

alberta college of  
**pharmacists**



# acp *news*

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Healthy  
Albertans  
through excellence  
in pharmacy practice

## Planning for the next century: *A discussion*



Brett Edwards, a third-year U of A pharmacy student, and VP External of the Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association, was runner-up in the national literary competition at the recent Professional Development Week event in Saskatoon. Brett's essay, *Expanded Scope of Practice in Pharmacy: Issues in Responsibility*, reflects his opinions about pharmacist uptake of prescribing and injection authority.<sup>1</sup>

As the profession celebrates its centennial and prepares for the next 100 years, it's time to look at the state of the profession. The issues Brett raises will impact the profession's course. Therefore, we're reprinting excerpts here in italics and inviting you to join in the conversation. We will continue this discussion in the next *acpnews* by printing some of your responses.

**Brett:** *"In 2006, Alberta passed legislation ... that provided pharmacists the authority to prescribe certain medications and the ability to apply for additional prescribing and injection authority. The response from pharmacists, however, could be described as less than pronounced. Currently, of over 4000 pharmacists, there are 114 pharmacists with additional prescribing authority, 1133 with injection authority, and only 51 with both. Pharmacists have seemingly been handed the keys to the Rolls Royce, but have instead chosen to leave home in the family sedan. It is conceivable that [there was insufficient financial or marketing support], but pharmacists must also question their own efforts to embrace this gift. Some argue this will only take time, but others state that for such an exciting initiative, there's no time to wait."*

**ACP:** The ACP Code of Ethics begins, "Principle I. Hold the well-being of each patient to be my primary consideration. To uphold this principle, I:

1. Act in the best interest of each patient.
2. Provide appropriate treatment and care.

*continued on page 2*

## acpnews

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karen.mills@pharmacists.ab.ca

The deadline for submissions for the May/June 2011 issue is April 7, 2011. Information about content and length of articles can be obtained from Karen.

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All staff are available at 780-990-0321 or 1-877-227-3838 or by fax at 780-990-0328.

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[pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca)

## Planning for the next century

*continued from page 1*

3. Actively seek out information to make informed decisions.
4. Advocate for appropriate drug therapy that meets each patient's values and health goals."

How do you interpret this principle in practice? What is a pharmacist's responsibility when acting in the best interest of each patient? Does it include personally pursuing new privileges and roles to provide appropriate treatment and care? If yes, how do you balance your personal responsibilities with the expectations/demands of your employer? To whom are pharmacists ultimately accountable?

**Brett:** "When the legislation was passed, it was suggested that prescribing authority would provide patients better access to drug treatments, an argument that remains valid in its intent.<sup>2</sup> However, the failure to introduce an effective reimbursement model to fund these services remains absent. If the government expects this legislation to have an impact on access to drug treatment for patients, they must develop a novel reimbursement model to make it feasible.

Alternatively, one might argue that the profession has failed to unite as one entity and under the banner of the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) ... Pharmacy must mend the fragmentation amongst its professionals and take a lesson from professions like nursing. There must be a unified contingent advocating for the demands of its members, while sufficiently motivating those members to embrace the changes they claim to desire."

**ACP:** The saying, "There is strength in numbers," is still around for a reason. A consistent message delivered from a unified group is powerful. The public's perception of pharmacy is based on the consistency of service they receive. By increasing pharmacist engagement, could the public's expectations and perceived value be increased? Would such actions make the public more powerful advocates for expanded pharmacy services?

**Brett:** "Looking past who is to blame "out there", pharmacists must withdraw the finger pointing outside the profession and notice those pointing back at themselves. Many practising pharmacists have been content to collect the trusty paycheck that arrives for dispensing while they wait and see who will "take up the banner" of the new regime of "clinical pharmacy". Still others seemingly have no desire to embrace a change in practice unless financial restrictions force them to do so. This apathy not only perpetuates the view of pharmacists simply as businesspeople rather than healthcare professionals, it threatens the viability of the profession."

**ACP:** Does your practice prompt your patients to view you as a health professional rather than a businessperson? To what extent do you meet the public's needs instead of your own or those of the business? What will cement "pharmacists are health professionals first" in the eyes of the public?

**Brett:** "Essential to the progression of the profession of pharmacy in Alberta are motivated and ambitious students, eager to embrace a change in practice. Alberta pharmacy students are provided the knowledge to develop clinical pharmacy practices ... Students, however, are eager to see more translations of clinical practice from the classroom to the community. They require examples of how to build this into a practice."

**ACP:** How will the knowledge and skills that today's students are provided be turned into practice? Or will they? If practice change is to happen, how will it come about?

## Now it's your turn

What do you think about the opinions expressed in this article? How can pharmacists provide the best care for Albertans?

Please email your thoughts to [karen.mills@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:karen.mills@pharmacists.ab.ca). Selected comments will be included in the next issue of *acpnews*.

1. Brett's complete essay is viewable on the ACP website under *About ACP/Council/Policy development*.

2. Canwest News Service. Alberta pharmacists earn right to prescribe drugs. The National Post [online] 2006 Jun 1. [cited: 2010 Dec 5]. Available from: [www.canada.com/nationalpost/news/story.html?id=470f5098-b616-4c77-91d8-6503883dd132&k=12139](http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/news/story.html?id=470f5098-b616-4c77-91d8-6503883dd132&k=12139)

## ACP wants you! Join the committee roster



Our success as a self-regulating profession depends on the active contribution of registrants. ACP is compiling a roster of candidates interested in participating on ACP committees and working groups.

Interested? Please complete the ACP Committee Candidate Biographical Sketch Form located on the ACP website under *Pharmacist Resources/Forms/Others*.

Submit your completed form by **March 31, 2011** to:

Leslie Ainslie, Executive Assistant  
Email: [leslie.ainslie@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:leslie.ainslie@pharmacists.ab.ca)  
Fax: 780.990.0328

On your submission, please indicate which of the following ACP core

business areas you are interested in participating in.

- Registration and entry to practice
- Competence and Continuing Education
- Quality pharmacist practice, including standards of practice and pharmacist performance
- Ethics
- Complaints Resolution, including Hearing Tribunals

If you select more than one area, please identify your choices in order of preference.

*Note: ACP has both standing committees and short-term working groups. Time commitment depends on the type and purpose of the group.*

## Council election – why does it matter to you?

*People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote – a very different thing.*

*~Walter H. Judd*

Council elections are coming up. This means it's time to start thinking about who you believe can best provide leadership on your behalf to ensure safe, effective, responsible pharmacy practice.

The ACP council carries out the college's mandate: supporting and protecting the public's health and well-being. As such, the councillors you elect make decisions that directly affect your practice. Council approves registration renewal fees and the framework for the continuing competence program. They also have the last word on pharmacist and pharmacy technician practice standards and the code of ethics.

## Call for resolutions

Registrants may propose resolutions for consideration at ACP's annual general meeting, which will be held on Sunday, May 22 at Jasper Park Lodge.

Resolutions should focus on topics relating to the college's mandated areas of interest: public safety, effective pharmacist and pharmacy practice, and health policy.

For more details, refer to the *ACP Approved Guidelines for Resolutions* on the ACP website under *About ACP/Council/Committees/Resolutions Committee*.

Greg Eberhart, ACP Registrar, must receive your resolution in writing, accompanied by the signatures of 10 voting members in good standing, by 4:30 p.m. on **March 18, 2011**.



## Centennial conference registration now open!

**May 20 and 21, 2011**  
*(with ACP AGM on May 22)*  
**Jasper Park Lodge**

One of the highlights of this extraordinary year will be the Centennial Conference at the Jasper Park Lodge, hosted by ACP and RxA. Join your colleagues in this picturesque setting to share stories, reflect on the changes you've witnessed, and set the direction for the next 100 years.

View the advance program at <http://pharmacy100.ab.ca/conference.html>.

Register online at [www.buksa.com](http://www.buksa.com).

For complete centennial information, see the centennial website at [www.pharmacy100.ab.ca](http://www.pharmacy100.ab.ca).

## Audits of Professional Declarations

In 2010-11, 468 audits of the 2010 Professional Declarations were completed. Of these, 367 were randomly selected and 101 were directed due to poor or non-compliance with the Audits of Professional Declarations in previous years, for submitting their CPD Logs after May 31, 2010, or for irregular entries on their CPD Logs.

Of these audits, seven were reviewed by the Competence Committee due to non-compliance.

The college takes these audits very seriously. Inability to substantiate your professional declarations can result in the Competence Committee imposing conditions on a practice permit, limiting practice to working under direct supervision, and even

recommending to the Registrar that a practice permit be suspended. Further, false or misleading declarations may be grounds for referral to the Complaints Director for further investigation, so be sure you understand what you are declaring at registration renewal and can substantiate these declarations if you are selected for Audit of Professional Declarations.



### What is a professional declaration and why is it important?

*Self-governance is a privilege that depends on every professional taking responsibility for his or her performance. In the case of a pharmacist, that means maintaining your skills and ensuring you practice according to the laws and standards.*

*Your professional declarations are your promise to the college and, therefore, to Albertans, that you completed the learning activities you have claimed and that you will continue to hold personal malpractice insurance. By signing your declaration, you have really sworn an oath.*

*When audits reveal that claims made on professional declarations cannot be substantiated, it calls into question the registrant's trustworthiness.*

## Registration renewal time is just around the corner – have you recorded enough CEUs?

You must apply to renew your practice permit by May 31, 2011. That's just a few weeks away! Have you already recorded all of your continuing education activities on your CPD Log or will you be scrambling?

All pharmacists who want to apply to renew their practice permits must report at least 15 CEUs earned between June 1, 2010 and the date of registration renewal in 2011. The only exception is those pharmacists who first registered with ACP on or after July 1, 2010. They have until registration renewal in 2012

to earn the minimum 15 CEUs. The online registration renewal system will not let you apply to renew your practice permit if your online CPD Log does not record at least 15 CEUs in the 2010-11 CE year.

It's important to be aware that the CE year is not the same as the registration year. Even though your practice permit doesn't expire until June 30, 2011, all CEUs earned in June 2011 apply to your 2011-12 CE year. You cannot carry over CEUs you did not claim on your 2010-11 CPD Log.

### Minimum required ≠ minimum needed

Fifteen CEUs is the legislated minimum number of credits required to renew your practice permit. However, you may need more than that to truly be competent and feel confident in an area of practice.

Fifteen CEUs is equivalent to fifteen hours of continuing education over an entire year. That may not ensure you've kept up to date with all the changes in the rapidly changing profession of pharmacy.

# Debunking the competence assessment myths

*In February, 400 pharmacists were notified that they have been selected for competence assessment. These pharmacists must complete their assessments by April 15, 2012 to be eligible to renew their practice permits for 2012-13. Through discussions with them, we have heard some common misconceptions.*

## **1** ACP will pull my license if I don't pass!

False! Competence assessment is not punitive and is not set up to "take pharmacists' licences away." If you do not meet the established standard on your first attempt you get a second opportunity. On your second attempt you may choose the same assessment mechanism again or the alternative. For example, you may decide that you didn't prepare properly for the Knowledge Assessment the first time and you are going to prepare differently the second time. Or, you may decide that you are the type of person who doesn't do well on computer-based exams and you would rather compile a Professional Portfolio for your second attempt.

## **2** The Knowledge Assessment is really, really difficult!

False. It is challenging, as it is intended to assess pharmacists' ability to solve a wide range of practice problems. But it is an open-book assessment, the pharmacist has access to all the required references and all of the answers are based on evidence (not based on a particular practitioner's experience or opinions). As one Knowledge Assessment pilot participant said, "Since it is and should be an 'open book' exam (no one can memorize all the information needed) there is no need for anxiety. When I started practice 40 years ago, a seasoned pharmacist told me you do not need to know all the answers but you must be able to find the answers. That has served me well."

You can take a look at the practice quiz to get an idea of the kinds of questions on the knowledge assessment:  
<http://acppractice.proexams.com/>

## **3** The Knowledge Assessment is only applicable to community pharmacists.

False! The questions on the knowledge assessment are written by practising pharmacists from all types of practice – community, hospital, primary care networks, consulting, and administration.

Further, the Knowledge Assessment is designed to assess pharmacists' ability to apply their knowledge and skills to solve pharmacy practice problems. Problem solving abilities are not specific to a certain type of practice – all pharmacists know how to solve pharmacy practice problems.

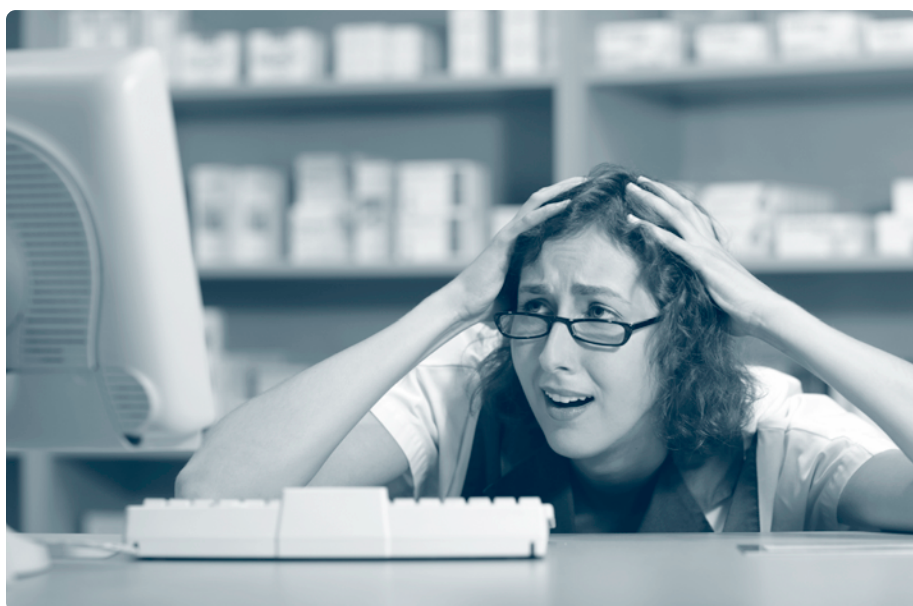
## **4** If I'm not currently working in a pharmacy/only working part-time/planning to retire soon/don't live and work in Alberta, I don't have to do the Competence Assessment.

False. If you hold a practising license you are subject to competence assessment. There is only one type of practising license in Alberta and every pharmacist who holds a practice permit must fulfill all requirements of the RxCEL Competence Program.

If you are selected for competence assessment and change your status to "Associate" or "Retired" before you complete it, you will be required to complete the competence assessment before you can reinstate your annual permit.

## **5** I was deliberately selected for competence assessment because the college is targeting me.

False. At this time, all selections for competence assessment are randomly generated by an automated data program. Being selected is truly "the luck of the draw."





## In memory...

🌿 **Eli Ambrosie** passed away at the age of 78 years on Jan. 14, 2011. Eli graduated with a BSc in Pharmacy in 1955. He began working with the Tamblyn Drug chain, eventually becoming the manager at many stores. In 1969, Eli joined the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association as the Administrative Assistant. His duties first focused on inspection of pharmacies throughout the province, but he also worked on the internship requirements for pharmacists.

Eli retired in 1990, and upon his retirement was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership with the APhA in recognition of his dedication to the profession and his contributions to the progress of the profession.

🌿 **Laura Chee** died in an automobile accident on Feb. 21. Laura, aged 23, was a second-year pharmacy student at the U of A.

🌿 **Anthony (Tony) Kallal** died Dec. 31, 2010 at the age of 82. Anthony was an experienced mining engineer and pharmacist. Tony graduated from the U of A with a BSc in Pharmacy in 1961.

## Celebrating a century of professionalism

On Jan. 27, the U of A Pharmacy Class of 2014 was officially welcomed into the profession by more than 300 people at their White Coat Ceremony. Dean Kehrer and university Provost and Vice President-Academic, Dr. Carl Amrhein, began the evening with inspirational words, emphasizing the importance of professionalism as the students continue on their educational journey.



Guest speaker Bob Dowling, pharmacist, owner of Cavell Drugs in Jasper for 38 years, and former MLA, offered sage advice for the newest entrants. He set the tone saying,

***“A professional is someone who always gives more than they ever expect to get back.”***

His summarized code of ethics is also likely to stay with all who heard it: “If it seems wrong, it is. If you think that it might compromise your values, it will.” Mixed with humour and warmth, Bob’s message gave everyone something positive to take away.

The event also launched the Alberta pharmacy centennial celebrations. Banners, guest speakers, centennial logos on the dispensing jackets, pens, buttons, and post-event cake all added to the festive mood and professional pride. A special display of memorabilia from ACP and Mike Bain’s pharmacy museum in Castor reminded participants of the changes we’ve seen over the years.

ACP is proud to co-host the White Coat Ceremony with the Faculty, RxA, and CSHP-AB.

## Free resource for you and your patients

ACP has developed a resource to help your patients understand your role.

The *Understanding your pharmacist’s role in renewing or adapting your prescription* brochure helps patients understand the assessment and decision-making process involved with adapting, their role in the process, and the wide array of care pharmacists offer.

Email [acpinfo@pharmacists.ab.ca](mailto:acpinfo@pharmacists.ab.ca) or call 1-877-227-3838 to order your copies. ACP will cover the costs of the materials and shipping. First come, first served while quantities last.



# Vets and TPP: answers to your questions



## Do Alberta veterinarians have to use TPP forms?

Yes, Alberta veterinarians must adhere to all requirements of the Triplicate Prescription Program. Like physicians and dentists, they must use a triplicate prescription pad when writing prescriptions for all drugs on the current TPP medication list.

## Are drugs being added to the TPP list?

There are proposed changes about the addition of specific medications prescribed by veterinarians, dispensed by veterinary clinics, and dispensed by pharmacists. The proposed changes are not officially part of the TPP program yet. However, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) has made these proposed changes mandatory for all veterinarians at this time.

The list of additional medications that are mandatory for vets, but not currently on the TPP list are:

- All barbiturate preparations (Phenobarbital, etc.)
- All codeine containing preparations
- Benzodiazepines
- Tramadol
- Anabolic steroids

## How should pharmacists handle a prescription for a drug that is not on the current TPP medication list but is prescribed using a triplicate prescription pad?

According to the existing TPP rules, pharmacists may dispense a drug that is prescribed using a triplicate prescription pad even if it is not currently on the TPP medication list after assessing the prescription according to the Standards for Pharmacist Practice. There may be safety reasons that influence a prescriber's decision to use a triplicate prescription pad to write a prescription for a drug that is not on the current TPP medication list.

If a veterinarian fails to follow the prescribing directions provided by ABVMA for drugs not on the current TPP medication list, the ABVMA is responsible for enforcing their requests with their members until the proposed drugs specific to the ABVMA additional list are approved by the TPP Steering Committee.

## What do pharmacists do with the TPP forms received from vets?

Submit to the Triplicate Prescription Program copies of all prescriptions written on TPP prescription forms that you receive and dispense, no matter what drug is involved.

# From the faculty

## Faculty accreditation update

The Faculty's accreditation review occurred in November. The first draft of the site team's report and recommendations was highly favorable. The final report is expected in July 2011.

## Save the Date!

### Student vs. Alumni & Staff Hockey Game

March 26, 2011,  
Clare Drake Arena Pharmacy



Students have challenged the alumni and staff to a hockey game. The faculty is

currently recruiting alumni to "stack" their team with ringers! Equipment, except for skates, stick and cup, will be provided. This is a co-ed non-contact game, and all are also welcome. After the game, everyone is invited to Avenue Pizza for food, drinks and karaoke. To sign up, contact Lori Shockey, Director, Development & Alumni Relations, at 780-492-8084 or [lshockey@pharmacy.ualberta.ca](mailto:lshockey@pharmacy.ualberta.ca)



## Dean's Golf Tournaments

**North:** Red Tail Landing (Nisku),  
June 28

**South:** The Links at Gleneagles  
(Cochrane), Aug. 28

Visit [www.pharm.ualberta.ca](http://www.pharm.ualberta.ca) for more information.

## Disciplinary report summaries

Investigations into the professional conduct of three registrants have recently concluded. Following are **summaries** of the hearing tribunal reports. You can view the full reports on ACP's website under *Complaints Resolution/Investigating & hearing tribunal reports*.

### Case 1:

On July 7, 2009, a registrant entered into a Resolution Agreement with the ACP Complaints Director. In the Resolution Agreement, the registrant admitted that:

1. on March 31, 2009 she:
  - a. ingested one Dexedrine 15 mg capsule from the expired drugs stored at the pharmacy at which she had been employed since June 2008;
  - b. removed and ingested approximately 500mg of ketamine from the pharmacy;
  - c. in addition to the Dexedrine and ketamine she also consumed alcohol and was using a fentanyl patch previously prescribed for chronic back pain; and
  - d. attended the emergency department at the local hospital in an incapacitated state due to the concurrent use of Dexedrine, ketamine, alcohol and fentanyl;
2. she had previously struggled with a substance abuse issue related to the use of cocaine and was being treated by her physician; and
3. her actions in this matter constitute unprofessional conduct.

The registrant agreed that if she failed to fulfill the terms of the Resolution Agreement, the Complaints Director could refer the matters to a hearing tribunal.

During the fall of 2009, the registrant relapsed with her substance abuse issues and began misusing alcohol and prescription medications. This

behaviour constituted a breach of the Resolution Agreement.

The registrant admitted that her conduct breached the statutes, regulations, and standards governing the practice of pharmacy and constituted unprofessional conduct.

The hearing tribunal ordered:

1. the suspension of the registrant's Alberta practice permit continue until January 8, 2011.
2. the following conditions for a period of 36 months starting from when the registrant obtains new employment as a pharmacist:
  - a. she not hold the position of the licensee or have narcotic signing authority;
  - b. she shall only use Schedule 1 and 2 drugs under the supervision and only by prescription of an authorized physician or prescriber that is aware of this order;
  - c. she enter into drug use compliance monitoring with an acceptable organization;
  - d. narcotic audits be conducted every 3 months for 36 months with the agreement of the licensee and employer. Results of discrepancies are to be reported to ACP Complaints Director within 7 days; and
  - e. She practice under direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist for 12 months once employment has started.
3. the registrant to disclose this order to her employer and licensee for 36 months starting from the reinstatement of her practice permit.
4. the registrant to obtain professional counseling for 12 months.
5. a copy of these orders to be sent to all pharmacy licensing and professional bodies in Canada.

6. the registrant to write a letter to her previous employer acknowledging the impact of her actions and responsibility prior to renewal of her practice permit.
7. the registrant to pay all costs associated with this hearing.
8. a summary of this decision be published in the ACP newsletter withholding the name of the member, the name of the pharmacy involved and the name of the city where the incident took place.

### Case 2:

A hearing tribunal made a finding of unprofessional conduct against Zhijian Huang when the following allegations were all proven to be well-founded:

- Mr. Huang failed to properly arrange to give each former patient of the First Choice Pharmacy in Calgary access to their patient records;
- Mr. Huang failed to properly notify the ACP of the location of the FCP records;
- Mr. Huang's actions resulted in a disruption to patient care and possible patient harm;
- Mr. Huang did not properly cooperate with the Complaints Director's investigation;
- Mr. Huang has demonstrated a pattern of ungovernability;
- the continued and blatant manner in which the numerous breaches have continued, notwithstanding Mr. Huang's prior discipline history in relation to similar conduct, demonstrates a disregard for authority, ungovernability, disregard for the health and welfare of his former patients and an ongoing pattern of misleading the ACP; and
- Mr. Huang's ongoing pattern of ungovernability, non-cooperation and disregard for patient welfare,



notwithstanding the ACP's efforts to discuss and examine issues related to his conduct as a pharmacist and pharmacy licensee, is unprofessional conduct.

The hearing tribunal ordered:

- the immediate cancellation of the registration and practice permit of Mr. Huang;
- Mr. Huang to pay a fine to ACP of \$10,000.00;
- Mr. Huang to pay all of the expenses, costs and fees related to the investigation and hearing of this matter;
- a summary of this decision be published in the *acpnews* including the name of Mr. Huang; and
- a copy of this decision be provided to all other pharmacy regulators in Canada.

### Case 3:

A hearing tribunal made a finding of unprofessional conduct against Connie Orbeck after she:

- failed to produce pharmacy reference texts within the prescribed time,
- continued to operate the pharmacy without the required texts, and
- acted in an unprofessional manner and demonstrated a pattern of ungovernability.

The hearing tribunal ordered that:

- Ms. Orbeck's practice permit be suspended for one year and that the suspension be stayed to take effect only if Ms. Orbeck applies to change her status to active status;
- if Ms. Orbeck does request a change in status to obtain an active permit and has completed the one year suspension, she must complete and pass the ACP's jurisprudence exam and all other requirements set by the Registration Department;
- if Ms. Orbeck is issued an active practice permit that she be subjected to the following conditions:
  - she shall be prohibited from acting as a proprietor or licensee of a pharmacy, and;
  - she shall not practice as a sole pharmacist in a pharmacy;
- Ms. Orbeck pay a fine of \$2000.00 for allegations 1 and 2 and a fine of \$5000.00 for allegation 3;
- Ms. Orbeck pay all expenses, costs and fees related to the investigation and the hearing;
- a summary of this decision be published in the *acpnews* including the name of Ms. Orbeck; and
- a copy of this decision be provided to all other pharmacy regulators in Canada.

## When is only an electronic signature on a prescription acceptable?

**Never**, at the moment.

Until requirements for securing patient confidentiality, verifying authenticity, and preventing diversion are defined, e-prescribing is not acceptable.

### What is acceptable?

- *Prescriptions produced by computer and hand-signed by the prescriber or with an electronic signature that is then initialed by the prescriber and delivered by the patient are acceptable. However, it is your responsibility to ensure the prescription is authentic, just as you would for a prescription which is handwritten.*
- *Prescriptions that are produced by computer and hand-signed by the prescriber, or with an electronic signature and initialed by the prescriber, that are then faxed to the pharmacy as per the Guideline for facsimile (Fax) transmission of prescriptions.*

### NOT acceptable

- *Prescriptions emailed to you.*
- *Prescriptions produced by computer but not signed by the prescriber, or has an electronic signature and is not initialed by the prescriber. There are insufficient security measures in place to ensure the validity of prescriptions sent electronically.*

For best practices, refer to *Ensuring Safe & Efficient Communication of Medication Prescriptions* (on ACP website, under *Pharmacist Resources/ACP Practice Guidelines*).

### References:

Standards for Pharmacist Practice, Standards 5.4(a) and (c), 5.5(j)  
College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, Standards of Practice, Standard 12(8)



## Save a tree – get your ACP newsletters electronically

Clean up the environment and your post office box. To receive *acpnews* electronically:

- Go to the ACP homepage ([pharmacists.ab.ca](http://pharmacists.ab.ca))
- Click on the *Registrant Profile* icon
- Log in and then click on *View Profile*
- Click the "edit" icon in the *Contact Information* box (second from the top).
- For your newsletter preference, select email.

## Offsite record storage – what are the rules again?

Section 12(3) of the Pharmacy and Drug Regulation stipulates that records must be maintained at the pharmacy unless the licensee has applied to the registrar in writing to store them at another location.

To apply to store records offsite, please complete and submit the **Request to Maintain Records at a Location Other than the Pharmacy**, found on the ACP



website under *Pharmacist Resources/Forms/Pharmacies*.

In addition, the registrar may require acknowledgements, agreements or undertakings to ensure the security and confidentiality of the records.

## Do not reuse methadone carry bottles

It has come to ACP's attention that several pharmacies are reusing bottles for methadone carries. This is not an acceptable practice. Pharmacists are required by Standard 6.2 of the Standards for Pharmacist Practice to ensure that the dispensing procedure is hygienic and prevents cross contamination.

ACP Practice Consultants have also observed that when bottles are being reused, pharmacists are often just placing the current label over the previous label(s). Again, this is unacceptable, even if for the same patient.

## Resource reminder: Record retention chart

Wondering how to keep track of all the different retention periods for different records? Look no further than the Record Retention Chart on the ACP website under *Pharmacist Resources/Info sheets & posters*.

The chart provides "at a glance" information for prescriptions, patient records, records of care, drug error information, health information disclosure records, and narcotics records.

## PEBC assessors needed

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) invites interested pharmacists to consider participating as an assessor for the PEBC Qualifying Examination – Part II (OSCE). The national exam will be held on Sunday May 29, 2011 at sites in both Edmonton and Calgary.

### Who qualifies?

To qualify you must:

- have been licensed in Canada for at least 3 years,
- currently be a member in good standing, and
- be providing or directly supervising patient care services, including dispensing, clinical and drug information services.

Information about the examination, guidelines for the selection of assessors, as well as an assessor interest survey and response form can be found on the PEBC website at: [www.pebc.ca/EnglishPages/OSCEAsrs/AssrHomePage.html](http://www.pebc.ca/EnglishPages/OSCEAsrs/AssrHomePage.html)

Interested pharmacists outside of Edmonton and Calgary are welcome to apply. Some travel expenses may be paid to out-of-town assessors.

### Edmonton site please contact:

Judith Makarowski  
O.S.C.E Coordinator- Edmonton  
Tel.: 780-492-2527  
Fax: 780-492-2874  
Email: [judith.makarowski@ualberta.ca](mailto:judith.makarowski@ualberta.ca)

### Calgary site, please email your response to:

Yoshiko Shimizu  
Tel.: 403-475-0566  
Email: [pebc-calgary@shaw.ca](mailto:pebc-calgary@shaw.ca)

## In your opinion...



*What's the best change in the profession you've seen over the course of your career?* That's the question posed on the centennial Facebook page this month. While you're there, check out the Discussions page and read the great resolutions and pharmacy advice that people have shared!

[www.facebook.com/AlbertaPharmacyCentennial](http://www.facebook.com/AlbertaPharmacyCentennial).

Leave a legacy...

# The Alberta Pharmacists' Centennial Leadership Award

(Donations may also be made online at [www.pharm.ualberta.ca](http://www.pharm.ualberta.ca))



**Please Print:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: (Apt. #, Street) \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation options:

Choose one of the following options.

- I wish to make a one-time gift of:  
 \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to make a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yy) until I indicate otherwise; or  
Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yy) and ending \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yy)
- I pledge to contribute a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable over: \_\_\_\_\_ years **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ months.  
My first pledge payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

### For recognition purposes:

- Please acknowledge this as a gift from myself and/or as indicated below.

Please print name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship (Spouse, partner, child, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to remain anonymous.

### Payment options:

- Cheque (made out to the University of Alberta)
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) – I have enclosed a VOID cheque and consent to the withdrawal of these funds from my chequing account.
- Credit Card (select one):  VISA  MasterCard  AMEX

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ *By signing, I authorize the use of my credit card.*

**Please complete and return this form to:**

Lori Shockey  
Director of Development & Alumni Relations  
University of Alberta, Faculty of Pharmacy  
3118 Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2N8  
Email: [lshockey@pharmacy.ualberta.ca](mailto:lshockey@pharmacy.ualberta.ca)  
Fax: 780-492-1217  
Online: [www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca](http://www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca) (online)

ENDOWMENT = Contributions made to the University on the understanding that the "capital" or "principal" amount of the contribution will be invested in perpetuity with the investment earnings used to advance specified educational purposes of the University. The original capital remains in trust. Complete policies and guidelines for endowments at the University of Alberta can be viewed at [www.finance.ualberta.ca/endowments](http://www.finance.ualberta.ca/endowments).

The personal information requested on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection and Privacy Act for purposes of fundraising and alumni relations at the University of Alberta. Any questions or concerns about the collection, use or disposal of this information should be directed to: FOIPP Liaison, Development Services, 3rd Floor, Enterprise Square, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada T5J 4P6, Telephone 780-492-0328, Fax 780-492-9198.

# Pay it forward

This year, we mark a century of regulated pharmacy in Alberta. We will celebrate not only past accomplishments, but also lay the foundation for the profession's next 100 years. With that in mind, the Centennial Committee invites you pay your professional good fortune forward to the next generation of pharmacists.

The Alberta Pharmacists' Centennial Leadership Award has been established to inspire and recognize practitioners of the future. This annual award will be presented to a U of A Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences student in recognition of their significant leadership role in the community.

Our goal is to establish a \$250,000 endowment that will generate at least one year's tuition per annum in interest. The Centennial Committee is asking each and every pharmacist in Alberta to contribute a minimum of \$100 – \$1 for

*each of the profession's one hundred years – towards this legacy.*

Celebrate a century of the profession that made many of your successes possible.

## What does it cost to be a pharmacy student these days?

In the past year, the U of A has changed the way that tuition is determined. The tuition for a student entering pharmacy in Sept. 2011 will be \$8,500/year. Currently, students pay \$5,175.80/year.

In 2001, an average pharmacy student was expected to graduate with \$18,000 of debt. Now the number is \$70,000. Without the added costs of living, a pharmacy student must pay to the university another \$1000/year before textbooks for items such as Student Services fees, Student Union, APSA, and the U-Pass. So, a year in pharmacy school will set a first year student back \$12,000 (with additional tuition for the



experiential learning) before living expenses.

Unfortunately the cost of living has risen in Edmonton as well. Student residence rent has increased every year. Meanwhile, scholarships for pharmacy students have remained at the same amount since the initial endowment, most being around \$500.

Judi Lee, a 2008 pharmacy grad sums it up this way, "As pharmacists who graduated in the past, we were lucky enough to graduate with less debt and with a great career. Now it is time to pay it forward to the next generation of students. Please contribute to the Alberta Pharmacists' Centennial Leadership Award and help a student pay for a years' tuition. This year is our Centennial, so let's each donate at least \$100 – just \$1 for every year of pharmacy practice in Alberta!"

You'll find a donation form on page 11.

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.

