

alberta college of
pharmacists



acp *news*

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Healthy
Albertans
through excellence
in pharmacy practice

APEX AWARDS

Alberta Pharmacy Excellence

Let's show pride in the profession!

Pharmacy practice in Alberta is world class, so let's celebrate the people who make it happen! The APEX (Alberta Pharmacy Excellence) Awards, co-sponsored by ACP and RxA, recognize the outstanding achievements of pharmacists, healthcare teams and pharmacy stakeholders across the province.

Recognizing individuals through the APEX Awards helps raise the profile of pharmacy in Alberta, and identifies role models among your peers. This year's APEX Awards presentations will be extra special as they will be held at the Centennial conference at Jasper Park Lodge.

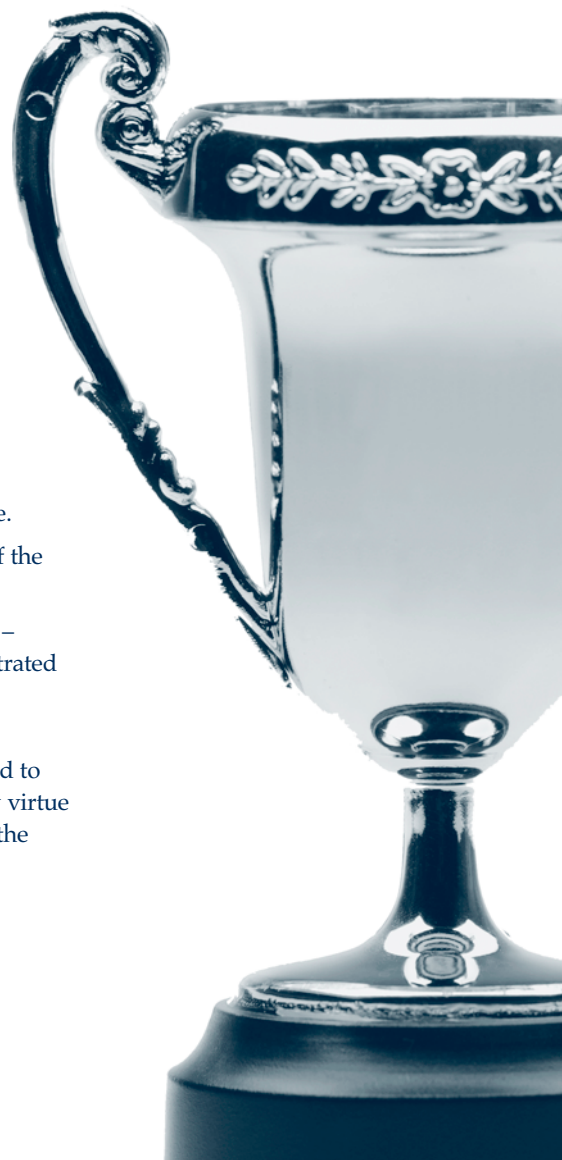
Consider nominating a colleague for one of the following awards.

■ **M.J. Huston Pharmacist of Distinction** – awarded to a pharmacist who has demonstrated outstanding professional excellence in the practice of pharmacy.

■ **W.L. Boddy Pharmacy Award** – awarded to a pharmacy whose health professionals, by virtue of their practice, have positively impacted the health of their community.

■ **Award of Excellence** – awarded to an Alberta pharmacist for individual outstanding achievement in the field of pharmacy.

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acpnews is published four times per year by the Alberta College of Pharmacists. Send submissions for publication to:

Karen Mills, Communications Leader
karen.mills@pharmacists.ab.ca

The deadline for submissions for the Winter 2011 issue is Nov. 26, 2010. Information about content and length of articles can be obtained from Karen.

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

President: Donna Galvin
President Elect: Anjali Acharya
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Past President: Merv Bashforth

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Donna Galvin, District 5

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Robin Burns
Teresa Hennessey

Council members can be reached by email via our website at pharmacists.ab.ca under *About ACP/ 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 email addresses are available on our website at pharmacists.ab.ca under *Contact Us*.

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Complaints Director: James Krempien
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Let's show pride in the profession!
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■ **Future of Pharmacy** – provides funds for up to three new pharmacists (who have been in practice at least one year and not more than five years) to attend their first ACP/RxA Conference. This award is presented to pharmacists who exude enthusiasm and passion for the future of pharmacy, are visionary, and offer extraordinary promise to the profession.

■ **Partners in Practice** – awarded to recognize a collaborative effort between a pharmacist and one or more other health professionals to optimize patient care and/or safety.

■ **Friend of Pharmacy** – awarded to a non-pharmacist who has provided distinguished service to the profession of pharmacy.

■ **Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia** – awarded to a pharmacist who has compiled an outstanding record of community service which, apart from his/her specific identification as a pharmacist, reflects well on the profession.

Look to the ACP website, under *About ACP/APEX Awards*, to find online nomination forms, terms of reference, tips for preparing your APEX Award nomination and videos of previous winners.

Nomination deadline is **Friday, Dec. 10, 2010.**



Your pharmacist and the Alberta College of Pharmacists...

Working together for you!

The headline is the new tagline for the fifth wave of ACP's public awareness campaign that will run in November. Four weeks of province-wide radio spots and interactive online ads will carry the messages.

The campaign has always supported ACP's strategic objective of increasing public understanding of the role and value of pharmacists. That's not changing.

The new tagline is in response to a growing body of information that makes it clear that Albertans do not know that pharmacists are regulated or who regulates them and is responsible for ensuring quality pharmacy practice in Alberta. As pharmacists take on new roles, it is vital that the public understand that there is a body ensuring pharmacists are qualified to provide care and that the care will remain safe, appropriate, and effective.

To leverage advertising dollars and expand the reach of the campaign, ACP is continuing to partner with the College of Pharmacists of BC.



Thank you for feedback

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent consultations on the proposed changes to the council election process and Standards of Practice. ACP council will consider all feedback at their Oct. 14 meeting.



What do Albertans think about pharmacy?

If your patients tell you that they received a phone call about pharmacy, it may be because they were selected to participate in ACP's public survey. Every three years, ACP commissions a survey to learn about Albertans' expectations of pharmacy, their comfort levels with pharmacists' scope of practice, and their views on larger pharmacy-related issues. The results then inform ACP council decisions and ACP program development.

This year's survey focuses on the following objectives:

- measuring public expectation of pharmacists,
- measuring public importance/satisfaction ratings with current pharmacy service,
- measuring public comfort and importance/satisfaction ratings with pharmacist prescribing (including adapting) and injecting,
- measuring public awareness of ACP, and
- identifying gaps in patients' healthcare expectations that pharmacists could fill.

Look to the January 2011 edition of *acpnews* for research findings.

We're coming to visit

ACP will once again host a series of fall regional meetings to answer your questions and collect your input on college and pharmacy issues. Watch future editions of *The Link* and the ACP website for locations and dates.

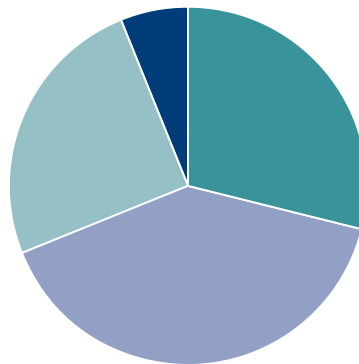
100th additional prescribing authorization issued!

As of Aug. 31, 100 pharmacists in Alberta hold additional prescribing authorization and momentum is building. Presentations like *Chat, Check, and Chart* and *Practice Skills Boot Camp*, in addition to the conversations our practice consultants are having out in the field, have been great motivators.

Could you be next? For tips, FAQs, the guidebook, and forms, click on *Additional Prescribing Authorization Information* in the *Spotlight* section of ACP's website.

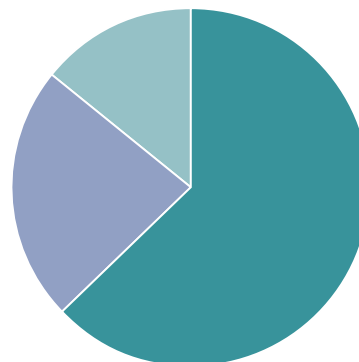
If you are interested in knowing a bit more about the demographics of prescribers, check out these charts.

Who is prescribing?



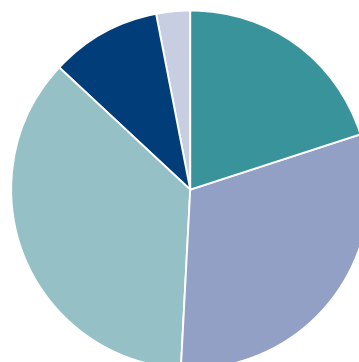
Current age distribution of pharmacists with additional prescribing authorization

- 25 - 34 years of age
- 35 - 44 years of age
- 45 - 54 years of age
- 55 years of age and older



Population served

- Large urban population
- Small urban population
- Rural population



Where pharmacists with additional prescribing authorization practice

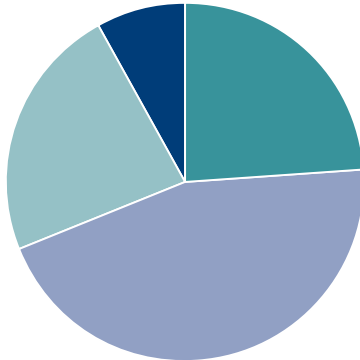
- Community
- Hospital
- Clinic*
- Primary Care Network
- Continuing Care Facility

*Clinic = Anticoagulation, hypertension, stroke, infectious diseases, travel

continued on page 4


100th additional prescribing authorization issued

continued from page 3



Years in pharmacy practice

- Less than 10 years
- Between 10 and 20 years
- Between 20 and 30 years
- More than 30 years



Another Super Learner!

Congratulations to Zenobia Jaffer who earned 50.25 CEUs for her 2009-2010 year!

Intended areas of prescribing (at time of application)

Women's, men's, children's health	6				
Travel medicine	5				
Smoking cessation	4				
Respiratory	8				
Renal	2				
Psychiatric	1				
Palliative care	2				
Oncological	1				
Neurological	1				
Musculoskeletal	4				
Infectious diseases	22				
Hematological	19				
Geriatrics	5				
Gastrointestinal	5				
Fluid	10				
Endocrinological	14				
Diabetes management	5				
Dermatological	1				
Cardiovascular	41				
Anticoagulation	19				

August 31, 2010

“Putting People First” – Recommendations for a new *Alberta Health Act*

While health professionals are motivated to put patients first, health legislation and ultimately our health system have not been designed to ensure that this happens consistently. The recent *Putting People First* report to the government has set out to change that.

Putting People First offers wide-reaching recommendations to make Alberta’s health system and legislation more transparent, collaborative, and patient-focused.

This report follows up on recommendations from the Minister’s

Advisory Committee on Health (MACH) that were accepted by government earlier this year, and collates the feedback gathered through a province-wide consultation and input from an eight-member advisory committee. ACP was privileged to participate on both of the Minister’s Advisory Committees. The college also made written submission to both advisory committees.

Part One of the report provides recommendations under the following themes, based on feedback received from Albertans.

- Include principles to guide the health system.
- Establish a responsive and transparent public engagement framework to gather input from Albertans on an ongoing basis, and legislate requirements for engagement on future legislative and regulatory changes.
- Provide for a Health Charter.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the Alberta Health Act through public transparency and accountability.

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“Putting People First”

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- Establish measures for Alberta’s health system.
- Proceed with establishing an independent entity to support evidence-based decision making.

Part Two summarizes the input provided by Albertans through the consultation process.

Recommendations align with ACP values

The report recommends many of the same steps ACP has advocated for and modeled in its work:

- putting individuals at the centre of the discussion,
- making team-based care a priority,
- using principles to guide care decisions, and
- maintaining transparency throughout all processes.

In its submissions, ACP called for clearly defined and complementary roles, responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities of individuals, government, Alberta Health Services and other health provider organizations, and colleges that regulate health professionals. The college also emphasized the importance of focusing on wellness and backing legislation with the necessary supports to truly enable collaborative practice. ACP will now work with government to turn the report’s recommendations into practice realities.

Watch future editions of *acpnews* and *The Link* for more information about Alberta’s Health Act and how it will affect pharmacy practice.

Where to look for...

ACP’s submissions:

<https://pharmacists.ab.ca/nAboutCouncil/nAboutCouncilPolicyandLeg.aspx>

Putting Patients First report:

www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/your-health-act.html



New provincial patient safety framework announced

On Sept. 20, 2010 Minister of Health and Wellness Gene Zwozdesky and Dr. John Cowell, CEO of the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) announced a new patient safety framework for Alberta. The framework is the first of its kind in Canada, and was developed collaboratively through the guidance of the Health Quality Council and the participation of the Alberta College of Pharmacists, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health Services, and Alberta Health and Wellness.

The framework prompts organizations and healthcare providers to:

- remember patients are the primary focus,
- create a patient safety culture,
- share information about adverse events transparently,

- recognize that a systems approach is required to understand and address the complexity of factors that contribute to error, and
- implement a continuous improvement approach to strengthen their organization’s ability to use new knowledge to make informed patient safety improvements.

The framework is based on five building blocks.

1. Governance and leadership
 - a. Support structures and systems for patient safety
 - b. Demonstrate patient safety is a top priority
 - c. Build a patient safety culture
2. Safety management
 - a. Share information about patient safety
 - b. Develop a safety management plan

3. People and teams
 - a. Access to information
 - b. Collaboratively monitor compliance to standards
4. Environment and equipment appropriately designed to support safe care
5. Active patient engagement

ACP encourages you to review the Patient Safety Framework and incorporate its principles into your workplace policies and procedures. ACP council will use this framework as a foundation when directing the college's governance and strategic direction. It will inform the standards of practice and ACP programs.

Resources to help you apply the framework

Foundational resources

- Patient Safety Framework: www.hqca.ca/
- Standards for Pharmacist Practice: https://pharmacists.ab.ca/Content_Files/Files/HPA_Standards_FINAL.pdf
- Standards for Operating Licensed Pharmacies: https://pharmacists.ab.ca/Content_Files/Files/PDA_Standards_FINAL.pdf

Governance and Leadership issues

- Code of Ethics: <https://pharmacists.ab.ca/nPharmacistResources/CodeofEthics.aspx>
- Policy and Procedures template: https://pharmacists.ab.ca/Content_Files/Files/PoliciesProceduresManual.doc

Safety Management

- ACP Practice Guidelines: <https://pharmacists.ab.ca/nPharmacistResources/ACPPPracticeGuidelines.aspx>
- Contacts for Alberta Police Services (to report forgeries, etc.): <https://pharmacists.ab.ca/nPharmacistResources/InfoSheetsPosters.aspx>
- MedEffect (drug information and side effect/adverse event reporting): www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/index-eng.php

People and teams

- A Practical Guide to the Health Information Act: www.oipc.ab.ca/Content_Files/Files/Publications/HIA_Guide_August_2010.pdf
- Patient Information Collection Poster: https://pharmacists.ab.ca/document_library/Patient_info_poster.pdf

Environment and equipment appropriately designed to support safe care


- Infection Control for Regulated Professionals – Pharmacists' edition: [www.ocpinfo.com/client/ocp/OCPHome.nsf/object/Infection+Control/\\$file/Infect_Control.pdf](http://www.ocpinfo.com/client/ocp/OCPHome.nsf/object/Infection+Control/$file/Infect_Control.pdf)
- Institute for safe medication practices: www.ismp-canada.org/


Active patient engagement

- Chat, check and chart materials: speak with the ACP Pharmacy Practice Consultants
- Disclosure framework and checklist: www.hqca.ca/index.php?id=58
- ReLATE/ReSPOND: www.hqca.ca/assets/pdf/RelateRespond/About_RR_051810.pdf



In memory...

 **Gordon Phillip Retallack** passed away on Sept. 12, 2010. Gordon received his pharmacy degree from the U of A in 1948. He went on to be the managing director at Tamblyn Drugs and then owned his own store in Edmonton's Steele Heights district.

 **Friederich (Fred) Kinas** passed suddenly on Sept. 25, 2010 at the age of 52. Fred received his Pharmacology degree from the U of A in 1981 and practised at Lynnwood Drugs in Calgary for 29 years.



Pharmacy technician bridging education underway

Individuals currently working as technicians who have not graduated from an accredited training program will be required to complete a bridging program if they wish to be registered. The bridging program curriculum, based on nationally developed competencies, consists of four courses: Pharmacology, Product Preparation, Management of Drug Distribution, and Professional Practice. Candidates may challenge three of the four courses via a PLAR (prior learning assessment and recognition) exam; however, all candidates are required to complete the Professional Practice course.

For a detailed explanation of pharmacy technician regulation and the bridging program, see the spring 2010 issue of *Transition Times*, available on the ACP website.

Bow Valley College, NorQuest College, and Red Deer College are delivering the bridging courses in Alberta. All three colleges currently have students enrolled in the Pharmacology course and all plan to begin offering the other three courses in January. Each of the three colleges will also offer the PLAR exams for eligible courses.

You can find course and exam information on the ACP website at [under Registration & licensure/Technicians/Bridging course availability](#) or on each school's websites.

Important information about the Product Preparation PLAR

The prior learning assessment and recognition process for Pharmacology and Management of Drug Distribution consists of an exam only. However, the challenge process for Product Preparation includes a requirement to demonstrate practical as well as theoretical competency. Candidates who choose the Product Preparation PLAR will be required to find a pharmacist

who will attest to their competency in extemporaneous compounding and sterile product preparation, using checklists prepared for this purpose.

Candidates will be required to:

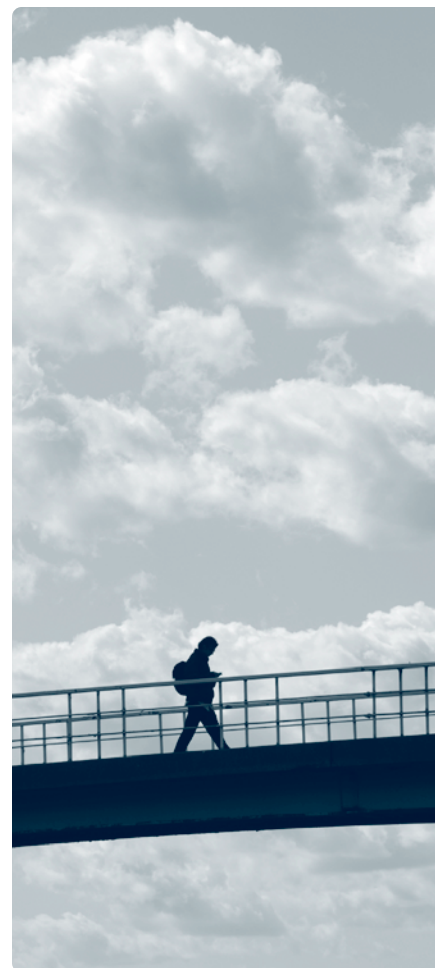
- download the checklists,
- arrange an assessment at their workplace or other practice site,
- demonstrate their skills,
- obtain appropriate signatures on both the compounding and sterile products checklists, and
- bring the signed checklists to the PLAR challenge exam.

Pharmacists who will attest to a technician's competency will be required to:

- review the competencies on the checklists to ensure they have adequate knowledge and understanding of the processes and are therefore able to assess the competence of the technician,
- observe or have observed the technician in performing sterile product preparation or extemporaneous compounding,
- complete the checklist indicating whether each competency was demonstrated or not, and
- sign the form and return it to the technician.

The checklists are posted on the ACP website under [Registration & licensure/Technicians/Resources](#).

The practical requirements must be completed **before** attempting the PLAR challenge exam. Candidates will not be able to sit the PLAR challenge exam unless they provide original copies of the completed assessments. The documentation will be collected by the registering site and forwarded to ACP along with the results of the PLAR exam.



PEBC assessors needed

Pharmacist assessors are needed for the PEBC OSCE on Sat., Nov. 6 in Calgary. Being an assessor is both personally and professionally rewarding. Assessors play a valuable role in maintaining the integrity of the licensing process, meeting the needs of the public and upholding the standards of the profession.

Details, eligibility requirements and the Response Form are available from the ACP website under [Pharmacist Resources/Forms](#).

TPP medication list updated

A revised TPP Medication List was posted in July on the TPP website at http://cpsa.ab.ca/Services/Triplicate_Prescription_Program/TPP_Medications_List.aspx.

No new medications were added. Brand names that no longer exist have been removed and the lists now can be viewed by generic name or by brand name. Note that the lists are not meant to be exhaustive or “searchable”.

Some key updates

- Improved description of buprenorphine prescribing requirements under ‘Prescriber Notes’
- Addition of Butrans® sample trade name under buprenorphine
- Note that Concerta® is an exception to methylphenidate products included in TPP
- Addition of Novo-Methylphenidate ER-C® sample trade name



Ketamine being added to Triplicate Prescription Program

Effective November 1, 2010 ketamine, if used outside of a hospital setting, requires a triplicate prescription.

Background

Some Triplicate Prescription Program partners became aware that ketamine use was becoming more frequent for ambulatory patients – both for chronic non-cancer pain and in palliative care. While ketamine is used in veterinary medicine, and to a limited degree in human medicine, it is also a drug known to have a street value and potential for misuse. Law enforcement observed that there has been increased ketamine use and availability on the street.

Because of the limited indications for human use of ketamine, and the serious side effects of misuse, ketamine is being added to the TPP Medication List.

Prescribing outside a hospital

The perspective that the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is sharing with their members is that prescribing ketamine outside a hospital will be limited to physicians with expertise in chronic pain or palliative care management. Family physicians can prescribe ketamine in circumstances where the prescription was initiated by another physician with expertise in chronic pain or palliative care management and that other physician is available to the family physician for ongoing prescribing support.

Congratulations to new Practice Development course graduates!

Congratulations to all the pharmacists who recently completed the *Menopause: A short course on assessing and managing the menopause transition* course offered by Practice Development, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta.

This year’s offering of this Women’s Health Topics course proved to be a huge success. Through their strong commitment to learning and hard work, these pharmacists completed all the requirements of the course.

Jordan Allen
Sharon Beaudry
Vanda Bilhous-Kinshella
Shamima Chattoo
Donna Elgert
Michael Kinshella
Kelly LaForge
Linda MacKay
Ched Nichyporuk
Anna Simeckova
Lindsay Torok-Both
Betty Wishloff

What are pharmacists saying about this course?

“Great job on the course! I have been to quite a few courses and this is my favourite so far. Content was timely, applicable and just the right amount. I liked the various methods of education - kept it interesting and engaging. The patient interviews were really good - along with the debriefing after - time to reflect and discuss options. We needed to have the right information before the interviews so all components were useful.”

Kelly LaForge

“Awesome course - I have taken lots of courses and this one is great - I will definitely recommend it to friends. Thank you!”

Betty Wishloff

“A great workshop - Best CE I have taken. [I] would recommend to anyone - and will!! Thank you!” Sharon Beaudry

Sign up now

Practice Development is offering a number of courses for the fall, so check out their website to find a course that’s right for you!
www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca/PD/



PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT
FACULTY OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

...from the faculty

The **Dean's Golf tournaments** in Edmonton and Calgary, despite the weather (rain interspersed by heavy showers in Edmonton, and cold in Calgary), had over 220 golfers participating. The support of the pharmaceutical industry, alumni and friends helped raise \$35,000 for student scholarships and awards.

For the second year in a row, the top graduating pharmacy student in Canada was from the U of A.

Todderick Prochnau was the 2010 Dean Burbidge Award winner for top overall marks in the national Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada examination.

Dean Kehrer's Advisory Council met for the second time on Oct. 1. The meeting was held in Calgary and brought members of the pharmacy community to the table to discuss issues relating to the education and development of pharmacists in Alberta.

Terry Legaarden is retiring from the Faculty after 11 years of outstanding service. **Lori Shockey** has been hired to the position of Director, Development and Alumni Relations. Ms. Shockey has over 18 years of experience in the U of A's Central Development Office and spent the last three years in the Faculty of Nursing's Development office.

Health Information Act amendments in force Sept. 1

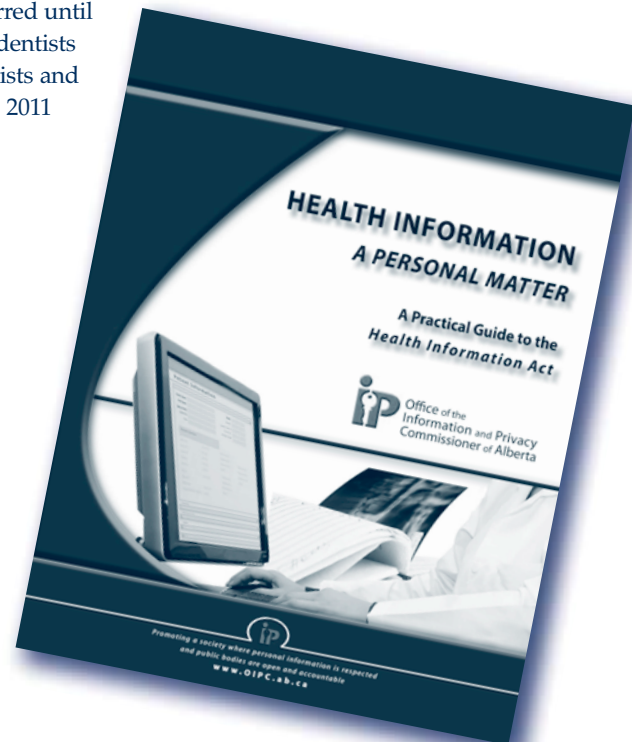
Amendments to the *Health Information Act* came into force on Sept. 1. To help health professionals understand their obligations under the Act, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner released a revised guide, available electronically at www.oipc.ab.ca.

Key amendments to the Act include:

- expansion of scope to include all health information regardless of how a health service has been paid;
- regulated members of health professions are now designated as custodians through Regulation. The current designations include physicians, pharmacists, optometrists, opticians, chiropractors, midwives, podiatrists, dentists, denturists, dental hygienists, and nurses. However, application of the Act has been deferred until March 1, 2011 for dentists and dental hygienists and until September 1, 2011 for nurses;

- new Netcare provisions that clarify health service providers' obligations to protect electronic health information;
- new role for professional colleges and associations to decide what health information should be made available in the Alberta Electronic Health Record; and
- clarification of a health service provider's obligation to consider an individual's wish about limiting the use and disclosure of health information (e.g., masking of electronic health information) and an individual's right to request a log of who has accessed it.

The next edition of *Transition Times* will be dedicated to helping pharmacists understand their obligations under the Act.



Notifying ACP of employment changes: it's the law



The law requires both the licensee and the employee pharmacist to notify ACP of employment changes. That's not always happening, so here are the details to help you understand the "whys" and "hows."

Pharmacy licensees: Section 20(2) of the Pharmacy and Drug Regulation requires you to notify ACP within 14 days if there is any change to pharmacist staffing. This requirement applies to any pharmacist newly employed or leaving employment, including casual and part-time staff. If you fail to comply, the employee is deemed ineligible to practise in your pharmacy until that notification occurs.

Employee pharmacists: Section 41(2) of the Pharmacists Profession Regulation requires you to notify ACP immediately in writing of any change in your business address.

As you can see, the college should get two notifications. When you accept employment with a licensee, remind the

licensee to send the necessary notification to the college, even as you notify the college yourself. When the employment arrangement is terminated, both parties must also notify the college immediately.

As well as complying with the legislation, remember that the college informs drug wholesalers about narcotic signing authorities at each pharmacy. Notifying the college that you've left a pharmacy is a means of preventing your registration number from being used to order narcotics after your departure.

Notices about changes in employment can be sent to the ACP Registration Department via:

Fax: (780) 990-0328

Phone: (780) 990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838

Email: pharmacyinfo@pharmacists.ab.ca
Mail:

#1200, 10303 Jasper Avenue,
Edmonton AB T5J 3N6

Some natural health products to receive Exemption Numbers

On Aug. 4, Health Canada brought into effect new Natural Health Products (Unprocessed Product Licence Applications) Regulations. In light of the new regulations, NAPRA has updated its Position Statement on the sale of non-approved marketed health products to reflect the new category of products - a position shared by ACP.

NAPRA has developed a questions and answers document to explain to pharmacists the new category of products receiving an Exemption Number (EN) by Health Canada. Links to the *Updated NAPRA Position Statement on the Sale of Non-Approved Marketed Health Products and Questions*

and Answers for Pharmacists were included in the Aug. 24 edition of *The Link*. All editions of *The Link* are archived on ACP's website under *News & Events/ACP newsletters/The Link*.

Keep in mind that pharmacists are expected to have a knowledge of all products available for sale in their pharmacy. As health professionals, pharmacists are obliged to know the expected effects and contraindications of products, as well as the source of the products. This knowledge is critical to ensuring patient safety.



Alberta Pharmacy Centennial Award of Distinction: Call for nominations

Honor the profession's leaders with a once-in-a-lifetime award

Who were the pharmacists who opened the doors for future practitioners? Which legislators, researchers, and administrators helped position Alberta pharmacists as leaders in pharmacy practice? Help the public and your peers find out by nominating these trailblazers for an Alberta Pharmacy Centennial Award of Distinction.

The *Alberta Pharmacy Centennial Award of Distinction*, created as part of next year's centennial celebrations, will recognize the individuals who are advancing and/or have advanced pharmacy in Alberta to the leadership position it holds today.

Centennial Awards of Distinction will only be given in 2011.

Who is eligible?

- Groups or individuals who are advancing and/or have advanced pharmacy in Alberta.
- Both living and posthumous nominees will be considered.
- Both pharmacists and non-pharmacists will be considered.

Who is the perfect candidate?

Recipients of this award will include individuals from all decades and all parts of the province over the past 100 years. These individuals will have contributed to the advancement of pharmacy in Alberta through their practice, be it with direct patient care, by teaching future pharmacists, in

developing products or supports for pharmacy practice, or expanding the scope and opportunities for pharmacy practice in Alberta.

Their contribution stands the test of time.

Nomination deadline: Dec. 1, 2010.

Note: two letters of support are needed, so you don't want to leave it to the last minute!

To nominate someone, use the enclosed form, download the form from the centennial website at <http://pharmacy100.ab.ca/awards/distinction.html>, or call ACP and request a hard copy.

If you will not be using the enclosed form, please consider passing it on to someone who may be interested or displaying it in your workplace to help promote the award.

ACP emails and newsletters are official methods of notification to pharmacists licensed by the college. In addition to providing you with timely information that could affect your practice, college emails serve in administrative hearings as proof of notification. Make sure you get the information you need to practice legally and safely by reading college newsletters and ensuring ACP emails are not blocked by your system.



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Supporting responsible use of forest resources
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