

Celebrating Excellence

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As CSHP President, I had the honour of being present for the awards ceremonies at the Professional Practice Conference in Toronto in February. These awards are given annually to recognize excellence in hospital pharmacy practice for specific projects, as well as to acknowledge certain individuals for outstanding contributions to our profession. The CSHP fellows program recognizes the exceptional dedication and leadership of CSHP members.

The awards presentation is intended as a celebration of the profession, an event in which we can all share. However, although attendees were asked to remain seated for the presentation of awards, many chose to leave at the start of each ceremony. For me, their departure cast a shadow on the proceedings. I have been seeking a plausible reason why people might have elected to leave and not honour their colleagues, when they could one day be in the position of receiving an award.

Was it because there were concurrent presentations? No—the PPC program is carefully designed to avoid this situation.

Was it because we do not value the awards given, or that since we are a national organization, practitioners from other regions of the country are not well known? Perhaps, but do we really want to convey to our colleagues that their awards are not worth the time to attend the ceremonies? I hope not. The awards system currently in place is the ultimate test of an independent peer-review process. The project-based awards are

based on blinded, independent reviews of each submission. There is also an independent process for assessing fellowship submissions and the awards for individual achievement. Receiving one of these awards represents the pinnacle of professional recognition.

Was it because the ceremonies were of no interest? Possibly, for even if we value excellence in our profession, the burden of life in the fast lane makes it hard for us to pull over to reflect on the hard work behind the awards.

I would welcome your feedback on how we can encourage more people to stay and participate in these ceremonies. Until we find the magic solution, if you are tempted to leave the awards ceremonies at next year's PPC, please take a moment to consider whether you can spare 20 minutes to celebrate the effort and dedication of your colleagues. Remember—you might be in their shoes some day.



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