

# Sixty Years Old . . . and Aging Well

Myrella Roy

Not me . . . CSHP! This year, CSHP will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of its first meeting, held in Toronto on December 5, 1947, and attended by 17 hospital pharmacists. This upcoming milestone led me to pause in front of the framed CSHP charter, signed on March 6, 1950, which hangs prominently in the conference room at our head office in Ottawa. I was struck by the early feminization of the profession—a majority of the charter's signatories were women—and by how the “purposes and objects” set then have stood the test of time. Read on to see how CSHP's accomplishments of the past year can be nicely sorted according to these 4 “purposes and objects”.

*To improve and extend the usefulness of hospital pharmacists to the institution which they serve and the profession of pharmacy in general*

One major achievement was the speedy recovery from the abolition, without advance notice, of the hospital pharmacy residency matching system by our original provider. Within 3 months of the devastating news, we had hired a designer and launched a custom-made, Web-based software program to match and notify applicants and Canadian hospital pharmacy residency programs of their most preferred position, just in time for the next matching cycle. CSHP also introduced a new corporate membership category providing a set of products and services of value to pharmacies of hospitals and regional health authorities as corporate partners.

*To provide a means by which pharmaceutical information can be conveyed to hospital pharmacists*

One of our most important means of conveying information to hospital pharmacists, the *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, now has a 6-year strategic business plan which will serve to guide the renewal of the Journal. Already you may have noticed new columns in the Journal and more timely delivery of your hard

copies. Less conspicuous to readers will be the enhanced support to authors, editors, reviewers, and CSHP's Publications Administrator through recently installed Web-based software for manuscript submission and editorial management.



You may remember that, in 2004, the Professional Practice Conference (PPC), another important mode of communication, was held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto. Although this was to be an exceptional occurrence while the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel was undergoing renovations, we heard from members that they preferred the new venue . . . and we listened. We have successfully negotiated the cancellation of the last 3 years of a 5-year contract with the Westin without any penalty, and the PPC will move permanently to the Sheraton starting in 2008.

A new brochure featuring the CSHP Research and Education Foundation was released in fall 2006. It will help the Foundation to solicit donations to fund the development of research skills among practising hospital pharmacists, as well as research projects and targeted pharmacy education programs undertaken by members of CSHP.

*To endeavour to make pharmacy an important part of the program of health services in Canada*

After participating in a workshop on advocacy and communications with the media and the government at the end of February, members of CSHP Council, the Advocacy Committee, and staff conducted 2 major advocacy campaigns, one on the demands for experiential training of pharmacy students and the other on the need to plan for succession in hospital pharmacy manage-

ment. They also drew on their advocacy training to respond in Ontario to Bill 102, *An Act to Amend the Drug Interchangeability and Dispensing Fee Act* and the Ontario Drug Benefit Act; in Newfoundland to the critical shortage of hospital pharmacists; and in Manitoba to Bill 41, *The Pharmaceutical Act*.

The Society participated in several consultations and provided feedback to a variety of stakeholders: the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (strategic planning for pharmacy experiential programs), the Canadian Institute for Health Information (project on the development of a pharmacist human resources database), and Health Canada (Policy on Manufacturing and Compounding Drug Products in Canada, Policy Framework for Granting Authorities to Health Professionals other than Practitioners under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act), to name a few. CSHP also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada to seal the collaborative working relationship between our 2 organizations.

*To take such action as may be within its power to obtain a higher standard of proficiency among hospital pharmacists in Canada*

Recognizing the tremendous value of its Pharmacy Specialty Networks (PSNs) as a means of communication and collaboration among members with similar concerns and interests, CSHP has undertaken a review of their structure, function, support, and funding. Significant progress has been made in establishing policies and

guidelines that will help ensure the continuous growth and long-term viability of the PSNs.

Finally, CSHP continues to work closely with other Canadian pharmacy organizations on fundamental professional matters such as the Blueprint for Pharmacy (a strategic action plan), the National e-Pharmacy Task Force, and the Pharmacy Human Resources Study.

In closing, let me say that the successes of the past year would not have been possible without the support of our members. And during 2006, that support was overwhelming, with membership at an all-time high. The spirit and dedication of our staff also remained high through months of turmoil caused by renovations to our office condominium, but the inconveniences were worth it, and we now enjoy a more efficient working environment. We celebrated the fifth anniversary of CSHP employment of Desarae Davidson (Conference Administrator), Anna Dudek (Finance Administrator), and Laurie Frid (Operations Manager), and also bade farewell to Ken Wou, who gave impetus to the position of Coordinator of Professional and Membership Affairs. Last but not least, we finally secured affordable malpractice insurance that meets the requirements of our members' various licensing bodies across Canada and ended the 2005/06 fiscal year in a superior financial position.

I simply hope that, when I turn 60, I can show this much vitality.

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**Myrella Roy**, BScPhm, PharmD, FCCP, is Executive Director of the CSHP.

