Although it has been suggested that these changes merely reflect a profession that is trying to redefine itself, I see them more as components in a process of continuous improvement: such efforts are required to meet both the changing needs of our patients and the demands of society at large.

In particular, the demands of society are increasing exponentially. Over the past year, the Romanow report,1 the Kirby report,2 common drug review,3 and many regional initiatives have highlighted the potential needs and demands of society with regard to health care. The increased provision of home-based care, concerns about patient safety, and primary health care reform are only some of the challenges that hospital pharmacists continue to address day-to-day. Others include pharmacyspecialization, pharmacist prescribing, implementation of new technology, and staff shortages. As a result of these influences, many institutions and provincial health ministries are reviewing their regulations to optimize use of pharmacist skills.

Given the changes now taking place in society and more specifically in health care, I feel that my professional experiences will help me to draw attention to pharmacists’ potential impact. I have witnessed pharmacists in various practice sites proposing, implementing, and refining programs and policies that aim to increase the effectiveness and value of pharmacist interventions. In the position of President Elect, I can help to identify further changes that are
required for hospital pharmacists to be fully utilized and recognized. I am convinced that we still do not receive enough recognition for what we do and what we could do, and furthermore that a wider audience must become attuned to the concerns and issues facing hospital pharmacists. By drawing attention to our past and current efforts, I believe we can enhance both our effectiveness as a profession and our recognition as professionals by society as a whole.

References


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