

NEWSLETTER

700 – 4010 Pasqua St., Regina, SK S4S 7B9 • (306) 584-2292 • Fax (306) 584-9695 • E-mail: saskpharm@sk.sympatico.ca **Volume 21 Number 5 December 2000**

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Excitement, anticipation, reflection, and sheer exhaustion — feelings we can relate to as the end of another year approaches. Flash back to this time last year: the rush was on to get pharmacies hooked up to the Internet by December 31, and all we heard about for months was the Y2K bug and its impending problems. Whether by chance or good management, that turned out to be the biggest non-event of the century.

However, the ushering in of the new millennium did bring with it a sense of renewal — a time to re-challenge ourselves on a personal and professional basis. Perhaps it was time to mark this once-in-a-lifetime occasion with a special event. Our community participated in a bell-ringing ceremony held across Canada on New Year's Day. As I stood beside my new European neighbors, I marveled at the odds that these people had found their way to our tiny village to start a new life. Here we were ringing in the new millennium together with the snow gently falling around us. This scene was as close to “peace and goodwill” as I can ever imagine.

Why do we put ourselves through this hectic pace again and again? I believe that most of us are struggling to hang on to traditions that are dear to our hearts. Some will require more sacrifice than others to do so and some will need to be modified.



I thought of traditions in our household — setting out the Nativity scene that has been passed through the generations, finding the right Christmas tree that, since the crash of '96, now means just getting one that is going to stand. Anticipating a quiet moment to grab a coffee and read the Christmas mail from distanced friends and relatives.

Remembering others in need — my Mom and I stuffing a shoebox full of gifts for Operation Christmas Child, and of course the annual White Gift service in our church. We still chuckle over one particularly memorable service when the angelic Mary and Joseph were fighting over baby Jesus. The absolute best is gathering with our family for Christmas Eve supper with the twelve traditional Ukrainian dishes — I realize that if I want to pass this heritage on, I will have to sharpen my culinary skills. With all this comes reflection of the year that has past, our good fortune, and anticipation of the year to come.

Whatever traditions you embrace, whatever makes Christmas special for you, take time to enjoy and cherish it.

On behalf of Council, my husband Barry and myself, I wish you all a joyous holiday season and every happiness in the New Year.

Janet Bradshaw



*Wishing you a wonderful
Holiday Season with
happiness and prosperity
in the coming year!*

*Michael Bigayan, Dean Bradley,
Paddy Dodge, Jeanne Eriksen,
Pat Guillemain, Ray Joubert,
Cheryl Klein, Tamarha Robbins,
Wayne Wurtz*

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SPHA COUNCIL 2000-01

Division 1 President

Janet Bradshaw 432-4526 Res
P.O. Box 40 432-4405 Fax
Dysart SK S0G 1H0

Division 2

Curtis Loucks 786-6636 Bus
Loucks Medi-Health 786-6646 Fax
Pharmacy
115 – 41 Broadway West
Yorkton SK S3N 0L6

Division 3

Randy Wisner 776-0105 Bus
Shoppers Drug Mart #401 763-9453 Fax
2995 – 2nd Avenue West
Prince Albert SK S6V 5V5

Division 4 President-Elect

Doug Spitzig 382-5006 Bus
323 Neusch Way 384-5033 Fax
Saskatoon SK S7K 7V2

Division 5 Vice-President

George Furneaux 777-8044 Bus
Shoppers Drug Mart #425 777-8047 Fax
4602 Albert Street
Regina SK S4V 2V9

Division 6 Past-President

Michael Davis 778-8821 Bus
Pioneer Co-op Drugs #4 778-3424 Fax
1150 Central Avenue North
Swift Current SK S9H 0G1

Division 7

Gary Groves 882-3636 Bus
Rosetown Co-op Pharmacy 882-4041 Fax
401 Main Street
Rosetown SK S0L 2V0

Division 8

Brenda Schuster 585-2437 Res
1 Taggart Place 766-4363 Fax
Regina SK S4S 4G3

Ex-Officio

Dennis Gorecki 966-6328 Bus
Dean 966-6377 Fax
College of Pharmacy & Nutrition
University of Saskatchewan
110 Science Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5C9

Public Members

May Bridgewater, Regina
Kay Fergusson, Saskatoon

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – DECEMBER 8, 2000 – REGINA

The last Council meeting of 2000 was held December 8th in Regina.

As reported earlier, Council has adopted the “Policy Governance” concept. As the chief policy-making body for a self-governing profession, this means, in part, an obligation to link with the people of Saskatchewan to ensure the Association is meeting its “Ends” policies (what results Council wants to achieve). As a means to meet this obligation, Council met with a delegation from the **Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism**. We asked that they respond to the question, “How can pharmacists help seniors manage their medications so that they receive maximum benefit from drug therapy?”

While they relayed that there is general satisfaction with the service the senior population receives from pharmacists, they voiced a few concerns which pharmacists can readily address:

- Seniors are sometimes forgetful. Review with them when to take their medications and all pertinent information each time they refill their prescriptions. Supplementary written information and compliance packaging are especially helpful.
- Seniors feel they need to know more about their medication, and pharmacists have an important role to ensure the information they receive is accurate.
- Many seniors take a variety of medications, prescription, non-prescription and natural products. They do not always inform their physicians of all the medications they are using and the pharmacist may be a more accessible and approachable person in which to confide. They are often lonely and see their time with a health professional as a means to interact with others.
- Home visits are a useful way of communicating with individuals in familiar surroundings, and may provide the format for open discussion regarding their medication use.
- The delegates believe that seniors are less concerned about protection of their privacy than they are about receiving the best possible health care. They support pharmacists having broader access to personal health

information so that this can be achieved.

- They support trial prescriptions, as many seniors have their medications changed, and are often unsure whether the new medication is in place of, or in addition to their current therapy.
- Many seniors have difficulty reading the prescription labels. They asked us to ask members to ensure that the label print is dark and as large as possible. Patients may appreciate a card or sheet with the information in larger font that they can keep for referral.

Consistent with the principles of “Policy Governance”, Council agreed to disband the **Executive Committee**, in particular its role to act on behalf of Council between meetings of Council. In its place, Officers have been delegated responsibility for budgeting and finances, and to execute documents and officially represent SPhA at meetings. The new terminology for the elected Officers is President, President-elect and Vice-President.

Council received a report from Gary Groves on the November **NAPRA Council meeting**. NAPRA is the national organization, who on behalf of all member pharmacy regulatory authorities addresses common issues from across the country. Issues addressed at the November meeting were:

- Business Corporation – NAPRA is beginning the preliminary steps in forming a separate for profit business corporation to engage in business ventures to deliver goods and services to members and external customers.
- NAPRA Council approved a comprehensive set of amendments governing the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) procedures and activities and the drug scheduling process, to ensure due process is followed.
- Shortage of pharmacists – NAPRA Council has asked that a discussion paper be prepared to elaborate further and identify measures within the mandate of the provincial regulatory authorities to study the problem and identify solutions.



- NAPRA Council reconfirmed the PEBC written and OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) formats as the recognized examination under the national licensing program. Council heard a verbal report on the Fall series of **District Meetings**. Overall the meetings were very successful, attracting the largest attendance to date. Input received from members will be considered in planning regarding the shortage of pharmacists, the new continuing professional development initiative, and the upcoming changes to the standards of practice. Members especially appreciated the attendance of representatives from the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch to discuss current issues and answer any questions regarding their programs.

Dr. Linda Suveges and Melanie Watson of the Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists Unit from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition shared presentations at the District meetings to provide information about the **learning portfolio project**. Their request for volunteers was quite successful as at the time of writing, 96 members have accepted the challenge and are currently working on their portfolios. A report on the project will be presented during the Conference in April.

SPhA Officers met with the **Honourable Judy Junor**, Associate Minister of Health on November 16, 2000. Ms Junor listened to concerns regarding the Health Information Protection Act and assured us that, based on her understanding of the proposed regulations, the Department will address these issues through the consultation process.

She supports Council's position on tobacco, and urged Council to meet with the Chair of the all-party legislative committee working on this issue. She encouraged the Association to actively participate in the Commission on Medicare and to continue to pursue our position on a comprehensive and integrated drug use management strategy. She acknowledged that the pharmacist is underutilized in the health system. Ms Junor supports, in principle, our proposed legislative amendments to permit pharm-

acists to dispense prescription drugs without a prescription under prescribed circumstances. She awaits further advice from her department before confirming her decision.

Council again addressed the issue of **disease screening** in pharmacies. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan has again raised this issue, as they believe that this practice constitutes the illegal practice of medicine and violates laboratory quality assurance legislation and the Canada Health Act. We are seeking additional information from our solicitor and involved parties before finalizing our reply to the College and providing further guidance to members. In the meantime, members are reminded to consult the guidelines

entitled "*Role of the Pharmacist in the Distribution of Diagnostic Products and Laboratory and Diagnostic Testing*" found in the Pharmacy Reference Manual.

Council received a report from Bev Allen, SPhA Board appointee to the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada. Plans are being finalized for the implementation of the **OSCE component** to the Spring sitting of the PEBC. Dates for the upcoming examinations are as follows:

- Qualifying Examination – Part I (Written): May 22 and 23, 2001
- Qualifying Examination – Part II (OSCE): May 27, 2001

Council's **next meeting** will be held on February 8, 2001 in Regina.

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COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee met November 22, 2000 to review 16 ongoing investigations and 18 new complaints since their September meeting.

The Committee appreciates that a letter from the Committee may be stressful for the member, but trusts members understand that our governing legislation requires that all complaints be investigated. In some instances, the complaints are deemed to be unfounded, however this can only be confirmed through an investigation.

The Committee found that there were no file(s) to be referred to the Discipline Committee at this time. Investigations are ongoing in many files.

The new allegations fell into the following categories:

Professional Incompetence

- Medication/dispensing errors (8)
- Substandard performance (1)

Professional Misconduct

- Behaviour unbecoming (poor communication skills and rudeness) (1)
- Behaviour unbecoming (discrimination) (2)
- Behaviour unbecoming (harassment) (1)
- Unethical business practices (1)
- Pricing irregularities (2)

Two files were closed, as the Committee received no evidence to substantiate any allegations.



YOUR MALPRACTICE INSURANCE COVERAGE

The vice-president of marketing, of the Grain Insurance & Guarantee Company, our malpractice insurance carrier, responded to the professional liability coverage in the following situation.

Should a member dispense a prescription to an American citizen and there is an action commenced in the U.S. as a result of an error in the preparation of the prescription, are we covered by our malpractice insurance?

"In response to member concerns we have confirmed that your Grain Insurance malpractice policy covers members when they dispense to U.S. citizens (the prescription must be duly authorized by a Canadian doctor) in accordance with the scope of practice. This coverage would apply to suits brought in Canada or the United States. Policy terms and conditions will apply."

Editor's Note: ("... must be duly authorized by a Canadian doctor", means that the physician is licensed to practise in a Canadian jurisdiction.)



On Your Behalf ...

REPRESENTATIVE BOARD OF SASKATCHEWAN PHARMACISTS 2000-01

Division 1

Teri Ruecker 334-2424 Bus
 P.O. Box 254 334-2539 Fax
 Abernethy SK S0A 0A0

Division 2

Guy Nobert 783-9896 Bus
 Shoppers Drug Mart 783-5655 Fax
 106 - 277 Broadway Avenue
 Yorkton SK S3N 1G1

Division 3

Executive Member

Syl Gayowski 922-1118 Bus
 969 Sanderson Crescent 763-8118 Fax
 Prince Albert SK S6V 6L2

Division 4

Shelley Woloshyn 665-6999 Bus
 2530 Clarence Avenue S. 665-6955 Fax
 Saskatoon SK S7J 1M4

Division 5

Chair

Penny Thomson 777-8066 Bus
 3628 Tudor Place 777-8171 Fax
 Regina SK S4V 2S9

Division 6

Rod Amaya 642-7370 Bus
 P.O. Box 165 642-3157 Fax
 Assiniboia SK S0H 0B0

Division 7

Vice Chair

Bill Gerla 682-2541 Bus
 P.O. Box 576 682-5977 Fax
 Humboldt SK S0K 2A0

Division 8

Linda Sulz 766-2940 Bus
 3026 Gordon Road 766-2405 Fax
 Regina SK S4S 2T8

Staff

Dean Bradley, Director, Member Affairs
 Tamarha Robbins, Administrative Assistant

NEXT RBSPP MEETING

The Board will meet next on February 8, 2001 in Regina. To have your issues addressed at an upcoming meeting, please contact your Board member or Dean Bradley at 306-359-RBSPP (7277) or e-mail dean.bradley@sk.sympatico.ca

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS – DECEMBER 8, 2000, REGINA

RBSPP Incorporation Update

As reported in the October newsletter, the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists is planning to incorporate the Board as its own legal entity and formally separate from SPhA. The Board feels that this move will make RBSPP truly accountable to the membership as well as increase the Board's effectiveness to better serve the membership. Under the current structure, the Board must seek official approval from SPhA Council on important issues such as budget approval, and contracts negotiated by RBSPP. The following principles will guide the separation process:

1. Cost implications to the membership must be minimized
2. Retain as many members as possible (mandatory membership preferred)
3. Minimize duplication of activities between SPhA and RBSPP

The Board reviewed a legal opinion regarding the separation of RBSPP from SPhA. It is the opinion of the RBSPP lawyer that "it would be advisable for Saskatchewan pharmacists, with the blessing and recommendation of the SPhA, to create a separate non-profit corporation, legally and financially independent of the SPhA."

The Board approved the following sequence of events to lead up to incorporation of RBSPP:

1. Approach SPhA for their approval and recommendation to separate. Examine the feasibility of mandatory membership.
2. Develop a business plan to determine operational costs. From that, develop options for membership classes and member fees.
3. Obtain Board approval of a business plan at the February RBSPP meeting.

4. Circulate information to the membership (through mailings and district meetings) advising of the incorporation of RBSPP, and encourage attendance at the RBSPP AGM to vote on the issue.
5. Hold a vote on incorporation of the RBSPP at the AGM held in Regina on April 6, 2001.

What has RBSPP done for me lately?

The Board reviewed the feedback from the membership regarding the RBSPP update sent out to pharmacy managers on October 19, 2000. The comments received were decisively positive. The Board agreed that this type of update could be used occasionally, but it is not a substitute for holding district meetings. Meetings with the membership should be held on an annual basis to directly obtain feedback from the members.

A cost analysis of distribution of the news update by fax to pharmacy managers was also reviewed. It revealed that the cost of faxing the document was not significantly lower than mailing it to all members. We will use this information when planning the future distribution of RBSPP memorandums.

Pharmacist Shortage

The Board reviewed the CPhA/HRDC initiative regarding the pharmacist shortage in Canada. The main information sought by this initiative is determining why is there a current shortage, and how future shortages can be prevented. The Board felt that while this initiative will prove to be valuable in the long term, it does not look at short-term solutions to the issue. CACDS has approached RBSPP to perform a pharmacist manpower analysis in Saskatchewan. The Board will pursue this initiative with a recommendation to CACDS that a national analysis needs to be conducted before any short-term solutions can be determined.

Promoting the Value of Pharmacists' Professional Services

The RBSP successfully submitted a project proposal to the College of Commerce at the University of Saskatchewan. Four students enrolled in the MBA 992 Business Research Methodology Course under the supervision of Professor B. Dobni, will perform marketing research with the public pertaining to the value of pharmacist services. The group will quantify and analyze the level of public knowledge of pharmacist services and provide recommendations regarding marketing initiatives to the RBSP.

A project proposal was submitted to the Board for their consideration. The Board reviewed the options presented in the proposal and directed that the MBA group conduct a telephone survey to collect the necessary data. The Survey will be developed with Dean Bradley's input and conducted in January. The analysis of the survey will be completed in time for the RBSP Annual General Meeting. The Board must now approach Council for the approval of the necessary funding to complete the project.

Funding Proposal for SCRIP-Ex

Upon the recommendation of the Alternative Reimbursement Task Force, the Board reviewed a funding proposal from Dr. Ross Tsuyuki to perform extended follow-up to evaluate the long-term impact of pharmacist interventions on the patients enrolled in the SCRIP study.

The ARTF looked into the feasibility of funding this study from the funds in the Alternative Reimbursement (Check-off) Fund. The agreement between the Minister of Health and the SPhA does allow this type of funding to occur. The ARTF sees great potential in the protocols from the SCRIP Study being developed into an Alternative Reimbursement Program, and believes the funding SCRIP-Ex would facilitate the implementation of such a program.

The Board recommends that the necessary funding be granted from the Alternative Reimbursement Fund to the SCRIP-Ex investigators and will approach Council with the request. Members seeking further information on this study are encouraged to contact Dean Bradley at (306) 359-RBSP.

Saskatchewan Pharmacists Coalition on Medicare

The RBSP has spearheaded a coalition to serve as a single voice for Saskatchewan pharmacists and to prepare a brief referenced submission to the Commission on Medicare lead by Ken Fyke. Representatives from RBSP, SPhA, CSHP, the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and CPhA have been working on a report that will be submitted to the Commission on December 15, 2000. We will update the membership on the outcome of this initiative in future member communications.

Upcoming Board Elections

Elections will be held in Electoral Divisions 1, 3, 5 and 7 in March 2001. The Board encourages the membership interested in the advancement of pharmacy in Saskatchewan to seek nomination in these divisions. Nomination notices will be sent out towards the end of January. Members seeking more information are invited to contact a Board representative (see sidebar) or Dean Bradley at (306) 359-RBSP.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE UPDATE

The first meeting of the newly established Information Technology Task Force was held in early September. The Task Force has been created to advise on computer technology issues as they affect the practice of pharmacy. The committee includes, Rod Amaya, Dale Rodenbush, Doug Sellinger, Linda Klassen, Brian Henderson, Ray Bannister, George Furneaux, Dean Bradley and Terry Kereluke from SHIN. The Saskatchewan Drug Plan also participates on the Task Force and is represented by Barb Shea and Peter Suwala.

The first major project that the Task Force is advising on is the provision of non-secure e-mail to all pharmacies and the provision of Internet services to urban pharmacies. The Saskatchewan Health Information Network (SHIN) will provide these services to pharmacies. The project has begun with six pilot sites including: Saskatoon Medical Arts Pharmacy, Battlefords & District Co-op, Hill Avenue Drugs (Regina), Preston

Centre Pharmacy (Saskatoon), Shoppers Drug Mart #425 (Regina) and Shoppers Drug Mart #433 (Assiniboia).

As of November 26, 2000, four of the six pilot sites had both e-mail and Internet service. It is expected that the two Shopper's sites will have e-mail services operational shortly thereafter. The pilot has included a partnership relationship between many entities and organizations including the Task Force members, the pilot sites, the Saskatchewan Health Information Network, the pharmacy vendors, Saskatchewan Health, CGI and SaskTel.

The pilot is expected to run until mid-to late January so that it can be evaluated for a short period of time. Upon completion of the evaluation, a province-wide rollout schedule will be developed and a general implementation will begin.



ARTF UPDATE

The Alternative Reimbursement Task Force has been rejuvenated with a new chair and some new members. The Task Force met on October 18th and again on November 24th. The Task Force has renewed its commitment to the further development and implementation of the Community Pharmacy Consultation Program, which will provide reimbursement to pharmacists for detecting drug-related problems and making a recommendation to the physician on how to resolve the drug-related problem. To further facilitate the development and implementation, the Task Force recommended to the RBSP that a representative from the SPDP be appointed to the Task Force. The Task Force believes that this appointment will result in quicker implementation of the new program. The Executive Committee approved this recommendation and Margaret Baker has joined the Task Force as a full member in a one-year appointment.

As the goal of any alternative reimbursement program developed by the Task Force is to demonstrate the value of pharmacists' services, the Task Force is currently gathering information on which disease state or pharmacotherapeutic category should be focussed upon in order to maximize the impact of the pharmacist

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consultations. The Task Force will convene another meeting once this information has been received. Members seeking further information on the Community Pharmacy Consultation Program are encouraged to contact Dean Bradley at 359-RBSP.



NIHB DIABETIC SUPPLIES

The following message has been received from Non Insured Health Benefits regarding billings for diabetic supplies and diagnostic agents. For further information, please call Sue Franklin at 613-941-1024 or by e-mail at Sue_Franklin@hc-sc.gc.ca.

“Effective July 1, 2000 new pricing rules, negotiated between the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) (formerly Medical Services Branch) and the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association took effect.

Concerns have been raised with respect to Diagnostic Agents and Diagnostic Supplies. Prior to July 1, 2000 they were paid at the rate of the defined cost plus a 50% mark-up. Diagnostic Agents and Diagnostic Supplies (AHFS code 36:88:00, 36:26:00 and 94:01:00 in the NIHB Drug Benefit List) dispensed after July 1, 2000 and submitted to First Canadian Health (FCH) for payment are paid according to the following pricing rule:

Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC) (up to a maximum allowable price obtained from either the Saskatchewan Health Drug Plan Formulary or Medis, Regina) + 10.5% mark-up and \$7.54 dispensing fee.

The NIHB Drug Benefit List is available on our Web Site at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/msb/nihb

Claims submitted without using this pricing rule can be amended and resubmitted to First Canadian Health on your claims statement. Please refer to section 5 of your Pharmacy/Medical Supplies and Equipment Provider Information Kit.

Effective July 1, 2000, benefit codes for Diagnostic Agents which appear on the Medical Supplies and Equipment list in your provider kit should no longer be used for billing purposes.”

RBSP SASKATCHEWAN OPPORTUNITIES RECRUITMENT FAIR

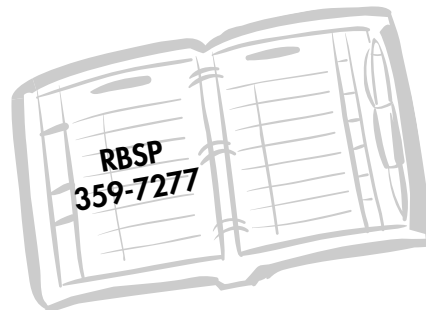
Through student involvement in the RBSP, the Board has heard that pharmacy students are not always aware of the many opportunities that are available to them in the province. They also tell us that many students accept employment offers from outside the province because these recruiters are often the first to visit the College and the first to offer pharmacist positions.

In an effort to increase awareness of career opportunities within the province, the RBSP joined forces with the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition to present a recruitment fair especially for Saskatchewan pharmacy employers. This event provided pharmacy employers with the opportunity to meet and interact with approximately 150 third- and fourth-year pharmacy students.

Representatives from Confederated Co-op, Safeway Pharmacy, Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Pharmasave, Price Watchers/United Pharmacists, Shoppers Drug Mart, the Bay/Zellers and the Meadow Lake Pharmacies all booked space at the event. The students in attendance were provided with the opportunity to speak with the employer representatives, drop off their resumes and get the answers to their questions. Several employers also offered

presentations for the students to learn more about their organizations.

Because of the success of this event, the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists plans to continue its sponsorship of future recruitment fairs highlighting Saskatchewan opportunities.



SHORT STAFFED??

We would like to remind you that the RBSP maintains a list of pharmacists seeking employment and a list of relief pharmacists for employers to access.

Please note that this is an informal database and should only be a starting point and not the only resource in your job search. This is a member service and we need your cooperation to keep the list current. When you successfully gain employment, we ask that you call us to update your contact information, or to remove your name from the list.

• tear-off pads • PAW kits • T-shirts • tear-off

Pharmacists care, no matter where.

Pharmacy Awareness Week 2001
March 5-11

Need a resource manual?
Have questions?
Want to share your ideas?

Please call Janet Bécigneul at 1-800-917-9489 ext. 267 or e-mail paw@cdnpharm.ca.

posters • mugs • temporary tattoos • balloons • pamphlets • buttons • PAW Kits • T-shirts • pamphlets

HIRE A PHARMACY INTERN NEXT SUMMER

Soon, students will be coming to you looking for an internship position. You can employ an intern according to SPhA bylaws, and the *Saskatchewan Labour Standards Act*, which states an intern must be paid and the intern does not have the right to waive payment for their internship.

Why hire an intern?

There are several very good reasons to hire an intern. The main one is that internships promote the viable opportunities that Saskatchewan has to offer to our graduates. As you are well aware, we are having trouble getting enough pharmacists to fill the positions available in this province. There also appears to be a national shortage, which means there are many companies promoting out-of-province opportunities to our students very aggressively and early. If students aren't aware of the opportunities available to them in Saskatchewan, they often will accept out-of-province employment simply because it was offered first.

What can an intern help me do?

Interns can dispense any prescription, recipe or formula, compound any drug or medication under the immediate supervision of a licensed pharmacist. Then, you could look at the other things interns can do for you. Interns can fill in for your pharmacy technician while he or she is on vacation, helping to keep stress down. If there is that project you've wanted to do, like preparing presentations to groups or remodelling the front store, an intern can help do it, or free up someone else's time to get it done. All students are trained in new initiatives such as pharmaceutical care, and can bring a fresh perspective to your practice. You will also experience the satisfaction of helping train one of our up-and-coming professionals. You will generally find that students are really eager to learn, and you may just find yourself brushing up on pharmacy knowledge yourself, the learning doesn't just go one way!

How do I go about promoting an opportunity to the students?

After establishing that you are going to hire an intern, you can have your position posted, with a description of the position, and times you're available to interview, by contacting Jackie Huck at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition via fax (966-6377) or phone (966-6328). The college will post your job application and students who are interested can sign up for interviews at the times available. The same process can be used if you're interested in hiring a new graduate.

If you need more information about internship positions, please contact Dean Bradley at the RBSP office (359-7277), or Dean German at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition (966-6327). Thank you for helping train our future pharmacists and promoting the opportunities that our province has to offer.

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- MAP is a voluntary, confidential program for pharmacists in Saskatchewan.
- SPhA covers the cost of professional services to a maximum of five hours of counselling. Other costs may be covered under justifiable circumstances.

The program accepts self-referrals from members or their families, or from concerned persons. A personal answering service is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week. A counsellor is on call at all times. **All contacts are strictly confidential.**

Call: PAR Consultants

Regina: 352-0680

Toll Free: 1-877-352-0680

Saskatoon: 978-8282

Toll Free: 1-877-978-8282



The RxFiles Academic Detailing Program has been piloted in Saskatoon since May 1997. The objective of the program is to promote optimal drug therapy through the dissemination of objective and unbiased information. The program features academic detailing (one on one and small group discussions with physicians and health professionals) to discuss highlights and questions relating to the newsletter topic. The RxFiles is pursuing expansion of the service to other interested areas including North Battleford, Regina and Prince Albert. Pilot detailing is underway and academic detailers are being hired for these sites.

The RxFiles Newsletter and Q&A Summaries are now accessible on the Internet via the web-site www.sdh.sk.ca/RxFiles. To be added to their e-mail list (at no charge) e-mail your request to regierl@sdh.sk.ca so that you will be notified whenever new material is posted.

The RxFiles Newsletter summarizes key therapeutic points and compares relative efficacy, safety and cost. Therapeutic selection tables and summary recommendations are included for quick reference. Q&A Summaries are developed in response to common inquiries, challenging questions or current controversies.

Examples of current issues:

- September 2000 RxFiles – Drugs for Influenza
- November 2000 Q&A Summary – Selecting Cold Products in a Post-PPA Market

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Loren Regier

Program Coordinator

RxFiles Academic Detailing Program

Telephone: (306) 655-8506

Fax: (306) 655-8804

E-mail: regierl@sdh.sk.ca

FAQ – BENZODIAZEPINES

The following questions have been answered by the Office of Controlled Substances at Health Canada. Please refer to the entire document provided as a Pharmacy Reference Manual update (Pages 80-A-E – *The Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and Narcotic Control Regulations and Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations*).

- *Can pharmacists continue to mail out benzodiazepines to patients who are residing outside of the country?*
- *If pharmacists are to keep records of receipts of Targeted Substances but are not required to maintain sale records (other than regular prescription records), how can they fulfil their obligation to report losses to the Minister?*
- *If a Targeted Substance is properly transferred from Pharmacy “A” to Pharmacy “B” can Pharmacy “B” then transfer it to Pharmacy “C” if requested (providing that all the administrative requirements for transfer are met)?*
- *Are faxed prescriptions acceptable for dispensing benzodiazepines?*
- *What are the record keeping and physical security requirements for hospitals?*
- *Are hospitals expected to report to the Minister every single loss of a Targeted Substance dose on a day-to-day basis? If so, please provide a suggested method to do so.*
- *In servicing homes for aged persons, should we refer to these individuals as outpatient?*
- *How should hospitals handle the destruction of Targeted Substances returned by a patient or by the person responsible for the estate?*
- *How do pharmacists record an overage or shortage of a Targeted Substance?*

Please refer to the NAPRA web site for further information at: www.napra.org

 **HEALTH CANADA**
HEALTH HAZARDS

Chi-Sing-Char
Tao Chih Pien

Further to recent health hazard assessments conducted by Health Canada on the above two medications intended for children, Health Canada has determined that these products pose a health hazard and it is recommended that they be recalled to the wholesale level.

Neither product has been authorized for sale as a medicinal product by Health Canada as required by Canadian law: *The Food and Drugs Act and Regulations*.

Chi-Sing-Char — The potential diuretic and cardiovascular effects of this product, particularly in children, are of concern. Our references suggest that the product may be over medicated with respect to these pharmacologic effects even in adults.

Tao Chih Pien — The potential diuretic and laxative effects of this product when used in children, are of concern. Our references suggest that the diuretic and laxative ingredients are present in doses recommended for adults. The indications promoted by this product include swelling sore throat, bleeding of the gums, swelling and pains in the cheeks and chins, acute ophthalmia, etc. These indications are not appropriate for self-medication; products intended for such conditions should only be administered under medical supervision.

Health Canada requests that importers stop the importation of these products immediately and that these products be recalled to the wholesale level. They also request assistance in providing information relating to the identification of all known importers of these products.

CHRONOVERA® IS NON-INTERCHANGEABLE

Reports suggest that Chronovera® prescriptions are being switched at the pharmacy level to other verapamil products. Chronovera® is not interchangeable with other sustained-release verapamil products listed in the Drug Plan Formulary.

Pharmacists are reminded that Chronovera® is a controlled-onset extended release formulation of verapamil. Chronovera® has a unique delivery system which allows it to be the only form of verapamil with an indication for a bed time dosing. Many physicians prescribe Chronovera® to take advantage of its delivery system to provide possible protection against cardiovascular events taking place in the early morning hours.

Chronovera® has the dual indication for hypertension and angina and is the only extended-release formulation of verapamil that includes the indication for angina.



WARFARIN PRODUCTS

We have received information from manufacturers that there are new alternative warfarin formulations approved for sale in Canada.

As a Narrow Therapeutic Range (NTR) drug, warfarin has complicated pharmacodynamic characteristics requiring careful management of patient response. It is recommended that there be additional INR testing with any interchange of two warfarin products to ensure that the patient remains within the narrow therapeutic window.

The Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan formulary lists two brands of warfarin in various strengths, however they are designated as NOT interchangeable.





FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN ...



Dr. Dennis Gorecki
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

In this issue, I am pleased to report on an exciting new development at the University of Saskatchewan that has grown out of an ongoing, excellent research program within the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. The new initiative is PharmaLytics, Inc., a not-for-profit research institute wholly owned by the University. Its genesis is the Drug Metabolism, Drug Disposition Research group that has been operational in the College for the past sixteen years. Funding and continued support of PharmaLytics comes from its collaborative work with the pharmaceutical industry located both nationally and internationally. The institute's mission is to pursue research and training in all areas of drug product discovery and development especially as

relates to bioanalysis, biopharmaceutics, drug delivery and drug regulatory science, such that these pursuits lead to 1) safe, efficacious and high quality pharmaceuticals and 2) trained scientists and technologists for continuation of these pursuits. The creation of the institute frees up valuable laboratory and office space in the College, which is desperately needed to further the research and teaching enterprises of the College.

The new research institute is located in Innovation Place, the research park associated with the University, and occupies approximately 500 square meters of newly renovated laboratory and office space. At the present time it is fully equipped with modern methods of analytical instrumentation including state-of-the-art liquid chromatography and mass spectrophotometry systems. Future expansion will include the creation of a pilot clinical facility with dedicated research beds for housing and carrying out human clinical studies. The institute will provide the University and the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition with the opportunity to train both graduate and undergraduate students in areas of industrial pharmacy previously not available. To this end an

undergraduate residency program has been initiated which will place a small number of students in pharmaceutical industry sites during the summer months. It is hoped that the very early exposure of students to this aspect of pharmaceutical sciences will attract more students to continue on in postgraduate study in these areas. The primary individuals involved in the creation of PharmaLytics are Drs K.K. Midha, G.McKay, J.W. Hubbard and E.D. Korchinski. They have devoted a great amount of effort in making the institute a reality. We are very encouraged by the tremendous opportunities that will be provided through this initiative, and we wish Dr. McKay and his colleagues every success!

SPhA STAFF

- Paddy Dodge, Administrative Assistant
- Jeanne Eriksen, Assistant Registrar
- Pat Guillemain, Administrative Assistant
- Ray Joubert, Registrar-Treasurer
- Cheryl Klein, Administrative Assistant
- Tamarha Robbins, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
- Wayne Wurtz, Field Officer

P R O F E S S I O N A L O P P O R T U N I T I E S

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Foam Lake is a community of 1400 located 2.5 hours east of Saskatoon on the Yellowhead highway just 10 minutes from a beautiful recreational lake with an excellent nine-hole golf course. Foam Lake has much to offer including skating and curling rinks, bowling alley, junior Olympic size swimming pool (outdoor) and fitness facilities.

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We require someone for March, 2001, but if the position hasn't been filled, we would welcome a new grad (Alberta licence exams are written at the end of March and June).

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Allan Schuster

P.O. Box 87

Falher AB T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2112 (collect)

Fax: (780) 837-8088

e-mail: aschustr@telusplanet.net

www.telusplanet.net/public/tnfalher/index.htm

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→ **Ontario**

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→ **Quebec**

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Esterhazy (pop. 3,000) has a beautiful golf course in a valley setting, swimming pool, tennis courts, skating arena/curling rink, fitness centre, extensive cross country ski & walking trails, and offers a variety of seasonal sporting activities/clubs for youth and adults.

The town is situated close to lakes, parks, snowmobile trails and downhill ski areas.

Elementary (K-5) & High School (6-12) offer

excellent academics and extracurricular programs.

IMC Potash, the main employer of the town operates 2 mines.

Please submit resume to:

Keith Sapara

Sapara's Drug Mart Ltd.

P.O. Box 250, Esterhazy SK S0A 0X0

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Fax: (306) 745-6654

The Regina Health District, a client-centred organization, committed to developing a healthy community requires:

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Full Time/Part Time/Casual

In Regina enjoy all the amenities of urban life in a warm, friendly environment which abounds in sport, recreation, culture and the arts. Where the costs of housing are low and the standards of living are high.



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than a
Career
a Way of
Life

As a Staff Pharmacist, you will integrate knowledge, skills and abilities in the provision of quality client-focused pharmacy services within the Regina Health District. You will be responsible for all medication-related needs of all clients, the provision of drug information to physicians and other health care professionals, and may also serve as a preceptor to other pharmacists, pharmacy residents and students. The incumbent must also be able to perform in a capacity consistent with CSHP standards.

To be the successful candidate, you will have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy, a Certificate from an accredited Hospital Pharmacy Residency Program (or equivalent experience), and hold, or be eligible for, registration with the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association.

A commitment to continuing professional development is a must, with current membership in a National Professional Association such as CSHP, CPhA or CCCP an asset.

The ideal candidate must articulate theory and knowledge related to pharmaceutical care and demonstrate the ability to identify, prevent and solve drug-related problems. You will have effective verbal and written communication skills and experience in various computer software programs. Finally, you possess critical thinking and problem solving abilities, the ability to accept and implement change, and integrate clinical knowledge and experience into activities to enhance clinical practice.

Interested applicants may apply in confidence referencing this ad and forwarding to:

**Human Resources
Regina Health District
2180 - 23rd Avenue
Regina, SK S4S 0A5
Fax: (306) 766-5147
1-877-RHD-CALL
jobs@reginahealth.sk.ca**

For more information on career opportunities visit our website at:
www.reginahealth.sk.ca

The Regina Health District thanks all applicants for their interest, however, only those applicants considered for an interview will be contacted.



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SPEED READING

RECOGNITION

**HSURC New Board Member —
Jeff Taylor, BSP, Ph.D**

Jeff Taylor was introduced as a new member of the HSURC (Health Services Utilization and Research Commission) Board of Commissioners at their most recent meeting, September 25 and 26, 2000. Jeff “brings to the board a strong understanding of the issues of self-care and how it fits into the health care equation”.

On behalf of your colleagues in the Association, congratulations Jeff! We are confident that you will contribute significantly to HSURC’s work.



CSHP — SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH



**Annual General Meeting
October 21, 2000**

The Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists held its 47th Annual General Meeting on October 21, 2000 at the Delta Hotel in Regina. The luncheon program honoured several hospital pharmacists for their achievements.

Dave Sereda, Past President, presented the President’s Gavel to Piera Calissi.

Congratulations to all the award recipients. Many thanks for the sponsors and presenters!

- The Orest Buchko Hospital Pharmacy Award: Maryanne Bartake
- The Saskatchewan Branch CSHP Merit Award: Janet Harding and Brenda Thiessen
- The Pharmacist of the Year Award: Donna Yaychuk
- The Pharmaceutical Care Awards: Doreen Dubiel, Don Kuntz, Bruce Lang
- Past President’s Award: Dave Sereda
- The J.L. Summers Achievement Award: Dorval Card
- The Pharmacia Residency Award: Dawn McDonald

**JOIN US AS WE FACE THE CHALLENGES
Conference 2001**

We are on this island called pharmacy in the sea of health care.
 What forces affect whether or not we stay?
 What are we doing there and how well are we doing it?
 Is it deserted due to a shortage of pharmacists?
 Is it isolated?
 How can we be part of the health care team?
 Can technology help?



SPhA 90th Annual General Meeting
 RBSP 3rd Annual General Meeting
 SPhA 90th Anniversary Conference
 April 6-8, 2001
 Radisson Plaza Hotel Saskatchewan
 Regina, Saskatchewan

**NOMINATE YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR
AWARDS AT CONFERENCE 2001**

Each year during the joint Annual Conference of the SPhA and RBSP we take the opportunity to recognize those among us who have made significant contributions to their communities, our profession, and to this Association. The Awards and Honours Committee is seeking assistance from the membership for selection of recipients for the following awards:

- Pharmacist of the Year
- Bowl of Hygeia
- Honorary Life Member
- Honorary Member
- Presidential Citation
- Award of Merit

For further information or nomination forms and/or terms of reference for the awards, please contact Wayne Wurtz at the office. The deadline for receipt of nominations is January 31, 2001.

IT’S A GIRL!

Congratulations to Pat and Les Guillemin on the arrival of their daughter, Kelsey Ann on October 12, 2000. Pat will be returning to the office in April, 2001



OFFICIAL MARATHONERS!

On October 30, 2000, 53 runners from Saskatchewan participated in the “Joints in Motion Marathon” in Dublin Ireland in support of the Arthritis Society. \$283,000. was raised by participants from Saskatchewan. Two of our own members, Wayne Wurtz and Carmen Bell each finished the gruelling run undeterred by the wind and rain that fell throughout the day. Congratulations!!

Both Wayne and Carmen have expressed their desire to continue running, and are looking forward to their next marathon!