

## Confessions of a Shoeaholic!

*Emily Musing*

September has always struck me as a time of such great promise: fall is just around the corner, and a new school year is beginning. I remember as a child buying new shoes to start the school year on the right foot. New shoes come with their own sense of adventure. What new places will they take you to? What new people will you meet there? It also takes time to break in new shoes, to train them to conform to the uniqueness of your feet so that you can put your best foot forward.

As I step into the Presidential position of this Society, I can't help thinking what big shoes these are to fill. Many distinguished individuals have held this position before me. I know most of them by reputation, but I have also had the pleasure of working with and learning directly from some of them.

Reta Fowler (CSHP President 1982/83) was the Director of Pharmacy at the Mississauga Hospital where I had my first pharmacy-related summer job. Reta stepped in and showed me the integral role that pharmacists play in the health care team. She took a young tenderfoot and instilled in her the importance of taking one step at a time and taking pride in one's work. That job and Reta's guidance gave a solid footing and a stepping stone toward the rest of my hospital pharmacy career.

Bonnie Salsman (CSHP President 1989/90) was my "big sister" and mentor when I joined the Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board (CHPRB). Bonnie was a great role model, demonstrating poise and professionalism as she led me through the intricate steps of conducting an accreditation site survey during the last survey of her Board term and the first one of mine.

Kelly Babcock (CSHP President 1998/99) was the Ontario Branch Past President during the term that I was Branch President-Elect. He taught all of us on Council that we could be small but mighty, slight but substantial,

short but to the point. Kelly led this year's AGM Host Committee, so I'm not surprised that everyone got a kick out of the many high-stepping social activities linked to the event!

Finally, Mike Gaucher (CSHP President 2002/03) was the CHPRB Chair during my Board term

and the individual who recruited me into my current Presidential position with CSHP. I have always admired Mike's calm, stepwise approach to issues, and I thank him for challenging me to walk a mile (or rather 3 years!) in these CSHP Executive shoes.

Now that a new Society year is upon us, it is time for me to step up to the plate and show you my fancy footwork. I look forward to working closely with CSHP's 2005/06 Council. We face many opportunities this year, whether they be related to expanding the pharmacist's role in patient safety, developing new researchers through our train-the-trainers program, or pursuing joint initiatives with our colleagues in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Asociación Mexicana de Farmacéuticos de Hospital. With this in mind, I challenge each of you to increase your participation in CSHP activities. Remember, one small step for a pharmacist can lead to a giant leap for the pharmacy profession!



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