

CSHP President Mike Gaucher: A Vision of Success

In 1977, Mike Gaucher was a second-year pharmacy student at the University of Saskatchewan and a first-time member of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP). Today, Mike is the Director of Pharmaceutical Services for Saskatoon District Health and the newest President of CSHP.

Mike's road to the presidency has been one of many milestones. After graduating with distinction with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (BSP), Mike earned a Certificate of Residency in Hospital Pharmacy from Saskatoon City Hospital and completed a Master of Business Administration at the University of Saskatchewan.

Following his formal education, Mike acquired an impressive résumé of professional experience. His credentials include over 15 years' experience in hospital pharmacy management. He has led the implementation of numerous innovative pharmacy services, including unit-dose and centralized IV admixture programs, as well as inpatient and ambulatory-based clinical programs. In addition, Mike has more than 15 years' experience with government committees focusing on hospital pharmacy practice and formulary management. For more than 10 years, Mike has taught the principles of hospital pharmacy practice to undergraduate students and pharmacy residents.

As both a student and a teacher, Mike values continuous learning. It is this profound commitment to personal and professional growth that led him to accept the presidential nomination. "I believe in CSHP and the values inherent in our organization", says Mike. "I believe in striving to provide leadership within our profession, and I believe in identifying and seizing opportunities to give back to our professional community."

Mike's long-standing involvement in CSHP reflects the steadfastness of this commitment. A member of the Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board for 6 years, he also served 2 years as the Board's chair. In addition, Mike possesses extensive CSHP experience at the Branch level, including terms as Branch Delegate, Branch President, and a member of numerous committees. Throughout the 2001/2002 year, Mike held the position of CSHP Council's President Elect, providing leadership for the Society's Internal Liaison portfolio.

With such experience comes vision. And Mike possesses a clear vision of CSHP — now and into the future. "In a word, I see success", says Mike. "Our success lies in our ability to clearly identify and achieve our

primary goals." Under this umbrella, Mike includes the completion of a comprehensive governance review, the achievement of sustained financial viability, the recruitment of an Executive Director, the evaluation of the Society's planning processes and core services, and the enhancement of both CSHP's advocacy efforts and its communication with members.

According to Mike, the recruitment and retention of members, an increase in the number of volunteers supporting CSHP, and the retention of CSHP office staff represent other measures of the Society's achievement. "Success in these areas inevitably means the delivery of high-quality services to members."

Mike's version of CSHP success translates into complementary goals for his tenure as CSHP President. Chief among his objectives are the provision of strong leadership for the Society, by the Executive, Council, and office staff; effective collaboration with Council, members, and external partners to clearly understand their needs, communicate information, share ideas, and seek solutions; creation of an environment that encourages innovation and supports change; and a commitment to accountability for and effective management of the Society's resources.

In sum, along the road that led Mike Gaucher to hold our Society's highest office, he honed a deep respect for the practice of hospital pharmacy and the colleagues from whom he continues to learn. Mike maintains a strong belief in the value of CSHP's leadership in the hospital and health care settings. He also promotes the importance of the Society's advocacy work, continuing education opportunities, awards and research programs, and professional relationships. "From a personal perspective, I believe the advocacy role will be of increasing value to members in the future, given the ongoing changes to the health care system and the shortages of health care professionals."

Concludes Mike, "Both as a member of CSHP and as President, I look forward to our next year, our next challenge, and our next success. Most important, however, I look forward to sharing each of these steps with our members."

