

Information Update

Jim Mann

It is my pleasure to renew my communication with many of you, this time in my new capacity as Executive Director of CSHP. I have accepted this career change with much enthusiasm. With the support of President Linda Poloway and the entire Council, I look forward to addressing the opportunities and challenges that face the profession today. The Society continues to make an exceptionally strong contribution to the profession through its more than 2200 active members. Much of our work is accomplished through the combined efforts of committees, task forces, and external representation by members and staff.

CSHP Staff

It is my pleasure to introduce new and continuing staff members.

Cindy Denommée is filling the Executive Assistant position while Angèle St-Jules is on maternity leave. Hers is a full plate, to be sure, with responsibilities for Executive, Council, the Finance Committee, special projects such as Seamless Care, and general day-to-day office operations.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Barry Henson, who is continuing as our Finance Coordinator (on a part-time basis, as he has done for the past 10 years), works with our Director of Finance to ensure the Society's financial stability. Thanks to the efforts of this team, we have a very positive situation for 2001.

Gloria Day is our Meeting Coordinator, a role that encompasses the educational program and social events for both the Professional Practice Conference and the Annual General Meeting. Over the past 7 years, Gloria has progressed within the organization through her service as secretary and receptionist, and she brings a lot of "corporate memory" to her current position.

Christine Mockett has assumed the position of Secretary for the Society, with specific responsibilities for *CSHP News and Employment Opportunities* and the production end of the *Official Publications*.

Helen Halligan, the most recent addition to our staff, is Administrative Coordinator with responsibilities for the Board of Fellows, the Awards Committee, and our sister organization, the Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board; she is also our contracted administrative support person to the Ontario Branch.

Jan Braham has taken on part-time responsibilities as Journal Coordinator and support person for the Editorial Advisory Committee; in this position she communicates with the Journal's advertising agency and coordinates production of the Journal.

We were pleased to have *Amy Sommerfeldt*, a third-year pharmacy student from Alberta, participating in our first CSHP summer studentship, which consisted of a month here in the office, plus a month in each of 3 local hospitals. Amy provided valuable support for association tasks, and undoubtedly gained some great pharmacy practice experience as well.

We are currently attempting to recruit a Membership Coordinator.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewals and a revised CSHP brochure were distributed in early May. The Society looks forward to your continued support. Members are reminded to note the new membership category "leave of absence (LOA)", which is designed to encourage and support continued membership in CSHP during periods of absence from normal practice (not less than 6 months).

This category is intended for use during absences such as sabbaticals and maternity leaves.

A second issue worthy of your consideration is the availability of professional practice liability insurance, which offers coverage to members working outside their normal practice site (e.g., part-time employment in a community pharmacy). This insurance was introduced in July 2000 and is available for a nominal premium.

Seamless Care

Over the past 2½ years, the Seamless Care Workshop has been one of several events on which we have worked collaboratively with the Canadian Pharmacists Association and one in which there is tremendous interest among members from both community and hospital practice sites. Robin Ensom, with support from Nancy Roberts, has acted as Cochair for CSHP in the presentation of two workshops, one in Ontario in October 1998 and the other in Québec last September. The proceedings and highlights from the second workshop are now available. We anticipate that specific recommendations and action steps arising from the workshop will be instrumental in moving this optimal-drug-use issue forward for patients in both institutional and ambulatory care settings.

Practice Specialty Networks (PSNs)

The membership continues to support the collegiality that has developed under the PSN banner in a number of areas, including infectious disease, drug use evaluation, critical care, and palliative care. Members are encouraged to express (at the time of membership renewal) their interest in participating in the interactive opportunities offered through the PSNs.

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)

The issue of pharmacist shortage and demand continues to occupy much of our time, as we support the "situational analysis" project of HRDC. Kevin Hall is CSHP's representative to the Steering Committee struck by HRDC consultants, which has reviewed the literature and surveyed pharmacy's "key informants". The report is to be released in late May and is expected to form the basis for a sectoral study of pharmacy under the HRDC banner over the next 2 years. As most of you appreciate, "hard numbers" indicating where pharmacists are



practising, their career paths, and the amount of time they typically commit to their profession are virtually nonexistent but will be determined by the sectoral study.

Publications

Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy: The Journal continues to thrive and be recognized as an invaluable member benefit, thanks to Scott Walker, the Editorial Advisory Committee, and staff support. The recent addition of continuing education inserts has proven very popular; these inserts also recognize the efforts of the PSN members who serve as authors. This is just one example of the ways in which our members fill invaluable educational roles within the profession—our members are the foundation of pharmacy education.

CSHP News and Employment Opportunities: This publication is a significant resource for members and their institutions, as we deal with the crucial issue of recruitment and retention within a very competitive environment.

Official Publications 2001: The new version of this publication, reflecting revisions to a number of guidelines and statements and incorporating changes in format, has been printed and is now available for distribution.

Educational Programs

The **Professional Practice Conference** was an unqualified success (perhaps the best PPC ever), with more than 1100 registrants, some 52 educational

presentations, and 72 exhibitors. Further information about the conference, as well as the award-winning abstracts, appear elsewhere in this issue of CJHP (pages xxx and xxx).

The **Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for August 11 to 14, and the preliminary program was distributed in mid-May. We expect more than 250 registrants at this east coast “guaranteed fun” event. President Linda Poloway welcomes your participation, and Nova Scotia hospitality is assured. The ideal summer weather that is often part and parcel of the AGM makes this an ideal opportunity to combine your participation in Society activities with a family vacation. We hope to see you there.

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