

AN INCREDIBLE SUMMER INTERNSHIP AT CSHP



My CSHP internship has truly been memorable and fulfilling. Having only been as far east as Alberta, travelling to CSHP's national office was an adventure I eagerly delved into. It is fortunate that I chose to begin my internship within 24 hours of landing in Ottawa, as my time at the office flew by so quickly. Even the humidity and thunderstorms could not dampen my excitement of participating on a national level in the advocacy and advancement of hospital pharmacy.

At the CSHP national office, I tackled multiple projects simultaneously. A project that I was particularly pleased to be involved in was the compilation of the results from the CSHP/CPhA Survey on the Development of a Drug Supply Monitoring System and their presentation to the Drug Shortages Multi-Stakeholder Working Group. I also conducted a literature search on the role of pharmacists in home care and compared the data from the papers on the association of clinical pharmacy services with mortality rates by Bond and others with the results of the Hospital Pharmacy in Canada 2009/2010 Report (www.lillyhospitalsurvey.ca). With the implementation of the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, I helped with the revision of

CSHP's bylaws. I also reviewed Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy issues dating back to 1963 as a means of compiling the history of the Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board – I had to be extremely careful with those ancient red-bound journals as they are CSHP's only copies! With regards to the CSHP website, I contributed to the content for the student (http://www.cshp.ca/students/index_e.asp) and volunteer (http://www.cshp.ca/membership/Volunteering/volunteer_e.asp) Web pages. I was also involved with CSHP 2015; I formatted the toolkit for Objective 1.3 (http://www.cshp.ca/programs/cshp2015/index_e.asp) and attended the CSHP 2015 Steering Committee meetings.

In fact, I attended many intriguing and informative meetings. Every teleconference with CSHP's boards, committees and task forces (e.g. Practice Standards, Advocacy, Risk Management and Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy) unveiled another service that CSHP provides for its members. I also attended meetings with representatives from other pharmacy organizations, such as the Blueprint for Pharmacy Steering Committee. Having heard of the Blueprint through my pharmacy education, I was thrilled by the opportunity to observe at first hand the gears that propelled the Blueprint.

During my internship, I also visited hospitals and spent time in clinical areas that were of interest to me. At the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, I shadowed an emergency department pharmacist. At the Ottawa Hospital, I learned about the role of a pharmacist in their immunodeficiency clinic, and blood and marrow transplant program. In addition to hospitals, I also visited the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health where I learned about their rapid response service, common drug review as well as other services.

One of the highlights of my internship was the CSHP Summer Educational Sessions – it was a vault filled with priceless activities. Besides being able to see my family and friends, my short trip back to Vancouver allowed me to meet CSHP's Executive and Council members in person during the Strategic Planning Meeting, Issues Day, Executive Meetings and Council Meetings. They were a fabulous group of highly accomplished pharmacists who demonstrated passion for the profession. At the residency networking event, I met pharmacy residents from across Canada and learned about the residency programs that are offered beyond my own province. I also attended educational sessions where I received updates on current therapies. After busy conference days, I relaxed poker chips in hand at Fun Night and among the Rat Pack of the '50s-'60s at the Past Presidents' Dinner.

From the first day I stepped into the CSHP brick office to the very last, everyone I have met has helped make my internship incredible. I would like to thank Myrella Roy, Cathy Lyder and Laurie Frid for always ensuring my schedule was filled with many learning and networking opportunities. To the bubbly CSHP staff, thank you for being supportive and welcoming. To CSHP's Executive, Council, Committee, Task Force and Board members - thank you for sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm for pharmacy. To all the pharmacists that I have had the pleasure of meeting, you are an inspiration to me.

I am grateful to have had the privilege of spending my summer as CSHP's pharmacy intern, and I would encourage all my peers to consider applying for the position in the future. Although my internship at CSHP's national office has now come to a close, my involvement with CSHP has just begun.

CSHP is now accepting applications for the 2012 summer intern position. Please see the ad in this issue of the eBulletin for more details. Deadline: November 21, 2011.