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Were you one of the 1.2 million hits?

Yes, there were over 1.2 million hits to our revamped website in January! This is about 400,000 more than usual.

If you weren't one of those hits, check out what you've been missing. Go to www.altapharm.org and click on the college name to see the changes we've made.

You'll find it's easier to locate the drug schedules, prescribers lists, TPP information and the latest issue of the college newsletter. In addition, you'll find some new features, as well as a refreshed look.

Let us know what you think! We're always looking for ways to improve, so we appreciate your feedback.



Make your voice count!

Elections are being held in districts 3, 4 and 5. If you are a member in one of these districts, be sure to participate in the vote and make your voice count!

Ballots will be mailed to members on Fri., March 12, 2004.

Completed ballots must reach the college office by **4:30 p.m. on Thurs., April 8, 2004.**

alberta college of **pharmacists**



1200 - 10303 Jasper Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T5J 3N6
Telephone (780) 990-0321
Toll Free 1-877-227-3838
Fax (780) 990-0328
www.altapharm.org

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PHARMACIST *prescribing*

As we go to print with this newsletter, ACP awaits the decision of the minister of Health and Wellness about our proposal to expand the scope of practice of pharmacists.

On Nov. 27, 2003, the college made a presentation to the Health Professions Advisory Board, proposing that pharmacists be permitted to prescribe Schedule 1 drugs and administer drugs by injection. The three category prescribing model and the proposal to administer drugs by injection, including immunizations, provides solutions to many

themes identified in recent provincial and federal commissions on health including:

- patient choice,
- accessibility to health services,
- sustainability of the health system,
- accountability by health professionals, and
- improved drug use decisions.

If our proposal is accepted, the expanded scope of practice would be included in regulations to the new *Health Professions Act*.

Continued on page 2

IMPORTANT NEWS
from the Governance Review Steering Committee.
Check the insert in this newsletter to find the latest news!

is published six times per year by the Alberta College of Pharmacists. Submissions for publication should be sent to:

Editor, **acp news**,
1200 - 10303 Jasper Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T5J 3N6

The deadline for submissions is the end of the first week of the month prior to publication. Information about content and length of articles can be obtained from the editor.

Alberta College of Pharmacists
1200 -10303 Jasper Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T5J 3N6
(780) 990-0321
Toll Free 1-877-227-3838
Fax: (780) 990-0328

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Tracy Marsden, District 5
Karen Barney, District 6

Public members:
Joe Doolan
Greg Moffatt

Councillors and our public members can be reached by e-mail via our website at www.altapharm.org under *About*, *Council*, or by using the search feature to locate them by name.

Staff Directory

All staff are available at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838 or by fax at (780) 990-0328. Their e-mail addresses are available on our website at www.altapharm.org under *Contact Us*.

Registrar: Greg Eberhart
Deputy Registrar: Merv Blair
Competency Director:
Roberta Stasyk
Complaints Director: Jill Moore
Registration Director:
E. Randy Frohlich
Business Manager: Lynn Paulitsch
Registry Leader: Linda Hagen
Communications Leader:
Lynn Otteson

Pharmacist prescribing -

continued from page 1

Included in the proposal is the proviso that pharmacists would be able to perform these new functions, subject to criteria established by the college. Under the proposal, pharmacists wishing to administer drugs by injection, including immunizations, would be required to complete a certification program approved by the college.

Prior to pursuing the privilege of prescribing, all pharmacists on the new clinical register would be required to complete an orientation program administered by the college. A critical part of the prescribing role would be practising within a collaborative environment where appropriate information is available to the pharmacist. Other critical components are documenting and communicating with other health professionals who are also caring for the patient.

Pharmacists are already performing many of the activities we have proposed to be part of an expanded scope of practice. It is important that these roles be legitimized through the new regulations. It must be recognized that, although ACP has proposed enabling legislation, not all pharmacists will perform all new restricted activities. However, where a pharmacist is competent to perform a restricted activity, he or she will need to comply with the standards established by the college.

We understand that, upon receiving the recommendation of the Health Professions Advisory Board, the minister will likely consult with the Standing Policy Committee on Health and Safe Communities. ACP continues to consult with members of our Legislative Assembly to ensure that they are adequately informed about the facts and intent of our proposal.

We encourage you to support this campaign (and an expanded scope of practice) by briefing your local MLA about our proposal. Please contact Greg Eberhart at greg.eberhart@altapharm.org or by telephone at (780) 990-0321 for documentation to support your discussion.



Legislative update

Even as we discuss an expanded scope of practice with the minister of Health and Wellness, the drafting of regulations for pharmacists under the *Health Professions Act* has commenced. Comments received from pharmacists and from external audiences are being considered within the context of the proposed policy framework that was made available to you in mid-2003.

Based on feedback received through the consultation process, Council has approved an addition to the registration requirements of pharmacists enrolling on the clinical register. Complementary to the competency process and the requirement for ongoing professional development, pharmacists registered on the clinical register will be required to practise for at least 600 hours in each two-year period. This requirement is similar to other health professionals that have recently been granted prescribing privileges.

The drafting of the regulations cannot be completed until a decision is received from the minister about the expanded scope of practice proposed by the college. Once completed, the draft regulations will be distributed to pharmacists and other audiences for review prior to being finalized.

ACP and Alberta Health and Wellness are reviewing comments received from pharmacists and external audiences in response to the proposed policy framework for regulations to the *Pharmacy and Drug Act*. Comments are being considered in context with one and other, and will contribute to greater clarity within the regulations. Drafting of the regulations will commence soon and, upon completion, will be distributed to members and other audiences for review prior to being finalized.

We continue to target proclamation of the *Health Professions Act* and the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* prior to July 1, 2004.

We have recommended that implementation of new membership categories be transitioned to July 1, 2005, allowing time for the college to effectively communicate with members about the new categories and the responsibilities of individual members. A primary determinant in meeting the target date is the availability of government's legislative counsel to draft the regulations.

Changing faces and places at the college

Some administrative changes will occur at the college in preparation for administering the *Health Professions Act* and the *Pharmacy and Drug Act*, including a new scope of practice for pharmacists. The changes will occur during the first half of 2004.



Randy Frohlich

We will increase support to and monitoring of pharmacy licensees through a newly created position for a field auditor (job title to be confirmed). Based on

observation through the competency review process, and feedback from employee pharmacists, there is a need to support and monitor pharmacy licensees as they ensure appropriate pharmacy environments to accommodate good pharmacist practice. Randy Frohlich will move from his current position as registration director to fulfil this new role.



Jill Moore

Jill Moore, our current complaints director, will replace Randy Frohlich as registration director. Throughout 2004, most of Jill's efforts will focus on

preparing to administer the new registers and registration processes anticipated under the new legislation.



Merv Blair

In response to our recent advertisement for an inspector, Merv Blair, currently our deputy registrar, suggested that he be reassigned to the position of

complaints director and be responsible for investigations and complaint resolution. Merv brought this request forward in the context of succession planning for the organization, and to address some of his personal needs and interests. The management team discussed Merv's proposal at length and is confident it can work well for the college and for Merv.

We thank Merv for his contribution to our management team and the many successes the college has experienced during his tenure as deputy registrar. We will be fortunate to benefit from his experience as we move forward.

In addition to the above changes, ACP has created two new positions: education director and customer service agent. These positions were considered and approved by Council in the 2004 budget.

The education director will lead the college's responsibilities in preparing and supporting members to take on new scopes of practice. The position will also be a key interface between the college and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences as we integrate the current internship program with the new undergraduate curriculum to form a single structured practical training experience for students and other candidates requiring practical training.

The new part-time customer service agent will provide support to the deputy registrar and the complaints director.

We placed newspaper advertisements for vacancies (deputy registrar, education director and part-time customer service agent), in addition to placing the ads on our website and faxing them to pharmacies. The deadline for application was Feb. 20, 2004. For further information, please contact Lynn Paulitsch at lynn.paulitsch@altapharm.org or by telephone at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838.



Our commitment to your privacy

There's a great deal of talk about privacy in the media and organizations these days. If you're wondering where the college stands on this issue, you can be assured that ACP is committed to and respects the privacy of your information. To that end, we collect only the information that is necessary under our mandate as a regulatory authority, and we ensure that appropriate security measures are in place at all times to protect your personal information.

We are developing policies and procedures that will address the college's collection, use, and disclosure of personal information. When these are complete, we will share them with you.

A detailed policy attesting to our commitment to your privacy will be available on our website soon. We will alert you when it is ready.

If you have specific concerns about the privacy of your personal information, please contact our privacy lead Lynn Paulitsch at (780) 990-0321 or toll free at 1-877-227-3838.

For general information on privacy issues, you can also e-mail privacyinfo@altapharm.org.



This feature summarizes real cases brought to the college's attention, including factors contributing to problems or complaints, and offers recommendations to prevent future incidents. It presents an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others and, where appropriate, incorporate relevant recommendations into our practices.

Education and prevention

Erroneous daily oral methotrexate dosing

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has reported cases of accidental *daily* administration of oral methotrexate where weekly dosing was intended. Some cases have resulted in fatalities.

Methotrexate has a well-established role in oncology; however, it is increasingly being used in low doses for immunomodulation in rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, myasthenia gravis and inflammatory myositis. When used for these purposes it is usually administered as a weekly dose.

Few medications are dosed in a weekly manner, thus patients and clinicians are more familiar with daily dosing. This has opened the door to errors. For example, one patient died after misunderstanding the directions for use and took methotrexate 2.5 mg every 12 hours for six consecutive days, instead of 2.5 mg every 12 hours for three doses each week. Another patient died after he misread the directions on a prescription bottle and took 10 mg every "morning" instead of every "Monday." Errors have also been reported in the hospital setting. A methotrexate dosage of three times weekly was incorrectly transcribed as three times daily when a patient was transferred from one unit to another.

It is important to regard methotrexate as a medication worthy of special precautions because of the number of fatalities from errors with oral administration. Here are some safeguards that can help reduce the risk of error when oral methotrexate is prescribed.

- Obtain the clinical indication for the methotrexate prescription, preferably directly from the prescriber, to verify the proper dosing schedule and to promote appropriate patient monitoring.
- Keep a dosing guide for methotrexate where the drug is stored.
- Incorporate electronic alerts on your pharmacy software to emit a warning whenever oral methotrexate is entered. This will be a reminder to assess indication and dosing frequency.
- Ensure that all patients receive counselling when picking up new prescriptions or refills.
- Review prescription labels with your patient or the caregiver to assure accuracy.
- Provide your patients with clear written instructions that name a specific day of the week for taking the tablet(s). When possible, avoid choosing Monday since it could be misread as "morning." Use large print for elderly patients with poor eyesight.
- Give your patients drug information leaflets that contain clear advice about weekly dosage schedules, not daily dosage schedules.
- Explain to your patients that taking extra doses is dangerous. Encourage feedback to ensure patient understanding.



Self-assessment program update

At its Jan. 26, 2004 meeting, the Competence Committee reviewed the feedback from our self-assessment focus groups. Committee members are currently finalizing the reporting requirements, processes and timelines.

The self-assessment program will help you assess your own professional competencies, identify your learning priorities, and plan learning activities to address these priorities.

Plans are under way for education sessions and a home study program to help all Alberta pharmacists learn how to complete their own self-assessment and know what to do with the information they gain.

Watch for more information coming to you by e-mail, mail and newsletter.



On-site assessment program

Good news! We completed 80 on-site assessments in 2003 and our 2004 assessments are under way. Watch for a summary of on-site assessment program results in our annual report (available at the end of April).

Learning portfolio tip

Remember that you must have acquired 15 CEUs and have completed your 2003/04 professional development log in order to renew your registration by the end of June.

It's a good idea to get at least 15 CEUs as soon as possible so you can renew your registration early.

More about privacy

As we all struggle to understand and implement privacy legislation, in particular the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA),* a variety of tools or sources of information are emerging.

For instance, on the Industry Canada website at http://ecom.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/inecic-ceac.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h_gv00207e.html, you will find a series of questions and answers about PIPEDA and its application to health. The questions and answers cover, among other topics, knowledge and consent, disclosure, access, and safeguards.

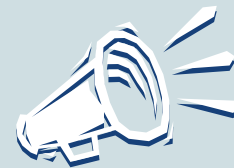
In addition, you will find a privacy section on the Canadian Pharmacists Association website at www.pharmacists.ca/content/hcp/resource_centre/practice_resources/privacy_pipeda.cfm where you will find:

- Guidelines for pharmacists on complying with the pharmacist's privacy code and PIPEDA,
- a sample brochure, and
- a sample wall chart.

In the new privacy environment, you may be asked to sign a consent form as you interact with governments, businesses or organizations. For instance, if you ask a pharmaceutical company representative to research a particular drug, he or she may require your written consent.

Before signing any consent forms, be sure to read the form thoroughly, ask questions, and, if necessary, request a copy of the company's privacy policy.

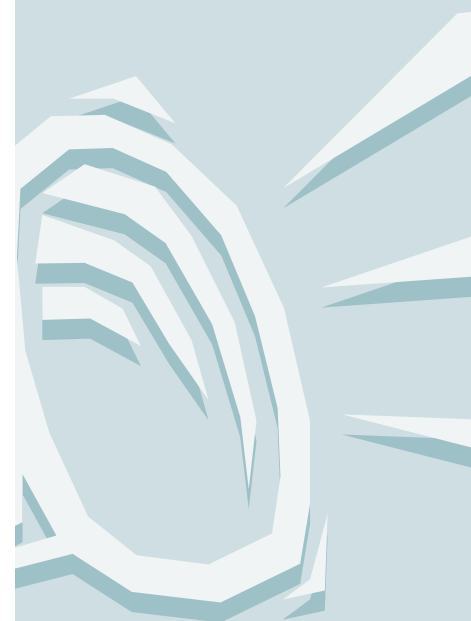
PIPEDA is federal legislation that applies to the collection, use and disclosure of personal information in the course of commercial activity. For more information, see the article on page 3, January/February 2004 **acp news.*



Call for resolutions

If you want to submit a resolution for the annual general meeting in May 2004, your resolution must reach the college office by **4:30 p.m. on Tues., March 30, 2004.**

Resolutions must be submitted to the registrar in writing, accompanied by the signatures of 10 voting members in good standing.



Change to drug schedules

Scheduling for cholera vaccine has changed as follows:

- **Oral, inactivated Cholera vaccine**, when used for prophylaxis against travellers' diarrhea & due to enterotoxigenic escherichia coli (ETEC), is in Schedule 2.
- **Cholera vaccine** except oral, inactivated when used for prophylaxis against travellers' diarrhea & due to enterotoxigenic escherichia coli (ETEC), is in Schedule 1

The updated drug schedules are on the college website at www.altapharm.org/ab_drug_schedules/

Propoxyphene to be added to Triplicate Prescription Program

Propoxyphene, also known as dextropropoxyphene (DarvonN®, 642®), has been added to Alberta's Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP).

Propoxyphene is a synthetic opiate and mild analgesic structurally related to methadone. As with other drugs on the TPP, propoxyphene is subject to misuse. In combination with alcohol it can lead to fatal overdoses which was the primary reason for adding the drug to the program.

We notified you in the November/December 2003 issue of **acp news** that the Triplicate Prescription Steering Committee was considering propoxyphene and its related products for inclusion in the TPP program. The decision has been implemented, effective March 1, 2004.

Alberta physicians were notified of the change in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta newsletter, *The Messenger*.

You will find an updated TPP drug schedule on our website at www.altapharm.org/tpp_schedule/

More evidence of the value of pharmacist interventions

A simple and practical pharmacist-initiated program led to a reduction in cholesterol levels in patients who have a high risk of cardiovascular events. This finding was demonstrated by the Second Study of Cardiovascular Risk Intervention by Pharmacists—plus (SCRIP-plus), and released in the January 2004, 15th issue of the *American Journal of Medicine* (AJM).

The study, conducted by Dr. Ross Tsuyuki of the UofA's Centre for Community Pharmacy Research and Interdisciplinary Strategies (COMPRIS), found that cholesterol levels dropped by an average of 13.4 per cent among patients who consulted with pharmacists over a six-month period. Twenty-seven per cent of the patients achieved their target cholesterol level after six months.

Built upon the findings of the original SCRIP study in 2002, SCRIP-2 shows that pharmacist involvement can contribute significantly to reducing cholesterol levels, an important risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

For further information, or to obtain a copy of the AJM article, contact Dr. Ross Tsuyuki at (780) 492-8526 or ross.tsuyuki@ualberta.ca.

In another study, Dr. Tsuyuki, fellow researchers and community pharmacists in Hinton and Edson are investigating whether having pharmacists provide education to patients and liaise with a respiratory therapist and family physicians can improve patients' asthma management. The study, Better Respiratory Education and Treatment in Hinton and Edson (BREATHE) includes 14 pharmacists from the two communities and was suggested by John McVey, a Hinton community pharmacist.

Watch for the BREATHE study results in June 2004! In the meantime, to read a more detailed article about the BREATHE study, go to www.medicalpost.com/mpcontent/article.jsp?content=20040102_155348_3256

65.3% signed on

On Jan. 31, 2004, 65.3 per cent of members were signed onto the membership e-mail system. Once we reach a full 75 per cent having signed on, members can anticipate fewer printed materials, more reliance on electronic means, and more effective and efficient communication.

If you need help signing onto the system, please call Misti Denton at the college office at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838 or contact her by e-mail at Misti.Denton@altapharm.org



Natural Health Products Regulations

This is the first in a series of articles on the new Natural Health Products Regulations and how they might affect you and your practice.

Natural Health Products Regulations overview

On Jan. 1, 2004, a new player in the regulatory environment, the *Natural Health Products Regulations*, came into force.

The regulations outline requirements for the sale of natural health products (NHPs) for the purposes of manufacturing, packaging, labelling, storing, importing, distributing and selling. They **do not** directly regulate the sale of NHPs by retailers.

What are the main aspects of the new regulations?

- The new regulations contain a list of **definitions** of natural health products, including vitamins, minerals, herbal remedies and homeopathic medicines.
- A new **product licensing system** requires that all licensed products display a product identification number. The number is issued when a product is authorized for sale in Canada by the Natural Health Products Directorate. The product licence helps the directorate ensure that products are safe and effective, and of high quality. Every OTC NHP sold in Canada must have a product licence and a product number by Dec. 31, 2009.
- A **site licensing system** requires that all manufacturers, packagers, labellers and importers be licensed.
- **Good manufacturing practices** must be employed to ensure product safety and quality.
- The regulations include **standard labelling requirements** to help customers make informed choices.
- The **adverse reaction reporting** system requires all product licence holders to monitor all adverse reactions associated with their product. In addition, all health care providers are encouraged to participate in the adverse reaction reporting program by reporting serious or unexpected adverse reactions
- The requirements for **clinical trials** of NHPs are designed to protect the rights, safety and well-being of clinical

trial participants and other persons involved in conducting and evaluating clinical trials.

How does this affect your practice?

As we said earlier, the *Natural Health Products Regulations* do not directly regulate the sale of NHPs by retailers. However, pharmacists who sell natural health products will notice many differences in these products over the coming years. For example, since the treatment of vitamins and minerals has been moved out of the regulations to the *Food and Drugs Act* and into the *Natural Health Product Regulations*, limitations on the upper and lower limit of dosages of vitamins and minerals has been removed. However, Vitamin A in oral dosage form containing more than 10,000 IU per dosage form, Vitamin D in oral dosage form containing more than 1,000 IU per dosage form, and folic acid in oral dosage form containing more than 1 mg of folic acid per dosage form, are still Schedule F drugs.

The restrictions on advertising the health benefits of vitamins and minerals that were in the regulations to the *Food and Drugs Act* have been removed.

In addition, since some amino acids are now listed in Schedule 1 to the *Natural Health Products Regulations*, they are considered NHP and may be sold without a prescription. Please note that levocarnitine and L-tryptophan are still contained in Schedule F.

Health care providers, including pharmacists, should report all suspected adverse reactions that are **serious**, whether expected or not, and **unexpected** adverse reactions, regardless of their severity, i.e., not consistent with product information or labelling.

More information

You can find more information about these new regulations on the Natural Health Products Directorate's website at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/nhpd-dpsn.

In addition, future issues of **acp news** will feature articles on other aspects of the new regulations.

acp xPress

(faxed since Nov. 28, 2003)

Dec. 12

- Have you received yours?
Pharmacy manual updates distributed to Alberta pharmacies

Dec. 23

- New privacy legislation comes into effect Jan. 1, 2004—*Health Information Act (HIA)*, *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)* and the federal *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Document Act (PIPEDA)*.

Jan. 8, 2004

- ACP/RxA Governance Review—video-conference discussion

Jan. 20

- Last chance to register for the video-conference

Feb. 5

- Changing faces and places at the college

acp news

(issued on the college website since Dec. 4, 2003)

Awards:

Dec. 12

- ACP award winners announcement

Meetings:

Jan. 8, 2004

- Governance review video-conference forum

Jan. 20

- Governance review—video-conference reminder

Feb. 2

- New Horizons award opportunity for new grads

Operations:

Dec. 23

- Inspector advertisement for ACP
- Holiday greetings and hours

Dec. 31

- Website renovations ready for view soon

Jan. 6, 2004

- ACP website update

Jan. 21

- Council nomination packages are in the mail

Feb. 5

- Changing faces and places at the college

Practice Issues:

Dec. 18

- Stolen triplicate prescription pad

Dec. 23

- Latest news on privacy legislation

Jan. 6, 2004

- Stolen triplicate prescription pad

Jan. 23

- Propoxyphene to be added to Triplicate Prescription Program
- Status of nefazadone products
- Change to Alberta drug schedules—cholera vaccine

Jan. 27

- Stolen triplicate prescription pad

Jan. 29

- Natural Health Products Regulations

Jan. 30

- Stolen triplicate prescription pad

Drug Information:

Oct. 23

- Safety information: Serzone-5HT²® (nefazodone HCl)

Dec. 12

- Safety information: comfrey

Dec. 16

- Safety information: beta-interferon treatment for MS

Jan. 7, 2004

- Safety information: Tebrazid® (Pyrazinamide) or pms-Pyrazinamide and rifampin

Jan. 16

- Safety information: Eprex (epoetin alfa)

Jan. 26

- HRT (estrogen plus progestin) update
- Safety information: Topamax® (topiramate)
- Propoxyphene to be added to Triplicate Prescription Program
- Status of nefazadone products
- Change to drug schedules

Feb. 3

- Safety information: fluticasone propionate (Flonase®, Advair®) and ritonavir (Norvir®, Kaletra®)

Pharmacy experiential education

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and ACP have agreed to integrate the college's internship program into the experiential education program that is part of the undergraduate curriculum.

Under the *Health Professions Act*, new registrants will be required to complete a minimum of 1200 hours of experiential education. Of this, 960 hours of practice-based experiential education will be required within the undergraduate program and an additional 240 hours must be completed post graduation and prior to licensure.

The new experiential education program will build upon the successes of the faculty's current program and the recent site development initiatives. The required experiential education program will be patient-focused, starting in the first year, with enhanced integration across the curriculum.

The faculty and the college are mutually committed to ensuring a quality standardized experiential program for all students and are working together to establish a network of off-campus learning centres.

An Experiential Education Advisory Committee has been established by the faculty, and is proving valuable in providing insight about the needs of preceptors in making this partnership successful.

Become a preceptor—contribute to pharmacy's future

Even as the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the college work together on a new combined experiential education program, we still need preceptors for the current wave of pharmacy interns.

By becoming a preceptor, you will have an ideal opportunity to mentor and train a student so that he or she develops into a confident and competent practitioner. Your involvement is essential to the success of the internship program.

The program is a key to bridging the gap between academia and practice.

There are approximately 400 students registered with ACP, most of whom will be looking for sites this spring and summer to fulfil their training requirements.

Interns are required to complete 500 hours of structured practical training before being licensed. The 500-hour practicum is comprised of three parts: Level I (100 hours), Level II (200 hours) and Level III (200 hours).

First-year pharmacy students may register in the program and complete up to 100 hours of their internship. Interns registered in Level I must work a minimum of eight hours per week. Individuals involved with Level II and Level III must work a minimum of 20 hours per week during the summer months.

If you are not able to accommodate an intern for the entire summer, please considering hiring a student for 100 or 200 hours so that at least a part of their internship can be completed.

If you have any questions about the internship program, please call Linda Hagen, registry leader, at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838, or contact her by e-mail at Linda.Hagen@altapharm.org.

Status of nefazadone products

On Nov. 12, 2003, we notified you that Health Canada was overseeing the withdrawal of nefazadone products. The federal department has now informed us that the drug identification numbers (DINs) for all nefazadone products were cancelled, effective Nov. 28, 2003.

Although there may be some manufacturers who have not yet officially recalled their products from community pharmacies, you are asked not to dispense any nefazadone products you may still have in stock.

Health Canada warns that further sale of these products could violate the *Food and Drugs Act and Regulations*, unless done pursuant to emergency requests made by physicians authorized by Health Canada under the Special Access Program.

Health Canada advisories

After the last edition of the newsletter went to print, Health Canada placed the following advisories on its website.

You can obtain a copy by using the links below or by calling Misti Denton at the college office at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838, or by e-mail at Misti.Denton@altapharm.org

Some of the following links will take you to the Health Canada website, others will take you to the Health Canada information on the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities website.

■ Safety information: comfrey

for health professionals
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/warnings.html

for consumers
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2003/2003_101.htm

■ Safety information: beta-interferon treatment for MS

for health professionals
www.napra.ca/pdfs/advisories/beta-interferon.pdf

for consumers
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/warnings/s002/2003_102.htm

■ Safety information: Tebrazid® (pyrazinamide) or pms-Pyrazinamide and rifampin

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's revised drug regimen for the treatment of latent TB infection in adults can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5231a4.htm

The Canadian Tuberculosis Standards recommendations for the treatment of active TB disease can be viewed at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/tbpc-latb/pubs_e.html

The ICN Canada safety advisory www.napra.ca/pdfs/advisories/pyrazinamideCons.pdf

■ Safety information: Eprex (epoetin alfa)

www.napra.ca/pdfs/advisories/eprex3.pdf

■ Safety information: Topamax® (topiramate)

www.napra.ca/pdfs/advisories/topamax_prof.pdf

■ Safety information: fluticasone propionate (Flonase®, Flovent®, Advair®) and ritonavir (Norvir®, Kaletra®)

www.napra.ca/pdfs/advisories/fluticasone_propionate-ritonavirPro.pdf

■ Antidepressants and Canadians under 18 years

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/warnings/2004/2004_02.htm



2004 CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



makingconnections:

where pharmacy fits in the health care puzzle

Be sure to mark

May 28 - 29, 2004

on your calendar and plan to attend the college's
conference and annual general meeting!

Join your colleagues for great learning opportunities
and times for socializing!

Here's a sampling of the topics to be discussed:

- street drugs and substance abuse
- paediatric dosing
- your role in preconception care for diabetics
- working with methadone patients and programs
- your role in a pandemic
- connecting and working with physicians
- privacy legislation
- new regulations for the profession

You'll also have an opportunity to meet the Calgary zoo's animals and keepers on Fri., May 28, and on the 29th, recognize award winning colleagues and contribute to the college's annual general meeting.

A packed agenda with the potential for 7 CEUs! Watch for your advance program with details coming in the mail soon.

See you there!

Friday, May 28 – Calgary Zoo's Safari Lodge • Saturday, May 29 – Sheraton Cavalier Hotel Calgary



Helping you cut costs

Although the registration fee for the college's 2004 conference and annual general meeting is low, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, you may want to discuss with your employer/employee some ways to reduce the cost even further.

If an employer pays an employee's registration fee, the employer may be able to deduct expenses incurred for the employee to attend the conference.

Employers—check with your accountant or tax advisor for details.

Free registration and accommodation!

Recent grads have the opportunity to attend the Alberta College of Pharmacists 2004 conference in Calgary on May 28 and 29, compliments of Merck Frosst. This applies to you if you graduated from 1999 to 2003. You will receive free registration (and accommodation if required).

At the conference you will meet former police detective Steve Walton and learn about the impact of the illicit drug trade in Alberta. Also, you'll meet Greg Eberhart, registrar of your college, who will give you an overview of the new regulations soon to be proclaimed. Then, join your colleagues in sessions that will explore collaborating with physicians, Alberta's Electronic Health Record, pediatric dosing, the role of pharmacists in methadone treatment, and how to prepare for a pandemic. You can also hear the latest news about how the new privacy laws impact your practice.

Apply today, the **deadline is March 31, 2004**. Simply complete the New Horizons Award application form available on the college website at: www.altapharm.org/news_events/default.aspx?id=4979 and send it to Lynn Otteson at the college by fax: 780.990.0328 or mail 1200, 10303 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3N6.

Thank you sponsors!

Thank you to the following sponsors who have generously supported the 2004 conference!

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NEWS FLASH

Conference 2005... A Historic Event

Be part of a unique and historic event in 2005!

From June 3 to 5, the college will partner with the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses for a joint conference at the Jasper Park Lodge.

This ground-breaking event will mark the first time two distinct health professions will demonstrate the spirit of working together by holding one conference to address common issues and concerns.

The joint conference will reflect the manner in which pharmacists and nurses work together for better patient care by highlighting outstanding practices that illustrate collaboration.

The program will be an exciting one! Watch for details in coming months.

2005

Pharmacist-physician collaboration workshops coming

CommuniMed and Pfizer are planning workshops throughout Alberta to help pharmacists and physicians find more efficient ways of improving their communication and cooperate more fully to meet their patients' treatment needs.

The workshops consist of 16 to 18 pharmacists and physicians in equal number, and are co-facilitated by one trained member of each profession.



Did you know that messages left in your *InBox* are automatically deleted after 90 days? However, you can move them to other folders where they will be stored until you delete them.

To create a folder, click on *Folders* from the left-hand menu, then type the name of your folder in the box provided and click on the *Create Folder* button.

To move a message to a folder, click on the small box to the left of your message in the *InBox*, choose the folder from the drop-down menu in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen, then click on the *Move Selected To* button.

If you need assistance with this process, please contact Misti Denton at Misti.Denton@altapharm.org or (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838.



For more information about workshops in your area, please contact Martha Magor at 1-800-363-5634, extension 24.

You can also learn more about communicating with physicians at the college's May 28 and 29, 2004 conference in Calgary, in addition to many other important practice-related topics. See page 10 for details.

...from the faculty

The UofA's Board of Governors has approved the **re-appointment of Dr. Franco Pasutto** for another five-year term as dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Franco has been dean since 1999 and was associate dean for three years prior. As dean he has participated in a number of initiatives, including partnership with the medical faculty to establish the Centre for Community Pharmacy Research and Interdisciplinary Strategies (COMPRIS), development of a new BSc program/curriculum to commence next September, and creation of the new Students Union pharmacy.

Congratulations Franco! We look forward to working with you!

From general donations to the faculty's Scholarship and Bursary Fund, the faculty has been able to establish the first bursary specifically for graduate students in pharmacy. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the **Friends of Pharmacy Graduate Student Bursary** will generate much needed financial assistance in perpetuity.

The **Dean's Tournament of Golf** will be held Sun., May 30, 2004, in conjunction with the ACP conference and annual general meeting in Calgary. The Links of GlenEagles at Cochrane has been reserved for an 8 a.m. shotgun tee-off. Look for a new format and more prizes. It's a great opportunity to out-put the dean!



In memoriam*

Claude F. Matthews, died on Jan. 19, 2004 at the age of 85 years.

Claude was born near Bottrel, AB. He studied pharmacy at the UofA and graduated in 1944. At one time Claude owned his own pharmacy in Calgary; he later served as a hospital pharmacist in Brooks until his retirement.

He is survived by his wife Frieda and children.

Gordon Gaudet died on Feb. 1, 2004 at 54 years of age.

Gordon graduated from the UofA in 1972 with a pharmacy degree. During his years as a pharmacist, he owned and operated pharmacies in Daysland, Camrose and Medicine Hat.

Gordon is mourned by his life partner Avis, two daughters and a son, and their families.

**The majority of the information used in this column was previously published by families of the deceased. The remainder of the information is released upon consent in compliance with the college policy on management of registration information.*