

Notes of Appreciation on the Retirement of Joan Marshman

At the end of the 2005 University of Toronto academic year, the profession of pharmacy in Canada, and hospital pharmacy in particular, witnessed the retirement of one of our most valued resources, Joan Marshman. It is a privilege to express here a few words in recognition of Joan's contribution to our profession. Her unparalleled big-picture, patient-focused approach will remain as an example to us for a very long time.

Joan's legacy includes her well-structured critical thinking and her entrepreneurial approach to problem-solving in many areas of practice, including the hospital pharmacy residency and PharmD programs at the University of Toronto. Joan was one of our first patient-oriented practitioners, and she also held numerous teaching and administrative positions within health care; this link among practice, teaching, and management would continue throughout her career. Whether serving as CEO of the Addiction Research Foundation (now the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), undertaking a summer dispensary experience in cottage country (Havelok, Ontario), or recognizing and dealing with a drug-related concern among the less fortunate in Toronto, Joan has always been looking out for the "little guy". To this day, Joan continues to advocate the role that our front-line practitioners can play in optimizing pharmacy care, in part by resolving the drug-related concerns of the patients we see every day.

Although Joan's focus on the patient has consistently been at the forefront, she has also orchestrated a great deal of

activity behind the scenes, consistent with her belief in pharmacy's educational programs. In addition, Joan has proven herself in the drug-use research arena, becoming an advisor to many of U of T's graduate students both in the sciences and in practice. Joan has been a sought-after mentor for our future leaders, recognized for her entrepreneurial spirit, her great understanding of the profession's needs, and her meticulous attention to detail. I was very fortunate to have been the first of Joan's many practice-focused graduate students.

Joan's tangible role as a resource to the profession did not go unnoticed by hospital pharmacy. She has been a presenter at the Professional Practice Conference on innumerable occasions, including the most recent PPC, where she presented her report of a study of medication errors.

Joan, our thanks for always being willing to share your experience, expertise, and knowledge, and for stimulating us in every discussion. You have been a tower of strength for your many colleagues. It has been an honour for me to have shared a career with such a creative, thoughtful, and inspiring academic, role model, and mentor. On behalf of an indebted profession, I offer our best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

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