

## In **this** issue...

- 2** • Registration fees
  - Insurance
  - Council election results
- 3** • Changes to register
  - Don Cameron
  - Response to *Health Policy Framework*
  - Annual report on the web
- 4** • On-line CPD log
  - Electronic **acp news**
- 5** • Competence program
- 6** • ECP needs assessment survey
  - Learning portfolio tip
- 7** • IPO program
- 8** • Spam and virus protection
  - Pseudoephedrine combination products
  - Single-entity pseudoephedrine products
  - OIPC re sale of insulin
- 9** • Authority to dispense methadone
  - Buprenorphine
  - Health Canada advisories
- 10** • Access to lab values
  - Investigating committee decision
- 12** • From the faculty
- A1** • Award winners

alberta college of  
**pharmacists**



## BIG news for 2007!

In 2007 you can join **pharmacists, nurses and physicians** at a joint conference, May 3 to 6 at the Banff Springs Hotel!

This first-of-its-kind event will be under the leadership of ACP, RxA, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), the Alberta Medical Association (AMA), and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA).

All parties have agreed that this will be a historic event.

Pharmacists attending the college's 2005 joint conference with nursing in Jasper

were very clear that ACP should pursue another joint event, one that would include physicians. This request is about to become a reality.

The first meeting to discuss the nursing/medicine/pharmacy event was held in January with CPSA and CARNA. Since then, RxA and the AMA have joined the planning team.

Watch for more details in future newsletters or member e-mails.

## It's spring—it's registration renewal time

Registration renewal packages were mailed on April 30. Be sure to call our office if you have not received your package by mid-May.

When you examine the renewal package, you will find a few changes to the renewal form.

- In anticipation of new legislation, the registration status of **Practising** has

changed to **Pharmacist 2006/07** and **Non-practising** has changed to **Associate**. Pharmacists who have **retired** or **voluntarily resigned** will continue to use those classifications.

- ACP is collecting information for national databases for health workforce planning. As a result, the renewal form is longer this year. Look for the enclosed **Registration Renewal Guide** in your renewal package to help you complete the *Statistical Information* section of your renewal form. Please note that ACP's privacy policy regarding your personal information means only anonymized data will be shared.

### Try on-line renewal!

Consider using the on-line renewal option when renewing your registration this year.

Simply click on *My Registration Profile* on the college's website and follow the directions.

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.

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Councillors and our public members can be reached by e-mail via our website at [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca) 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 [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca) under *Contact Us*.

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### Schedule 2 continued from page 1

Save time and postage by submitting your registration renewal on-line. You can also update your registration profile and maintain your Continuing Professional Development Log on-line.

When **renewing by mail**, remember to send:

- your **membership renewal form**, with all the pages of the form filled in and signed, and
- a **copy of your Continuing Professional Development Log**, along with your
- **membership fee payment**.

We must have all of these documents to renew your registration!

**If your employer is paying your fee**, you must either renew on-line or be sure to give your employer your completed renewal form and a copy of your Continuing Professional Development Log for submission to the college along with their payment.

Please **do not send the original of your Continuing Professional Development Log or your supporting materials**, such as continuing education certificates. Keep these documents in your records for two years in case your learning portfolio is audited.

Remember that most practising members must have earned 15 CEUs between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. Check your renewal form for details.

If you have questions about the membership renewal process, please contact Linda Hagen or Cheryl Shea by telephone at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838, or by e-mail at [linda.hagen@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:linda.hagen@pharmacists.ab.ca) or [cheryl.shea@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:cheryl.shea@pharmacists.ab.ca).

## 2006/07 Annual registration fees

The annual registration fee for the 2006/07 year will be:

- pharmacist 2006/07 \$695.50 (\$650.00 + \$45.50 GST)
- associate \$208.65 (\$195.00 + \$13.65 GST)

The pharmacist registration fee does not include malpractice insurance. Malpractice insurance is a personal responsibility of each pharmacist and is available through a number of sources. Proof of insurance is not a requirement for registration renewal this year (see article below).

## Professional liability/malpractice insurance

Proclamation of the *Health Professions Act* is not anticipated prior to June 30, 2006; therefore practising pharmacists will not be required to demonstrate proof of personal professional liability/malpractice insurance as a requisite for annual certificate renewal **this year**.

Nonetheless, ACP strongly recommends that all practising pharmacists subscribe to such coverage.

The college has received many queries about Council's policy that professional liability/malpractice policies should be personal in nature, as compared to coverage provided by an employer. As a result, councillors are reviewing the policy and are considering issues related to insurance that are important to patients and pharmacists, as well as legal considerations. Registrants will be advised about Council's decision, including the reasons for its decision, well in advance of the policy becoming effective under the new regulations.

## Council election results

Three councillors have been elected to represent Alberta pharmacists on Council. They are:

- Jeff Whissell, re-elected in District 3;
- Anjali Acharya, District 5; and
- Mervin Bashforth, District 6.

The councillors will commence their responsibilities on Sun., June 4, 2006 and each will serve a three-year term.

We extend a sincere thank you to Ian Hamilton, District 1, and Lea Ann Luchka, District 5, whose last day as a councillors will be June 3. Alberta pharmacists appreciate your willingness to serve the profession!

## Changes to the register

At its meeting on April 6, 2006, Council authorized the registrar to accept a request and undertaking from:

- Minh L. Nguyen, registration #3555, to have her name withdrawn permanently from the college register; and
- Deborah J. Barnes, registration #2514, to have her name withdrawn permanently from the college register.



## Former registrar mourned

The Alberta pharmacy community recently mourned the loss of **Donald M. Cameron**, Alberta Pharmaceutical Association registrar from 1957 to 1982. He died on March 16, 2006 at the age of 88 years.

Don graduated from the UofA with a BSc Pharm in 1948. He practised in Camrose until 1949 when he established Cameron Drug in Daysland, a pharmacy he operated until 1957. During that time, he served as a council member, including the role of president.

Don was the longest serving registrar in Canadian pharmacy history. During his tenure the profession achieved many milestones, including uniform dispensing fees, required continuing education for graduates and, in cooperation with the then Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, the standardization of pharmacy practice in Canada. His term also spanned the transition from many smaller independent pharmacies to a mix of larger stores offering a wide range of consumer products. During his last years as registrar, Don taught a pharmacy retail management course at the UofA.

After his retirement, Don remained active in business, social and volunteer activities, always maintaining close contact with the profession.

The college and Alberta pharmacists extend sincere condolences to Don's wife of 65 years, Muriel, and their son and two daughters.

## Response to the Health Policy Framework

On Fri., March 10, 2006, the Alberta College of Pharmacists made a presentation to Health Minister Iris Evans in response to the recently released *Health Policy Framework*.

President Elect Jeff Whissell, Public Appointee to Council Michael Faulkner, APSA representative Tony Nickonchuk, and Registrar Greg Eberhart offered comments, commendations and questions related to the policy framework document.

Key themes addressed by ACP's delegation include:

1. remain patient centred; empower patients to be more active in decisions about their health care by respecting patient choice and providing new alternatives to access the care of their choice;
2. manage health care costs and enhance the value of health care through more effective use of health care providers. Authorizing pharmacists to prescribe Schedule 1 drugs will improve accessibility within the system. Making pharmacists more responsible for drug therapy will improve quality;
3. retain a focus on quality and safety as key determinants of health system effectiveness. These determinants are important to personal wellness and containing costs;
4. create new compensation models that encourage the behaviours we desire of providers, patients and system administrators. These should reward quality (outcomes) with a focus on prevention, with less emphasis on quantity (volume).

A copy of the *Health Policy Framework* and a copy of the presentation to the minister can be found on our website at [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca) under *Council at Work, Emerging Issues*.



## Annual report on the web

ACP's 2005/06 annual report is now on our website at [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca). Go to *About ACP*, then choose Annual Report.

In addition to highlights of the activities of the college and our significant partners during 2005, the report includes interviews with eight pharmacists whose practices reflect the diversity in our profession.

If you would like a hard copy of the report, please call the college office at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838 and ask for Pat Barnes, or contact her by e-mail at [Pat.Barnes@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:Pat.Barnes@pharmacists.ab.ca).

You will also receive a hard copy when you attend the annual general meeting on Sat., June 3, 2006.





**So much to learn,  
so little time!**

**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) PLAN**

**On-line CPD log—  
some help for you**

**“That’s an excellent tool and very helpful to keep CE updated.”**


Members tell us that the on-line Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Log is a terrific tool. It’s quick and easy to add

accredited learning programs, particularly those accredited by ACP and the Canadian Council for the Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP).

All ACP-accredited programs are entered on the CPD Log database and available in the drop down list. Most CCCEP-accredited programs are included on the list too, but you may find a short time-lag while we wait for the CCCEP office to send us their list of newly-accredited programs.

Despite the on-line CPD Log being a great tool, we’re still in the process of refining it. As a result, you may run into a few problems when you are entering learning activities.

First of all, you must use Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher. *My Registration Profile* is not supported by other browsers such as Mozilla or Firefox. And you must allow pop-ups.

When you’re in your CPD Log you can click on  for more help.


Here are some of the problems we’ve heard about.

- **You get a Wrong date message** – You must enter the date you completed the course. Check your certificate for the correct date of the program. If you are entering the correct date and it doesn’t work please contact the Competency office at the college; we may have entered the date incorrectly.
- **Can’t enter a new accredited course** – Be sure you have filled in all of the fields, including the date. The last five fields in the Accredited Course box, i.e., Program Title, Provider, etc., and the course date, must all be correctly

**Instructions**

Enter your accredited and non-accredited learning activities here. Complete the top box for accredited courses and programs. Complete the second box for non-accredited learning activities. Complete the third box "Course Details" for both accredited and non-accredited learning activities. Submit only one course (accredited or non-accredited) at a time. Remember, your learning activity entry will not be accepted into the system until the "Submit" button at the bottom of this page is clicked. To verify your learning activity updates, please re-query the summary for the membership year desired.

**Accredited Course**

Accredited Program (click on icon to choose)  

Accredited CEU(s) being Claimed

If the program is not yet on the list of accredited courses please complete this section:

Program Title

Provider

File Number

Maximum CEU(s) Available

Accredited CEU(s) being Claimed

completed.

- **Can’t find an accredited course on the drop down list** – Try a few different searches. The file number works best but must be entered exactly as it appears on your course certificate without the name of the accrediting body. For example, use AB06-020, not ACP AB06020, and 247-0305, not CCCEP 247-0305. You can also use a keyword from the program title to search. If you’re using a keyword, try to narrow your search by being specific as there are over 1200 courses in the database. For example, if you were to search for a course with the word “pain” in the title you would get 41 courses returned; if you search for a course with the words “neuropathic pain” you will get four courses returned; if you search by file number AB05-086 you will only get one course returned.
- **When you enter a new accredited course, you’re told “File number is a duplicate – re-search the list of accredited courses.”** Remember to search for the course by the file number exactly as it’s listed on your certificate without the name of the accrediting body as a prefix.
- **When you enter an accredited course, you receive the error message “the maximum number of course credits has been exceeded for this accredited**

**Want an electronic acp news?**

You can choose to receive your college newsletter through an e-mailed link to the electronic version on our website. Simply make your selection in *My Registration Profile*. Choose *Profile Management*, then *Change Other Information*. Be sure to click on *Submit* so the system will register your choice.

At this point the version on the site is a pdf of the printed copy. If sufficient numbers of pharmacists request the electronic version, we will consider a specifically designed electronic newsletter.

In the meantime, if you want to reduce the amount of paper you receive and want to receive the newsletter more quickly than waiting for Canada Post, choose to receive the electronic notification of the newsletter. We can honour your electronic request with the next published issue.

**course. Please try again.”** There are two possible sources of error. You may have already entered this course, or you may be claiming more credits than the course has been accredited for. If you believe you are entering everything correctly and you still get an error message, please contact the Competency office at the college; we may have made an error with the number of eligible credits.

If you receive an error message when working on your on-line CPD log, please click *Details*, copy and paste the details into an e-mail and send it to [competenceinfo@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:competenceinfo@pharmacists.ab.ca). We will pass your message on to our information technology consultants.

## RxCEL Competence Program

In June 2005 Council approved further development of the RxCEL Competence Program which included additional components of the learning portfolio and new competence assessment methods.

The expanded learning portfolio was implemented in September 2005 when we distributed the Continuing Professional Development Plan and the Competency Profile to you.

Now in 2006 we are working on developing the competence assessment components.

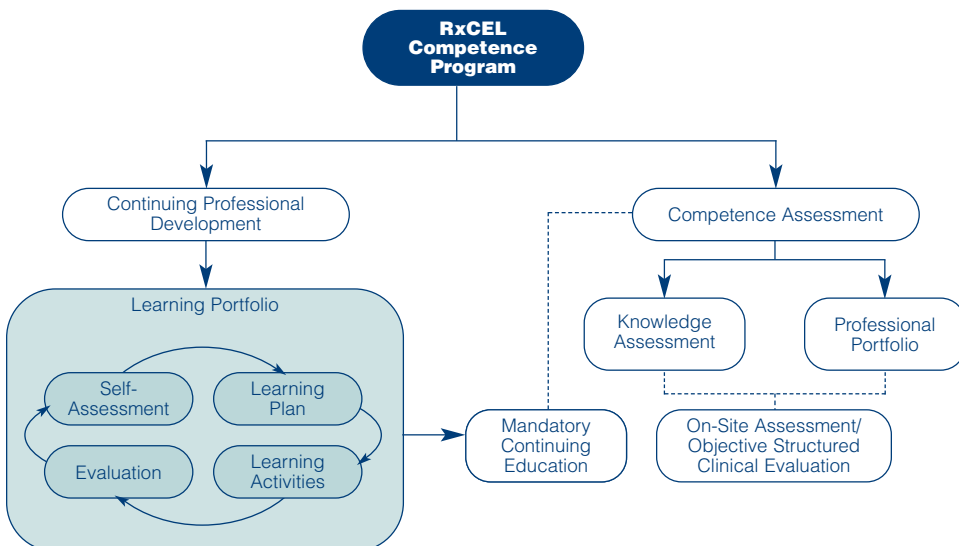
Specifically, we're working on the knowledge assessment and a method to review pharmacists' continuing competence portfolios. The competence assessment portion of the competence program is very similar to the Professional Development and Assessment Program (PDAP) of the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia.

When Council decided in December 2005 to delete the Administrative & Educational register from the proposed regulations to the *Health Professions Act*, there were implications for the competence program and for pharmacists who do not provide direct patient care. Since all registered pharmacists will be authorized to provide direct patient care, the competence program, including the competence assessment component, will be mandatory for all registered pharmacists. As a result, even pharmacists who perform mostly administrative or non-direct patient care roles will be subject to competence assessment.

As you can see from the pictogram below, pharmacists who are selected for competence assessment will have a choice of completing a knowledge assessment or submitting their professional portfolio. Pharmacists in a non-direct patient care role may find that developing a professional portfolio is a more accurate reflection of their skills and knowledge.

What is a professional portfolio? Your current learning portfolio is the foundation of your professional portfolio. However, for the

*continued on page 6*



## Conference and annual general meeting

**June 2 and 3, 2006  
The Westin  
Edmonton Hotel**

Join your colleagues as you learn about

- leading change using evidence-based outcomes
- making your practice more satisfying
- disclosing errors, a province-wide approach
- patient safety in your pharmacy
- how you know you're competent

You will also participate in the college's annual general meeting, then join the Canadian Pharmacists Association to hear two keynote presentations:

- Silken Laumen and
- Pharmacists Without Borders.

Register now—it will be a busy learning time!



## Invitation to participate in the ECP needs assessment survey

If you are a practising pharmacist in Alberta, the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences invites you to participate in an emergency contraception product (ECP) needs assessment survey and receive a \$25 voucher from the Office of Continuing Pharmacy Education.

The needs assessment is part of a research study called *Phase I Understanding the Factors for Practice Change: A Model for Assessment of Pharmacists Practice with the Emergency Contraceptive Pill*. The purpose of the project is to document the current practice of Alberta's community pharmacists when assessing women seeking to purchase ECP.

The survey can be completed on-line or using a paper copy.

For more details, look for the UofA letter inserted in this newsletter or visit the survey website at [www.pharmalearn.ualberta.ca/ecp](http://www.pharmalearn.ualberta.ca/ecp)



### Competence *continued from page 5*

purposes of competence assessment, the professional portfolio includes more information than what is currently suggested for your learning portfolio. Your professional portfolio will include your self-assessment and learning plan, documentation of your learning activities, evaluation of your learning, and evidence of outcomes of your learning.

We are currently developing the new components. Watch for more information in future issues of the newsletter.



## Frequently asked questions

### **How many CEUs can I claim for an accredited course?**

One contact hour equals one continuing education unit (CEU). Your course

certificate should list the number of CEUs for which the course has been accredited. Remember, ACPE awards 0.1 CEU for one contact hour but you may claim 1.0 CEU for one ACPE contact hour.

### **Can I claim courses that I plan on attending on my PDL and submit it for registration renewal?**

No, you should only claim courses that you have attended or completed. Remember, you sign a professional declaration at the time of registration renewal indicating that your CPD Log is a true and accurate account of continuing education activities as of the date you sign the declaration.

### **I have more than 15 CEUs this year. Can I carry over the extra CEUs to next year?**

No, you can only claim CEUs that you earned in the membership year for which you are claiming.

## Learning portfolio tip...

When you are completing your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Log for registration renewal, remember the following.

- It is **your** responsibility to ensure that a program you are claiming for accredited CEUs has been properly accredited. You may claim continuing pharmacy education as accredited learning if it has been accredited by one of the following organizations:
  - Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP)
  - Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP)
  - American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE)
  - other provincial pharmacy organizations such as Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP)
- Be sure to quote the accreditation file number so we can verify the course's accreditation status when we are reviewing your CPD Log at registration renewal time. Problems verifying a course's accreditation status can lead to delays in processing your registration renewal.
- You may not claim continuing medical education as accredited learning unless it has been accredited by a pharmacy accrediting body as above.
- Only claim the learning activities that you are willing and able to support with proper documentation if you are selected for an audit of your learning portfolio.
- You must complete a Non-accredited Learning Record form for all non-accredited learning activities you are claiming on your CPD Log. You can find this form in the Continuing Professional Development Plan that was mailed to you last September, or on our website at [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca). Click on *Continuing Competence* in the top bar, then choose *RxCEL Competence Program*.





## International pharmacy graduates explore the Alberta workplace

Fourteen international pharmacy graduates (IPGs) are meeting weekly in Edmonton from March 17 to May 6, 2006 as part of an orientation to the Alberta pharmacy workplace. From Russia, Africa, China, Sweden and a range of other countries, these participants bring a global perspective to their patient care.

During nine days of programming, they are exploring the professional, communication and cultural expectations of all professional interactions with colleagues and patients. Topics include the Canadian health care system, the Alberta *Standards of Practice—The Pharmacist*, third-party billing, and the pharmaceutical care model. They are also exploring written and verbal communication skills. Additional patient communication and counselling practice sessions beyond the original course outline have been added at the request of the participants, four of whom travel from Calgary to attend.



Originally designed and delivered in Manitoba, the International Pharmacy Orientation (IPO) program supports practice in community and hospital settings.

IPO sessions are distributed over seven weeks to provide participants an opportunity to practise and transfer their learning to the workplace between classroom sessions.

The classroom experience is supported by travelling on-site mentors. Three Alberta pharmacists travel to participating sites to provide additional coaching and support to IPO participants. The IPO mentors are a link to program content and a neutral source of support for international grads, answering questions and addressing issues the program

*continued on page 8*

## acp xPresses and News

### acp xPress

#### Mar. 2

- Council nominations and notice of special election

### acp news

(issued on the college website since Feb. 2, 2006)

#### External:

##### Feb. 23

- PEBC looking for assessors

##### March 9

- Opportunity to be PEBC assessor

##### March 16

- Alberta Netcare providing lab test results to pharmacies

##### March 23

- Donald M. Cameron 1917-2006

##### April 8

- Opportunity to be PEBC assessor

#### Operations:

##### Feb. 9

- Spam and virus protection on your college e-mail

##### Feb. 9

- Pharmacist on-line services under revision

##### Feb. 16

- Award congratulations

##### Feb. 17

- My Membership Profile on-line services partially back in operation

##### Feb. 22

- Council nominations deadline

##### March 2

- Council nominations and notice of special election

##### March 8

- Submit a resolution for the AGM

##### March 8

- Pharmacist on-line services reactivated

##### March 23

- New pharmacists—don't miss your chance to apply for a New Horizons award

##### March 29

- Council meeting Apr. 6, 2006

##### April. 3

- New Horizons awards deadline extended

#### April 5

- Conference program now available —75th registrant free!

#### Practice Issues:

##### Feb. 13

- OIPC decision re sale of insulin

##### Feb. 22

- IPO tuition reduced and registration extended

##### March 15

- Learning opportunity: Multicultural workshop—registration deadline Mar. 27

##### March 16

- Response to the Health Policy Framework

##### March 23

- Multicultural workshop (no charge) —registration deadline Fri. Mar. 24

##### April 10

- Pseudoephedrine combination products—no change in scheduling

#### Drug Information:

##### Feb. 7

- Ketek (telithromycin)

##### Feb. 7

- Chinese herbal products

##### Feb. 15

- Blood glucose monitors BD Logic, BD Latitude, the Link

##### Feb. 22

- Weight loss products containing controlled substances

##### Feb. 28

- Trasylol (aprotinin)

##### March 7

- Hydrea (hydroxyurea capsules)

##### March 10

- SSRIs and pregnancy (link to lung disorder)

##### March 29

- Counterfeit and unapproved avian flu products

##### April 6

- Super Fat Burning and LiDa Daidaihua Slimming Capsules

##### April 10

- Diastat AcuDial

##### April 10

- Yohimbine or yohimbe bark, Strauss Energy Six

## Spam and virus protection on your college e-mail

Pharmacists have been asking for spam and virus protection for the college's e-mail system and now you have it!

The college recently installed anti-spam and anti-virus solutions on ACP's e-mail system. This means your e-mail account is now protected from accepting infected messages, and the amount of unsolicited e-mail (spam) will be significantly reduced.

Here's how it works: a message that contains a virus arrives; the message is subject to "disinfection" and, if the disinfection succeeds, the message is delivered. If a message cannot be disinfected, it is returned to the sender with a note about the problem.

A message identified as potential spam is copied to a special mailbox in your account called *Junk Mail*. Mail older than 30 days in this folder is automatically deleted for you. You should remember to check your *Junk Mail* folder periodically for messages that were identified as potential spam, but are not.



### Exploring the Alberta Workplace *continued from page 11*

participants may not have raised with colleagues and supervisors in a busy workplace.

For additional workplace support, the IPO participants' employers and supervisors were invited to a one-day workshop to increase their awareness of multicultural influences in the pharmacy setting.

The IPO program is a pilot project supported by core project funds from Alberta Health and Wellness, with instructional costs funded by Advanced Education. The Manitoba government has shared the cultural and communication component from their Prescription for Learning program, and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC is sharing its experience and expertise with their Canadian pharmacy practices program, especially as related to the pharmaceutical care component of ACP's program.

Through the IPO pilot we are exploring the benefits of a flexible, workplace-based program. The project will provide information on the impact of the program and the use of mentors to support classroom and on-site learning.

## Pseudoephedrine combination products—no change in scheduling

On April 10, 2006, the move to reschedule combination pseudoephedrine products and place them in Schedule 3 became effective in all provinces **except Alberta**.

In December 2005, an order from Alberta's Lieutenant Governor in Council moved single-entity pseudoephedrine products into Schedule II. Since then the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee recommended that all single-entity pseudoephedrine products be moved to Schedule II nationally and that all combination products become part of Schedule III.

Alberta is already in compliance with the first recommendation due to our schedule change in December. However, until there is an order from Lieutenant Governor in Council to move combination products to Schedule III, those products remain unscheduled.

## Pediatric single-entity pseudoephedrine products

Alberta pharmacists have done a great job of placing single-entity pseudoephedrine products intended for adult use in the dispensary.

However, shoppers can still find single-entity pseudoephedrine products intended for use by children in the self-selection area of some pharmacies. Check your shelves to be sure these products have been placed in the dispensary. Of note are Benylin Oral Decongestant Infant Drops, Triaminic Oral Pediatric Decongestant Drops and Sudafed Decongestant Children's Chewable Tablets.

## OIPC decision re sale of insulin

On Feb. 2, 2006, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) released a report indicating that a pharmacist's collection of the prospective purchaser's name, address, date of birth, phone number and other relevant information pertaining to any allergies or medical conditions is appropriate. The report is based on a complaint related to the purchase of insulin.

The college has issued a news release in response to the commissioner's report. The news release reminds the public about a pharmacist's responsibility related to Schedule 2 drugs. Karen Wolfe, our president, is quoted as saying that a pharmacist needs to know about a patient's health status, symptoms and other related health information to determine whether a drug product is the right one.



You can find the college's news release on our website at [pharmacists.ab.ca/news\\_events/default.aspx?id=5554](http://pharmacists.ab.ca/news_events/default.aspx?id=5554)

The OIPC report can be found at [www.oipc.ab.ca/ims/client/upload/H2006\\_IR\\_001.pdf](http://www.oipc.ab.ca/ims/client/upload/H2006_IR_001.pdf)

## Authority to dispense methadone?

The college office frequently receives calls from pharmacists asking whether any Alberta pharmacy can dispense methadone. The answer is yes; Alberta pharmacies do not need to be registered or authorized in any way to dispense methadone.

## CPSA notice of erasure

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) has informed us that Dr. Austin J. Quaye, CPSA registration number S06355, of Edmonton was erased from the CPSA Special Register effective March 10, 2006.

## Subutex® (buprenorphine)

Buprenorphine will soon be available in Canada as another choice for physicians and patients to treat opioid dependence disorder. The drug can be used both as a maintenance agent and for assisting patients to withdraw from opioids.

According to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), physicians must hold a methadone exemption for dependence as a primary care prescriber in order to prescribe buprenorphine in Alberta, and must have completed specific buprenorphine training. Health Canada has approved the product for sale in Canada on the condition that specific training for prescribers be provided by the Canadian manufacturer.

Questions about physicians and their authority to prescribe buprenorphine should be directed to CPSA at (780) 423-4764.

## 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 following links or by calling Misti Denton at the college office at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838, or by contacting her by e-mail at [Misti.Denton@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:Misti.Denton@pharmacists.ab.ca).

- **Ketek (telithromycin)**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_07\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_07_e.html)
- **Chinese herbal products**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_08\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_08_e.html)
- **Blood glucose monitors BD Logic®, BD Latitude™, the Link®**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/public/gluc-glyc\\_monit-lect\\_4\\_pa-ap\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/public/gluc-glyc_monit-lect_4_pa-ap_e.html)
- **Weight loss products containing controlled substances**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_10\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_10_e.html)
- **Trasylo1™ (aprotinin)**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2006/trasylo1\\_hpc-cps\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2006/trasylo1_hpc-cps_e.html)
- **Hydrea® (hydroxyurea capsules)**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2006/hydrea\\_2\\_hpc-cps\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2006/hydrea_2_hpc-cps_e.html)
- **SSRIs and pregnancy, link to lung disorder in babies**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_11\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_11_e.html)
- **Counterfeit and unapproved avian flu products**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_12\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_12_e.html)
- **Super Fat Burning and LiDa Daidaihua Slimming Capsules**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_15\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_15_e.html)
- **Diastat AcuDial**  
[www.diastat.com](http://www.diastat.com)
- **Yohimbine or yohimbe bark, Strauss Energy Six**  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_16\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_16_e.html)

## Pharmacists and lab results

Since the minister of Health announced that pharmacists would have electronic access to laboratory results through Netcare, the Netcare deployment team has been encouraging pharmacies to sign on. ACP has received numerous calls from pharmacists seeking clarity about professional responsibilities associated with accessing, using, and/or disclosing laboratory information.

These inquiries are being addressed through two separate strategies.

1. New educational opportunities are being developed for pharmacists to support them in the effective and responsible use of laboratory information. All pharmacists who have not been using laboratory information on a regular basis within their daily practices are encouraged to participate in the opportunities as they become available.
2. Guidelines are being developed to support pharmacists as they access, use, and/or disclose laboratory values. The guidelines are targeted for completion prior to the end of June 2006.

An educational session on using laboratory values will be offered June 3 at the college's conference. Look for details in the advance conference program mailed to you in April or on our website at [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca) (click on the *Feature Event* on the home page).

## Pharmacists have access to lab test results

Pharmacists across Alberta logging onto the Alberta Netcare Electronic Health Record now have a powerful new tool at their disposal – access to lab test results from across the province.

Currently about 55 per cent of results for lab tests conducted in Alberta are available to be viewed electronically. By the summer of 2006, 85 per cent of all results are expected to be available through Alberta Netcare.

Having lab test results available to pharmacists makes Alberta Netcare an even more robust tool. Pharmacists can also view available prescription and allergy information, which will enable them to provide more comprehensive advice to clients about prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

“Access to lab results will make the job of pharmacists easier and more efficient,” says Jody Shkrobot, manager of Pharmacy Services and Professional Affairs for Value Drug Mart Associates.

You can apply for access to the lab test results system through Alberta Netcare by calling 1-866-756-2647 or visiting the website at [www.albertanetcare.ca](http://www.albertanetcare.ca).



## Alberta Netcare is making significant progress...

Alberta Netcare is making significant progress in all areas of development and deployment.

- More than 17,000 health care providers are registered to use Alberta Netcare, including more than 1,500 pharmacists.
- The health information of approximately 570,000 Albertans is on the system, and the program is on track to achieve the goal of including all Albertans by 2008.
- More than 400 pharmacists, doctors and health region professionals are currently piloting a new version of Alberta Netcare called Portal 2006. Based on the system



Health Minister Iris Evans talks with Jody Shkrobot, Value Drug Mart, at the March 16, 2006 news conference.

currently used in the Capital Health region, the new Alberta Netcare portal offers more functionality and a more intuitive interface than the current electronic health record. It will be available province-wide beginning this summer.

- In March 2006, Health Minister Iris Evans announced that the province of Alberta has committed an additional investment of \$116-million in the provincial system to support province-wide technology enhancements and connect more health professionals to the electronic health record.

Submitted by Alberta Health and Wellness

## Investigation into professional conduct

The following ACP investigating committee decision has been summarized due to space considerations. A copy of the full decision is posted on the college website at [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca) under *Complaint Resolution*. You can also obtain a copy by contacting the college office at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838.

Investigations and hearings can vary widely in the time required to reach a decision. Some may be completed within a year of the original complaint; others can require many years to allow due process to unfold.

### A summary of the investigating committee decision in the conduct of Connie Orbeck, registration #1787

On Dec. 15, 2005, an investigating committee rendered its final decision in respect to a matter concerning Ms. Connie Orbeck.

In the Agreed Statement of Facts and Admissions, Ms. Orbeck admitted that:

- a. her conduct breached Section 39(3) of the *Pharmaceutical Profession Regulation* in that she closed her Acadia/Fairview Pharmacy but failed to notify the Alberta College of Pharmacists for approximately three weeks that the pharmacy was closed. At that point she indicated to the college that the pharmacy would be closing temporarily. However, some time after September 2000, Ms. Orbeck closed the Acadia/Fairview Pharmacy permanently and did not advise ACP;
- b. her conduct breached sections 18 and 19 of the *Pharmaceutical Profession Act* in that between August 2000 and June 2001, when she moved to new pharmacy premises, she engaged in the exclusive scope of practice of pharmacy within her home which was not a licensed pharmacy;
- c. her conduct breached Section 35 of the *Pharmaceutical Profession Regulation* in that she opened a pharmacy in her home but took no steps to notify the college of her intentions or her actions;
- d. she breached Principle IX of the *Code of Ethics* bylaw and the *Standards of Practice—The Pharmacist* in that she failed to respond to the inquiries of other pharmacists who called her closed location; and,
- e. she breached Section 50(6) of the *Pharmaceutical Profession Act* in that she failed to promptly reply to inquiries of a preliminary investigator.

The Agreed Statement of Facts disclosed that, on Aug. 1, 2000, Acadia/Fairview Pharmacy ceased to operate at the Acadia/Fairview Medical Clinic. At that time Ms. Orbeck moved the pharmacy operation to her home and continued to dispense drugs to patients from her home. She did not advise the Alberta College of Pharmacists that she would be operating a pharmacy in her home, and dispensing drugs and otherwise engaging in the exclusive scope areas of pharmacy practice in her home.

Between Aug. 1, 2000 and June 25, 2001, Ms. Orbeck provided a significant volume of services to clients who formerly received services at the Acadia/Fairview Pharmacy.

*continued on page 12*



**Q** Can an out-of-province prescription for methadone be filled in Alberta?

**A** Yes, as long as you determine that the prescription is authentic, accurate, complete and appropriate, as required by Section 15(2) of the *Pharmaceutical Profession Regulation*.

However, prescriptions for methadone require an additional step. You should ensure the physician has a federal exemption to prescribe methadone. This information can be obtained from Health Canada's Office of Controlled Substances (toll free at: 1-866-358-0453), or from the college of physicians and surgeons in the province where the physician is licensed.

Prescriptions follow the regulations in the province where they originate. Methadone prescriptions written in Alberta require a triplicate prescription, but not all provinces have a triplicate program. Prescriptions originating in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador, for example, would not arrive on a triplicate form. Physicians practising in other provinces would use their local triplicate forms, so expect prescriptions to differ in appearance from Alberta triplicates.

Triplicate prescription copies must go back to the originating province's program. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta will forward out-of-province triplicates to the appropriate provincial program if you remit your out of province triplicates with your Alberta triplicate copies. The only exceptions are prescriptions from a province that has no triplicate program and Controlled Prescription Program forms from BC that, in both instances, only need to be filed in your narcotic prescription files.

During your dialogue with the prescriber, be sure to discuss the expectations around daily witnessed methadone ingestion and carried doses. Not all prescriptions explicitly state the requirement for daily witnessed ingestion; this action is often implied. Be sure you understand your obligations.

Drug storage and patient safety is also a concern. Methadone in the hands of an opiate-naive individual or a child has the potential to have a fatal outcome.

With the influx of people to Alberta, you may receive more out-of-province methadone prescriptions than you have in the past. Having a checklist of considerations available for your use will help you accommodate your new patients.



## Website search tips

Have you been disappointed with your search results on our website? Refining your search could help you get more satisfactory results. You can do this by using the *Advanced Search* option on the site, which also gives you access to a number of search tips.

Remember that the search tool automatically checks for items that are two years old. If you think the information you're searching for might be older than 2004, you can change the search start date in the *Advanced Search*.

If you cannot find what you're looking for, please call the college office at (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838 and we'll help you.

**Investigations** *continued from page 11*

The Investigating Committee was provided with copies of records from Alberta Blue Cross detailing the drugs dispensed to Blue Cross clients between these dates by Ms. Orbeck.

On approximately June 25, 2001, Acadia/Fairview Pharmacy began operations in its new location.

As a result of the evidence and admissions presented to the Investigating Committee, it ordered the following penalties:

- a reprimand;
- a fine of \$10,000.00; and,
- publication of these matters in **acp news**.

The Investigating Committee indicated that it considered every breach to be very serious but, in particular, noted the fact that Ms. Orbeck chose to engage in the exclusive scope of pharmacy practice in her home.

In its letter of reprimand, the Investigating Committee stated as follows:

*As a result of your actions leading to this hearing, the Investigating Committee found that you abused the privileges of our self-governing profession by ignoring the regulations and legislation surrounding the scope of pharmacy practice. By doing so you damaged the integrity of the profession of pharmacy which in turn reflects on all your colleagues who function as very important members of the health care team. The committee failed to understand your reluctance to act after receiving a letter from the Alberta College of Pharmacists' registrar to "stop*

*immediately if you were engaging in the exclusive scope of practice of pharmacy from your home because it was a direct contravention of the Pharmaceutical Profession Act."*

*Your failure to comply with repeated requests from the Alberta College of Pharmacists was unbecoming of a professional. Your failure to respond to repeated inquiries of other pharmacists' requests for patient transfers was detrimental to the public's safety.*

**...from the faculty**

Professor **Stephanie Adamic** has received the Bristol-Myers Squibb Excellence in Teaching Award for 2005. This annual award recognizes the dedication, commitment and excellence in teaching of an instructor in each of the faculties of pharmacy across Canada. The selection was made by members of the graduating class.

On March 21, Dean **Franco Pasutto** attended a dinner meeting with Karen Wolfe, ACP president, and 17 pharmacists from the Grande Prairie area. Together they discussed the new curriculum, enrolment, admissions, the new building and the necessity for pharmacists to be involved in professional issues. While in the city, he also had a meeting with officials from Grande Prairie Regional College.

Information on the **Dean's Tournament of Golf** is posted on [www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca](http://www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca). Be sure to mark the June 1 event in your calendar and register for the event!

Also mark your calendar for the UofA **Reunion Weekend**, Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, 2006.

**In memory\***

**Donald A. Butler** died on Feb. 23, 2006 at the age of 75 years.

Don graduated in 1961 with his BSc Pharm from the UofA and registered with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in the same year. He practised pharmacy at Mitchell Drugs, then at Gold Bar Drugs until 1969. He worked briefly at the Red Deer Woolco pharmacy and then at Bishops Value Drug Mart #2 in Red Deer until he took early retirement 17 years later.

Don is mourned by his wife Helen, two sons and a daughter.

**Donald M. Cameron** died on March 16, 2006 at the age of 88 years.

Don graduated from the UofA with a BSc Pharm in 1948. He practised in Camrose and Daysland until he assume the position of registrar for the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in 1957. Don was the longest serving registrar in Canadian pharmacy history. (For more details about Don, see page 3)

Don is mourned by his wife Muriel, and their son and two daughters.

*\* 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's Privacy of Personal Information Policy.*



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## Meet the ACP award winners!

Four leading pharmacists are recipients of ACP awards. They are role models for each one of us and help to set the bar high for the profession.

Here are short descriptions of why each of the recipients was selected. For more complete information about these leading pharmacists and others who have been highlighted in the annual report, please go to the report on our website at [pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca). Click on *About ACP*, then on *Annual Reports*.

**You can participate in congratulating these outstanding members at the Awards Breakfast on Sat., June 3, 2006. The breakfast is part of *Making a Difference: Pharmacists at the Forefront of Care*, our conference and annual general meeting at the Westin Edmonton Hotel, June 2 and 3. See page 5 for details.**

### **Award of Excellence\*** **Tammy Bungard**



Tammy is the academic inspiration and leader of a pharmacist-managed anticoagulation management service (AMS) that, according to

her nominators, has become one of the most sought-after services in the Capital Health region.

AMS aims to optimize anticoagulation management through pharmacist expertise and intervention, in collaboration with physicians, and to reduce the rates of stroke, blood clots and bleeding for patients managed in the service. The service began as a pilot project funded by Alberta Health and Wellness through the Health Innovation Fund. AMS accepted its first patient in April 2001 and continued as a pilot project through to December 2004, when Capital Health assumed its funding as a highly successful, continuing regional program.

The AMS pharmacists are responsible for managing the anticoagulation therapy for each patient; they have a team of physicians available for consultation should their expertise be necessary. The pharmacists' contact with patients is personalized and involves close monitoring of the drug therapy. Detailed documentation on each patient permits the pharmacists to follow trends and identify concerns as they arise.

The process of creating the clinic required Tammy to work closely with Cardiology, Haematology and Internal Medicine physicians to ensure the program would be well accepted and to develop the required protocols and policies to ensure enhanced patient care. The AMS is now viewed as a critical resource for these disciplines. In fact, the program was so successful that the cardiac surgeons asked AMS to take over the anticoagulation management of all of their patients with mechanical valves, in addition to others referred to the service.

The original project also focused on developing the skills of pharmacists throughout Alberta so that patients elsewhere could have access to the same high level of care. As a result, AMS has become a model

for the role of pharmacists in managing and prescribing medications for chronic conditions.

\* The ACP Award of Excellence is presented to a registrant for a single, unique accomplishment or contribution to the field of pharmacy.

### **M.J. Huston** **Pharmacist of the Year\*** **Ron Pohar**

Clinical Pharmacist, Myro's Pharmacy, Edmonton



The newest M.J. Huston Pharmacist of the Year is known for his work in the mental health field, particularly with individuals who live in the inner city. The

Capital Health's Community Living Program (CLIP) has been the impetus for one of his most recent endeavours, i.e., as a key contributor to its Tobacco Dependence Clinic, or TDC. This clinic, specially designed for mental health clients, helps them address their physical health by quitting smoking.

The clinic's program is run by a nurse, a psychiatrist and a pharmacist. Ron manages the nicotine replacement treatment by determining the medication and dosage, and then monitoring each client's progress through frequent and regular contact.

Ron says, "In managing TDC clients, we must be very attentive to monitoring their physical health, particularly blood pressure and cardiac function, given that they are often on multiple nicotine-replacement therapies." One of Ron's key roles is to help the clients remain motivated. "It's very difficult for our clients to abstain from smoking since they are surrounded by others in their peer group who smoke. They need intensive support and monitoring at the beginning of treatment."

Ron is also known for his expertise in geriatrics. Three days a week he attends to clients at Canterbury Court, a seniors residence in Edmonton. There he works with a team of nurses, physicians, Home Care staff, residents and residents' families. "This is really a multidisciplinary team," says Ron, "with excellent communication among the team members." Ron's role ranges from medication reviews to addressing specific

*continued on page A2*

**Award Winners** *continued from page A1*

problems he discovers or are raised by other team members, including the residents or their families. He's particularly appreciative of the trust and rapport that's developed among the team members who've worked together for many years. "Those relationships are important for quality patient care," notes Ron.

\* The M.J. Huston Pharmacist of the Year award is presented to a college registrant who has demonstrated outstanding professional excellence in pharmacist practice.

### **W.L. Boddy Pharmacy of the Year\* Red Deer Co-op Plaza Pharmacy**

Gordon Matthies, Manager, Red Deer



The Red Deer Co-op Plaza Pharmacy prides itself in placing the patient's needs first. Gordon Matthies, manager, is justifiably

proud of the pharmacy and its staff. "Our staff believe in the value of professional services and care enough about people to 'go the extra mile,'" he notes.

Care plans for patients that are beyond the norm are an important part of the pharmacy's services. A record may include observations about the patient's progress, notes from home visits and calls to patients, clinical practice guidelines as appropriate, adjustments to therapy, and the like, all of which serve to provide solid data when discussing a patient with a physician or other health care provider.

One of the pharmacy's hallmarks is the busy private counselling room. Patients know they will meet there with a pharmacist each time they get a new prescription or when they need to learn about managing their illness.

Compounding medications is an important part of the pharmacy's services, as are the monthly health clinics for testing blood glucose, blood pressure levels, and screening for cholesterol. Home visits often identify issues such as food and drug interactions, non-adherence to therapy or other barriers to treatment.

Presentations to schools, community groups and other health care providers are a valued community service. In particular, the pharmacy's presentation on over-the-counter medications is seen by employers as an important contribution to work-place health and safety.

The staff are encouraged to participate in and contribute to the profession by involvement in clinical studies and on committees for professional organizations, and participating in the UofA's preceptorship program. Also, two of the pharmacy's technicians teach at the Red Deer College's technician program.

According to a local physician, the pharmacy is known for consistently working with patients to address the appropriate balance between their lifestyle and medication needs.

\* The W.L. Boddy Pharmacy of the Year award is presented to an Alberta pharmacy whose health professionals, by virtue of their practice, have had a positive impact on the health of their community.

### **Wyeth Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia\* Donna Galvin**

Consultant Pharmacist, Okotoks



Donna's signature volunteerism, leadership, enthusiasm and commitment to Alberta's western heritage has

garnered recognition a Wyeth Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia recipient. This award recognizes community service.

Donna has compiled a long and outstanding history of service to the Calgary community. The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede has been the most significant beneficiary of her attention. Her involvement began in 1973 with the Band Management Committee and as one of the first members of the Stampede Show Band Committee.

In 1985 Donna moved on to the stampede's Promotion Committee, a long-standing commitment that saw her serving three years as vice chair and

recently completing two years as chair. The committee consists of 140 volunteers who promote the stampede year-round locally and nationally.

Donna is also known for her work with the Canadian Cancer Society. She became a Reach to Recovery volunteer in 1982, and grew into the position of provincial volunteer trainer, a responsibility she assumed for five years. She has been a member of the Junior League and a volunteer ski guide at Lake Louise.

Despite the time she commits to being a volunteer, Donna still finds time to be a dedicated pharmacist. Her passion for her volunteer work mirrors her passion for the profession. For the past two years she has been the pharmacist consultant for the IMPACCT (Integrated Multidisciplinary Pharmacist Acute Care Community Treatment) project and a pharmacist representative on the Calgary Cardiovascular Network. She has also been involved in pharmacist remediation services, the Enhancement of Secondary Prevention (ESP) Study, Study of Coronary Risk Intervention by Pharmacists (SCRIP), and consulting contracts that included designing, instructing, and evaluating disease-specific learning modules for a national retail pharmacy organization. These activities follow many years of community and hospital practice experience.

Her deep commitment to her community, both as a health care professional and as a community member, are now recognized through the Bowl of Hygeia.

\* The Wyeth Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia is awarded to a pharmacist who has compiled an outstanding record of community service which, apart from the recipient's specific identification as a pharmacist, reflects well on the profession.

alberta college of  
pharmacists

