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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our 2003 annual general meeting marked the transition from Executive Director Dr. Jim Blackburn to Executive Director Dr. Frank Abbott. I would like to reiterate Past-president Vercaigne's thanks to Jim for his wonderful work on our behalf, and extend a warm welcome to Frank as we look forward to many years of work together.

The annual general meeting in Montreal was held with CCCP this year and registrants attended sessions on student professionalism, promoting civility in pharmacy education, academic honesty and technology in teaching and learning. Our award recipients presented synopses of their work and are to be congratulated on their accomplishments. The conference was attended by Dr. Lucinda Maine, Executive Vice-President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AAPC) who expressed appreciation for the warm welcome extended to her. Dr. Maine noted similarity in the issues facing both our organizations, a fact that was noted by both Frank and myself as we attended and represented AFPC at the AAPC annual meeting in Minneapolis. Issues discussed at the AAPC meeting included recruitment and retention of faculty, professionalism, plagiarism, upgrading preceptor skills, interprofessional learning and many others. AAPC white papers on the

issues of student professionalism, issues in curriculum development and assessment, distance education and the culture of scholarship may be found on the AAPC website.

The work of your council members continues throughout the school year as evidenced by the recent distribution of an updated awards booklet. Several changes have been made to the awards this year under the leadership of the Awards Committee chaired by Lili Wang and supported by past-chair Sylvie Marleau. These individuals were assisted by councilors Jean Lefebvre and Ema Ferreira. I encourage you all to review the awards and submit applications from your faculty or school. The Research Committee, chaired by Mike Namaka will be working closely with the Awards Committee to recognize our research award winners.

The Education Committee, chaired by Zubin Austin, welcomes your input on the curriculum evaluation document found on the AFPC website. This Committee will also be working to support the Conference Planning Committee of UBC in the preparation of our June 2004 annual general meeting which will be held in Vancouver with CSPS.

In addition to the ongoing work of your council members, we look forward to receiving a report from the Task Force on Experiential Education and participating in the Human Resources Development Canada pharmacy manpower study. This year, the midyear meeting of AFPC will focus on strategic and business planning. I would like to thank and recognize all council members for their activity on behalf of the membership of AFPC and would like to especially thank Lavern Vercaigne for his leadership as President over the last year. I look forward to working for AFPC this year and hope to meet many of you at our annual meeting in June 2004.

Susan Mansour

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Your executive director has been traveling these past 2 weeks and as a result, this edition of the AFPC Communication newsletter has been slightly delayed. The Association of Deans of Pharmacy of Canada held its annual meeting in Halifax from October 4 to October 7, 2003. The ravages of hurricane Juan on Halifax were still clearly evident. I was in attendance at the meeting as the executive director. During the visit to Halifax, President Susan Mansour, and ADPC representative, Rita Caldwell and myself met with CAPSI President, Stephen Smith to explore future interactions between our two organizations. At the ADPC business meeting on October 6, President Susan Mansour, ADPC representative Rita Caldwell and myself presented an update of AFPC activities and financial status to the Deans and Directors and received feedback on future directions for the organization. Director Rita Caldwell succeeds Dean Jacques Turgeon as the new President of ADPC and Dean Franco Passutto will take on the role of ADPC representative to AFPC.

You should have received a copy of the 2004 awards booklet by now and if not, please speak to your local AFPC councillor. I have asked the individual councillors to forward communications from this office to their respective faculty member colleagues.

In the September 2003 update from this office, details of the site and dates for next year's conference were given and are repeated here for your reference. A program for the conference should soon follow. In 2004, AFPC will hold its conference in Vancouver in partnership with the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS). The time and place are as follows:

AFPC/CSPS Conference and Symposium
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel
June 9 –13, 2004.

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MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Gerald R. Duncan (1934 – 2003)

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Dr. Gerald Duncan on July 30, 2003. Dr. Duncan was the founding director of the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University.

Dr. Duncan was appointed as the first Director of the School on a part-time basis for 1985-86. During that year, admission requirements and a curriculum were established, together with the general regulations for the new School. The first class was admitted in September 1986. As a full-time Director, for the next two years Dr. Duncan worked diligently with the Pharmacy community and industry to seek funding for construction of facilities in the Health Sciences Centre to house the new School. Under Dr. Duncan's leadership, the physical facilities, faculty complement and student body grew; and the School became well established within the University and Pharmacy community.

Dr. Duncan retired in 1999 and moved to Ontario. He leaves his wife Elinor and two daughters Wendy and Colleen.

Appointments

Dr. Stephanie Young has been appointed as a clinical assistant professor with the School of Pharmacy effective Aug 1, 2003.

Leaves

Dr. Rebecca Law is on sabbatical leave from Sept. 1, 2003 to Aug. 31, 2004.

Dr. Mohamedtaki Kara is on sabbatical leave from Sept. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003.

Individual Faculty News

Dr. Leslie Philips was chosen by the Class of 2003 as the winner of the BMS award for excellence in pharmaceutical teaching. Congratulations!

Dr. Danestlab supervised a local high school student, Tim Loomis, on a research project involving identifying active ingredients in Roman chamomile. The project was the winner of the provincial Aventis Biotech Challenge in 2003.

The GENESIS Group, the technology arm of the technology commercialization arm of Memorial University, signed a significant licensing deal on a technology developed by **Dr. Hu Liu, Dr. Lili Wang** and their research group with BTG International during BIO 2003 in Washington, D.C. in June. The technology developed is a new radio-imaging probe designed to identify plaque lesions associated with atherosclerosis. BTG International is a multi-million dollar organization with operations in Europe and the USA. Under the deal, GENESIS Group will receive up-front payments and royalties on sales of the technology. Researchers and the University share in revenues generated from the commercialization of technologies.

General Faculty News

The new 1+4 curriculum has been developed and has recently been approved by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUGS). The School will admit its first 1+4 class in Sept., 2004. The School has implemented its new admissions process which includes a behavioral interview.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Academic Appointments

Carol Chamberlain (Year II), Sue Sampson (Year III), Kim Sponagle (Year IV) and Kathy Walsh (Year 1) joined the faculty as Skills Lab Coordinators.

Resignations

Dr. Robert Drobitch resigned his position as Assistant Professor effective October 2003 and has accepted a position in the United States.

Individual Faculty News

Ingrid Sketris has been invited to serve as a member of the Institute Advisory Board (IAB) for the CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research for a term of three years beginning September 1, 2003.

Pollen Yeung served as an External examiner for Ph.D. thesis defence for Panteha Khalili of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (Thesis title: "Pharmacokinetics and Biochemical Evaluations of Novel Synthetic Pyrimidine Nucleoside Analogues". Supervisor Drs. Leonard Wiebe and Edward E. Knaus) (June, 2003)

Tannis Jurgens presented: "Herbal products and the hospital pharmacist" at the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists 56th Annual AGM and Educational Sessions. St. John's, NL, Aug 17, 2003.

Tannis Jurgens presented "Herbal-drug interactions: what's the clinical relevance?" to the Nova Scotia Branch

of Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacist. Continuing Education Day. Halifax, NS, May 3, 2003.

Tannis Jurgens presented "Commonly used herbal medicines: evidence and safety" at the Dalhousie Continuing Medical Education Videoconference. Halifax, NS, April 16, 2003.

Neil MacKinnon was a speaker at the CPhA AGM Opening Plenary Session in Vancouver, BC on June 1, 2003. His presentation was titled: "Chronic Drug Therapy: A Double-Edged Sword". The other speakers included Stephen Lewis, Robin Tamblyn and the Hon. Anne McLellan.

Neil MacKinnon presented: "The Pandemic of Preventable Drug-Related Morbidity: Our Medication Use System in Crisis" at the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Annual General Meeting, St. John's, NL, August 2003.

Ingrid Sketris, Fisk J, Brown, MG, McLean-Veysey P. 2003. The Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of New Multiple Sclerosis Drugs in the 'Real World'. Workshop held in conjunction with the Canadian Association for Population Therapeutics meeting, Quebec City, April 1.

Ingrid Sketris, Kilcher A. 2003. Mentorship: Fostering Workplace Vitality. Gladys J. Sharpe Lectureship, McMaster University. May 14.



New Grants and Awards

Nicole Hartnell is completing an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. at Dalhousie University. Neil MacKinnon is her supervisor and Ingrid Sketris is on her committee. Nicole received a NSHRF student award and is the first ever recipient of The Quest: The John Reudy Award. This NSHRF award is "presented to the student researcher who demonstrates the greatest promise and potential for excellence in health research."

David Jakeman and Jonathan Blay received an operating grant award from the Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation for a project titled "Novel Anticancer Antibiotics for Potentially Improved Treatments of Breast Cancer"

David Jakeman and Pollen Yeung (co-applicants) received a CIHR/Cancer Care Nova Scotia Cancer/NCIC Training Program Grant for the project titled "An integrated cancer research training initiative in Nova Scotia" (Johnston, Gerald C: Principle applicant, Department of Microbiology)

Tannis Jurgens, Anne Marie Whelan and David Gardner received a research grant from the Pharmacy Endowment Fund for the project: "A pilot study to evaluate the utility of a new tool for the critical appraisal of randomized controlled trials of natural health products."

Ingrid Sketris along with Principal Investigator: Dr. Renee Lyons and other Co-Investigators: Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw, Dr. Stephen Phillips, Dr. Gordon Gubitz, Dr. Kevin Willis, Dr. Stan Jones, Dr. Frank Silver, Dr. Rejean Landry, Dr. Edmund Harrison, Christine O’Callaghan, Jane Farquharson, Mary Lewis, Katherine Lafferty, Jeff Gushue, Sandra Crowell, Malcolm Shookner, Lynn Langille received a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for the project “*Canadian Stroke Network. Health System Utilization of Stroke Research: A Program of Research and Infrastructure Development.*”

Major Visitors

Dr. Lisa Nissen, School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland was awarded the Young Pharmacist of the Year Award at the Pharmacy Australia Congress. Dr. Nissen visited the IMPART (Initiative for Medication Management, Policy Analysis, Research and Training) unit at the College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University from April-May, 2003.

Dr. Steve Chapman, Professor of Prescribing Studies, Head, Dept. of Medicines Management, Keele University, England was the keynote speaker at a workshop held at the College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University, June 12-13, 2003. The workshop was entitled: “Developing Prescribing Profiles for Physicians and Health Authorities”.

Education Corner

Ingrid Sketris, of the College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University and Ann Kilcher developed a mentoring resource book to assist with mentoring new faculty and researchers. This Mentoring Resource Book provides information on mentoring and a few tools for structuring the mentoring process and a mentoring relationship. It is designed for educators, researchers, and decision makers involved in guiding the next generation of health services researchers. Mentoring is defined and contrasted with other support roles (sponsorship, preceptorship, collegial sharing, coaching). The purposes of mentoring for both individuals and organizations are explained, the phases and stages of the mentoring relationship are described, and qualities and characteristics of mentors are presented. Various perspectives on mentoring functions, roles, and activities are explored. Alternative approaches and strategies for mentoring (peer mentoring, support groups, external mentors, and multiple mentors) are also discussed. The similarities and differences between informal and formal mentoring relationships are explained. Both the potential problems or dark side of mentoring (dysfunctional mentoring and toxic mentors) and the benefits (for proteges, mentors, and organizations) of successful mentoring are presented. A number of mentoring tools and strategies are provided to structure conversations and meetings between mentors and proteges. A comprehensive reference list is also available.

For further information contact Jocelyn LeClerc at (902) 494-3892 or email: jocelyn.leclerc@dal.ca



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Appointment

Dr Sheryl Zelenitsky at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba has been appointed:

Chair, Infectious Diseases - Specialty Practice Network (ID-PSN),
Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, 2003-2004



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Appointments

Dr. Jian Yang joined the faculty in September as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, following completion of a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Rosenstiel Basic Medical Sciences Research Centre, Brandeis University. Dr. Yang is a protein crystallographer who will bring valuable expertise to research opportunities using the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. He will teach in the medicinal/biophysical chemistry areas.

Dr. Gord McKay has been elected President of the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Individual Faculty News

Dean Dennis Gorecki, on behalf of the College and the University, signed a *Letter of Intent for Scholarly Exchange and Collaboration* with President Masanori Sakamoto of the Meiji Pharmaceutical University on September 3 in Tokyo, Japan. The agreement will provide exciting opportunities for exchange of students, faculty members and research scholars, joint

research activities, and exchange of scientific materials and information.

The Graduating Class of 2003 has awarded the Bristol-Myers Squibb Excellence in Teaching Award to **Dr. Shannan Neubauer**. This is the third time that Dr. Neubauer has been presented with this award.

Prof Bev Allen received the CPhA Meritorius Service Award in June. Well done Bev.

General Faculty News

The Golden Suppository Golf Classic

The College's annual "fun-raising" event was held on July 25th. The proceeds are used to support the College's Research Trust Fund to assist graduate student and new faculty research projects. This year's tournament raised in excess of \$20,000. The College wishes to acknowledge and express its appreciation to the various companies and individuals who have helped make this tournament the fun and success it is.



Grants

2003-2004 Rx&D/CIHR Graduate Research Scholarship in Pharmacy. M. Tait (Supervisor, E.S. Krol).

2003-2004 Rx&D/CIHR Graduate Research Scholarship in Pharmacy (renewal). D. Nicolay (Supervisor, A.J. Nazarali).

2004-2007 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Discovery Grant Program. "Toxicity and Biological Reactivity of Naturally Occurring Polyphenols". E.S. Krol.

2004-2007 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Discovery Grant Program. "Gastrointestinal Organic Acid Production, Absorption, Metabolism and Excretion". G.A. Zello (co-applicant J. Naylor).

2004-2007 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Discovery Grant Program. "Postnatal Maturation of Cytochrome P450 2E1 and Glutathione-S-transferase Enzyme Activity: Correlation with Hepatotoxicity and Genotoxicity". J. Alcorn.

2003 Bioriginal Food and Science Corporation Grant. "Acceptability and Laxative Effects of a Fiber-Containing Supplement". S.J. Whiting.

2003-2005 Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Establishment Grant. "P-Glycoprotein Expression in Rat Mammary Epithelial Cells During Pregnancy and Lactation: Implications and Mechanisms". J. Alcorn.

2003 Canadian Home Economics Association 50th Anniversary Scholarship. W. Dahl.

Student News

Mr. Shawn Babiuk successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled, "Delivery of Polynucleotides and Oligonucleotides for Improving Immune Responses to Vaccines", April 2003 (Supervisor, M. Foldvari).

Ms. Tijana Dautbegovic successfully defended her M.Sc. thesis entitled, "Chemo-botanic Profiling of Marihuana", April 2003 (Supervisor, G. McKay).

Mr. Wei Zhang successfully defended his M.Sc. thesis entitled, "Temporal and Spatial Expression of Hoxa2 Gene in the Developing Mouse Palate and the Effects of Valproic Acid on Hoxa2 Expression during Murine Palatogenesis", May 2003 (Supervisor, A.J. Nazarali).

Ms. Janet Bell successfully defended her M.Sc. Thesis entitled, "Nutritional Influences on Net Acid Excretion", July 2003 (Supervisor, S.J. Whiting).

Mr. Jayaum Booth successfully defended his M.Sc. Thesis entitled, "In Vitro Characterization of Hoxd1 Homeodomain Protein Binding Kinetics to a Region

of the Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein Promoter", August 2003 (Supervisor, A.J. Nazarali).

Mr. Brian Quinn successfully defended his M.Sc. thesis entitled, "Effects of Selenium on Selenoproteins and Brain Damage after Ischemia in Gerbils", August 2003 (Supervisor, P.G. Paterson).

Wendy Dahl (PhD student in Nutrition) recently published results of her dietary fibre intervention in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association. A press release on this work issued by the U. of S. was picked up across Canada.

Joan Bobyn and Julia Ewaschuk (both PhD students in Nutrition) were top finalists in the Canadian Society for Nutritional Sciences Graduate student competition, held in Ottawa at the annual CFBS meeting. Julia was first place and Joan third. Eight students from across Canada were chosen for the competition.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Awards

Nancy Rae was selected by the graduating class of 2003 the award recipient of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. John Bachynsky received the first ever Pharmacist's Association of Alberta Distinguished Service to Pharmacy Award at the President's Dinner on Sept. 26/03.

C. Allyson Jones, PT, Ph.D. received the Merck/AGS New Investigator Award. She is a post-doctoral fellow for Dr. David Feeny.

Promotions

Ross Tsuyuki has been promoted to a Full Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

General Faculty News

U of A has been successful in receiving a continual grant from the provincial government to increase enrollment from 110 to 130 students/year. The

increase will take effect immediately in a phased in fashion and will reach the full target by 2006. The extra budget will be used to hire more staff and improve facilities. During the summer break, the Pharmacy Practice Lab underwent a major renovation supported by a FAR grant from the University of Alberta. The new facility will allow improved ability for instruction and for the students to practice pharmaceutical care.

The University has struck a Dean Review Committee since the initial term of Dean Franco Pasutto will be completed in the upcoming year.

Faculty members have worked together to prepare the self study assessment for the Accreditation visit in November.

Two grad students from Toho University in Japan spent 5 weeks in Alberta doing clinical experience. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of further collaborations.

Presentations

Dr. Cheryl Weins presented three posters at the American Geriatric Society meeting in May. The first two posters were in the Presidential Poster Competition. Undergraduate student Tamar Koleba received one of the AGS Studentship Bursaries to attend the meeting. Her poster (below) was in the Presidential Poster Competition.

- T Koleba, Wiens CA, Jones A, Feeny DH. Initial steps toward developing an instrument to assess awareness of risk factors for falls in an elderly community dwelling population. [abstract P486] J Am Geriatr Soc 2003;51(Suppl 4):S206.
- Wiens CA, Jones A, Feeny DH, McAlister F. Prospective study of pharmaceutical management of pain in patients with hip fracture. [abstract P573] J Am Geriatr Soc 2003;51(Suppl 4):S236.
- Jones A, Feeny D, Wiens C, Cinats J, Dick D, Johnston D. Health related quality of life and functional recovery after hip fracture in a population based cohort. [abstract P133] J Am Geriatr Soc 2003;51(Suppl 4):S88.

Dr. Anita Carrie presented a poster entitled "Use of intravenous antibiotics in outpatients with community-acquired pneumonia in emergency rooms

in Alberta, Canada" at the 43rd Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in September, at Chicago, IL

Professor Stephanie Adamic presented the third year Cough and Cold Video Assignment at the Non-Prescription Medicine Academy in Cincinnati, Oh. sponsored by Proctor and Gamble.

Grants

Dr. Knaus, Drs. El-Kadi and Dr. Lavasanifar were successful in their application to AHFMR representing matching funds for a CFI award to for an LC-MS system.

Dr. Samuel from CIHR -Nanoparticle delivery of cancer vaccines to dendritic cells for modulation of T cell-mediated immune responses-

Drs. Wiebe and Dr. Knaus from CIHR -Mimics of pyrimidine nucleosides and their kinase-bypass analogues as diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals: Biochemistry and pharmacokinetics.

Dr. Anita Carrie received a grant from the Institute of Health Economics to study the "treatment of community acquired pneumonia".



Graduate Student Awards

Praveen Perampalli Nekkar (supervisor: Dr. Edward E. Knaus) was awarded the Dissertation Fellowship at the University of Alberta. Praveen was one of six nominations submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in the recent General Awards competition. He was also awarded an AHFMR Studentship in the March 1st competition.

The following graduate students were awarded Rx & D Health Research Foundation/CIHR Graduate Research Scholarships in Pharmacy commencing July 1, 2003:

- John Clements (supervisor: Dr. F. Jamali)
- Samar Hamdy (supervisor: Dr. J. Samuel)
- Trent Bjorndahl (supervisor: Dr. D. Wishart)

Also, continued funding has been approved from the Rx & D Health Research Foundation/CIHR (Graduate Research Scholarships) for:

- Praveen Elamanchili (supervisor: Dr. J. Samuel)
- Spencer Ling (supervisor: Dr. F. Jamali)

Undergraduate student awards - Summer Research Studentships

- Ms. Somayeh Sattari (supervisor: Dr. D. Brock) 2003 National Undergraduate Summer Student Research Program (sponsored by The Merck Company Foundation and the University of British Columbia)
- Mr. Kelvin Leung (supervisor: Dr. M.R. Suresh) Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Summer Studentship
- Ms. Karen Tang (supervisor: Dr. J. Mercer) Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Summer Studentship
- Ms. Anita Lai (supervisor: Dr. S. McQuarrie) Rx & D Health/CIHR Summer Research Studentship
- Mr. Edward Wong (supervisor: Dr. J. Mercer) Rx & D Health/CIHR Summer Research Scholarship
- Ms. Kelly Wills (supervisor: Dr. A. El-Kadi) CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award
- Mr. Murtaza Hassanali (supervisor: Dr.D. Wishart) CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award
- Ms. Mehmoush Sohrabirad (supervisor: Dr. L.I. Wiebe) CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award
- Mr. Dactin Tran (supervisor: Dr. J. Mercer) CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award



TAKING NOTE

CPHA REPORT



CANADIAN
PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DES
PHARMACIENS
DU CANADA

I am pleased to report on CPhA's Board of Directors meeting May 30-31, 2003, which preceded the annual conference in Vancouver. From top notch speakers such as Health Minister Anne McLellan, Rex Murphy and Stephen Lewis, to useful continuing education sessions and provocative discussion on today's issues such as international prescription pharmacy services, prescribing by pharmacists and direct-to-consumer advertising, there was something for everyone. Moreover, great social events and the beautiful city of Vancouver resulted in another outstanding CPhA conference. If you were not able to attend the conference this year, mark your calendars for May 15-18, 2004 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

New Practitioner Members

As usual, there was no shortage of issues for Board members to tackle. Of utmost importance were the recommendations from the Working Group on Generational Issues established in October 2002 to study how generational issues affect CPhA membership

and to make recommendations concerning a new practitioner Board member. As is the case with other professional associations with individual memberships, members' ages range from the 20s to 70s. What is also apparent is that this age range covers distinctly different generations of individuals who have unique values, beliefs, issues and practices. A "one size fits all" approach is not the wisest structure for an organization in today's environment. To respond, CPhA will be investigating and launching a number of initiatives to make itself more relevant to new practitioner members

The Board also agreed to establish a new practitioner membership category for pharmacists who have been licensed to practice pharmacy in Canada not more than five years and to elect a Board member from this constituency to take office in May 2004. Bylaws and regulations to enable this change were approved by the Board and subsequently at the Annual General Meeting in June 2003.

Board Member Communication

Another membership issue of concern to the Board is the need to develop opportunities for greater involvement of Board members with their constituents. Board members are well aware that they need to communicate with pharmacy leaders and others in their constituencies about what CPhA is doing to benefit all pharmacists. Plans are underway to help Board members explore ways in which interested pharmacists can become involved with their national association.

Call to Action

One important way for members to become involved is through political action. The benefits of educating government officials on the role of the pharmacist

cannot be overstated. CPhA has worked hard to advocate for an expanded role for Canadian pharmacists, and now is the time to solidify the gains pharmacists have made. As pharmacists, we need to turn our attention to government to help it create policy to reflect our potential and to turn policy into programs that benefit the public through better use of our services. If you are interested in this area, please contact me or Debra Yearwood, CPhA's Director of Government Affairs, (dyearwood@pharmacists.ca); for more information, visit the CPhA website: http://www.pharmacists.ca/content/about_cpha/whats_happening/government_affairs/index.cfm.



International Prescription Services

Because of the increasing frequency with which some Canadian pharmacies are using the Internet to market their services for dispensing prescription medications for export to citizens of the United States and other countries, CPhA's Board has worked on a position statement titled "International Prescription Services and Distance Provision of Pharmaceuticals". A draft of the statement was circulated to other organizations in Canada and internationally this spring.

At the Board meeting, a position statement was approved that states that such services must comply with legal and regulatory requirements and meet standards of practice. It also recognizes that a relationship between the patient and pharmacist is essential for optimal medication management and to ensure that patients understand how to use their medications correctly and effectively. CPhA recognizes that the distance provision of pharmacy services can benefit Canadians, particularly those who live in rural and remote areas with limited access to a pharmacy. CPhA opposes international prescription services where the patient does not have a relationship with the pharmacist and the prescriber and where such services violate laws in the jurisdiction in which the patient resides. To view the statement, visit http://www.pharmacists.ca/content/about_cpha/who_we_are/policy_position/policy.cfm?policy_id=1.

CPhA Activities

As members of the Board, we are updated regularly on CPhA's activities, from government relations to e-publications to research initiatives. With so much happening, it is difficult to even scratch the surface in this short newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more about our achievements, be sure to view CPhA's 2002-2003 Annual Report on the website: http://www.pharmacists.ca/content/about_cpha/who_we_are/annual_report/index.cfm.

Election Results

I would like to congratulate Bernd Staeben as he takes over the office of president from Donna Kowalishin. Congratulations also go to Garth McCutcheon who was elected president-elect, to vice presidents Stephen Graham, George Murray and Brian Stowe and to all new members of the Board elected in 2003.

All members of the Board look forward to the year ahead and its challenges. It is important to keep you informed on the activities of the Board; of equal importance is your feedback on CPhA's activities and directions that you would like me to pursue on your behalf. Please contact me with any comments, questions or concerns.

Linda Suveges
linda.suveges@usask.ca

Contributors

Susan Mansour, President
<vercaig@ms.Umanitoba.ca>
AFPC Councillors:
Yvonne Shevchuk, U of S
<Yvonne.Shevchuk@usask.ca>
Jean Lefebvre, U Laval
<Jean.Lefebvre@crchul.ulaval.ca>
Sheila Kelcher, U of A
<skelcher@pharmacy.ualberta.ca>
Simon Albon, UBC
<trout@unixg.ubc.ca>
Zubin Austin, U of T
<zubin.austin@utoronto.ca>
Anne Marie Whelan, Dalhousie U
<anne.marie.whelan@dal.ca>
Ema Ferreira, U de Montr al
<ema.ferreira@umontreal.ca>
M.P. Namaka, U of M
<namakamp@ms.umanitoba.ca>
Lili Wang, Memorial U
<lwang@pharm.mun.ca>
Frank Abbott, Executive Director
<fabbott@interchange.ubc.ca>
<fabbott@telus.net>
Linda Suveges, AFPC Representative,
CPhA Board of Directors
<linda.suveges@usask.ca>

Editor

Rebecca M. Law, Memorial U of
Newfoundland
<rlaw@pharm.mun.ca>
