcomes, educational program accreditation standards and national competency assessment examinations. As a secondary goal, this document also provides pharmacy students, pharmacists and the public with information on the expected competencies of a pharmacist at entry to practice. A regular review of the professional competencies for pharmacists at entry to practice is essential in maintaining a National Model Licensing Framework that supports optimal regulatory practices across Canada in order to enhance patient care and public protection. Due to the significant changes in the scope of practice of pharmacists currently underway across the country, it was determined that the entry to practice competencies should be updated at this time.

This document was developed concurrently with the document on competencies for pharmacy technicians at entry to practice, *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice*.

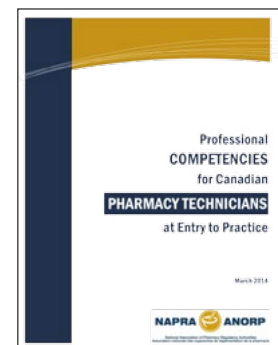
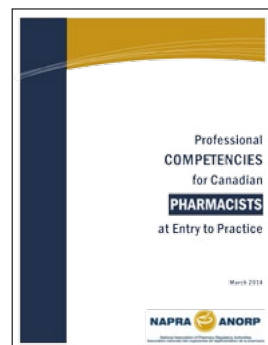
Both documents were reviewed in parallel with a view of updating the competencies where necessary to better support the role of both health professionals and to ensure that the terminology in both documents is appropriate and consistent. The project was undertaken with the generous support of funding from Employment and Social Development Canada

(previously known as Human Resource and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)).

Competencies are often described as significant job related knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes and judgments required for competent performance by members of a profession. They provide an overview of what a pharmacist or pharmacy technician at entry to practice is able to do rather than *how* a pharmacist or pharmacy technician is expected to perform tasks. Detailed information on how to perform tasks is normally found in the standards of practice. At the national level, the expected standards of practice can be found in the most recent version of NAPRA's *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists and Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians*.

Please review the two new documents:

1. NAPRA's *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice*  
[http://napra.ca/Content\\_Files/Files/Comp\\_for\\_Cdn\\_PHARMACISTS\\_at\\_EntrytoPractice\\_March2014.pdf](http://napra.ca/Content_Files/Files/Comp_for_Cdn_PHARMACISTS_at_EntrytoPractice_March2014.pdf)
2. NAPRA's *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice*  
[http://napra.ca/Content\\_Files/Files/Comp\\_for\\_Cdn\\_PHARMTECHS\\_at\\_EntrytoPractice\\_March2014.pdf](http://napra.ca/Content_Files/Files/Comp_for_Cdn_PHARMTECHS_at_EntrytoPractice_March2014.pdf)



These documents outline the competencies required at entry to practice in Canada, keeping in mind changes expected in the next few years due to the ongoing progression of the profession.



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## *“From the Desk of the Dean”*

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**Dr. David Hill**

**College of Pharmacy and Nutrition**

I recall preparing my first Desk of the Dean article back in October 2009. As I write this I must say it feels like October (weather-wise), but I am optimistic summer will be on the way! Back in 2009, on behalf of the College, I shared news of the exciting projects in which we were to become engaged. It is satisfying to report back on the success of the priority initiatives that we identified at that time.

The redesign of the professional degree program in pharmacy is well underway with Associate Dean Academic Yvonne Shevchuk at the helm. We will continue to count on the invaluable input of SCP, PAS, CSHP and practitioners across the Province to ensure we develop a first-rate PharmD program. I am looking forward to working in the coming year on the resource plan for the new curriculum.

Through the efforts of my predecessor Dean Dennis Gorecki, funding was put in place to establish three research chairs. We are very pleased to have recruited outstanding individuals to these positions: Drs. David Blackburn, Patient Adherence to Drug Therapy; Thomas Rotter, Health Quality Improvement; and Meena Sakharkar, Rational Drug Design. During my time as Dean, we were also fortunate to welcome new faculty members Drs. Hector Caruncho, Charity Evans, Azita Haddadi, Holly Mansell and Jason Perepelkin.

We have made the case and the University is now addressing the long-standing underfunding of our College, when compared with other health science programs at the U of S and peer Pharmacy schools in Canada.

Through the leadership of Associate Dean Research and Graduate Affairs Fred Rémillard and his team, and the hard work of our faculty, our research enterprise has grown and our graduate student complement has nearly doubled. And we have excellent Communications & Alumni Affairs and Development Officers in place with Heather Dawson and Andy Collin, respectively.

This year in particular has been historic for us as we embarked on a series of special events to celebrate the centennial of the College. We saw the official opening of our new home in the



state-of-the-art Health Sciences (HS) facility, while maintaining our residence in Thorvaldson for a few more years until the HS facility is fully completed. We worked closely with PAS, CPhA, and AFPC to welcome pharmacists and pharmacy academics from across the country to our beautiful city and province at the beginning of June. We are delighted that Kerry Mansell, our AFPC councillor, has been elected AFPC president.

This month marks a fond farewell to an exceptional member of our faculty – Dr. Linda Suveges. Linda retires following 33 years as an outstanding academic. She has been honoured with numerous awards for outstanding teaching and service. She has tirelessly contributed to the University’s mission, both within the College as Acting Dean and Assistant Dean, and through campus-wide initiatives. Most dear to Linda’s heart is the major role she has played as valued advisor and mentor to hundreds of pharmacy students. She has made extensive contributions to advancing pharmacy education and the profession on the provincial, national and international levels. As Director of Continuing Professional Development in Pharmacy for many years, Linda has played a key role in delivering programs to ensure the highest standards of care provided by pharmacists in Saskatchewan. Thank you so much, Linda!

In closing, my sincere thanks and warmest regards to SCP and its members for your great support during my five-year term as Dean of the College. I know you will welcome our incoming Dean, Dr. Kishor Wasan, with open arms in the usual Saskatchewan way.

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## Conference 2014

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SCP held its' annual **Awards Reception and Banquet** at the Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon, on Friday May 30, 2014. The annual event is our opportunity to acknowledge the members of our organization who volunteer their time to the profession and also to the communities they serve. It is also a time to reflect on those that have lead the way, and to hear their stories of how they have made a difference wherever their careers have led them.

President Barry Lyons welcomed our guests and introduced the many honorees that we came to recognize that evening:

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### **The U of S College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Class of 2004**

- Margo Derksen
- Darcy Lamb
- Sheldon Smith

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### **The U of S College of Pharmacy Class of 1989**



*Class of 1989*

**Back row:** Donna Tremblay-Thompson, Tony Caixeiro, Scott Davidson

**Middle row:** Mike Davis, Shelley Malinowski Stepanuik, Mike Wollbaum, Dawn Marie Sloan-Beahm

**Front row:** Beth Puchala, Monique Bollefer, Derek Vogl

The U of S College of Pharmacy Class of 1964



Class of 1964

**Back row:** Clarence Rabuka, Lyle Gollnick, Clarence Biller, Bob Shay, Bob Codling, Bill Tindall, David Bougher

**Middle row:** Jim Fenton, Ron Zimmer, Ron Dallow, Wayne Sherman, John Krowchuk, Bob McCaw, Wilfred Lee, Ian Gray, Wayne Hindmarsh

**Front row:** Elaine Bradley, Lynne Baillie, Grant Boxall, Sylvia Stevenson, Dorothy Dooley, Irene Bell

Some of the graduates travelled great distances to join their classmates and catch up on their lives and careers. A special thanks to Wayne Hindmarsh, spokesperson for the class, for sharing stories about his classmates from their years on campus.

We would be amiss if we did not report that Betty Riddell was also recognized as a 65 year member of the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association/Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists (SPhA/SCP).

The College recognized **Heather Neirinck** who celebrates her 10-year anniversary as a member of the SCP staff.



Heather Neirinck

The College was very pleased to honour three extraordinary individuals for their leadership and support for the College and their communities.

This year the College welcomes one individual onto the Register of Honorary Members. The **Honorary Member Award** recognizes any person for outstanding contributions to the profession and/or SCP beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary obligations. The nominee must have made a special contribution to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists either on a local, provincial, or national level. This year's inductee is **Cheryl Klein**.



*Honorary Member Cheryl Klein, President Barry Lyons*

Members will be familiar with Cheryl as a long-time member of the College staff – after 26 years with the College, Cheryl retired in May 2013. She was the voice of the College to pharmacy managers across the province as she worked closely with them during renewals and whenever there were relocations, renovations, or managerial amendments to pharmacy permits.

When not working at the College, Cheryl has generously donated her time to various groups and committees including as a Brownie leader, as a Horse Pull Committee member for the Canadian Western Agribition, as a committee member and as a history book contributor for the Aylesbury Centennial. She is currently a Councillor for the Town of Craik.

We were honoured to have two former recipients of the Honorary Membership Award join us for the evening: Sharon Morley and Peter Suwala.



*Honorary Members: Peter Suwala, Sharon Morley*

The **Honorary Life Member Award** recognizes an SCP member for outstanding contributions to the profession and/or the SCP beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary obligations. This year we introduced two new members to our Register as Honorary Life Members: **Garry Guedo** and **William (Bill) Paterson**.



*President Barry Lyons, Honorary Life Member Garry Guedo*

**Garry Guedo** was awarded the Honorary Life Member Award for his service to our profession and for his work within his community. Garry has been an active member through his roles as staff pharmacist and pharmacy manager of the Prince Albert Co-op pharmacies; as a clinical instructor for the Community Clerkship program at the U of S; and as area coordinator for continuing education events. Over the years Garry has been Chair and a member of the Professional Practice Committee; member of the Insurance Committee; and a Councillor for Division 3 on Council. Garry served on Council and held the position of President during the 1998-1999 membership year.

In his community, Garry has been involved with Scouts Canada, Club President of Toastmasters International, and Area Governor and Divisional Lieutenant Governor for District 42. He has also been the East-end Community Club treasurer and the Financial Chair of the Curling Club construction project and a curling club member for over 30 years.

Garry has participated in fundraising for many community charities: the Heart Fund, the Kidney Foundation, the Diabetes Association, the Cancer Society and the SPCA.



*Honorary Life Member Bill Paterson, President Barry Lyons*

**William (Bill) Paterson** was awarded the Honorary Life Member Award for his service to the profession and his community. Bill has served on Council and held the position of President during the 2004-2005 membership year while serving as Councillor for Division 5. Bill has also served on the Complaints Committee and the Pharmacy Economic Committee. Currently, Bill Chairs the Awards and Honors Committee. He has been heavily involved on various event committees including as the Chairman of our provincial conference committee twice, the national Canadian Pharmaceutical Association Conference in 1990 as well as Chair of the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Pillar of Pharmacy Dinner in 2007. Bill recently retired as the Chair of the Saskatchewan Pharmacists' Museum Society.

Outside of the profession, Bill has been a tireless volunteer to many organizations in the Regina area: the Regina Chamber of Commerce, Regina Executive Association, Regina Crime Stoppers, 35 Lions Club, Regina Curling Club, Regina General Hospital Board of Governors, Regina United Way, Saskatchewan Abilities Council, and the Board of Governors for the South Saskatchewan Hospitals.

Bill and Garry will be joining the Register of Honorary Life members with the following who were able to attend the event: Jim Blackburn, Orest Buchko, Forrest Pederson, Bruce Schnell, and Betty Riddell.



*Honorary Life Members*

**Back row:** Jim Blackburn, Forrest Pederson

**Middle row:** Orest Buchko

**Front row:** Bruce Schnell, Betty Riddell

The College is proud to recognize Cheryl, Bill, and Garry as three outstanding individuals and we wish to thank them for their support of their communities and for their service to the profession.

## 103rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists held its 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Saturday May 31, 2014. President Barry Lyons introduced the 2013-2014 Council and special guests. This year we have four councillors who will be retiring from Council: Kim Borschowa, Lori Friesen, Doug McNeill, and David Hill. We also must say goodbye to Andrew Plishka who represented the students on Council in his role as Senior Stick.

The assembly rose for a moment of silent tribute to our deceased members:

Eloy Antoine	Alvin Friesen
Walter Badowsky	Patricia Giesinger
Gerald Barber	Rudolph (Rudy) Gittens
Carolyn Carruthers	William (Bill) Gryba
Lucy Crawford	Jonas Hallgrimson
Mitzi Crawley	Rodger Heidgerken
Jack Dancey	Kenneth (Ken) Hodgins
Bernard Elliot	Thomas Jasieniuk
John Fisher	Aubrey Jealous

Margaret Langstaff  
John Larson  
Joseph Madarash  
Larry Mah  
Donald McGourlick  
Thomas Palyga  
Gordon Parrott  
Dean Reavie  
Gordon Roddick

Grant Schiltroth  
Durrie Schindler  
Larry Surkan  
Albert Walker  
Edeana Watkins  
Harold (Peter) Westlund  
Mervin Wilderman  
Donald Wright

Reports from the President, the Registrar, and the College Auditor were presented to the membership for review and discussion. Dean David Hill presented the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Report to update the membership on current initiatives and happenings at the U of S. This will be Dean Hill's last report to the membership as he will be leaving the College at the end of his term in July. We thank Dr. Hill for his participation on Council and wish him all the best as he returns to the west coast.

## PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

SCP was proud to host the 2014 President's Luncheon at the Delta Bessborough Hotel on Saturday, May 31. This is a time for the College to celebrate our Council members, and welcome the incoming president for 2014 – 2015. This year we were proud to recognize our Past Presidents, most of who were able to be with us.



*Past Presidents in attendance:*

*Back row: Garth McCutcheon, Randy Wiser, Bill Paterson, Mike Davis, Garry Guedo, Barry Lyons*

*Middle row: Margaret Wheaton, Christine Hrudka, Gary Groves, Jack Graham, Al Meyer, Kim Borschowa, Arlene Kuntz*

*Front row: Janet Bradshaw, Jeannette Sandiford, Betty Riddell, Peter Pereverzoff, Forrest Pederson, Doug Spitzig*

President-Elect Spiro Kolitsas introduced the members that are retiring from the various College committees at the end of this membership year. President Lyons thanked everyone for the participation in the workings of the College.

The **Certificate of Recognition** is presented to pharmacists for their outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.

Members retiring from **Council**:

- David Hill – David joined Council on July 1, 2009 as Ex Officio in his role as Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Kim Borschowa – Kim joined Council on July 1, 2009 and has advanced through the Executive Committee fulfilling the role of Past-President during the current year.
- Lori Friesen – Lori joined Council as Councillor for Division 2 on July 1, 2010.
- Doug MacNeill – Doug joined Council as Councillor for Division 4 on July 1, 2010.

Members retiring from the **Awards and Honours Committee**:

- Rod Amaya
- Doug Spitzig
- Garry Guedo
- Garth Walls

Members retiring from the **Complaints Committee**:

- Debora Bakken-Voll
- Melanie McLeod

Members retiring from the **Professional Practice Committee**:

- Debora Bakken-Voll
- Janet Norfield
- Stan Chow
- Betty Riddell
- Garry Guedo
- Bill Semchuk
- Bonnie Meier
- Kimberley Sentes

Member retiring from the **Registration and Licensing Policies Committee**:

- Margaret Wheaton

Members retiring as **Trustees of the Diamond Scholarship Fund**:

- Ray Joubert
- Barbara Shea
- Arlene Kuntz

A **Presidential Citation** is given in recognition of a member providing exemplary service through the practice of pharmacy, to the profession or to society beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary duty. This year we are pleased to present the Presidential Citation to **Derek Jorgenson**.



Presidential Citation, Derek Jorgenson; President Barry Lyons

From his nomination: Please recognize Derek's efforts on behalf of the profession in the area of Primary Care. He has been instrumental as a member and as a former chair of the Pharmacy Coalition on Primary Care since its inception in 2007. He has actively pursued integrating pharmacy practice into a primary care clinic.

Recently the Canadian Pharmacists Journal (CPJ) November/December 2013 published an article led by Derek Jorgenson et al, titled, *Guidelines for Pharmacists Integrating into Primary Care Teams*. For those who would like to integrate into a primary care team but are unsure just how to start, the guidelines provide the encouragement and direction needed to take that first step.

Registrar Ray Joubert invited President-Elect Spiro Kolitsas to join him at the podium to be installed as the incoming President of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists. Following the installation, President Kolitsas addressed the membership. (Please see his address in its entirety on the cover of this issue).



Presidential Installation: Registrar Ray Joubert, President-Elect Spiro Kolitsas

Dayle Acorn, Executive Director of the Canadian Foundation of Pharmacy (CFP), presented the CFP Past President's Award to Barry Lyons in recognition of Barry's dedication and contributions to his provincial regulatory organization and to the profession as a whole.



CFP Past President's Award: President Barry Lyons with Dayle Acorn, Executive Director of the CFP

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## *The Centennial of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan*

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The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013/14. For a century, we have played an integral role at the University of Saskatchewan. Our over 4,500 graduates have helped shape healthcare in the province of Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada. As part of these exciting celebrations, the College hosted a number of events including a launch in September 2013, participated in the U of S President's Tour 2013/14 and a reunion weekend with a gala evening on June 26-28, 2014.

During the centennial year, the College has begun the relocation into the new state-of-the-art Health Sciences Building, which will also house the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and the Schools of Physical Therapy, and Public Health. This is a very exciting time for the College, the U of S, alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends as we reflect on the past 100 years and look to our future.

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## *RxFiles Recognized by the Afghan National Army*

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The drug therapy decision-making service RxFiles recently received a certificate of appreciation from the Afghan National Army for its contribution to the rebuilding of Afghanistan. The RxFiles were developed by Loren Regier, at the Saskatoon Health Region. RxFiles is a medication information and education resource used by health professionals to compare pharmaceutical drugs, explore alternatives and make decisions

about the most appropriate medication available for a health-care situation.

For the rest of the article go to: [regionreporter.workpres.com/2014/04/09/saskatoons-rxfiles-recognized-by-afghan-national-army/](http://regionreporter.workpres.com/2014/04/09/saskatoons-rxfiles-recognized-by-afghan-national-army/)

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## *Pharmacy Reference Manual Updates*

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Please check the following amendments and additions to the Pharmacy Reference Manual on the College website:

1. "Exempted Codeine-Tools for the Pharmacist" document to replace the current "Tools for the Pharmacist Regarding Exempted Codeine Products".

2. New "Exempted Codeine Products-For the Consumer".

3. Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice

4. Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice



## Convocation 2014

### **JUNE 6, 2014 – CONVOCATION LUNCHEON AT TCU PLACE, SASKATOON**

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists' Convocation Luncheon was held on Friday, June 6, 2014 following the convocation ceremony at TCU Place, Saskatoon. The 2014 pharmacy graduating class of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan, was warmly received by the many friends and family who joined with the SCP Council and staff, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition faculty and staff, and invited guests to welcome the graduates into the profession.

President Barry Lyons welcomed our guests to the luncheon and acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. President Lyons congratulated the graduates on their achievements and on behalf of Council offered their best wishes as they transition from students to practising pharmacists.

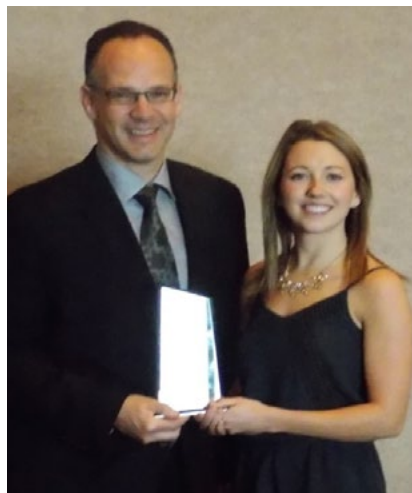
Dean David Hill offered his thoughts and best wishes to the graduates. Dean Hill took this last opportunity to speak directly to the graduates. Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk, Associate Dean Academic, wore several hats during the ceremony: She presented the College Awards to the graduates, stood as one of the many preceptors who joined in congratulating the graduates, and also enjoyed the luncheon as a proud parent of one of this year's graduates, Andrew Plishka.

President-Elect Spiro Kolitsas presented the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists' Gold Medal and Robert Martin Prize to the most distinguished graduate, Ms. Jaycie Elizabeth Neil of Unity, Saskatchewan. Over the four years of the pharmacy program



*Jaycie Elizabeth Neil, President-Elect Spiro Kolitsas*

Jaycie obtained an average to 89.99% which earned her many awards and scholarships. Jaycie has been nominated for a Governor General's Silver Medal.



*President-Elect Spiro Kolitsas, Danielle Rae Shmyr*

President-Elect Kolitsas then presented The Campbell Prize to the second most distinguished graduate, Ms. Danielle Rae Shmyr of Melfort, Saskatchewan. Danielle received many scholarships and awards throughout her academic career obtaining a four-year average of 89.21%.

Both Jaycie and Danielle received the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy with Great Distinction and we are happy to learn that they will both begin their pharmacy careers here in Saskatchewan.

Senior Stick, Andrew Plishka thanked SCP for hosting the luncheon, the Faculty of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for the years guiding them through their program, and the parents and families for supporting the class over the years. He then led his classmates in reciting the Oath of Maimonides as they take their next steps to enter the profession.



*Andrew Plishka, Senior Stick*



*Class of 2014*

We look forward to registering the graduates of the Class of 2014 as members of our College and colleagues as they embark on their career paths. Congratulations to all of the graduates and their families, for their achievements!

# College of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the U of S launches new Medication Assessment Centre

The Medication Assessment Centre at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition opened its doors to see patients for the first time on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The Centre is one of only two programs of its kind in Canada. The Centre offers comprehensive medication assessments provided by faculty and students at the

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for any patients who may benefit. Its goals are to create a centre of excellence for the training of undergraduate students and to offer authentic continuing education opportunities for practicing pharmacists.

The Centre originated from a pilot project in 2010 as part of a Master's thesis conducted by Julia Bareham (BSP 2008), under the guidance of Associate Professor Dr. Derek Jorgenson. Over the course of the project more than 20 Saskatoon family physicians participated, referring over 50 patients. On average more than four medication recommendations were made per patient and formal feedback from physicians and patients was overwhelmingly positive and supportive. The success of this project prompted the creation of a full time service now offered through the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

Patients can be referred to the Medication Assessment Centre for a comprehensive medication assessment by any member of the health care team (physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dieticians, physiotherapists, etc.) or can self-refer.

Currently, pharmacy faculty do not have the opportunity to observe and assess how the students interact with real patients in controlled, authentic clinical environments. By participating in faculty supervised interactions with real patients early and often in their undergraduate training at the college, students will be more adequately prepared for their SPEP rotations and be more quickly integrated into the health system upon graduation. It is expected that this Centre will become a cornerstone in the education of pharmacy students as the curriculum undergoes a redesign over the next few years.

Practising pharmacists will also be offered the opportunity to refine their medication assessment skills by participating in the Centre. Plans are underway to create a continuing education certificate program designed to provide licensed pharmacists with guidance and feedback on how to improve



**Medication Assessment Centre**

their confidence and competency in performing medication assessments. This program may be available as early as the fall of 2014.

Practising pharmacists in Saskatchewan are encouraged to utilize the Medication Assessment Centre as a resource for those patients who might not otherwise have access

to a comprehensive medication assessment. For example, patients who would not qualify for an assessment through the Saskatchewan Medication Assessment Program (SMAP) such as: patients under age 65, Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) beneficiaries, or members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Pharmacists can also refer patients who are eligible for an SMAP assessment if, for any reason, they are not able to be assessed within the community pharmacy setting.

Dr. Derek Jorgenson at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and Director of the Medication Assessment Centre believes that the Centre will be a key tool for collaboration between members of the health care team: "As a practising pharmacist, I see the value that a service like this will bring not only to patients, but to other health care practitioners as well. The Centre will be a great resource for any practitioner who is trying to optimize his or her patients' drug therapy."



For more information about the Medication Assessment Centre or to refer a patient for an assessment please contact us by phone at (306) 966-6392, by email at [e.landry@usask.ca](mailto:e.landry@usask.ca), or visit our website at [www.usask.ca/pharmacist](http://www.usask.ca/pharmacist).

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## Reminder: Privacy and the Release of Prescriptions

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Members of the public have expressed concern that there are limited safeguards in place regarding the release of a prescription. It has been expressed that just “handing over the prescription to anyone” is careless of the pharmacy. Those members of the public who contacted our office were concerned that there was no need to show identification and that there are limited safeguards in place to positively identify that the actual patient or their “approved” agent was picking up the medication and “not just anyone”!

One member of the public suggested that a creative and/or opportunistic person might overhear your discussions with the pharmacist when a prescription is dropped off and wait until it was ready and then obtain that prescription from the pharmacist in their place. It was also stated that you have to produce more identification to obtain a library book than you do a narcotic!

Although we deal with prescriptions all day and most of us know our patients very well, this type of scenario could occur in your pharmacy unless you have proper safeguards in place. It is recommended that you ask the patient for a unique identifier, for example, their address or phone number when they come to pick up their prescription; especially if the patient is not well known to you. If an agent of the patient is picking up the patient’s medication and you were not notified in advance of the arrangement, asking them for their relationship to the patient and perhaps for a phone number where they can be reached is a good idea.

As always, privacy in all patient discussions should minimize the chances of anyone overhearing your discussions with another patient!

Lori Postnikoff  
Field Officer

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## SHIRP Information

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**The Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership (SHIRP) provides access to current, reliable, evidence-based resources through their comprehensive suite of online health resources at no cost to health practitioners across the province.**

The collection includes:

- 13 medical and interdisciplinary databases
- 6,000 + full text online journals
- 144 + online books covering a wide range of subjects
- Hundred videos embedded in databases and journals
- 3 clinical decision support tools.

Access to the SHIRP library is provided at no charge, to health care practitioners however in some cases a username and password are required. Contact [info@shirp.ca](mailto:info@shirp.ca) for more information.

The SHIRP librarian is available to travel to your office or practice to do a customized training session where you and your colleagues can learn best practices. Services available include:

- Customized training: search strategies for specific disciplines and resources, current awareness strategies and more
- Reference/research service
- Free article requests through inter-library loan

A brochure that explains what SHIRP has to offer can be accessed at: [https://www.shirp.ca/webfm\\_send/299](https://www.shirp.ca/webfm_send/299). For library information such as e-CPS please go to: <https://www.shirp.ca/subject/206/pharm%20books>.

The SHIRP library is also accessible through the Medication Viewer of the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP).

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## Q & A – Exempted Codeine

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**Question: How often can a patient purchase Exempted Codeine Products?**

**Answer:** The only limitation is on the amount of an Exempted Codeine Product that can be sold at one time: a maximum of 50 units of a solid dosage form or 100 ml of a liquid formulation. There is no restriction on the interval between purchases. The pharmacist or pharmacy intern is required to ask the patient if s/he has purchased an Exempted Codeine Product in the last 30 days. If the answer is yes, this does not prohibit the current sale of an Exempted Codeine Product provided there is a legitimate rationale for the purchase. For example, a patient with an episode of acute pain could be taking up to

12 tablets daily in which case 50 tablets would last only four days and it would be reasonable to sell the patient another 50 units. Consider other alternatives or refer to the physician if the patient has chronic pain or substance abuse disorders.

For more information on Exempted Codeine Products, see the updated documents in the SCP Reference Manual (<http://www.saskpharm.ca/site/manual?nav=03>)

Prepared by Karen Jensen BSP, MSc  
medSask medication information consultant  
May 23, 2014

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# CCCEP Salutes Volunteers during National Volunteer Week

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**Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy  
Le conseil canadien de l'éducation continue en pharmacie**

*Advancing pharmacy practice through quality continuing pharmacy education*

## News Release

### **CCCEP SALUTES VOLUNTEERS DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

**April 4, 2014 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan** – The Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP) is pleased to recognize, celebrate and thank all its volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 6-12, 2014.

CCCEP relies on volunteers for a number of different roles within the organization including those who serve as learning review panelists. Panel members are tasked to review continuing pharmacy education programs – from the perspective of the learner – for the following:

- relevance of the learning material to pharmacy practice,
- overall learning experience and educational value,
- program content is balanced and free of bias, and, when applicable
- assessment of contact hours for the purpose of assigning Continuing Education Units (CEU).

“Continuing education for pharmacy professionals is a critical component of their careers,” said Sandra Winkelbauer, CCCEP President. “To ensure that quality continuing pharmacy education opportunities are available, our organization relies on the time and expertise provided by our learning review panelists. Without question, our volunteers are a vital component of our ability to fulfill our mandate.”

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, CCCEP recognizes and thanks the following individuals for their long service and dedication to advancing pharmacy practice in Canada through their involvement in continuing pharmacy education program reviews.

#### **Five Year Service**

Betty Johnston  
Krystal Wynnyk  
Natalie Kennie

#### **Ten Year Service**

Bev Zwicker  
Bradley Blanchard  
Gayle Pearson

#### **Fifteen Year Service**

Brenda Schuster  
Linda Klassen  
Lori Blain

#### **Twenty Year Service**

Bill Wilson  
Tina Crosbie  
Sheena Deane

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## *SCP Colleagues and Friends*

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### **FAREWELL FOR NOW...**

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists would like to give a very fond farewell to Dr. Linda Suveges as she retires from her position at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. Linda has been an active member of SCP since her graduation from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan. During the short periods where she was not a resident of Saskatchewan due to her completion of a hospital residency program in Ontario and then to further her education with a PhD from Purdue University, Linda remained a member of the SPhA/SCP.

Linda has been a member of the faculty at the College for more than three decades and during that time she has been a wonderful supporter of the SCP (formerly SPhA) as an active participant in many of our Committees, Advisory Committees and of course as the Director for the Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists unit. Every pharmacist in Saskatchewan knows, respects and even, shall we say, loves Linda!

We are happy to report that Linda has agreed to work with SCP on continuing professional development programming into the future. She will also continue to make contributions to the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition's redesign team for the undergraduate professional pharmacy program.

Linda has worn many hats over the years: student, colleague, Professor, Assistant Dean, Acting Dean, Chair of innumerable committees, and has been recognized with many awards for her efforts. She has received an SPhA Presidential Citation for her work on the Harmonized Drug Schedules in Canada Report in 1995. She has sat on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Pharmacists Association and is a Past-President of the Canadian Council of Continuing Education in Pharmacy. We wish to take this time to sincerely thank Linda for her support of the profession and her constant support of every pharmacy student that has entered the doors of the Thorvaldson Building since the day she joined the student body, and later as CAPSI junior and senior representative for Saskatchewan, and throughout her academic career.

This is not goodbye as we anticipate that Linda will stay involved with the profession in the days ahead. But for now, Professor Suveges, we say farewell and thank you Linda!

### **DEAN, COUNCIL MEMBER AND FRIEND**

We also want to say adieu to Dr. David Hill, who will be leaving his post as Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and the Council table of SCP as of July 31, 2014. David has been Dean of Pharmacy and Nutrition since August 2009 and has been an active member as Ex Officio on Council. David has had and will continue to have a major impact on pharmacy in Saskatchewan. During his term as Dean of the College he has overseen the design and gradual movement of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition to the contemporary space in the new Health Sciences facility on campus.

Under David's leadership, planning is well underway regarding the new curriculum for the Pharm D program that is scheduled for implementation during the fall session of 2016. David will continue this work during his administrative leave throughout the year ahead.

We wish to thank David for sharing his wisdom and experience with Council and the SCP over the past five years and also wish him all the best in his future endeavours. David, your time with us was short but memorable and we hope you remember the pharmacists of Saskatchewan fondly.

### **WELCOME DR. KISHOR WASAN, DEAN OF PHARMACY AND NUTRITION**

August 1, 2014 will see Dr. Kishor Wasan begin his five year term as the Dean of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan as Dr. David Hill's term ends.

Dr. Wasan completed his undergraduate degree in pharmacy at the University of Texas at Austin, and a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology from the University of Texas Medical Centre in Houston, Texas. Dr. Wasan has been a practising pharmacist in both the retail and hospital settings and has spent the past 17 years at the University of British Columbia as an independent researcher and professor.

Dr. Wasan comes to Saskatchewan at a busy time with the move to the Health Sciences facility and the development of the PharmD program for pharmacists. We look forward to working with Dr. Wasan in his role as Ex Officio on Council. Welcome Dr. Wasan!