

# A DYNAMIC SUMMER INTERNSHIP AT CSHP



Fiona Huang and Desarae Davidson at AGM

This summer, I had to choose between backpacking in London, Paris and Amsterdam, and accepting the position of Pharmacy Internship at the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) in Ottawa. Although it was a tough decision, I did not want to give up the opportunity to be connected to the world of hospital pharmacy and to explore the inner workings of a national pharmacy organization.

My internship kicked off in early June with the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) Annual National Conference in Victoria, British Columbia. Along with Myrella Roy, CSHP Executive Director, I represented CSHP at the conference and attended joint officer meetings with CPhA and the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI). I also attended several educational sessions

and got the latest scoop on pressing issues, such as the launch of the *Blueprint for Pharmacy: The Vision for Pharmacy* and the final recommendations of *Moving Forward: Pharmacy Human Resources for the Future* study.

At CSHP's national office in Ottawa, I participated in a number of meetings, including the monthly Executive meetings and those of various committees and task forces. I also had a one-day orientation to the programs managed by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health, during which I learned about the Common Drug Review and the Canadian Optimal Medication Prescribing and Utilization Service. In addition, I had a one-day orientation to the pharmacy services at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa Hospital General Campus, and a half-day orientation to the programs managed by CPhA.

When I wasn't participating in meetings and orientations, my time in the office was spent responding to inquiries from members and potential members on professional practice issues and Society business. I assisted the staff with the preparation for the Annual General Meeting and Educational Sessions and performed other clerical duties. In collaboration with the staff and Council members, I also completed a number of projects such as creating and conducting an online CSHP 2015 Self-Assessment Tool Survey, which will be launched nationally in the fall, and drafted the application for trade-mark registration of CSHP acronym and logo with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. My largest project was the review of the text for a hospital pharmacy management brochure originally drafted by the CSHP Hospital Pharmacy Management Leadership Task Force. The focus here was to understand the shortage of pharmacy managers and to promote and to encourage pharmacists to become part of the pharmacy management team.

The highlight of my internship with CSHP was the Annual General Meeting and Educational Sessions in Saint John, New Brunswick. There, I actively participated in meetings with Executive, Council, Strategic Planning Committee, Hospital Corporate members, and the Research and Education Foundation Board; attended all the social events; and represented CSHP with other members of Executive in joint officer meetings with the New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association. I also had the opportunity to participate in the Residency Mentorship Program and discovered a career avenue that I want to pursue upon completing my pharmacy degree. In addition, I attended several educational sessions and had the opportunity to network with the various hospital pharmacy leaders from across the nation.

This summer at CSHP allowed me to gain further insight into what hospital pharmacy has to offer. The chance to experience and learn how CSHP functions nationally in the great city of Ottawa, while working closely with the CSHP staff and leaders of hospital pharmacy, is one that I would not hesitate to recommend to other students. My summer with CSHP has truly re-energized my passion and commitment to hospital pharmacy practice. I definitely made the right decision to accept this internship. Backpacking in Europe can wait for another time!

I am extremely grateful to have worked closely with Myrella Roy, to have been inspired by other executive officers and Council members, and to be part of a prestigious organization that has such hardworking staff and dedicated volunteers. I wish to thank all the CSHP staff, Executive, and Council for providing me with this tremendous learning experience. This marks the beginning of my pursuit of a hospital pharmacy career!

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