

Are You a "Leader-in-Waiting"?

Carolyn Bornstein

Nothing would be done at all if a man waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault with it.

— Cardinal Newman

I've been involved with CSHP since I was a student at the University of Toronto. I was convinced early on that volunteering for CSHP would make me the best hospital pharmacist I could be. Now, more than 25 years later, I still believe that CSHP is the "place to be". But how did I end up as President Elect of the Society? I've always seen myself as a "grassroots" kind of girl, nothing flashy. Not a manager or director, but an experienced hospital pharmacist who truly loves "to be involved". Whether it's the school council, my local pharmacists' association, the Ontario College of Pharmacists, or CSHP that calls on me, I always say "Yes". As I enter my term as CSHP President Elect, I am faced with the biggest challenge of my career. Am I capable of handling this responsibility? My colleagues at CSHP (and at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket) assure me that I am.

As an Ontario branch delegate for the past 3 years, I have had the privilege of working with many inspirational leaders. I'm so excited after a Council meeting when I go back to work and share all the pearls I've acquired from networking with so many exceptional and innovative leaders. It's so invigorating, and it's something I wish every CSHP member could experience. I encourage you to think about running for your branch delegate position.

Members ask, "Why don't we have more leaders in pharmacy?" "Why aren't hospital pharmacists eager to be managers?" "Why aren't we better at succession planning?" I too find myself asking these questions, along with another one, "Does being involved make you a leader?" Of course not, but it's the first step of the journey.

I believe that part of the reason for the shortage of leaders in hospital pharmacy is that we are not

challenging ourselves or our colleagues. Without the encouragement and support of my colleagues at CSHP, I know that I wouldn't be here, facing this new challenge. CSHP's Hospital Pharmacy Management Leadership Task Force, chaired by Robin Ensom, is exploring opportunities for

CSHP to provide and support leadership development programs for hospital pharmacists.

As the executive officer responsible for the Vision Portfolio, I will oversee Vision 2010. Being involved with Vision 2006 from the beginning has been both a learning and rewarding experience. Vision 2010 will introduce many exciting initiatives for the Society as a whole, and for our individual members. I can't wait to share them with you! CSHP wants to engage its members in practice goals and objectives (which will include national benchmarking and targets) and will continue to advocate for hospital pharmacists at the national and branch levels. And of course, we're still looking for ways to inspire, support, recognize, and reward our members. I believe it is very important for CSHP to recognize the "value" and "leadership potential" of our members. CSHP's volunteers drive the organization, and they should feel appreciated! So come out and get involved. You could be a leader-in-waiting!



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