

Glad You Liked It!

Myrella Roy

The most notable event of the past quarter for CSHP's staff was unquestionably the 35th annual Professional Practice Conference (PPC), held this year (exceptionally) at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel from January 31 to February 4, 2004. The utter success was well worth the several months of hectic preparations. Not only were the 1123 registrants, including exhibitors, pleased with the temporary premises, but they also enjoyed the exceptional program designed by the Educational Services Committee. Sixty-five speakers discussed a variety of therapeutic and health-related topics. The theme of patient safety received special emphasis, with a featured talk by Dr. Ross Baker, co-investigator of the soon-to-be-released Canadian Adverse Events Study; associated talks dealt with drug-related hospital visits, application of engineering principles to medication safety, assessment of health technologies for the prevention of medication errors, preprinted orders and guidelines, and computerized physician order entry. Twelve satellite symposiums proposed by our corporate members and sponsors complemented the formal CSHP program.

Over the 4-day conference, the exhibits area housed 63 booths, staffed by 252 representatives, and 46 posters. The Career Opportunities Evening allowed some 150 pharmacists, pharmacy students, pharmacy residents, and pharmacy technician students to explore employment prospects with 30 employers. During 2 special luncheons, the Awards Committee recognized 28 CSHP members for their winning submissions through the presentation of 14 awards. Garry King and Nancy Roberts received the Distinguished Service Award and the Isabel E. Stauffer Meritorious Service Award, respectively.

The guest speaker for the CSHP Research and Education Foundation fundraising dinner was Dr. Susan Poutanen, who recounted the international journey of the SARS virus and the community's response during last year's epidemic. In addition to raising approximately \$16,500 for the support of institutional pharmacy

research and education, this event provided an opportunity to commend Peter Loewen and Brian Tuttle on their new status as Fellows and to give \$22,500 worth of grants toward 4 research projects.

In February, CSHP met again twice over the issue of medicinal marijuana, first with other pharmacy organizations and then with a variety of stakeholders. During these sessions, Health Canada solicited feedback on further proposed amendments to the Marijuana Medical Access Regulations, targeted for completion by summer 2004, and provided the opportunity for an exchange of ideas and concerns among stakeholders. A pilot project involving pharmacy-based distribution is among the issues under consideration. (For additional information, see <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/ocma>.)

One more external liaison event was held in February. The Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy invited the executive staff of Canadian pharmacy associations and the deans of the Canadian faculties and schools of pharmacy to participate in a workshop on how to design effective innovation.

CSHP staff members can't wait to unveil the Society's new Web site. It is shaping up very nicely: a more functional architecture and a modern, visually attractive concept! We hope you will like it just as much as you liked the PPC.

If you are interested in additional information about any of the aforementioned issues, please contact the CSHP national office (see page 69 for contact information).



Myrella Roy, PharmD, FCCP, is Executive Director of the CSHP.