

SCOPE *newsletter*

QUALITY PHARMACY CARE IN SASKATCHEWAN

IN THIS ISSUE

Inaugural Address – President Bill Gerla	1
Council Highlights	2
COMPASS - Update	4
From the Desk of the Dean	5
PAS Conference 2015	6
“Shatter” Warning	11
Seeking French-speaking Health Professionals	11
Kudos to Team Work	11
Funding for Hepatitis B Vaccine	12
Is Injection Training Mandatory for Membership Renewal?	12
Membership Renewals are Due June 1st!	12

Inaugural Address – President Bill Gerla – Saturday, April 25, 2015

Good afternoon fellow colleagues, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests. It is my honour and pleasure to be here today, working for you as President of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.

I have been a practising pharmacist for over 30 years and during that time I have never witnessed the amount of change in our profession as I have seen in the past couple of years and will continue to see in the near future. Pharmacists today can provide medication assessments, prescribe for certain minor ailments, provide emergency and interim supplies and so on, and amazingly get paid for providing these professional services.



President Bill Gerla

When I look back at the changes in our profession in the past, there are a couple of specific changes that come to mind. First, over 20 years ago, there was a revolutionary change in our profession: it was called the TALTEK. It was just an amazing change in technology. Prior to the TALTEK, we had to manually bill all prescriptions to the Drug Plan. This was one of the most tedious jobs I have ever done. The TALTEK enabled us to key in all the information into this device and was then transmitted to the Drug Plan.

I remember when the TALTEK was introduced at a Regional Meeting—you can't imagine what it felt like to see how this device worked. For those of you that weren't there when this device was introduced, I can give you an example of something else that you can maybe relate to. All of you I am sure have seen television clippings of the NASA Control Station when they accomplish something. The feeling when we first saw the TALTEK was just the same as the NASA scientist when Sputnik landed on the moon. Everyone stood up and there were high fives and the room was filled with excitement. It was just amazing! But in comparison to the changes we are seeing today, it really wasn't that amazing. It was a change in technology and not a change in our professional practice.

Another change I vividly recall was the formation of an advocacy organization for Saskatchewan pharmacists. Sixteen or seventeen years ago, the only pharmacy

Continued on page 3



SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF
PHARMACISTS

700-4010 PASQUA STREET
REGINA, SK S4S 7B9
TEL: 306-584-2292
FAX: 306-584-9695
INFO@SASKPHARM.CA
WWW.SASKPHARM.CA

SCP COUNCIL 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

Spiro Kolitsas, Regina

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Bill Gerla, Humboldt

VICE PRESIDENT

Justin Kosar, Saskatoon

PAST PRESIDENT

Barry Lyons, Saskatoon

DIVISION 1

Shannon Klotz, 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

EX OFFICIO

Dean Kishor Wasan, Saskatoon

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Barbara deHaan, Biggar

Pamela Anderson, Regina

STUDENT OBSERVER

Karolina Koziol

SCP STAFF

DENISE CARR

Administrative Assistant

ANDREA CRAIN (on leave)

Administrative Assistant

JEANNE ERIKSEN

Assistant Registrar

KRISTJANA GUDMUNDSON

Primary Health Care Coordinator

PAT GUILLEMIN

Administrative Assistant

RAY JOUBERT

Registrar

DARLENE KING

Receptionist

CHRISTINA MCPHERSON

Administrative Assistant

HEATHER NEIRINCK

Administrative Assistant

LORI POSTNIKOFF

Field Officer

JEANNETTE SANDIFORD

Field Officer

AUDREY SOLIE

Administrative Assistant

AMANDA STEWART

Administrative Assistant

CHERYL WYATT

Administrative Assistant

Council Highlights

Council met on Friday, April 24, 2015 in Regina, just prior to the PAS Annual Conference.

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 1, 3, 5 and 7. One nomination was received from each of Divisions 1, 5, and 7 and Shannon Klotz, Chet Mack and Bill Gerla were declared elected by acclamation, respectively. Three nominations were received for Division 3 and Geoff Barton was declared elected by majority vote.

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, 2015 will be:

President – Bill Gerla, Humboldt

President-elect – Justin Kosar, Saskatoon

Vice-president – Leah Perrault, Swift Current

Division 1 – Shannon Klotz, Estevan

Division 2 – Sheldon Ryma, Prince Albert

Division 3 – Geoff Barton, Meadow Lake

Division 4 – Tamara Lange, Saskatoon

Division 5 – Chet Mack, Regina

Division 6 – Leah Perrault, Swift Current

Division 7 – Bill Gerla, Humboldt

Division 8 – Justin Kosar, Saskatoon

Past-President – Spiro Kolitsas, Regina

Ex-Officio – Dr. Kishor Wasan, Saskatoon, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

Public Members – Pamela Anderson, Regina and Barbara deHaan*

Observers – Jonina Code and Lyndsay Ratzlaff (pharmacy assistants) and College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Senior Stick, Darren Boyle.

* Barbara deHaan has completed her second three-year term on Council. She will continue on Council until a new public member is appointed. Barb will be greatly missed as an advocate for the public on Council and on the Complaints Committee.

BILL 151

Council focused this meeting on the upcoming new legislation, which included the following discussions:

- addressing stakeholders' feedback/issues;
- formulating the consequential bylaw amendments; and
- formulating the consequential Standards of Practice.

Council reviewed the draft regulatory bylaws and made the necessary changes in light of the feedback received. Once the final amendments have been incorporated, the Registrar will submit them along with the supplementary documents to the Ministry of Health for approval.

Council's next meeting will be held June 4, 2015 in Saskatoon.



SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF
PHARMACISTS

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)

President's Address - continued from page 1

organization we had in Saskatchewan was the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, which was called the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association at that time. It was decided that they could not really be an advocacy organization as well as a regulatory body for the pharmacists in Saskatchewan, so a new organization was formed which today is known as the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan, or PAS. PAS wasn't the first name of the organization. Do we have any students here today? What was the organization originally called? RBSP – the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists!

I recall at one of our first meetings there were members from both SCP and RBSP present. SCP had done some pre-work and we were all working together sorting out what functions and responsibilities each organization was to oversee. We had flip charts and there were two big circles drawn. There was one for SCP responsibilities and one for RBSP responsibilities. These circles weren't presented separately but as overlapping, and where the circles overlapped, we called it the grey area. In the grey area, there was a list of items that we were not sure of whose responsibility they would be. Over time this area became more defined as it was decided whose realm these functions fell under.

Today, I believe we can still draw those two circles and they will still overlap. The overlapping area is different today than it was 15 years ago. To advance the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan, SCP and PAS need to maintain a good working relationship. Over the past 15 years, it has been a good relationship. One organization may not always agree with the other's opinion or decisions, but they can usually respect their opinion or decision. I believe this rapport is critical if we want to advance our profession.

I would like to quote from the latest issue of Pharmacy Business (March/April 2015) from the editorial by Jane Auster.

“Advocate – a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.” More than ever before pharmacists are becoming advocates to get what they want. And more than ever before, they are working with the associations that represent them to advocate effectively and collectively to have their voices heard.

Going back to the two circles and the grey area where they overlap, when looking at the changes we have seen over the past couple of years, I think back 15 years when RBSP was formed and I recall us talking about minor ailment prescribing and an expanded scope of practice for pharmacists. We may not have called it that back then, but that is how long it has taken for these to become a reality.

We have to constantly be thinking about the future and what we want the future to look like. I am committed to continue to look at ways on how we can advance the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan. If we don't continue to move the profession forward, someone may do it for us, and if someone else does it, we may not be happy with the outcome. The alternative is the profession could disappear.

I would like to thank Ray and the staff at SCP, and all the councillors for their continued commitment towards our profession. Over the past four years, I have had the pleasure of working with four different presidents. Each of them had a different leadership style and each of them taught me something about being an honest and effective leader—for that I sincerely thank Spiro Kolitsas, Barry Lyons, Kim Borschowa and Joan Bobyne.

Thank you.

COMPASS - Update

The following are the statistics for incident reporting in the CPhIR (Community Pharmacy Incident Reporting) system starting in September 2013 (Phase I) until the end of March 2015.

There have been **1922** incidents reported on the CPhIR system.

A breakdown of the incidents include:

- **408** incidents where the incorrect quantity was dispensed
- **398** incidents with an incorrect dose/frequency
- **276** incidents that involved an incorrect drug

The majority or **1545** of these incidents had an outcome of NO ERROR - which means the incidents were intercepted BEFORE they reached the patient.

359 were no harm incidents which means the incidents reached the patient but did not cause harm.

There were **18** reported incidents that did result in HARM. Information from ISMP Canada indicated that all 18 were MILD harm.

SHARED LEARNING FROM REPORTED INCIDENTS

During discussions with COMPASS pharmacy staff, it was revealed that they would find value in hearing about incidents reported from other COMPASS pharmacies to learn how the problems were resolved. Since all information submitted to the CPhIR system is sent anonymously and cannot be shared by ISMP Canada, we are asking if a COMPASS pharmacy has an incident that they feel would be a good learning opportunity for other Saskatchewan pharmacies, to please forward the information to Jeannette Sandiford at jeannette.sandiford@saskpharm.ca. The information will be posted anonymously to our Facebook Group and other communications including the "Good Catch" section of the newsletter, which we are working to develop.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

One of the goals of the second phase of COMPASS is to increase public awareness. Each pilot pharmacy will be provided with a COMPASS sticker to display in the dispensary along with postcards for their counters and medication bags. The postcards explain what COMPASS is about: why it is important that pharmacists are participating in this pilot project and the value it represents to the public. Watch for the stickers being displayed in participating pharmacies.



PAS CONFERENCE EDUCATION SESSION

A pre-conference education session about COMPASS was held in conjunction with the 2015 PAS Annual Conference. The education session included an overview of medication safety and its relationship to continuous quality assurance in community pharmacy practice. Hands-on training of the COMPASS tools included the Medication Safety Self-Assessment (MSSA), Community Pharmacy Incident Reporting (CPhIR) Program, and the online Quality Improvement Tool. Participants were given the opportunity to sign up to be a part of the second phase of COMPASS.

REDUCING FAILED TRANSACTIONS

In collaboration with eHealth's PIP QIP (Pharmaceutical Information Program Quality Improvement Program), participating COMPASS pharmacies were asked to address the issue of failed transactions. Failed transactions, as the name indicates, are transactions (prescriptions) that do not get captured in the PIP system. This creates a safety issue.

To address this issue, COMPASS pharmacies were asked to review their failed transactions report daily and resend the transactions that failed. The process of reviewing and resolving failed transactions began in March 2015 and the progress will be monitored regularly by PIP QIP. Early results are showing a decrease in the number of failed transactions.

Through our COMPASS pilot project, SCP is very interested in collaborating with PIP QIP and other agencies in an effort to address other safety related issues that may be arising in community pharmacies. If we can identify those systems or processes that may lead to incidents, we can significantly reduce errors and continue to improve the safety of care provided to patients.

Making pharmacy practice safer is a great place to start to ensure we are providing patients with the best care possible.

From the Desk of the Dean



Dr. Kishor Wasan

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition: *Proud of Our Tradition and Home of Research and Practice Innovation*

While it's only the beginning of May, the year 2015 is one of many successes and accomplishments for the College! Most recently, we were honoured when medSask accepted the SCP *Award of Merit* and most proud to see our accomplished alumni at the PAS Annual Conference in April. For more news, please see our most recent Dean's Newsletter at www.usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition/the-college/deans-newsletter.php and highlights below.

Dr. Bruce Schnell to Receive Honorary Degree

Congratulation to Dr. Bruce Schnell, BSP, MBA, PhD, FCSHP, who will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree, the highest honour the University can bestow, at the Thursday, June 4 Convocation Ceremony. Dr. Schnell joined the faculty in 1966 and was Dean from 1976 to 1982. As the first pharmacy dean to hold a PhD degree, he rejuvenated the undergraduate education program and developed solid research and PhD programs in pharmaceutical science and practice.

[Read the full story.](#)

\$5 Million Endowed Chair in Rational Drug Design

The endowment fund for the Saskatchewan-GlaxoSmithKline Research Chair in Rational Drug Design was granted to the College as part of GlaxoSmithKline's \$25 million Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science Research. The pathfinder program was established to help Canada become a world leader in research and development. [Read the full story.](#)

Injection Training

Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS), formerly Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the College, will cover the costs of the injection training for

practicing pharmacists through a \$350,000 grant from PAS. This training support is being put in place to remove financial barriers related to the required training for pharmacists to offer injections as part of the 2015 flu vaccination season.

[Read the full story.](#)

medSask 40th Anniversary and Increased Funding

The medSask 40th Anniversary Celebration took place Thursday, March 26. The College was excited to announce that medSask has received increased funding in the amount of \$300,000 from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, and \$100,000 from SCP.

Establishment of the Gordon McKay Graduate Student Award in Analytical Chemistry

Through several generous donations, the Gordon McKay Graduate Student Award in Analytical Chemistry has been established and will honour one graduate student in the College each year with \$1,000 towards travel to a national or international meeting to present his/her research. The award honours Dr. McKay, Professor Emeritus of Pharmacy, who is currently A/Vice Dean of the College of Medicine and Scientific Advisor for the Saskatoon Centre for Patient-Oriented Research.

Pharmacist Awareness Month, Nutrition Month and Eating Disorders Awareness Week

CAPSI U of S put on a series of events for PAM 2015, highlighted by:

- **PAM Ribbon Cutting & Kickoff** PAM got off to a strong start on March 2, with 200 students, faculty and staff in attendance.
- **Mr. Pharmacy Pageant** Congratulations to Stefano Barillaro on being named Mr. Pharmacy 2015! This year's pageant was the most successful one to date, with a full house at Louis' Pub and a grand total of \$8,000 raised for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Canada.
- **PAM Booths** The booths were joint efforts between Pharmacy students and practising pharmacists to inform and educate the public about health care and the role of pharmacists. Booth locations included Health Sciences, the Arts Tunnel, Lawson Heights Mall and Market Mall.

Nutrition students annually contribute to the national **Nutrition Month 2015** campaign, this year dedicated to eating well at work, with the slogan *Eating 9 to 5!* They participated as well in the **Eating Disorders Awareness Week: Talking Saving Lives.**

Kish Wasan, R.Ph, Ph.D, FAAPS, FCSPS, FCAHS
Professor and Dean

PAS Conference 2015

Pharmacists – At the Centre of Enhanced Patient Care

April 24-26, 2015

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists (SCP) joined with the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) and the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists – Saskatchewan Branch (CSHP - SK Branch) to celebrate the profession at the 2015 PAS Annual Conference, held at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel in Regina.

The first event of the Conference was the SCP Awards Banquet which honours the 10, 25 and 50 year graduating classes of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition (formerly the College of Pharmacy) as well as members who were presented the Honorary Life Member Award.

Emceed by SCP President Spiro Kolitsas, the evening program began with the recognition of the 10, 25 and 50 year graduates. Following the banquet and program, attendees were invited to gather at the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Reception in the hospitality suite sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association and hosted by Dean Kish Wasan, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, for coffee and dessert and a chance to visit with old friends.

At the hospitality room, attendees could look at the old graduation pictures of the three graduating classes honoured that evening. Styles have changed, but the happy, expectant looks on the faces of the graduates in each picture remained the same.

CLASS OF 2005

Tricia Morris, graduating Class of 2005, reminisced about her years at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and introduced her classmate, Dr. Casey Phillips, who also joined us that evening. Everyone enjoyed and appreciated Tricia's amusing recollection of many class memories.



Casey Phillips, Tricia Morris

CLASS OF 1990

Lori Friesen of Melfort introduced her classmates in attendance from the Class of 1990. This year, 17 members of the class reunited in Regina to become reacquainted, update each other on what they have been doing, and to share memories of times spent together.



Back Row: John Slobodian

Middle Row: Vicki Gunn, Ed Toth, Carol Fast, Andrea Laternas, Brad Toth, Lori Friesen, Trish Toth, Chris Perentes, Deanna Zrymiak, Nola Barnes, Trish Jeffries

Front Row: Marla Sullivan, Shamon Sinclair, Shelly Ewan, Jack Mullock, Carol Brownlee, Tracy Slobodian

CLASS OF 1965

Each year it is difficult not to be impressed with the 50 year graduates. The individuals from the Class of 1965 have numerous accomplishments, not just professionally, but in their charitable work and volunteer service with hundreds of hours donated to their communities over the decades. Retirement has not meant rest for these professionals. Many of them have moved from pharmacy into volunteerism with the same passion and gusto they displayed in their working years.

One classmate from that year, Adele Thurston, brought along her College of Pharmacy jacket she proudly wore in 1965. Thanks Adele for sharing the fun memory and to all the Class of 1965, the College wishes you a joyous retirement and years of new challenges ahead.



Back Row: Gary Mironuck, Ed Knaus, Adele Thurston, Joe Achtemichuk, Ron Gray

Front Row: Lorraine Johnson, Gary Tamlin, Wally Kononoff, Sandra Evans

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The Honorary Life Member Award recognizes an SCP member for outstanding contributions to the profession and/or SCP beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary obligations.

2014	Garry Guedo	1995	Ken Ready
	William (Bill) Paterson	1994	Bruce Schnell
2011	Bev Allen	1993	Betty Riddell
2007	Paul Ortynsky	1992	Elwood Salter
	Susan Poulin	1991	Hugh Thomson
2002	Ross Pinder	1990	Orest Buchko
2000	Forrest Pederson	1988	Jack Summers
	John Turnbull	1984	George Hamilton
1997	Jim Blackburn	1982	E.D. White

Joining us on Friday evening were Honorary Life Members: Jim Blackburn (1997), Garry Guedo (2014), and Bill Paterson (2014). We were so pleased to add two new deserving members to this distinguished group that evening.

Registrar Ray Joubert had the pleasure of presenting the highest honour the College awards to:

Garry King for his many years of service to the profession of pharmacy both provincially and nationally. He was recognized for his many years of volunteering with key organizations of the profession. Garry has been recognized for his work in the past and is the recipient of the Pharmacist of the Year Award from CSHP – Saskatchewan, the J.L. Summers Achievement Award from CSHP – Saskatchewan, the Pharmacist of the Year Award from the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

Garry, thank you for your many years of dedication to our profession and congratulations on receiving the well-merited SCP Honorary Life Member Award.



Garry King, Spiro Kolitsas

Margaret Wheaton for her many years of service to the College and to the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan. Margaret has supported the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists in numerous ways throughout her career as a member of Council, including a term as President during the 1993-1994 membership year. When we were the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association, Margaret sat on the Employee/Employer Relations Committee, the Education Committee and the Building Committee. In 2003, the organization changed its name to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, but this did not change Margaret's passion for moving the profession forward. She has been a member of the Complaints Committee and the Registration and Licensing Policies Committee. Margaret has assisted the College with many special projects and has always been so generous with her time over the years.

Margaret, thank you for your many years of dedication to the College and congratulations on receiving the well-deserved SCP Honorary Life Member Award.



Margaret Wheaton, Spiro Kolitsas

104TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015

Members of SCP gathered to hear reports on the College's activities over the past year. Reports published in the College Annual Report 2014 (accessible on the College website www.saskpharm.ca) were presented by President Spiro Kolitsas, Registrar Ray Joubert and Dean Kishor Wasan. No new business arose from the Minutes of the 2014 AGM and no new business was raised following the reports.

During the AGM, those in attendance stood for a moment of silent tribute to members we have lost this year:

John Boland (1960)	Bob Lansdall, (1979)
Geraldine Donohue (1968)	George Little (1950)
Howard Geddes (1949)	William Rebeyka (1950)
Laurene Hardstaff (1949)	Robert Roberge (1951)
David Heggie (1969)	Murray Rousay (1974)
David (Ross) Irvin (1956)	Connie Spencer (1972)
Kris (Yeongching) Joie (1984)	Laurie Uriarte (1982)
Thordy Kolbinson (1954)	Connie Warkentin (1983)

PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON – SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015

The President's Luncheon is a time for the College to recognize those members who have given their time to assist with College work and be recognized for their achievements. President-Elect Bill Gerla and President Spiro Kolitsas presented certificates to the worthy members.

SCP Certificate of Recognition

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

To **Barry Lyons** upon the completion of his term as Past-President of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists and for his service on Council. Barry came to Council on July 1, 2010, as Councillor for Division 8.

To **Debbie McCulloch** in recognition of her role working with the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) as the Saskatchewan Director on the Board. Debbie has just completed her term as Past-President of NAPRA.

To **Jarron Yee** upon his retirement as Councillor for Division 5. Jarron joined Council on July 1, 2013.

We wish to thank these members for their years of outstanding service and dedication to Council and to the College.

SCP Presidential Citation

Presidential Citations are presented to recognize an SCP member who has made special contributions to pharmacy and/or an outstanding contribution or specific achievement that has enhanced the profession of pharmacy.

The SCP Presidential Citation was presented to **Jenna Farquharson-Anderson**. From her nomination:

Jenna is an incredibly passionate pharmacist. Not only does she give exceptional care to her patients, but she actively promotes pharmacists to other health care professionals and provides support to all of her colleagues. Jenna believes in pharmacists and their ability to improve the health care system and the health of Saskatchewan residents.



Jenna Farquharson-Anderson, Spiro Kolitsas

The SCP Presidential Citation was presented to **Don Kuntz**. From his nomination:

Don was instrumental to rolling out the initial format for medication reconciliation for the hospital system and is integral in the development of clinical practice standards and implementation of clinical strategies for pharmacy in long term care. Don has sat on numerous boards and committees, including CSHP Saskatchewan Branch, CSHP National, the Clinical Pharmacy Key Performance Indicator Working Group and Task Force and the SCP Long Term Care Standards Review Committee and the Professional Practice Committee.



Don Kuntz, Spiro Kolitsas

The SCP Presidential Citation was presented to **Lindsay Mildenberger**. From her nomination:

Lindsay does an exceptional job providing leadership and direction to her team. She has played an essential role in supporting her staff and pharmacists/colleagues to implement clinical pharmacy programs by providing educational training events. She has embraced the evolving practice of pharmacy, mentoring and leading her team, as they too evolve their practice.



Lindsay Mildenberger, Spiro Kolitsas

SCP Award of Merit

An Award of Merit is presented to recognize any person, group or organization who is not a member of the College, and whose active participation has promoted the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists and/or the profession of Pharmacy in Saskatchewan.

The first recipient of the SCP Award of Merit is **medSask** in recognition of their 40th year as an organization. Director Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk accepted the award on medSask's behalf.



Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk, Spiro Kolitsas

The second recipient of the SCP Award of Merit is **Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada** in recognition of their 50th year as an organization. We were fortunate to have the President of PEBC, Cathy Schuster, in attendance who accepted the award on behalf of PEBC.



Cathy Schuster, Spiro Kolitsas

The third recipient of the SCP Award of Merit is the **Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists – Saskatchewan Branch** in recognition of their 60th year as an organization. Branch President Dr. Jaris Swidrovich accepted the award on the Branch's behalf.



Dr. Jennifer Bolt, Dr. Jaris Swidrovich, Spiro Kolitsas

The SCP Award of Merit is presented to Ms. **Barbara Anne deHaan** as she retires from Council. This award is given in recognition of her years of exceptional service as a Public Member on Council. Barbara joined Council on July 1, 2009, and has just completed her second three-year term. She will certainly be missed at the Council table.

Member Emeritus

Any member on the Retired Register may be designated as a **Member Emeritus** of the College and may use the designation “Member Emeritus Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists” or “MESCP”.

The following retired member has been in good standing with this College or other pharmacy regulatory body for at least 25 years. In accordance with the bylaws, the Awards and Honors Committee has confirmed that we confer the honorary designation of “Member Emeritus” upon **Nancy Harman**.



Nancy Harman, Spiro Kolitsas

To each of our award recipients, the College extends our best wishes and thanks for their efforts on behalf of the College and the profession.

Presidential Installation

Following the award presentations, President Kolitsas offered his farewell remarks as he symbolically ended his term of President. While the installation of the new president was conducted at the luncheon, President Kolitsas continues to serve as President until June 30, 2015.

Registrar Ray Joubert conducted the Installation Ceremony for **President-Elect Bill Gerla**. Bill's inaugural address is printed on the cover of the May 2015 issue of SCOPe.



Ray Joubert, Bill Gerla

Mr. Dayle Acorn, Executive Director of the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy, presented the Past-President's Award to **President Spiro Kolitsas** in recognition of his efforts while fulfilling the Executive roles for the College. President Kolitsas will remain on Council for one year as Past-President of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.



Dayle Acorn, Spiro Kolitsas

On behalf of Council and the College, Vice-President Justin Kosar presented Spiro and his wife, Sofia, with gifts to thank them for their service to the College.



Justin Kosar, Spiro and Sofia Kolitsas



“Shatter” Warning

By Lori Postnikoff
Field Officer, SCP

Recently, I have been asked by pharmacists about customers wishing to purchase large quantities of isopropyl alcohol. It has come to my attention through a law enforcement bulletin that common solvents are often used in the extraction of THC for marijuana. The goal is “naked production” of THC. Solvents such as isopropyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, butane, hexane and or naphtha are suggested for extraction.

Shatter, for example, is a highly concentrated form of THC with levels of 80 to 90 per cent purity compared to the five-to-eight per cent of a typical marijuana joint. The finished

product is crystalline or glass like in appearance and texture. It is typically amber in color. Because the mixture is heated as part of the extraction process, there is a high possibility of a fire or explosion. As a result, many YouTube videos warn street drug producers about the dangers of using impure off-the-shelf solvents that introduce hazardous chemicals into the drug-making process.

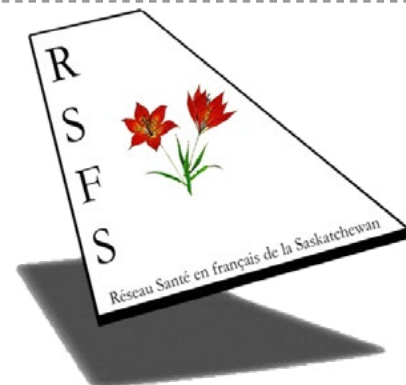
The College would like to caution pharmacists about the potential illegal use of pharmaceutical grade solvents.

For more information about shatter, [click here](#) to see the CBC coverage.

Seeking French-speaking Health Professionals

In partnership with the College of Medicine, Department of Community Health & Epidemiology, the Saskatchewan Network for Health Services in French/ Réseau Santé en Français de la Saskatchewan (RSFS) is in the process of updating the directory of health professionals who are willing to speak at least some French in their provision of health services. We are also seeking to add professionals who are new to the province, recently graduated or simply interested. Professionals are added to the directory on a volunteer basis and there are no legal obligations associated with being listed.

If you would like more information or are willing to be listed please contact Katie Pospiech at katie.pospiech@usask.ca or (306) 966-1270. Thank you very much.



Kudos to Team Work

SCP was recently made aware of some outstanding teamwork by two U of S grads on either side of the Alberta/Saskatchewan border where they worked together to prescribe and provide a patient with low-molecular-weight-heparin (LMWH) in a timely manner due to an upcoming surgery.

The College would like to reintroduce an amended regulation to clarify prescriptive authority across provinces. [The Drug Schedules Regulations, 1997](#) reads:

Prescription privileges – pharmacists

- 9.1 (2) A pharmacist who is licensed to prescribe drugs pursuant to a law of another jurisdiction in Canada providing for the granting of licences to pharmacists to practise their profession may, subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions of that licence, prescribe any drug listed in Schedule I, II or III that is intended for the purpose of treating humans.

This means a prescribing pharmacist from another Canadian jurisdiction can prescribe any drug listed in Schedule I, II, or III (subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions of their licence) to a patient. Saskatchewan’s pharmacist may recognize that pharmacist as an authorized prescriber and therefore honour the prescription.

SCP recognizes the extra effort made by the two pharmacists in the above example and hopes that this added clarity will show how provincial Colleges are also working closely together to help our pharmacists give the best care possible by recognizing the prescriptive authority of a pharmacist in another province.

Funding for Hepatitis B Vaccine

Hepatitis B vaccine is currently publicly funded for certain groups/individuals including Regional Health Authority (RHA)/Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) /First Nations Jurisdiction (FNJ) Health Care Workers (HCW). It was not intended for ALL HCWs, or, for all individuals recommended to be protected against Hepatitis B. Some who receive it do so based on a risk assessment, but there is also the provincial school program for grade 6 students, where those born since 1984 are eligible for the vaccine.

While it is **recommended** that HCWs – including pharmacists, dentists, dental hygienists, nurses working for private nursing companies (VON) etc. be immunized with Hepatitis B vaccine, they will often do so based on their own risk assessment and assume the cost for the vaccine. Similarly, other individuals or groups recommended for Hepatitis B vaccine, which make

their own arrangements and assume the cost for accessing the vaccine, include day care workers, group home staff, police, first responders, dentists, dental office staff, etc.

So, while the Saskatchewan Immunization Manual (SIM) does refer to HCWs as being eligible for publicly funded vaccines, including Hepatitis B vaccine, the intent of the current definition was that this applied to RHA/SCA/FNJ Health Care Workers. It was not intended for ALL HCWs, or all individuals who are recommended to be protected against Hepatitis B

Those pharmacists who intend to offer influenza vaccine as part of their comprehensive services can proceed with immunization through their family physician and purchasing the vaccine privately from the manufacturer or by attending a public health clinic that offers vaccines for sale (travel clinics).

[Information above provided by Population Health Branch, Ministry of Health]

SCP recommends that any pharmacist working for a RHA or has a contract with a RHA should check with their local Medical Health Officer to determine whether the vaccine is funded for him or her.

For community pharmacists the bottom line is that if a pharmacist doesn't work or contract with a RHA, they **are not eligible** for publicly funded Hepatitis B vaccination.

Is Injection Training Mandatory for Membership Renewal?

Conflicting information is circulating regarding the training for administration of drugs by injection and other routes. In the Q & A section of the Special Issue of SCOPe, Administration of Drugs by Injection and Other Routes (March 3, 2015), we published:

Will meeting the training or certification requirements for administration of drugs by injection and other routes be mandatory for licensure?

Not at this time, but these requirements must be met if you intend to practice within that scope. Council is

deferring any final decision until we gain more experience in this area.

For the 2015-2016 membership year, there is no requirement to provide evidence of completing injection training as a requirement for membership. We will capture the training on each member's profile once evidence of completion is provided to the College by the Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists (CPDP) unit at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

Membership Renewals are Due June 1st!

A notice has been emailed to pharmacists regarding membership renewals and how to complete the renewal process. Membership renewal requirements must be received in the SCP office by June 1, 2015 to avoid a late penalty fee.

If you did not receive the email, please advise us at info@saskpharm.ca, and update your email address **by using your member log-in at the SCP website** www.saskpharm.ca.

Remember: It is the member's responsibility to keep personal information current and up-to-date with the College. It is

also the member's responsibility to inform the College of your current place of employment. This information helps the SCP determine the electoral divisions for College election and allows the College to keep the member informed of urgent matters.

Do it
NOW!

