

Money, Manure, and Volunteers

Patrick Fitch

I have been a CSHP member for 20 years now, since I was a student, and over the course of my career, I have sat on a few committees at the branch and national levels. But until recently, I'd never taken a leadership role within the Society.

This changed in 2005, when I was approached to join the Executive of the Manitoba Branch as branch delegate on CSHP's national Council. I was preparing to leave my position as site pharmacy manager at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre for a more clinically oriented position, and some of my colleagues felt that I should put my management experience to work for CSHP. Soon after becoming a member of CSHP Council, I was appointed Council's representative on the Board of Fellows and joined one of Council's working groups.

It's now 3 years on, and I am fully immersed in the CSHP lifestyle. Participation on Council and the Manitoba Branch Executive has provided me with tremendous opportunities to network and meet leaders in the profession, opportunities to shape the future of our profession, and opportunities to coach new members of the CSHP leadership team.

Reflecting on this recently, I realized that my career has come full circle, from dazed and confused newbie to mentor, coach, and leader. My role at work has evolved to the point where I'm coaching new staff members and giving them the benefit of my experiences. And those experiences have come from many places: my clinical practice sites, management roles, CSHP, and other volunteer positions.

I have 2 children, 7 and 10 years of age. As all parents know, opportunities for volunteering for your children's activities are endless. Whether it's coaching flag football, serving as referee liaison for soccer, leading a colony of Beavers, or serving on a CSHP committee,

volunteering isn't just a fact of life. It feels good, leaving you with a sense of pride and accomplishment. And all volunteer activities add to the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience that you bring to the other aspects of your life.

As I prepare to take over as chair of the CSHP Finance Committee, I would like to thank Moira Wilson for her outstanding leadership as my predecessor in the director of Finance position. I would also like to thank Cheryl McGrath-Hill and Cathy Lyder, 2 members of the Finance Committee who have recently resigned, for their invaluable contribution to CSHP.

Thornton Wilder said that "money is like manure—it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow". I've heard many times over the past few years that there are plenty of financial resources within CSHP that could be put to good use for member services. The only thing missing is human resources—people—to plan and organize how to put that money to use for members. Don't let the potential of CSHP fail to flourish through neglect. I challenge everyone who has never served on a CSHP committee to join one, either at the branch or at the national level. We have the "manure"; now let's spread it around!



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