

# SCOPE newsletter

QUALITY PHARMACY CARE IN SASKATCHEWAN

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## President's Holiday Message

The holiday season always reminds me of great times, laughter, family and the warmth of friendship. It is a time to celebrate with family and friends, to enjoy past traditions, and to create new ones. The joy of the season reminds me of the wonder and amazement I used to feel as a child. The holiday spirit involves caring for others, taking time to be present with one another, giving, expecting, believing, and embracing the magic of the season. It is a time to reflect on the year that was, and create resolutions for the New Year.



2014-15 President, Spiro Kolitsas

Pharmacy has seen significant practise change over the last few years. The public's need and desire has been towards access of health services, which our profession is well-positioned to deliver. Some of the highlights this year include the expansion of eight more minor ailments in May, the launch and completion of Phase I of the COMPASS™ pilot project, and the introduction of Bill 151. I had the honour of attending the legislature on October 31 for the introduction of Bill 151, an act to amend *The Pharmacy Act, 1996*. The opening of the Act is a significant occasion. The proposed scope of practice will allow pharmacists to administer vaccines and drugs by injection, and to order and interpret lab tests. The changes also authorize the regulation of pharmacy technicians as a new health profession. These are significant initiatives that will help us fulfill our vision of providing quality pharmacy care to the residents of this province. Much of the College's efforts will be in developing regulatory strategies to enable pharmacists to deliver on these initiatives in the year ahead.

My hope is that as a profession, we look at these initiatives and changing times with the same excitement and renewal we have for the holidays and upcoming New Year. I believe the pharmacists of this province have the spirit to deliver on our vision and commitment to quality care for the patients we serve, care for our profession, and care for each other as pharmacy professionals.

I wish to thank Dawn, Christine, and the entire PAS board for their collaborative approach on many of our shared interests.

I would like to thank Ray and the entire staff of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists. Their dedication and professionalism surely leaves Santa and all his helpers in admiration.

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish everyone a joyful holiday season. May you all be blessed with good health, happiness and prosperity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Spiro Kolitsas

## SCP COUNCIL 2014-2015

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Dean Kishor Wasan, Saskatoon

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

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### ANDREA CRAIN (on leave)

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### JEANNE ERIKSEN

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Field Officer

### AUDREY SOLIE

Administrative Assistant

### AMANDA STEWART

Administrative Assistant

### CHERYL WYATT

Administrative Assistant

## Amendments to The Pharmacy Act, 1996

Bill 151, an Act to amend The Pharmacy Act, 1996 is proceeding through the Saskatchewan Legislature. We are expecting that it will be proclaimed into force mid-2015. The Bill amends the Act to, amongst other things, authorize:

- Pharmacists to administer drugs by injection and other routes
- Pharmacists to order, access and use medical laboratory tests, and
- SCP to regulate pharmacy technicians as licensed members practicing in an independent defined scope of practice with title protection.

The Bill can be found on our home page.

In the meantime:

- Planning is underway to train pharmacists to administer drugs by injection, in particular flu vaccinations so that we are ready for the 2015 flu season. Please watch for announcements as these opportunities arise
- We are preparing bylaws to regulate pharmacists administering drugs and ordering, accessing and using medical laboratory tests
- We are preparing bylaws, policies and procedures to regulate pharmacy technicians, and
- We will issue special editions of our newsletter to inform you and seek your feedback early in the new year and throughout 2015 as needed so that we can finalize all of our new bylaws in time for the new legislation to become law.

## Like Santa, Phase II of COMPASS™ is Coming!

The holiday season generally means many of us will be preparing by purchasing gifts for loved ones, hanging stockings, sending out cards, attending Christmas parties, and making delicious meals. Just as with the start of the holiday season, we are all very excited about the start of Phase II of the COMPASS™ (Community Pharmacists Advancing Safety in Saskatchewan) pilot project, which begins in January and will run throughout 2015. Some of the preparations have included recruiting pharmacies and providing training on the COMPASS™ tools.

The target for the second phase of the pilot was to recruit at least 80 community pharmacies. We were overwhelmed by the positive response as Community pharmacies signed up in droves!! A total of 88 community pharmacies were recruited in less than two weeks! This truly speaks to the value and importance that community pharmacy staff place on the safety of both their patients and their medication systems.

The training sessions for Phase II COMPASS™ pharmacies were held in November. For pilot pharmacies that were not able to attend the in-person training sessions, the online version is now available. The online training is currently only available for COMPASS™ pilot pharmacies. We are asking that all pilot pharmacies complete their training by December 21, 2014.

The second phase of COMPASS™ is intended to provide more community pharmacies with an opportunity to use the online safety tools including CPhIR (Community Pharmacy Incident Reporting System), MSSA (Medication Safety Self-Assessment) and the Quality Improvement tool for preparing for and documenting quarterly safety staff meetings. The second phase will also be an opportunity to promote COMPASS™ to the public by developing a visual identifier that can be displayed in each pilot pharmacy. SCP will refine any processes through the feedback we receive from our

Continued on page 3



## VISION

Quality Pharmacy Care in Saskatchewan

## VALUES

Visionary Leadership  
Professionalism  
“Patient First” care  
Accountability  
Effective Communications  
Collaboration, Education

## KEY ACTION AREAS

Increased Public Involvement  
Organizational Structure Review  
Practice Re-design and Regulatory Reform  
Citizenship in the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists (SCP)

pilot pharmacy participants. Assessment tools will be developed for the Field Officers to use during professional practice reviews.

It is important to remember the majority of medical errors, including medication incidents, are made as a result of faulty systems. Therefore, if we can identify those systems or processes that may lead to mistakes, we can significantly reduce errors. The improvement process starts within the pharmacy by working as a team. If patient care processes are developed from our best practices, we can be assured that we are meeting the needs of our patients and ensuring their safety.

Making pharmacy practice safer is the best gift that we can give our patients this holiday season!

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## Sharing Your Good Catches

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As a part of the COMPASS™ pilot project, SCP is asking all pharmacists to share any medication incidents or good catches they think might be of interest to other pharmacists. All pharmacies can participate even if they are not part of the pilot. The incidents can be sent anonymously. Even if they are not sent in anonymously, you can rest assured that no pharmacy names will be used.

You may want to think about starting a “good catch” basket where staff can quickly jot down a catch. Perhaps they can be reviewed at a staff meeting and expanded upon before submitting.

SCP will be posting these catches on our new Facebook group as another way for pharmacy staff to share and learn from each other. This is all part of working to make our pharmacies safer for patients.

For more information or to share an incident or good catch, please contact Jeannette Sandiford at jeannette.sandiford@saskpharm.ca or 306-584-2292, ext. 6.

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## Drug Schedule Amendments

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### Omeprazole

This is to confirm:

#### Schedule I:

*Omeprazole or its salts EXCEPT when sold for the 14-day treatment for frequent heartburn at a daily dose of 20mg, in package sizes of no more than 280mg of omeprazole.*

#### Schedule II:

*Omeprazole or its salts when sold for the 14-day treatment for frequent heartburn at a daily dose of 20mg, in package sizes of no more than 280mg of omeprazole.*

**This means that products containing omeprazole or its salts can only be obtained by prescription (Schedule I) UNLESS it is being sold as a 14-day treatment for frequent heartburn at a daily dose of 20mg, in package sizes of no more than 280mg of omeprazole.**

Omeprazole or its salts when sold in the manufacturer’s package intended for non-prescription sale, for the 14-day treatment for frequent heartburn at a daily dose of

Continued on page 4

20mg, in package sizes of no more than 280mg of omeprazole, is Schedule II and therefore may only be sold by a pharmacist or pharmacy intern when under the direct supervision of a pharmacist from the restricted access area of the pharmacy.

This bylaw change became effective upon the approval of the Minister of Health and the publication in the Saskatchewan Gazette on September 17, 2014.

## Diclofenac Diethylamine

This is to confirm:

### Schedule I:

*Diclofenac or its salts including (but not limited to): diclofenac diethylamine, diclofenac sodium, diclofenac potassium, except when sold as a single medicinal ingredient for topical use on the skin in a concentration equivalent to 2% or less of diclofenac for not more than 7 days.*

This means that products containing **diclofenac or its salts** including (but not limited to): diclofenac diethylamine, diclofenac sodium, diclofenac potassium, except when sold as a single medicinal ingredient for topical use on the skin in a concentration equivalent to 2% or less of diclofenac for not more than 7 days, remains a **prescription only product on Schedule I** and is listed on the Prescription Drug List, Health Canada. Schedule I products **may only be sold by a pharmacist** to the public for human use pursuant to a prescription.

### Schedule II:

*Diclofenac diethylamine when sold as a single medicinal ingredient for topical use on the skin for not more than 7 days - in concentrations greater than 1.16% and less than or equal to 2.32% - in package sizes containing greater than 2.6g of diclofenac diethylamine*

For diclofenac diethylamine when sold as a single medicinal ingredient for topical use on the skin for not more than 7 days - in concentrations greater than 1.16% and less than or equal to 2.32% - in package sizes containing greater than 2.6g of diclofenac diethylamine as a **Schedule II drug products may be sold from the restricted access area of the pharmacy only by a pharmacist or pharmacist intern under the supervision of a pharmacist.**

### Schedule III:

*Diclofenac diethylamine when sold as a single medicinal ingredient for topical use on the skin for not more than 7 days - in concentrations greater than 1.16% and less than or equal to 2.32% - in package sizes containing no more than 2.6g of diclofenac diethylamine.*

This means that products containing diclofenac diethylamine when sold in the manufacturer's package intended for non-prescription sale as a single medicinal ingredient for topical use on the skin in concentrations greater than 1.16% and less than or equal to 2.32% in package sizes no more than 2.6g of diclofenac diethylamine **can only be sold from a pharmacy.**



**They may be sold to the public without a prescription. These drugs may be located in the self-selection area of the pharmacy when a pharmacist is available, accessible and approachable to assist the public with selecting the drug. The Schedule III amendment became effective upon publication in the Saskatchewan Gazette, Friday, December 19, 2014.**

Unscheduled: Diclofenac diethylamine when sold in the manufacturer's package intended for non-prescription sale as a single medicinal ingredient for topical use on the skin in concentrations of not more than 1.16% for not more than 7 days is **Unscheduled and may be sold from any retail outlet.**

## Minoxidil

This is to confirm:

### Schedule I:

*Minoxidil except when sold in preparations for topical use in concentrations of 5% or less.*

This means that minoxidil is a **prescription only product on Schedule I** when sold in preparations for topical use in concentrations above 5% and is listed on the Prescription Drug List, Health Canada. Schedule I products **may only be sold by a pharmacist** to the public for human use pursuant to a prescription.

### Schedule III now has 3 listings for minoxidil:

- *Minoxidil in solutions for topical use in concentrations of 2% or less.*
- *Minoxidil foam for topical use in concentrations of 5% or less for male androgenetic alopecia (male pattern baldness);*
- *Minoxidil foam for topical use in concentrations of 5% or less for female androgenetic alopecia (female pattern hair loss);*

Schedule III: When minoxidil is sold in the manufacturer's package intended for non-prescription sale in solutions for topical use in concentrations of 2% or less, or in a foam dosage form for topical use in concentrations of 5% or less for androgenetic alopecia, products **may be sold to the public without a prescription. These drugs may be located in the self-selection area of the pharmacy when a pharmacist is available, accessible and approachable to assist the public with selecting the drug. The Schedule III amendments became effective upon publication in the Saskatchewan Gazette, Friday, December 19, 2014.**

## eHR Viewer Update



In a continued effort to better support patient care, eHealth Saskatchewan is pleased to inform you that medical imaging reports are now available to healthcare providers through the eHR Viewer. This update to the eHR Viewer was released on October 24, 2014.

The Medical Imaging reports made available in the eHR Viewer will be generated from the Provincial Radiology Information System (RIS). These reports can be found under the Clinical

Documents tab of the eHR Viewer. Please note that only final reports will be available and information is not yet available from private healthcare practices.

At eHealth Saskatchewan, we strive to empower patients and enable care. We look forward to any feedback you may have on this latest enhancement to the eHR Viewer.

Glen Paskiw  
a/Director, Transition & Change Management  
eHealth Saskatchewan

## From the Desk of the Dean

**Dr. Kishor Wasan**

**College of Pharmacy and Nutrition:** *Proud of Our Tradition and Home of Research and Practice Innovation*

In this issue, I am pleased to highlight exciting developments, initiatives and events! For more news, please see our most recent *Dean's Newsletter* at [www.usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition/the-college/deans-newsletter.php](http://www.usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition/the-college/deans-newsletter.php).

**Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice** – Health Minister Dustin Duncan recently introduced legislative amendments to expand that scope of practice for Saskatchewan pharmacists, benefiting residents through more efficient and accessible health care services. Amendments to *The Pharmacy Act, 1996* will recognize the ability of pharmacists to improve health care delivery in the Province, working collaboratively with doctors and other health professionals. [See full story.](#)

**\$5 Million Grant for Nuclear Medicine and Imaging Research** – The Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation at the U of S has committed over \$5 million to build capacity for nuclear medicine and imaging research in Saskatchewan. The grant includes the establishment of a Research Chair in Radiopharmacy in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. [See full story.](#)

**CFP Announces 2014 Innovation Fund Grant** – the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy has announced that **Drs. Jeff Taylor and Kerry Mansell** are the recipients of the prestigious **2014 Innovation Fund Grant** valued at \$46,300. Their project, *Evaluation of Pharmacist Prescribing for Minor Ailments – The Clinical and Economic Value*, will look at the impact of pharmacist intervention into common conditions. [See full story.](#)

**Launch of the Dean's Pharmacist & Dietitians' Celebration Tour** – the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is saying thank you! **Dean Kishor Wasan** will be visiting pharmacists and dietitians throughout the Province to recognize them for their hard work and support of our programs, and provide them with

a copy of our Centennial book *Pharmacy - An Art, a Science, a Profession*. Pictured left to right: Kirsten Bazylak, Kishor Wasan, Ron Mack (owner), Asther Treleven at Brunskill Pharmacy in Saskatoon.



**PharmD Program Retreat** – on November 12 – 14, concentrated on the redesign of the BSP to an entry-level PharmD. Spearheaded by **Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk** and **Professor Emerita Linda Suveges**, who has generously offered her continued involvement and support in the planning, the intensive sessions involved Pharmacy faculty and academic staff, with Barb Evans representing SHR and Kelly Babcock RQHR. Thank you all! Regular updates on PharmD developments will soon be available on the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition website.

**The 10th Annual Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony** – was held on Sunday, October 26, at which time we welcomed over 400 invited guests, family and friends and our honoured Year 1 Pharmacy students. **Dean Kishor Wasan** brought greetings on behalf of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and **Dr. Patti McDougall**, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, from the University. **Julia Bareham**, BSP 2008, provided the keynote address. Many thanks to our sponsors: **Bank of Nova Scotia**, **Pfizer Consumer HealthCare**, and the **Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan** for the generous financial contributions towards the reception following the ceremony, the lab coats, and nametags, respectively.

From all of us at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, warmest wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season and New Year ahead.

Kish Wasan, R.Ph, PhD, FAAPS, FCSPS, FCAHS  
Professor and Dean

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## New! Facebook Group Launch

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The College is excited to have launched a valuable new communications tool in November—the SCP Members' Facebook group. We believe it will be a worthwhile tool for pharmacy professionals to connect and provide collaborative support.

Why a Facebook group? These days, information is fluid and changes rapidly; social media can deliver relevant information quickly to group users. A Facebook group is flexible and interactive – members can comment, ask questions and post information they believe will benefit the community. SCP will also share helpful information, such as educational opportunities and events, and share experiences from our pharmacists involved in the COMPASS pilot program.

The 120+ members group has been set up as a “secret” group available only to members, which allows for up-to-the-minute news and information within a private social media channel. We're encouraging all SCP members to join and to regularly visit the group for events, news and updates, and to get involved in the conversation.

To join the Facebook group, email [cheryl.wyatt@saskpharm.ca](mailto:cheryl.wyatt@saskpharm.ca) or [christina.mcperson@saskpharm.ca](mailto:christina.mcperson@saskpharm.ca) with “Join SCP Members Group” in the subject line. Please include your first and last name, your licence number and a personal email address.

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## Call for Nominations -Member Recognition

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### DEADLINE FOR SCP AWARD NOMINATIONS – JANUARY 31, 2015

The SCP Awards and Honours Committee is calling for nominations for their annual awards. These will be awarded to members who have made a significant contribution to the pharmacy profession and/or community. Begin considering now who you will nominate. Early submissions are appreciated.

You are invited to nominate your colleague(s) and/or yourself for any of these awards. Self-nominations are welcome and accepted for all awards. *Please note that all nominations must be accompanied by a summary of the qualifications consistent with the terms of reference.*

Please [click here](#) for a complete list of awards and criteria, including where to send your nomination form. Forms may be requested from the SCP office, and are also available on the SCP website under [Awards](#).

**While the deadline for receipt of nominations for an SCP Award is January 31, 2015, we are encouraging early submissions. In all cases, the selections must be approved by the SCP Council, following recommendation from the Awards and Honours Committee.**

### SCP CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

The SCP Certificate of Recognition recognizes retiring Presidents, Councillors, and committee members of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists (SCP) for their dedication and contributions to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.

### PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

The Presidential Citation recognizes an SCP member who has made special contributions to pharmacy and/or one outstanding contribution or a specific achievement that has enhanced the profession of pharmacy.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) for Nomination form.

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER AWARD

An Honorary Life Member Award recognizes a member of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists for outstanding contributions to the profession and/or the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary obligations.

An Honorary Life Member Award may be granted in recognition of:

- i) A distinguished record of professional service to the community;
- ii) And/or outstanding contribution to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists;
- iii) And/or a distinguished record of service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists;
- iv) And/or specific achievements that enhanced the profession;
- v) And/or long term service to the profession with a distinguished record.

**Honorary Life members will have their annual personal membership fees waived but remain responsible for all other conditions of membership.**

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) for Nomination form.

## MEMBER EMERITUS STATUS (MESCP)

**Attention Retired SCP Member(s):** Have you previously been a practising or non-practising member of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists in good standing for at least 25 years? If so, you may be eligible to apply for the designation 'Member Emeritus Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists' or 'MESCP'.

Any member on the Retired Register may be designated as a 'Member Emeritus' of the College and may use the designation 'Member Emeritus Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists' or 'MESCP' if they can declare the following:

- a) Have been a practising or non-practising member continually in good standing with the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists or other regulatory body for pharmacists for at least 25 years;
- b) Have not been found guilty of professional misconduct or professional incompetence;
- c) Understand that their name must remain on the Retired Register of the SCP;
- d) Ask that their designation be confirmed by the Awards Committee of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.

NOTE: Where a member is ineligible pursuant to clause (b) herein, Council may, upon receipt of a written request giving reasons, determine that the member is eligible to be designated as a "Member Emeritus".

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) for Nomination form.

## SCP AWARD OF MERIT

Available to the general public, this award recognizes any person, group or organization, who is not a member of the College, and who through their active participation has promoted the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists and/or the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan.

The nominee must have made a special contribution to the SCP either on a local, provincial, or national level.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) for Nomination form.

## HONORARY MEMBER AWARD

Available to the general public, this award recognizes any person for outstanding contributions to the profession and/or the SCP beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary obligations.

An Honorary Member award may be granted in recognition of:

- i) An outstanding single contribution to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists;
- ii) And/or a distinguished record of service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists;
- iii) And/or a single specific achievement that enhanced the profession;
- iv) And/or through long-term service to the profession with a distinguished record.

The nominee must have made a special contribution to the SCP either on a local, provincial, or national level.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) for Nomination form.

## CENTENNIAL PHARMACY AWARD

In 2011, the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists celebrated its Centennial Anniversary. At that time, we invited all pharmacies celebrating their Centennial Anniversary in 2011 or prior to celebrate this milestone alongside the College through the introduction of a Centennial Pharmacy Award. The award continues to be given to those pharmacies who can document their roots back 100 years.

If your pharmacy is celebrating its' centennial year, and your pharmacy's history can be traced back more than 100 years, the College would like to hear from you. Please forward an outline of your pharmacy's history including ownership, key dates and changes. Don't forget to share any outreach or community involvement that your pharmacy has done and/or continues to do.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) for Nomination form.

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## Spread the Word – Vaccinations Work

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**Public Health  
Agency of Canada**

The [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) (PHAC) is happy to inform you that the well-known parent resource entitled *A Parent's Guide to Immunization* (first published in 2009) has been updated and is now ready for distribution.

The *Guide*, renamed to [A Parent's Guide to Vaccination](#), is an effective tool to promote and educate parents of children aged 0-2, about the benefits of immunization. PHAC is asking for help to ensure pregnant women and/or parents of young children are aware of the updated *Guide*.

**Free copies of [A Parent's Guide to Vaccination](#) are available in English and French through 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) and on [Canada.ca/health](#).**

Thank you for your support and help in keeping our children immunized and protected! Your contribution is invaluable.

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## Save the date for the PAS Annual Conference – April 24-26, 2015

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The Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) will be hosting the 2015 PAS Annual Conference on April 24-26, 2015 in Regina at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre. Further information will be posted on the [PAS website](#) as it becomes available.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

#### **SCP 10, 25 & 50 Year Anniversary Recognition Award Reception**

Dinner Buffet  
Friday, April 24, 2015 – 6 p.m.

#### **104th Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, April 25, 2015 – 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.

#### **SCP President's Luncheon**

Saturday, April 25, 2015 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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## Pharmacists' Gateway Canada Program Launched by NAPRA

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NAPRA officially launched the Pharmacists' Gateway Canada in early November of this year. In collaboration with the provincial and territorial Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities, and the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada, NAPRA developed the Gateway to help pharmacists from other countries who want to become licensed in Canada. The website provides useful and up-to-date information about life, and pharmacy practice in Canada. The Gateway was also developed as a starting point for International Pharmacy Graduates (IPGs) to begin the application process. Guiding users through each step of the licensing process, pharmacists can track their ongoing progress and see what they need to do next and where there are gaps.

The Gateway provides the most up-to-date and accurate information about Canadian licensure. When IPGs review all [the topics and links to detailed licensure information](#), they may discover that they are able to complete some of the requirements - such as language training and gathering all of the required documents - before leaving their home country.

The origin of the project stemmed from an identified need by Canada's pharmacy regulatory authorities to offer a national program that aligned requirements for foreign pharmacy

graduates. In 2010, NAPRA successfully obtained financial support from Employment and Social Development Canada (formerly Human Resources and Skills Development Canada) to support the development of the Gateway project. The funding received totalled just over \$4 million dollars.

Although the bilingual Gateway website was available to the public in June 2014, it became fully operational when enrolments began in August 2014. Much like the introduction of other new programs, NAPRA chose a phased-in release of the Gateway before an official launch. Initial feedback received from international pharmacy graduates enrolled in the Gateway is very positive. NAPRA will continuously monitor and improve the program's delivery.

Sources: November 19, 2014 NAPRA [news release](#) & Pharmacists' Gateway Canada [website](#)



National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities  
Association nationale des organismes de réglementation de la pharmacie

## Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Awards



The Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Awards (SHEA) recognizes individuals who through their work as nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physical therapists, dietitians, social workers, volunteers, and other professions have enriched the lives of those they work with and the patients they care for.

Do you know someone who demonstrates exemplary healthcare service in his or her community?

Dr. Roberta McKay, in partnership with AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan, is calling for your nominations for the SHEA award. Nominees could also include: surgeons, scientists, educators, EMTs, and anyone else working in a healthcare related setting.

For more information visit:

<http://www.aidsprogramssouthsask.com/2015-shea-awards.html>

or contact AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan at: (306) 924-8420 or email: [aidsprograms@sasktel.net](mailto:aidsprograms@sasktel.net).

## Vitamin D Dosing



medSask has been informed by an RQHR Public Health Dietician that confusion with different formats of Vitamin D liquid products has led to dosing errors by some clients.

Specifically, some clients have been giving 1 mL doses of the drop formulations to infants and children. Such administration can provide upwards of 40x the intended dose. While this would be difficult to achieve given the packaging, some clients may not be aware of dosing other than as 1 mL; conversely, some clients may under-dose solution formulations by dosing as drops.

When given the opportunity, pharmacists are reminded to highlight appropriate dosage and administration of the selected Vitamin D product, especially for children. Please also be aware new dosage forms such as sprays are entering the market.

| Vitamin D Concentrations | Example Products |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 400 IU/ mL               | D-Vi-Sol         |
| 207 IU/ <b>drop</b>      | Erdol            |
| 400 IU / <b>spray</b>    | Baby D           |
| 400 IU/ <b>drop</b>      | Baby Ddrops      |
| 600 IU/ <b>drop</b>      | Ddrops Booster   |
| 1000 IU / <b>drop</b>    | Ddrops           |





# The world is much brighter for people like us because of amazing people like you!

May your holidays glitter with unforgettable moments  
of happiness, laughter, and good cheer.

Happy holidays from the staff at the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.

Denise Carr, Jeanne Eriksen, Pat Guillemin,  
Ray Joubert, Darlene King, Christina McPherson,  
Heather Neirinck, Lori Postnikoff, Jeannette Sandiford,  
Audrey Solie, Amanda Stewart, Cheryl Wyatt

With gratitude for all your work this past year, we want to specially thank our members  
who freely donated their time and expertise to serve on Council and committees.

May this season bring you gifts of peace, hope and joy.

And to our many partner organizations, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season.

In keeping with the season's spirit of the giving, a donation has been made to the  
Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan in lieu of sending out holiday cards.

## **Holiday Office Schedule**

Closed December 24 at noon until January 2  
Regular office hours resume Monday, January 5  
8 a.m. – noon  
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

# *Happy Holidays!*