



# NEWSLETTER

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Volume 23 Number 2 August 2002

## NEW PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

It is an honor for me to accept the responsibility of President of the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association. Over the years I have had the opportunity to be involved in the Association from several perspectives: a pharmacy intern, a licensed pharmacist, an out-of-province pharmacist seeking to re-licence in the province, an employee of the Association as Pharmaceutical Care Coordinator, and finally as a Council member for the last four years. These experiences bring me to this position with a keen interest in the affairs of the Association. Over the next year I hope to bring my experiences and my perspectives to Council as we work together on a number of issues.

The vision of the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association is "Quality Pharmacy Care in Saskatchewan". The mission includes public safety, standardized pharmacy services, a self regulated profession, a positive professional image of the pharmacist, public policy supporting health and ensuring optimum public use of pharmacy services.

Many issues on the horizon will require analysis and decision making from the regulatory perspective. I feel that Primary Care is the *primary* issue. This year we will plan and implement a strategy that will position pharmacists to meet the drug-related needs of Saskatchewan people. We are forming a Pharmacy Coalition on Primary Care with the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists (RBSP), Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) and the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. The intent is to create an action plan for the role of the pharmacist in primary care. We will be meeting with members this fall to discuss and receive input. A position paper will be presented to **The Primary Health**



Brenda Schuster

**Services Branch of Saskatchewan Health.** We will review whether regulatory barriers exist that prevent pharmacists from working in the best interest of the public in a primary care role. In addition the effective use of the pharmacist will require a strong team of technicians, and we need to determine if regulatory barriers exist to prevent the extended scope of the technician. The shortage of pharmacists may make it difficult to provide quality pharmacy care and the Association will need to be aware of these issues.

Personally I think we have an exciting year ahead for all of us with the implementation of learning portfolios. I have been using a learning portfolio for several years and it has helped me to take control of my own learning, and reflect on my learning needs. My limited time is spent on what my needs are and it has helped me in my practice area. I challenge you all to see the portfolios as an opportunity to reflect on what *you* want to learn and to seek out the

variety of ways that you can meet *your* needs. I have started documenting in my new learning portfolio and so far have found it easy and quick to use.

The Fyke Commission has resulted in the establishment of a Quality Council whose role is to improve the quality of health services in the province. Drug therapy is high on their agenda and we will need to ensure that we can help people receive quality pharmaceuticals in Saskatchewan. We will examine how fulfilling our mission supports the mandate of the Council.

I hope that we will see implementation of the Dispensing of Emergency Contraception without a prescription. This will be an example of the advancement of our role for the good of the public.

I love our profession. I am committed to ensure Quality Pharmacy Care in Saskatchewan. I am proud to be able to serve the people and the pharmacists of Saskatchewan in the capacity of the President of the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association. Please feel free to contact me at anytime to discuss the work of the Association; your input ensures a strong profession.

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Council Highlights
- Drug Schedule Amendments
- Convocation Luncheon
- Licensing/Permit Renewal Summary
- Complaints Committee Report
- Discipline Hearing
- Health Canada Warnings
- Member Recognition

**SPHA COUNCIL 2002-03**

Division 1  
Janet Bradshaw, Dysart  
(term expires June 30, 2003)

Division 2  
Vacant  
(term expires June 30, 2004)

Division 3  
Randy Wiser, Prince Albert  
(term expires June 30, 2003)

President-elect

Division 4  
Doug Spitzig, Saskatoon  
(term expires June 30, 2004)

Past-President

Division 5  
Bill Paterson, Regina  
(term expires June 30, 2003)

Vice-President

Division 6  
Vacant  
(term expires June 30, 2004)

Division 7  
Debbie McCulloch  
(term expires June 30, 2003)

Division 8  
Brenda Schuster, Regina  
(term expires June 30, 2004)

President

Ex Officio  
Dean Dennis Gorecki

Public  
May Bridgewater  
Lavonne Heck

Student Observer  
Lyndsay Gray

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – MAY 24, 2002 – PRINCE ALBERT**

Council met on May 24, 2002 in Prince Albert prior to the annual meeting. The following summarizes some of the highlights from this meeting.

**Council met with representatives from the Northern Health Inter-Tribal Health Authority Inc.** to discuss:

- concerns with services received from pharmacists
- First Nations peoples' expectations of the pharmacist
- how we can work together to achieve healthy outcomes from drug therapy for First Nations people

While access to services is the main problem due to distances in the North, the representatives rated pharmacists' services very highly. This included pharmacist availability for consultations and direct contact with patients.

They observed that pharmacists are readily accessible to nursing staff, and can play a role in assisting Advanced Clinical Nurses with prescribing drugs. Pharmacists could not only monitor prescribing practices, but could also become more involved in the prescription decision process through collaborative protocols.

They expressed some expectations including more customized information sheets provided to patients at an appropriate literacy level. They also indicated that while cultural barriers may exist, they can be overcome with enhanced face to face interaction between pharmacists and patients. They also suggested additional home support services such as compliance packaging.

Council and the representatives shared the conclusion for the need for more aboriginal health professionals as there is a positive correlation between aboriginal ancestry and practising in the North.

Because of considerable feedback from members regarding the fee increase, Council discussed how to effectively **communicate with members**. Council asked the Registrar to explore electronic mail as a tool to communicate with members, and for members to communicate with Council. Council however agreed that the Newsletter should continue to be our main method of disseminating information to members. Council also asked that we conduct a survey to determine member preferences.

Council considered correspondence from a concerned member of the public challenging the Association to actively lobby for public support of legislation to **ban tobacco from pharmacies**. Council felt that a more appropriate consultation strategy would be to seek the input from both sides of the issue and agreed to schedule this for the next meeting in September.

**Integration of the BSP Practical Experience with our Internship Requirement –** Both Council and the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition agree that beginning in spring 2003, graduates will not be required to meet the current internship requirements. The new Structured Practice Experiences Program, where students are exposed to practice experience throughout the curriculum, is deemed equivalent to our internship requirement. Council will approve the appropriate bylaw amendments at the September meeting.

At the request of this year's graduating class, Council received an assessment from the College and agreed to accept the clinical clerkship served by this class during their fourth year as 340 hours of credit towards the post-graduate internship requirement. Council passed the appropriate bylaw amendments and at the time of writing, and we are awaiting Ministerial approval before implementing this change.

Council approved various **drug schedule amendments** recommended by the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee. These are itemized in an article on page 4 of this issue.

**Dispensing Prescription Drugs Without a Prescription –** The proposal to the Minister to allow the pharmacist to dispense prescription drugs without a prescription for: 1) Emergency contraception, and 2) When the patient is stabilized on chronic therapy, a



quantity sufficient to last until the patient's visit to their physician or until the prescription can be obtained, has been rejected.

However, we received approval to proceed with emergency contraception only. As a result, Council passed another corresponding bylaw amendment for submission to the Minister for approval. In the meantime, we are working with the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition to prepare the education program for members and further details will follow. Council agreed to lobby Saskatchewan Health, supporting the concept of prescriptive authority for pharmacists and allowing pharmacists to dispense prescription drugs without a prescription when the patient is stabilized on chronic therapy.

Council approved the **NAPRA model internet pharmacy standards** modified in consultation with the College of Physicians and Surgeons to incorporate a statement on the validity of prescriptions. Amongst other things this means that the pharmacist should not dispense the prescription when there is reason to believe that an appropriate physician-patient relationship does not exist. The complete standards will be circulated to all pharmacies.

Council approved a NAPRA model standard permitting **temporary pharmacy closures** for up to 14 consecutive days per year. The complete standards will be circulated to all pharmacies.

Council approved a report confirming the transfer of membership in the **Canadian Pharmacists Benefits Association** and responsibility for insurance programs to the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists.

**Primary Health Care Teams** – Council reviewed the results of the last faxback survey of members. Although the results are disappointing, Council agreed to continue incorporating this feedback as we address this issue.

**Linkage with the Public** – Do you meet with groups, provide educational seminars, conduct special programs in your pharmacy? If you are involved in any special way in **linking with the public**, Council would like to hear from you. In particular we would like to receive a brief description of the event, and your comments on how you believe the public benefited. Send your reports to the SPhA office and we will circulate them to Council.



### COMMITMENT TO CARE AWARDS – PHARMACY PRACTICE

*Pharmacy Practice* has been recognizing excellence and innovation in pharmacy since 1993 through their Commitment to Care Awards Program.

This year there are 10 categories in which to nominate yourself or your colleagues:

- Patient Care
- Health Promotion
- Charitable Work
- Service to the Profession
- Best Pharmacist/Technician Team
- Best Pharmacist/Physician Team (NEW!)
- Technological Innovation
- Patient-Centred Pharmacy Design
- Student Leadership
- Hospital Pharmacy

Winners and honorable mentions will be profiled in the November 2002 issue of *Pharmacy Practice*. Winners will receive a trophy and cash award during a lavish Commitment to Care ceremony in Toronto on November 15, 2002. Travel arrangements for each winner and a guest are courtesy of *Pharmacy Practice*.

Deadline for entries is **Friday, September 27, 2002** (early bird deadline: September 6 – special prizes may be won). Entry forms can be found in each issue of *Pharmacy Practice* until September 2002 or online at [www.pharmacyconnects.com](http://www.pharmacyconnects.com). For more information, call Rosalyn Wosnick at *Pharmacy Practice*: (416) 596-3496.

### COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Complaints Committee met on March 13, 2002 and April 11, 2002 to address 23 current files. At the March 13, 2002 meeting, the Committee welcomed, Melanie McLeod of Regina as its newest member; the Committee met with two members to discuss the allegations against them. At the April 11, 2002 meeting the Committee welcomed an additional new member, Linda Klassen from Saskatoon. On that date the Committee also held interviews with two members.

The breakdown of the complaints according to allegation is as follows:

- Advertising infractions (0)
- Suspected alcohol/drug abuse (1)
- Communication/Unprofessional conduct (5)
- Professional incompetence – includes Medication errors (9)
- Improper record keeping (1)
- Bylaws / Standard / Guideline infractions [Improper prescription pricing practises, unprofessional business practises] (5)
- Prescription transfers (1)
- Failure of duty of care to the patient (1)
- Miscellaneous (0)



### NOTICE OF DISTRICT MEETINGS – FALL 2002

Please make note of the date in your area.

Regina	October 17, 2002
Saskatoon	October 21, 2002
North Battleford	October 22, 2002
Kindersley	October 23, 2002
Swift Current	October 24, 2002
Prince Albert	November 4, 2002
Tisdale	November 5, 2002
Yorkton	November 6, 2002
Weyburn	November 7, 2002

**DRUG SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS**

The Council of the Association, at a meeting duly convened May 24, 2002, approved the following drug schedule amendments recommended by the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee.

**Schedule I changes  
(Prescription only products)**

1. Amend Schedule I to add:
  - “Immune globulin products (this includes Cytomegalovirus immune globulin; Hepatitis B immune globulin; Rabies immune globulin; Rho D immune globulin; Tetanus immune globulin; and Varicella Zoster immune globulin)”
  - “Ephedrine and its salts (in preparations containing more than 8 mg per unit dose, or with a label recommending more than 8 mg/dose or 32 mg/day, or labeled or implied for use exceeding seven days, or if indicated for other than nasal congestion).”
  - “Vaccines (except either those which are part of a routine immunization program in most/all provinces and territories: Diphtheria toxoid, Tetanus toxoid, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Haemophilus influenzae type B., Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B. Pediatric, Influenza; or those requiring special enhanced public access due to disease outbreaks: Meningococcus, Pneumococcus)”

These changes were effective May 24, 2002 upon Council approval.

2. Amend Schedule I to read:
  - “Ibuprofen and its salts (except when sold for oral administration in a concentration of 400 mg or less per dosage unit)”

This change became effective May 14, 2002.

**Schedule II changes  
(pharmacy only, no public access)**

1. Amend Schedule II to read:
  - “Acetylsalicylic acid and its salts (oral preparations containing 80 mg or less per dosage unit and intended for paediatric use or rectal preparations containing 150 mg or less per dosage unit, in package sizes containing no more than 1.92 g of acetylsalicylic acid).”
  - “Vaccines: Diphtheria toxoid, Tetanus toxoid, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Haemophilus influenzae type B., Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B. Pediatric, Influenza; Meningococcus, Pneumococcus”

These changes were effective May 24, 2002 upon Council approval.

**Schedule III changes  
(pharmacy only, public access)**

1. Amend Schedule III to add:
  - “Desloratadine“

This Schedule III amendment came into effect July 12, 2002 upon publication in the *Saskatchewan Gazette*.

  - “Ibuprofen in strengths over 200 mg and not exceeding 400 mg per oral dosage form”

This Schedule III amendment came into effect May 10, 2002 upon publication in the *Saskatchewan Gazette*. This means that in Saskatchewan upon federal de-regulation of May 14, 2002 ibuprofen in strengths over 200 mg and not exceeding 400 mg per oral dosage form became a Schedule III, pharmacy only non-prescription drug.

<b>LICENSING SUMMARY</b>			
Our MEMBERSHIP as of July 1, 2002 is:	2000	2001	2002
<b>Practising Members:</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1067</b>
Community	791	782	795
Hospital	154	153	149
Out of Province	25	40	32
Other	101	108	91
<b>Non-practising Members: (1)</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Associate (2)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Retired:</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>TOTAL Membership:</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1328</b>
<b>PHARMACIES:</b>			
Community	347		
Chain		125	122
Independent		211	209
Satellite	13	14	15
Dispensing Physician	7	7	7
Publicly Operated		2	2
<b>TOTAL Pharmacies:</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>356</b>
<b>Statistics Summary</b>			
Terminations	74	134	107
<b>Conversions</b>			
Practising to Non-Practising	34	30	18
Practising to Associate		8	2
Practising to Retired	2	2	4
Non-Practising to Practising	20	32	12
Non-Practising to Associate		117	8
Non-Practising to Retired	5	19	3
Reinstatement to Practising	0	0	1
New Practising	12	2	9
New Non-Practising	0	0	0

(1) Definition revised July 1 2001, to include active members who do not practice by providing direct patient care.  
 (2) New membership category effective July 1, 2001 to replace the former non-practising membership category.



**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE FINDING AND ORDERS**

On March 7 and 8, 2002 the Discipline Committee was constituted to consider charges of professional incompetence and professional misconduct on the part of the Respondent. The complaint against the respondent arises after the death by apparent suicide of a patient in August 1999, as a result of an overdose of chloral hydrate.

The Committee concluded that no professional incompetence was made out in this case and in certain (but not all) respects there was no professional misconduct. To quote; in part, from the order of the Discipline Committee:

*“This hearing and its findings draw attention to the importance of documentation and the need for our profession to ensure that we as professional practitioners take into account the fact that we **cannot rely on others** to keep us informed of patients who have the freedom and ability to have medications orders filled in any pharmacy. Situations change and it becomes the responsibility of all concerned to keep each other informed. Some patients attempt to manipulate the system and therefore may abuse medication or develop a dependency for a drug, which may have been the case in this situation.”*

The Discipline Committee found, that the conduct of the member *“in relation to prescriptions dispensed by the member between July 20, 1999 and August 14, 1999 was harmful to the best interests of the public and of a nature such to tend to harm the standing of the profession, and therefore amounted to professional misconduct within the meaning of section 25 of The Pharmacy Act, 1996 (the “Act”).*

Having found the member guilty of professional misconduct, the Committee orders as follows:

1. The licence of the member is to be suspended for a period of seven consecutive days;
2. The member is required to pay a fine in the amount of \$2,000.00, such fine to be paid on or before December 31, 2002;
3. The member is required to pay costs of the investigation and hearing into the conduct, expenses related thereto, in the fixed amount of \$10,000.00, such amount to be paid on or before December 31, 2002;
4. The member may continue to practise only under the following conditions:
  - a) The documentation storage and retrieval policies and communication practices utilized by the member and the pharmacy, in which the member practises shall be the subject of a full review by a field officer of the Association;
  - b) The member shall follow all recommendations set out by the field officer directed towards the documentation storage and retrieval policies and communication practices provided. However, in the event of a disagreement between the member and the field officer as to the reasonableness of such recommendations, the Committee retains the jurisdiction to assess the reasonableness thereof as condition for the member’s continued practise;
  - c) The review of the field officer and recommendations to the member shall be provided to the member in sufficient time that the reference, if any, back to the Committee shall occur on or before July 31, 2002;
5. A summary of the Committee’s Decision, including term of Orders made in this matter, shall be printed by the Association in its newsletter. However, the Association shall make no reference by name to those members whose conduct has been the subject of this hearing.



National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities

**OUTLOOK – SPRING 2002**

To view the spring issue of the NAPRA newsletter *Outlook* please log on to [www.napra.org](http://www.napra.org)

Inside this issue:

- Certification
- HRDC Human Resource Study
- Exciting New Paths for NAPRA
- New Website
- Recent National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) Decisions
- National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) Appointments
- NAPRA Elections

NAPRA’s 2001-2002 Annual Report can be found at [www.napra.org](http://www.napra.org)



**CONFUSION BETWEEN REMERON® (MIRTAZAPINE) ORGANON CANADA LTD. AND REMINYL® (GALANTAMINE HBR) JANSSEN-ORTHO INC.**

There have been some reports of confusion in names between Remeron® which is indicated for the symptomatic relief of depressive illness and Remylyl® which is indicated for symptomatic treatment of patients with mild to moderate dementia of the Alzheimer’s type.

The events noted in these reports were errors in written and interpretation of prescriptions due to the similarity in the names.



**"FAXBACK!" #13**



With the March 2002 newsletter we had sent out "Faxback!" # 13 regarding primary care teams. Although this appears to be the direction of both the Fyke Commission and the Romanow Commission, membership response was disappointing. From the total memberships only 16 responses were received.

We were fortunate in that we received responses from members in both hospital

and community settings, as well as pharmacists employed in independent community and chain pharmacies. While many of the respondents have worked collaboratively with other health care professionals in some areas there is certainly no standard view of the Primary Care Team.

Some respondents provided examples of their "team" involvement. Examples given were: educational (cardiovascular, diabetic, chemotherapy outreach, in-service training for home care nurses), attendance at family care conferences, home visits, and weekly medication reviews.

The most frequently named barriers to pharmacists participating in primary care teams were human resource issues and compensation. Other barriers were unwillingness of other providers to participate on a team and reluctance to recognize the role of the pharmacist on the team. Many members cited the

inability to access patient information needed to make informed decisions.

Respondents were asked to share their ideas on how pharmacists can become effective members of the primary care team. Key strategies included education for pharmacists and other health professionals about the role that pharmacists can play on the team. Providing the pharmacist with more patient information would enable the pharmacist to actively participate as a drug consultant within the team, even if they physically are not in the same geographic location as other members of the team. Better communication between members of the primary care team was stated throughout the survey.

Anyone interested in participating or having any ideas regarding pilot projects, demonstration models, or any other types of initiatives involving the pharmacist on a primary care team, please contact the office.

**YOU ASKED US?**

***We have had a request to sell denatured alcohol to a local dental office, can we sell this product and in what quantities?***

***Recently we had a patient return to the pharmacy to pick up a triplicate prescription that he had dropped off earlier. The filled prescription could not be located however, the patient's signature was on the written prescription. It was later determined that the patient had signed the document when he dropped off the prescription and another family member had picked up the prescription, which the patient received. How could this confusion have been avoided?***

***Can we "defer" a prescription for a drug on the Triplicate Prescription Program?***

Canada Customs and Revenue has indicated that pharmacies may purchase denatured alcohol only for use in compounding products. Only those entities (dealers, manufacturer, university or person) that are granted a department permit to receive and use specially denatured alcohol from the Minister of National Revenue are authorized to purchase denatured alcohol. Pharmacies CAN NOT sell ethanol (denatured alcohol) under any circumstances.

The policy statement on the Triplicate Prescription Program found in the Pharmacy Reference Manual states: "The prescription form must be signed by the patient (or agent) upon RECEIPT of the dispensed prescription."

In this instance the patient was asked to sign the prescription when he presented it to the original pharmacist, so that when a second pharmacist retrieved the original document to determine whether or not the patient had received the medication the patient's signature signaled to the pharmacist that he had indeed received the medication, which was not the case. Had the patient's agent signed the form when she received the medication the circumstances of the situation would have been apparent.

The Triplicate Prescription Program is quite clear that all triplicate prescriptions are valid for only three days from the date of issue. Post-dated prescription forms are not permitted; similarly deferring the prescription would not be permitted. Based on professional judgment situations may arise where in unusual circumstances the pharmacist may decide to fill the prescription past the three days; at that time the pharmacist would document the reasons for the exception.



**46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION CEREMONY – THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2002**

SPhA was proud to once again host the annual convocation luncheon at the Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium immediately following the Convocation Ceremony for the Class of 2002!

Sixty-five students of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition were rewarded with the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree for their many years of hard work. During the luncheon words of welcome and congratulations were offered by: Doug Spitzig, President, SPhA; Randy Wisler, Vice President SPhA; Bill Gerla, Chair, RBSP; Dr. Dennis Gorecki, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and Dr. Linda Suveges, Assistant Dean (Undergraduate Affairs), College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

The following SPhA Awards were presented:

- The Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association **Gold Medal** for the most



*Jodi Lynne Franklin  
SPhA Gold Medal*



*Kendra Elizabeth  
Pernsky  
SPhA Campbell Prize*

distinguished graduate of the Class of 2002 was presented to Jodi Lynne Franklin of Regina. Jodi maintained a high academic standing throughout

her four years in the College, achieving a four-year average of 91.38%. Jodi will be practising at London Drugs in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

- The Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association **Campbell Prize** for the second most distinguished graduate of the Class of 2002 was presented to Kendra Elizabeth Pernsky of Kenora, Ontario. Kendra also maintained an impressive academic standing during the past four years, with an average of 87.88%. Kendra will be entering a hospital pharmacy residency program with the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon.

On behalf of the Association we would like to extend our congratulations to Jodi and Kendra as well as the entire graduating class of 2002. Good luck and best wishes for the future as you pursue your dreams of a fulfilling career in Pharmacy.

**SASKATCHEWAN LIFELINE AND THE SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM**



Several meetings ago, Council met with representatives from the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism. The following is an example of one of the outcomes to explore ways that we can work together.

Saskatchewan Lifeline Personal Response and Support Services have formed a partnership with the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism to enhance the independence and safety of individuals throughout the province. Lifeline's mission is to provide services that support the at-risk population, so that they can remain in the comfort of their own homes with feelings of confidence and independence.

Lifeline Service with Reminders is a unique service that offers the benefits of personal response service, plus useful reminders to help subscribers ensure that they follow medication regimens, re-fill medications, exercise, eat properly, keep appointments and participate in social events.

If you are interested in receiving information describing this service please call the Saskatchewan Lifeline toll-free number: 1-800-856-0599. Or call Terri Berglund, Program Manager Saskatchewan Lifeline at the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism at (306) 751-2561.

**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS (CSHP)**

The Saskatchewan Branch of the CSHP has been diligently planning the upcoming **Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference for October 4-6, 2002**, in Regina. Educational Sessions are planned for October 5th and 6th, with a Friday evening symposium planned for October 4th. Details regarding the symposium will be available soon. The brochures for the conference will be distributed in August but ... mark your calendars now!!

Of special note, an introduction to the "Pharmacy Practice Research Workshop" facilitated by Dr. Brenda Schuster will be presented at the Educational Sessions this fall. The full workshop event has been planned for November in Saskatoon and April 2003 in Regina. If you are interested to learn more about conducting a research project but are not sure how to begin ... do not miss this workshop!

Inquires regarding registration to the Educational Sessions or Symposia may be directed to:

Monica Lawrence  
ph: 766-4354 or  
e-mail: mlawrence@reginahealth.sk.ca

 **HEALTH CANADA**

The following is taken from correspondence from Diane Gorman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada.



“It has come to our attention that certain manufacturers are attempting to sell non-compliant drug products to pharmacists for compounding and dispensing purposes. Whether they be solid oral dosage forms or powders for reconstitution, drug products sold in Canada must comply with the *Food and Drugs Act* and Regulations, including those provisions requiring Drug Identification Numbers and Good Manufacturing Practices. Sale of non-compliant products would be a violation of the *Act*.

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) and the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), in collaboration with the Health Products and Food Branch of Health Canada, developed a policy document, implemented in July 2000, to differentiate which products may or may not be legitimately sold to pharmacists for compounding and

dispensing purposes. It can be found on the Health Canada Web-site at: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb-dgps/therapeut> and can be accessed in the ISSUED section of the POLICIES page.

It has also come to our attention that drug products in final dosage form without a valid Notice of Compliance are also being sold to pharmacists. The sale of these non-compliant products would also be in violation of the *Food and Drugs Act*.”

Pharmacists who are in doubt as to the compliance status of drug products may contact the nearest operational centre of the Health Products and Food Branch Inspectorate. For Manitoba and Saskatchewan inquiries please contact operational manager of the Inspectorate at 510 Lagimodiere Blvd. Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2J 3Y1. Telephone: (204) 983-5453; Fax: (204) 984-2155.

 **HEALTH CANADA**

**HEALTH CANADA ADVISORIES/WARNINGS**

Since our last issue of the SPhA Newsletter Health Canada has posted numerous Advisories (safety information) and Warnings. Please refer to the NAPRA website: [www.napra.org](http://www.napra.org) for this information. On the NAPRA website, the opening screen features a prominent button for up-to-the minute Health Canada advisories (monitored on a daily basis), with an archive of past advisories as well.

**Please check the NAPRA website for the following advisories:**

- Risk of ototoxicity with the use of topical **GARASONE®** AND **GARAMYCIN®** eardrops in patients with perforated tympanic membranes.
- **CELEBREX®** – new safety information related to the selective COX-2 inhibitor Celebrex®
- Warning not to consume **Longdan** and **Lung Tan Xie Gan** products as they

may contain herbs that contain Aristolochic Acid (which is considered to be carcinogenic and has been shown to cause mutations in human cells and end-stage kidney failure).

- Information to be taken into consideration and caution should be exercised when **VIOXX®** is used in patients with a medical history of ischemic heart disease.
- Health Canada is advising Canadians not to take certain drugs with **Grapefruit Juice**.

- Health Canada is warning Canadians not to use seven herbal supplements: **Arthrin, Ospano, Poena, Neutralis, Oa Plus, Ra Spes and Hepastat**
- Health Canada is warning Canadians not to use **Bejai Bowyantán**, a traditional chinese medicine for infants.
- This is to inform you an important medical device problem with all products labeled as sterile or as ethylene oxide processed manufactured by A & A Medical of Alpharetta, GA. These devices may also be sold under the trade names of “**A & A Medical**”, “**Rocket USA**” and “**LifeQuest**”.

For more information on advertising in the SPhA newsletter please contact:

Carla Cramer  
Communications & Events Coordinator

at 584-2292

or e-mail  
[carla.cramer@sasktel.net](mailto:carla.cramer@sasktel.net)



**PHARMACY FOR SALE – SOUTH EAST SASKATCHEWAN**

Owner retiring after 30 successful years. Rural independent practice. Well established, New building, 4 Bedroom House above the Store Building, spacious Store and warehouse space, two-car garage. Good Rx volume, Experienced Staff if needed, Counseling Orientated, Compliance Packaging, 10 Bed Private Home, Resident Doctor, 12 Bed Active Hospital, Liquor Vendor, Kindergarten to Grade 12 High School, 3 Native Reserves, Near Casino, 2 Lakes & Parks, Golf Courses, Excellent sport facility. Excellent location to raise young family and earn a very good living.

Reply in Confidence to: Arcola Pharmacy Ltd., Arcola, SK.  
Phone: (306) 455-2333 (Day/Night) Fax: (306) 455-2625

**FULL TIME PHARMACIST**

HEWGILL'S DRUG STORE  
SASKATOON, SK.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AT  
A UNIQUE INDEPENDENT  
MODERN PHARMACY

WAGES NEGOTIABLE PLUS BENEFITS  
AND BONUS POTENTIAL

CONTACT: KEVIN MELNYK  
652-6822

**OLDS REXALL DRUG STORE**

An Amazing Part of your Community!  
**Full-time Staff Pharmacist** Position

Take this opportunity to advance your career financially and professionally. Just 45 minutes north of Calgary, be part of this exciting and vibrant location. This fabulous community has sports and recreation galore!

- Excellent benefit package
- Flexible hours
- Competitive wage and Pension Plan
- College fees paid
- Opportunity for advancement
- Management training an option

Come join the fastest growing chain in Canada where  
**PHARMACY IS FIRST!** If interested please contact:

Murray Rousay  
Box 3909, Olds, AB T4H 1P6  
Phone: 403-556-3346  
Fax: 403-556-2234  
E-mail: mrousay@telusplanet.net

**PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY PRACTICE OPPORTUNITY**

Congratulations on your recent graduation! We know that it's quite a change after 4-5 years of classes, to finally put all your learning into practice.

We are **King Value Drug Mart**, a community pharmacy with a patient-outcomes based practice. We are looking for a full-time pharmacist who is interested in patient care. We have a special interest in asthma, diabetes, palliative care, and have excellent working relationships with physicians and Home-Care nurses. We encourage our staff to develop an area of clinical expertise, and offer our clients in-store clinics, and public presentations. We have full-time pharmacy technicians, so your time will be available to work with patients. Dealing with third party payors is not a worry for you, we have this work done by the bookkeeper.

We are King Value Drug Mart, located 80km from Jasper, AB, in a recreational paradise. Enjoy skiing, paddling, hiking, biking, etc. without travelling for hours.

For more information on our community, go to  
[www.town.hinton.ab.ca](http://www.town.hinton.ab.ca)

We offer \$34.00 per hour, a benefit package, flexible hours, professional licensing fees, and professional development allowance. We can also offer a signing bonus.

You may be happy with your current employment. If you are looking for a change, stop by and chat with us.



**VALUE DRUG MART**  
King Value Drug Mart  
145 Athabasca Ave., Hinton, Alberta T7V 2A4  
Phone: 780-865-2645 • Fax: 780-865-3073  
e-mail: kingvdm1@telusplanet.net

We look forward to hearing from you!  
John and Audrey McVey

**Earl's Pharmacy Ltd.  
Saskatoon  
PHARMACIST**

Earl's Pharmacy provides Pharmacy Services to a number of Long Term Care facilities in Saskatoon, and has an opening for a Pharmacist on its team of 7 Pharmacists. Competitive salary offered.

**If interested please phone, fax, or e-mail:**

Rick Dobrow  
928 – 8<sup>th</sup> St. E, Saskatoon, SK S7H 0R8  
Ph 244-1531 fax 244-8171  
[earlspharmacy@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:earlspharmacy@sk.sympatico.ca)

**Pharmacy For Sale – Central Saskatchewan**



- Town Population of 2300.
- Profitable family pharmacy.
- Sales and town population increasing.
- 3200 sq ft in leased building.
- Owner wishes to retire.

Reply in Confidence to:  
Central Sask. Pharmacy for Sale  
c/o Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association  
700 – 4010 Pasqua Street, Regina SK S4S 7B9

**Robson Valley Pharmacy**

A full time pharmacist is needed in McBride, BC. which is located 1.5 hours west of Jasper. This pharmacist will work the hours of 10am – 5pm weekdays in a small dispensary in the Hospital doing 50 Rx/day. \$70,000 year spread it around anyway you wish.

If interested please contact Bob for a two week locum.

**Bob Craigie**

**Robson Valley Pharmacy  
Box 637, McBride, BC V0J 2E0  
(250) 569-2282**

**Strathmore Value Drug Mart**

Strathmore Value Drug Mart requires a full-time pharmacist.

Competitive Salary • Benefits Package including Licensing and Test Fees

No Late Evening Shifts • Newly Renovated Dispensary

Small Town Atmosphere • 20-minute Drive from Calgary

Professionally Focused Practice with Hospital and Medical Centre Locations

Please contact: Gord Morck

P.O. Box 2310, Strathmore AB T1P 1K3

Phone: (403) 934-3122 • Fax: (403) 934-6474

E-mail: [strathmore@valuedrugmart.com](mailto:strathmore@valuedrugmart.com)



**PHARMACY FOR SALE**

Well established, very profitable community pharmacy in Midwest Saskatchewan. Annual sales in excess of \$1.3 million, Rx Volume plus 36,000. Close to recreational lakes and resorts.

Financing available, owner has other interests.

Reply in Confidence to:

Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association

#700-4010 Pasqua Street

Regina, SK. S4S 7B9

**FULL TIME PHARMACIST REQUIRED**

Self motivated individual must possess good interpersonal/patient counselling skills, be enthusiastic and enjoy dealing with the public. Join our pharmacy team in the permanent full-time position of mixed community/ hospital practice. This well organized environment uses Tech Rx software, no Sundays/Holidays, open Thursday night only, and Saturday rotation. Offering excellent salary with benefits package, ACP/RxA fees, signing bonus/moving allowance negotiable. Located 45 min from the Saskatchewan border (1hr from Lloydminster).

Please forward resume or call:

Jim Muir

Wainwright I.D.A. Pharmacy

118-10 Street

Wainwright, AB

T9W 1P8

PH: (780) 848-3414 – Business

(780) 842-4826 (Residence)

E-mail: [vainida@telusplanet.net](mailto:vainida@telusplanet.net)

**PHARMACIST WANTED**

Tired of fast-paced city life & working long hours? Would you like to raise your family in a safe and secure community?

**SAPARA'S DRUG MART LTD.**

requires a full-time pharmacist.

- Competitive salary & benefits
- 40 hours/week
- Monday – Saturday / 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Esterhazy** (pop. 3,000) has a beautiful golf course in a valley setting, swimming pool, tennis courts, skating arena/curling rink, fitness centre, extensive cross country ski & walking trails, and offers a variety of seasonal sporting activities/clubs for youth and adults. The town is situated close to lakes, parks, snowmobile trails and downhill ski areas. Elementary (K-5) & High School (6-12) offer excellent academics and extracurricular programs. IMC Potash, the main employer of the town operates 2 mines.

Please submit resume to:

Keith Sapara

Sapara's Drug Mart Ltd.

P.O. Box 250, Esterhazy SK S0A 0X0

(306) 745-6662 / (306) 745-2450

Fax: (306) 745-6654



**PHARMACIST**

Woodland Pharmacy Ltd. in Shellbrook, Saskatchewan has an opportunity available for a pharmacist on a full time or part time basis.

We are looking for the right individual to join our professional team of five pharmacists and one technician. Practise in an environment dedicated to the patients and customers we serve. The position is challenging and professionally rewarding. Highlights include the following:

- Flexible scheduling
- Few weekends and good hours
- Competitive salary with excellent benefits

A vibrant and growing community located close to all types of outdoor recreation. Please send resume or contact:

Woodland Pharmacy Ltd.

c/o Grant Hladun, B.S.P.

Box 160, Shellbrooke, SK. S0J 2E0

Work: (306) 747-2545 • Home: (306) 747-3295

Fax: (306) 747-3922 • E-mail: [ghladun@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:ghladun@sk.sympatico.ca)



Profitable Retail Pharmacy with good prescription volume. Located in the Parkland of the East Central Health District, Saskatchewan

For serious inquiries or for more information please call or e-mail:

1-306-786-4579

or

[wwright@parkerquine.ca](mailto:wwright@parkerquine.ca)

**Independent Community Pharmacy in Saskatchewan For Sale**

- Profitable, well established business
- Owners plan to retire in near future
- Pharmacy located in a residential setting, away from downtown competition
- Traffic pattern is heavy since store is located on the busiest street in town
- Excellent RX volume and growth each year
- Gross sales in 2002 exceeded \$1.5 million
- Diversified services include – Sears outlet, full line postal outlet, giftware, cards magazines and bank machine
- Pharmacy is located in 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in Saskatchewan

**Interested parties may contact owners at :**  
**306-692-4128 (home), 306-692-6000 (work)**

**PHARMACIST REQUIRED**

We are looking for a full or part-time pharmacist. We offer a competitive salary and flexible work schedule. We are located in beautiful Saskatoon, which enjoys many amenities offered in larger cities, but still maintains a small town feel. If you would like to make Saskatoon your new residence or you are considering moving back, we would like to hear from you. We would be happy to help you with your moving expenses.

**Please send your resume to:**

**Canarama Pharmacy**  
**P.O. Box 25150**  
**Saskatoon, SK.**  
**S7K 8B7**  
**Ph: 306-665-6313**  
**Fax: 306-665-1108**

**FULL-TIME STAFF PHARMACIST  
 Required by McCoy's Drugs in Weyburn, Sask.**

A high volume dispensary specializing in servicing nursing homes and personal care homes has an ideal position for an ambitious, energetic pharmacist with an interest in pharmaceutical care. We offer above average earning potential with a comprehensive benefit package. Excellent working environment with two other pharmacists and technicians on staff. Hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm. No evenings, weekends or holidays.

For more information or to apply in strict confidence, please submit resume to:

Roy Ulmer, McCoy's Drugs  
 53 3<sup>rd</sup> St. N.E.  
 Weyburn, SK S4H 0W1  
 Phone: (306) 848-3870 or  
 1-800-667-8833  
 Fax: (306) 848-3860  
 E-mail: royulmer@hotmail.com



**PHARMACIST WANTED  
 FULL TIME/PERMANENT POSITION**

We offer a very competitive salary, excellent working conditions, comprehensive benefit package and opportunity for advancement.

Current schedule is to work 1 or 2 evenings a week and every 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend. *Meal breaks and coffee breaks are provided.* Benefit package includes dental, orthodontic, glasses and extended medical including prescription coverage. Matching RRSP contributions up to 5%.

Our pharmacy is next to a brand new fully computerized medical clinic. We support new initiative in providing primary health care.

We follow the Pharmaceutical Care model of practice. We support all continuing education, and all Pharmacy Associations. (RBSP, SPhA, and CPhA) We support involvement in your professional associations and taking an active role in advancing your profession.

**Please submit detailed resume  
 indicating salary expectations to:**

Garth Walls, B.S.P.  
 Battlefords & District Co-op Pharmacy  
 North Battleford, Saskatchewan  
 S9A 3W6  
 Fax: (306) 445-1148  
 E-mail: nbcooppharmacy@hotmail.com



**Pharmacy For Sale in Eastern Saskatchewan**

Active community with a hospital and nursing home  
 Good prescription volume  
 Owner wishes to retire

**For further information, please call;  
 The Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association  
 306-584-2292**

**MEMBER RECOGNITION**



**25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE**

On Friday May 24, 2002 Council took the opportunity to recognize and thank Ray Joubert as they commemorated his 25 years of service to the Association. Master of Ceremonies, Margaret Wheaton, Past-President (1993-94) introduced a program of tributes. Memories of his time with the Association were shared with Ray by classmates, SPhA Past-Presidents, Registrars from other provincial jurisdictions and Ray's friends and colleagues. Those in attendance offered Ray their congratulations, best wishes and thanks for his dedication and commitment to the profession of pharmacy and the pharmacists of Saskatchewan.



**10 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE**

During the Awards Luncheon on May 26, 2002, Ray Joubert presented a gift to Pat Guillemain in recognition of 10 years of service as Administrative Assistant. Thanks Pat for your dedication!

**CONGRATULATIONS!  
IT WAS A TERRIFIC SUCCESS!**

If you weren't in Prince Albert for the weekend of May 24-26, 2002 you missed a memorable event, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference hosted by the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists!

The Prince Albert host committee outdid themselves again with a terrific social program held in a variety of venues through-out the area to compliment the continuing education sessions and annual general meetings of both the Board and the SPhA. Please watch for the upcoming issue of RBSP's newsletter *On Your Behalf* for all the Conference highlights.

Congratulations to the Board, Syl Gayowski and his host committee on a job well done! For those unable to attend, don't despair, information about the RBSP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference will be coming your way soon!



**SPHA STAFF**

- Andrea Brockmeyer, Receptionist
- Carla Cramer,  
Communications & Events Coordinator
- Jeanne Eriksen, Assistant Registrar
- Pat Guillemain, Administrative Assistant
- Ray Joubert, Registrar
- Cheryl Klein,  
Senior Administrative Assistant
- Lori Postnikoff, Field Officer

**FRIENDS OF JIM BLACKBURN**



On Monday, June 10, 2002 the "Friends of Dr. Jim Blackburn" gathered at Marquis Hall on the University of Saskatchewan campus to commemorate Jim's lifelong commitment to the profession of Pharmacy. The Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy hosted the evening with Dr. Murray Brown, Executive Director presenting Jim with the **Pillar of Pharmacy Award**. Dr. Blackburn was the first Saskatchewan recipient to receive this award to recognize outstanding contributions to the profession.

One hundred and twenty friends joined Jim, Shirley and family for an evening filled with tributes and memories. With the Master of Ceremony Dr. Gordon Johnson, the evening's program was delivered in four parts: "Jim the Friend" as told by Bruce Schnell of their early days as young boys growing up in Saskatoon, through college as students and then as faculty colleagues; "Jim the Teacher" with stories relayed by Ray Joubert, who shared memories from former students; "Jim the Colleague" presented by Dr. Dennis Johnson who has worked with Jim throughout both of their careers at the U of S; and finally, "Jim the Father/Family Man" presented by his son David and daughter Laurie Dmytryshyn.

Friends of Jim's made the evening a success for the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy as they donated over \$20,000.00 in Jim's name to further the worthwhile work of the Foundation in practice research.

Congratulations to you Jim and to the Foundation for a memorable evening and the friendship we all have enjoyed with you throughout the years. *You truly are a Pillar of Pharmacy!*