

Obituary — Isabel E. Stauffer

In Memory of Isabel Stauffer, “First Lady of Hospital Pharmacy”

In June of this year, CSHP lost one of its longest-standing members, Isabel E. Stauffer, a woman who helped to put hospital pharmacy on the map in Canada.

Isabel was born on May 4, 1908, in Souris, North Dakota. She graduated from the Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Washington, and received her Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Alberta in 1932. After graduation, Isabel embarked on a rich and varied pharmacy career, which began when she accepted a position as assistant pharmacist at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, where she remained until 1939. In 1940, Isabel earned a Master of Hospital Pharmacy degree from Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, becoming the first Canadian to complete this specialized hospital pharmacy training.

Isabel Stauffer's personal history is deeply entwined with the corporate history of CSHP. In 1948, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists constituted its bylaws and applied for a Dominion charter, which was granted in 1950. Isabel was one of the Society's first members, and she quickly became a strong supporter of and ambassador for the new Society. She encouraged collaboration with many groups, including the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association (CPhA; now the Canadian Pharmacists Association), and served as the first CSHP representative to the CPhA Council in 1951. Only a year after its inception, CSHP also began its role as a consultant to government (a role on which the Society continues to focus today), and Isabel's leadership was once again evident. In 1949 the Department of National Health and Welfare submitted a list of proposed additions to and deletions from the 1953 revision of the British Pharmacopoeia, and Isabel prepared a response to this proposal on behalf of CSHP.

As early as 1949, it was clear to CSHP members that they could benefit from a hospital pharmacy conference in Canada. In 1952, in collaboration with the Canadian Hospital Council, the CPhA, the Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Pharmacy, and the University of Toronto, CSHP invited the American Hospital Association to hold its Institute on Hospital Pharmacy in Toronto. By 1955, CSHP sponsored its own Canadian



Institute on Hospital Pharmacy in Vancouver. This first CSHP conference was coordinated by Isabel, then chair of the Education Committee.

Isabel published widely in professional journals and was editor of and contributor to the *Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties*. She was a past chair of both the Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board and the CSHP Board of Fellows, and played a significant role in the development of hospital internships and hospital pharmacy residency programs. She was the recipient of many awards, including the CSHP Ortho Distinguished Service Award and the Canadian Centennial Medal. In 1970, Isabel was elected to honorary life membership in CSHP. At the University of Toronto, the Isabel Stauffer Lecture Award has been established in her name.

Each year, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists celebrates the outstanding contributions that this remarkable woman made to the profession of pharmacy when it presents the Isabel E. Stauffer Meritorious Service Award to a CSHP member in recognition of prolonged service to and involvement with CSHP. This award recognizes individuals for significant, sustained contributions to CSHP, primarily at the branch and chapter levels. As we look back over the life of Isabel Stauffer, it is clear that the award is well named.