Even though our very warm fall would suggest otherwise, winter really is right around the corner! It’s a “new” CSHP year, and we have new council members to introduce you too. As well, Council has already been busy with advocacy, and I encourage you to read about our efforts on your behalf.

If you have any suggestions for our newsletter, please let me know!

Tania Mysak
Membership & Communications Chair

CSHP 2015 Update!

CSHP 2015 consists of specific goals and objectives aimed at improving patient safety and medication outcomes through pharmacy practice excellence, by the year 2015.

The CSHP national on-line survey to pharmacy leaders across Canada to collect information and opinions about the CSHP 2015 initiative was distributed to Alberta Hospital Pharmacy Leaders, October 25, 2009. The survey is designed to help gauge how individual facilities are progressing to achieve the goals and objectives of this 2015 initiative, and to obtain feedback on interests and priorities related to the project.

Submitted by: Lori Romonko-Slack, CSHP 2015 Alberta Branch Champion

“Communicating with Our Membership”

ISSUE #5; WINTER 2009

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Meet Your New Council Members

Our recent AGM in October brought some new faces to council; here’s a brief introduction for those of you who don’t know us!

Awards Chairperson: Karen Leask
Karen graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2004 and completed her hospital residency at St. Joseph’s Healthcare in Hamilton Ontario in 2005. Following her residency Karen worked at McMaster hospital in the areas of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Drug Information and Internal Medicine before moving to Red Deer where she currently works on a Medical Telemetry unit. In her spare time Karen runs and recently completed her first half marathon. She also enjoys downhill skiing, traveling and reading.

CSHP 2015 Alberta Branch Champion: Lori Romonko Slack
I’ve been with Alberta Health Services (AHS), Calgary Zone since 1988, starting out as a clinical pharmacist in geriatrics and moving into management in 1996. Although in management since 1996, I still proudly maintain a small clinical practice in inpatient geriatrics. My current role with AHS is as Clinical Practice Manager - South. Together with Tania Mysak, Clinical Practice Manager – North, I provide leadership that supports the development of a framework for continuous pharmacist practice development, integration of pharmacists and pharmacy support staff into patient care teams, and

Congratulations to the PPC Travel Award Winners for 2009

Tyler Higgins
Ilze Schwartz
Thank you to PPC for their continued sponsorship of this award!

In Memory of Dr. Dario Alberton

This fall, CSHP-AB lost a valued member and the profession of pharmacy lost a passionate leader with the passing of Dr. Dario Alberton.

Dario was born in Italy and raised in Kamloops, BC. He completed his BScPharm at UBC, and then completed general and specialized critical care residencies in Washington, USA. After completing his PharmD at UBC, Dario joined the former Capital Health Region as a Clinical Practice Leader in 2006.

Dario’s clinical practice was in the Intensive Care Unit of the University of Alberta Hospital where he was a valued member of the care team. Dario also lectured at the Faculty of Pharmacy and was involved with the Capital Health pharmacy residency program.

Dario was a teacher, mentor, leader and friend to the numerous pharmacists he worked with during his short time with us. Dario’s office door was always open, and the “5th floor pharmacists” will be forever grateful for his readiness to help work out a complex case or just chat about whatever.

To recognize Dario’s passion for his profession of choice and his leadership within that profession, a memorial fund will be established at the UBC Faculty of Pharmacy to assist future pharmacists achieve their goals.

Hospital pharmacy in Alberta also lost a friend in Eva Predy, who although not a CSHP member, was a great hospital pharmacist with a passion for safety and quality. Donations in Eva’s name can be made to the University of Alberta Hospital Foundation.

Dario and Eva will be greatly missed.
Plan to Attend Banff Seminar...March 19-21, 2010!

Registration will open in January 2010, but if you want to be notified when this occurs, please register at www.eplyevents.com/savethedatebanff and you will receive an email notification when registration opens. Early bird registration is available until February 20, 2010.

For more information contact:
Margaret Gray: margaret.gray@albertahealthservices.ca
or Ann Thompson: ann.thompson@albertahealthservices.ca

Information also available at www.cshp-ab.ca under News and Events/Banff Seminar

Keeping Current: New Articles of Interest to Hospital Pharmacists

Courtesy of the AB Branch Education Committee


Preliminary Banff Program “Sneak Preview”

The Banff Conference brochure should be available in December, but here is a preview of some of the sessions:

PANEL DISCUSSION: Entry level vs. Traditional PharmD
(Dean James Kehrer, University of Alberta, Vice-Dean Chantal Pharand, Université de Montréal, and Dean David Hill, University of Saskatchewan)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (2 OPTIONS)
Talk About It!-Epilepsy Awareness, the Pharmacist's Perspective - Curtis Claassen
Antimicrobial Stewardship: Targeting Strategies to Optimize Antimicrobial Utilization – Margaret Gray

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS
Pain Management in the Elderly - Pat Mayo
Clinical Pharmacy Support Technician – Vincent Mabasa, Tricia Nicholls
Depression: Are the antidepressant treatment options getting you down? – Sue Corrigan

PANEL DISCUSSION "5 Students with 1 Preceptor: No, We Are Not Crazy". – Adrienne Lindblad, Cheryl Cox, Rosaleen McLarney

Meet Your New Council (Continued)

true collaborative approaches to patient care. In my spare time I enjoy traveling, hiking, camping and cycling. This is my first year on Council with CSHP-AB and I look forward to the experience.

Secretary: Christine (Roth) Maslanko
I recently graduated from the University of Alberta Pharmacy program and completed a year of residency at the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre. My residency year provided me with valuable hospital experiences and learning opportunities that I am now able to apply to my position at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital. As I participate on the Internal Medicine team, I am continually challenged to improve my clinical knowledge and skills. I was excited to accept the secretary position on the Alberta branch CSHP council because it afforded me the opportunity to interact and learn from colleagues and participate in and contribute to the continued development of our profession in the hospital setting. I look forward to a stimulating and rewarding year!

Student Rep: Tara Barber
I am a third year pharmacy student at the UofA and am originally from Calgary. This is my first year on council with CSHP-AB where I will be serving as the Alberta Pharmacy Students’ Association representative. I am very much looking forward to working with the other members of council and hope to use my role to promote the practice setting of hospital pharmacy to my peers. I have spent the last two summers working as a pharmacy student at Rockyview hospital in Calgary, where I have had many great experiences. Outside of school, I love being outdoors camping and hiking or taking advantage of Edmonton’s fabulous river valley. I also enjoy playing basketball and soccer and watching football and hockey. I’m very excited that one of my two favourite teams played in the Grey Cup! Go Stamps/RoughRiders! *Editorial note: by now, we all know how that game ended. For all of the BSPs out there, let’s hope for better things next year! TM
Education Chair: Dalyce Zuk

Dalyce is embarking on her first year with council as CSHP-AB Education Committee chair. Dalyce completed an undergraduate pharmacy degree at the University of Alberta in 2005 and undertook a residency with the formerly known Capital Health Region before pursuing a PharmD degree at the University of British Columbia. After its completion in 2008, Dalyce returned to the University of Alberta to commence a two-year post-doctoral clinical pharmacotherapy practice fellowship in the area of solid organ transplant. Dalyce is looking forward to the upcoming council year and the possibility of some new educational opportunities for members.

Meet Your New Council (Continued)

Greetings from CSHP-AB Council!

I would like to extend greetings to all CSHP-AB members on behalf of the new Council, which was instated at the recent Annual General Meeting in October in Edmonton. The Branch now has over 500 members, and so represents a strong voice for pharmacy in Alberta. CSHP-AB Council has responsibility to ensure the Branch runs smoothly now and into the future, member benefits are provided, the advancement of our profession is supported and advocated, and we have strong ties to external groups. The new and returning Council members are looking forward to a productive year working on your behalf.

Ian Creurer, CSHP-AB President 2009-2010
(External Portfolio)
Liaison with External Organizations

CSHP-AB/ Alberta College of Pharmacist Joint Executive Officer meeting

The executive of these two organizations met on 12 November 2009. Strategic priorities were discussed and compared, common objectives were identified, and ideas for collaboration were discussed. Pharmacist prescribing is the subject of CSHP’s advocacy campaign scheduled for launch in early 2010 and is one of ACP’s key priorities. The two organizations will work together to advance this important objective. Scope of practice and experiential education precepting are two other areas of common interest.

Submitted by: Ian Creurer, President (External)

Advocacy Efforts

CSHP Response to the Minister’s Advisory Committee on Health

A joint response from CSHP-AB and CSHP (National) was developed and submitted to this committee, which has a mandate to advise the Minister on a new legislative framework to better support patient and family-centred care and improve health system performance.

Detailed commentary was provided on the seven principles and nine themes proposed, and areas for further consideration were suggested (financial sustainability and human resources). CSHP practice standards, guidelines, position statements, information papers and practice initiatives were cited extensively. Key messages incorporated included CSHP 2015 goals and objectives, full scope of practice and impediments that exist, patient safety, interprofessional practice and learning, and accessibility to medications.

Input from Branch members was solicited and incorporated. The response will be posted on the CSHP website in the near future. For additional information, please contact Ian Creurer at ian.creurer@albertahealthservices.ca

Pharmacist Role in Patient Safety - 2009

This campaign was launched in late 2009. Due to challenges in identifying key stakeholders in Alberta due to the change to Alberta Health Services, distribution of the stakeholder letter has been delayed. A number of initiatives for local advancement of this campaign have been identified, including news bulletins in ACP and RxA publications, and will be instituted once the stakeholder notification is complete. A copy of the stakeholder letter, two excellent background papers, and a related statement are all posted on the CSHP National website, and members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these. They can be found at: http://www.cshp.ca/advocacy/campaigns/patSafety_e.asp

Pharmacist Prescribing – 2010

This campaign is due to be launched in early 2010. Materials will be posted at a later date, but in the meantime members are encouraged to review the new Prescribing by Pharmacists Statement in the Official Publications section of CSHP National’s website.


For further information on advocacy activity, please contact President (External) Ian Creurer at ian.creurer@albertahealthservices.ca or Alberta representative on the national Advocacy Committee, Mark Snaterse at mark.snaterse@albertahealthservices.ca.
A Special Thank You To The Sponsors of the 2009 CSHP AB Branch AGM

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