

Our Opportunity is Here! Are You Ready?

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*Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world!*
—Joel Barker

There is significant truth to Barker's statement about vision and action. As I read this quotation, I wonder, "Will we let our time of opportunity pass us by?" For now is truly a time of opportunity for hospital pharmacy. Throughout this beautiful country of ours, in ways that may not be immediately apparent, our profession is changing. Hospital pharmacists no longer work solely within the physical walls of the hospital itself. Pharmacist participation in family practice teams, ambulatory care clinics, and primary care networks and the movement into home care practice are just a few examples of the innovative ways in which we are now providing care for our patients.

When I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2000, I believed that pharmacists could make a difference. The hospital residency that I undertook in Saskatoon after graduation solidified that belief. Since then, I have had the opportunity to work in both community and hospital settings in 3 provinces (Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, and Alberta). Most recently, for the past 5 years, I have worked in Red Deer, Alberta, for the David Thompson Health Region, first as a staff pharmacist and now as a Regional Manager. For the past 3 years, I have served as a CSHP Alberta Branch Presidential Officer and am grateful for the opportunity to now serve as your President Elect. I believe in our profession, and I look forward to advocating for pharmacists who work in hospitals and related health care settings.

An exciting, innovative practice environment for pharmacists is being created. Legislative changes that are

taking shape in several provinces are setting up a framework for pharmacists to have a prominent role in medication management. Regulation of technicians and changes in pharmacists' scope of practice, including implementation of pharmacist prescribing, are just a few of the tools that will help us to provide better care for our patients. At the same time, unified visions for the profession are being created. Initiatives like CSHP 2015 and the Blueprint for Pharmacy can serve as visions to push each of us to our maximum potential.

So the question that every Canadian pharmacist must answer is, Are you ready? Are you ready to take action? Are you ready to advocate for and accept legislative changes in your home province to expand the scope of pharmacy practice? Are you ready to support and volunteer for initiatives like CSHP 2015 and the Blueprint for Pharmacy, which have the potential to take our profession to new heights? Are you ready to collaborate with physicians, nurses, technicians, other health care professionals, and other pharmacist colleagues to provide better care for our patients?

Momentum is building, our opportunity is here, the time is now. Make a difference!

*The distance isn't important;
it is only the first step that is difficult*
—Marquise Du Deffand



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