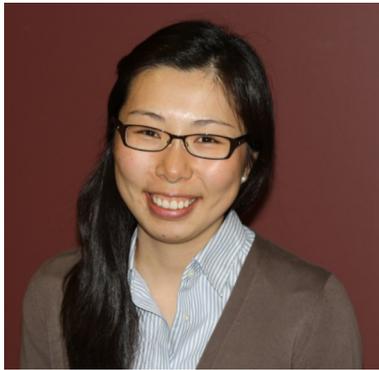

My Summer Internship at CSHP: A Learning Experience Like No Other



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Learning comes in many different forms and can be done in different ways. This past summer, I had a unique opportunity to learn outside of my usual educational environments by working at CSHP as a pharmacy student intern. This experience has given me the chance to see the profession of pharmacy, hospital pharmacy in particular, through a whole new set of lenses. Working at CSHP amongst a group of outstanding and engaged professionals has helped me grow personally and professionally.

In May 2012, with third-year final exams over, I moved to Ottawa, excited for my internship at CSHP to begin. On my first day at the National Office, I was welcomed by Laurie Frid, CSHP's Operations Manager, and introduced to Executive Director Myrella Roy, Coordinator of Professional and Membership Affairs Cathy Lyder, and the rest of the staff team who works behind the scenes to make it all happen. There are 13 incredibly dedicated women at the office, and over the next 4 months, the CSHP office would become my second home in Ottawa.

During my internship, I was involved in several interesting projects: developing an electronic welcome kit for new CSHP members; updating CSHP's Pharmacy Awareness Week posters and brochures; creating and administering a survey of hospital pharmacy directors and managers intended to identify educational programs and resources related to hospital pharmacy management; formatting the Glossary for CSHP's Official Publications; and adapting the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) Justification Toolkit to encourage support for in-person education events. Guided and encouraged by the CSHP staff, I enjoyed the freedom to explore, to think critically and to be creative in my work.

Alongside my projects, I participated in several meetings of committees and task forces, including meetings held by the CSHP Executive Committee, the *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy (CJHP)* Editorial Board, the CSHP 2015 Steering Committee, the Key Performance Indicators Task Force, and the Practice Standards Steering Committee. In addition, I had the opportunity to attend a workshop in Toronto in May hosted by the Drug Shortages Working Group and facilitated by GS1 Canada. During this workshop and ensuing meetings of the Working Group, I observed stakeholders from health professions, government, and industry discussing progress made to date and future plans for a national drug shortage reporting system. In June, I completed a one-week clerkship at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario where I participated in daily healthcare team rounds with my preceptor, a pharmacist practising in the pediatric intensive care unit. I also spent some time with the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) and the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA). At CADTH, I learned about the agency's mandate and the high quality research that is carried out and made available through its many programs and products. Together with the summer students working at CPhA, we organized a half-day exchange visit to each other's worksites to learn more about our respective associations and the work that both associations do in partnership and individually to advance the profession.

Before I knew it, August had arrived, and no better way was there to wrap up my summer at CSHP than by attending the annual Summer Educational Sessions (SES), held this year in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. At SES, I met in person the many dedicated and passionate pharmacists who volunteer their time to work as members of CSHP Council, committees and task forces. I also witnessed current and new Council members discuss and deliberate on items of Society business. At the Residency Networking Reception, I connected with student pharmacists, resident pharmacists, and residency coordinators and directors from various hospital centres across Canada to learn more about residency training. In addition, at the educational sessions, I learned about making the case for a national drug plan, managing electrolyte and acid-base disorders, and helping patients successfully navigate transitions in care. At the SES social events in the evenings, I got to sample the island life, first with Fun Night at the beach and then with a taste of PEI's surf and turf at the Past Presidents' Dinner.

My summer internship experience at CSHP has been exceptionally rewarding. This is largely because of the way in which CSHP generously involves students in every aspect of its work and aims to maximize students' learning. My 4-month internship has gone by all too quickly, but as a pharmacy student at the beginning of my career, I know that there will be many more opportunities in the future to get involved in the profession and with CSHP, the dynamic society that lives at the heart of hospital pharmacy.
