

## CSHP Rules the Roost!

Emily Musing

Happy New Year! In case you're now saying, "Wait a minute, didn't we do this just last month?" I'll clarify that I'm referring to Chinese New Year. The Chinese lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, with the first day of the year occurring in conjunction with the second new moon following the winter solstice. Thus, New Year's Day can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February! This year, it falls on February 9, 2005, starting lunar year 4703.

The Chinese calendar is linked to 12 animal signs. According to legend, Buddha summoned all the animals in his kingdom to come before him one Chinese New Year. The Rat arrived first, followed by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. To reward these faithful animals, Buddha named a year after each of them in the order of their arrival. This February, we will be saying goodbye to the Year of the Monkey and welcoming in the Year of the Rooster.

It is believed that the sign under which you are born imparts specific personality traits. Years themselves are also credited with specific characteristics. The Year of the Rooster is one of steady economic growth, as demonstrated by CSHP's current financial surplus, which has led to decisions to purchase new corporate office space and increase staffing support for our Society.

The Year of the Rooster is also linked to landmark agreements. The last Rooster year saw the creation of the European Union and the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement. How fitting that CSHP has just signed the North American Compact on the Advancement of Hospital Pharmacy with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Mexican Association of Hospital Pharmacists! Through this historic collaboration, the 3 organizations will strive to improve the health and quality of life of the people of North America by fostering the advancement of hospital pharmacy practice.

Previous Rooster years have been marked by historic achievements, often the culmination of many

years of planning and effort. Humanity reached the moon and the Concorde took its first supersonic flight in Rooster years. Similarly, this year we can look forward to positive results from such diverse efforts as CSHP's work with the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns in developing a critical path for future collaboration; our brief "The National Pharmacare Debate", prepared for the 2004 First Ministers' Conference; our stakeholder presentation to the Association of Deans of Pharmacy about entry-level PharmD programs; and our continued advocacy on the role of the pharmacist in quality drug use management.

Finally, the Year of the Rooster is one of pageantry and display; examples include Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales, and his marriage to Lady Diana Spencer. So be prepared for some major CSHP events and spectacles as well! The Professional Practice Conference is always an event not to be missed (even if it is held in Toronto in the dead of winter!), and mark your calendars now for our Annual General Meeting in Ottawa in summer 2005. All in all, there should be plenty to "crow" about in 2005!

### Source

Somerville N. *Your Chinese horoscope 2005*. London: Harper Collins; 2004.



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