

Beginnings – My CSHP Summer

By Emma Attfield



As the winds pick up and the leaves begin to fall, the last scenes of summer play out. Although I eagerly await the launch of a new year at the University of British Columbia, it is time to reflect on all I have experienced as CSHP's summer intern pharmacist.

My journey began as it will end; with a plane to catch and my worldly possessions rolling behind me. I said my farewells in Surrey, BC and a few hours later was greeted with a wave of unfamiliar humidity as I stepped off the plane in Ottawa.

On my first day, I was welcomed by the small powerhouse of kind, hardworking and dedicated staff. It was clear that the invitation was open to participate in a myriad of opportunities. My challenge was to make the most of this while finding a way to make a difference, however small. I sat at a variety of meeting tables, including those for the CSHP Council and its Executive Committee, the CSHP 2015 Steering Committee, the SES Sustainability Task Force and the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee on Drug Shortages, to name a few. I also spent time offsite in Ottawa, including a visit to the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health and the Geriatric Day Hospital at Bruyère Continuing Care.

This summer, CSHP has been heavily involved in advocacy. I was fortunate to be included in providing feedback to the Ontario College of Pharmacists on the

draft *Drug Preparation Premises (DPP) Inspection Report*; Health Canada regarding the proposed regulatory amendments under the Plain Language Labelling Initiative; the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities on the professional competencies for Canadian pharmacists and pharmacy technicians at entry-to-practice; and Accreditation Canada on the proposed Emergency Department Standards.

In August, I saddled up for an urban rodeo at the Summer Educational Sessions in Calgary. The fun and friendly ambiance made for an unforgettable experience. The conference hosted an amazing lineup of speakers and we were even treated to a visit from Calgary's dynamic Mayor, Naheed Nenshi. I had my "15 minutes of fame" when I presented my summer project "Demographic Analysis and Net Promoter Score of CSHP Membership" to CSHP Council and the Branch Presidents.

After a summer of observation and conversation, I have tried to divine what the future holds for hospital pharmacy, and I found certain recurring themes along my way.

I learned that new directions for the profession must be mirrored by developments in pharmacy education. As the scope of practice for pharmacists expands, entry-to-practice competencies increase, and pharmacy schools are required to set higher academic expectations. The current generation of pharmacist graduates are expected to be able at entry-to practice to acquire the knowledge and skills required to manage patients with uncommon or highly complex medication-related needs. These significant changes to scope of practice and education have left Canadians wondering, "Exactly what services should

we expect from the tax dollars we invest in our hospital pharmacy workforce?" Through implementation of initiatives such as the CSHP 2015 program and partnership with the Canadian National Clinical Pharmacy Key Performance Indicator Collaborative, CSHP is helping to enhance the quality of care that every patient deserves from their pharmacist, within every hospital in Canada.

The future is bright for hospital pharmacy practice models. Visionaries ask us to picture institutions where the regulated pharmacy technicians are wholly accountable and responsible for the drug distribution system. They ask us to imagine pharmacists who have the right to prescribe, who work shifts to provide 24/7 care, and who spend 80% or more of their time providing drug therapy management at the point of care. As patient-based care becomes the common focus of our profession, in our hospitals and our communities, new doors open to exciting intra-professional possibilities.

Over 6000 pharmacists dedicate their working lives to hospital practice in Canada. Rising from this group are hundreds who take on volunteer leadership roles within CSHP. These pharmacists wear many hats, from front-line practitioner to manager, educator and researcher. As CSHP volunteers, these health care leaders go above and beyond to effect positive change for everyone.

I believe that involvement in CSHP, in any capacity, is leadership. This internship is my beginning. What will yours be?

