

The Apothecary

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, Apothecary Hall, 488 Water Street, St. John's, NF A1E 1B3
Telephone: 753-5877 Fax: 753-8615 Email: npha@nf.sympatico.ca

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Prescription Monitoring Program

The establishment of the Prescription Monitoring Program is continuing. A handbook for prescribers and pharmacists is being finalized and will be circulated to members, along with a question and answer supplement, in the near future. The legislative changes needed to establish the program are also near completion, as well as necessary software changes and the establishment of an office and staff for the program. Implementation of the program can begin when these components are in place. It is also anticipated that it may take a few months beyond the start date to make the inevitable adjustments that are required to make any new program fully operational.

Major features of the program include:

- The program will be an initial 2-year pilot.
- Monitoring will occur for all narcotics, controlled drugs and benzodiazepines written by all prescribers.
- Monitoring reports will be submitted by all community pharmacies.
- Monitoring will occur for all patients of community pharmacies.
- Patients will be identified via their MCP number (provisions will be made for patients without MCP numbers).
- Special, personalized prescription pads will be provided to all prescribers. These will include space for the required information.

- Prescriptions for monitored drugs may be filled from other than the special pad (including faxed and verbal prescriptions) as long as the prescriber gives all the required information.
- Pharmacies will be provided (through their software vendors) with regular updates of the DINs of drugs being monitored and the ID numbers of all prescribers.
- Reports will be computer-generated and transmitted to the program electronically on a weekly basis.
- Prescription data will be analyzed and those which fall outside of normal parameters will be reviewed.
- "Alert" letters regarding reviewed prescriptions may be sent to appropriate prescribers and/or pharmacies.
- "Explain" letters regarding out-of-the-norm prescribing or dispensing practices may be sent to appropriate prescribers and/or pharmacies.
- Safeguards will be in place to deal with the confidentiality of the data collected.
- A board or committee that will include representation from the NPhA will supervise operation of the program.
- Ultimate responsibility for the program will lie with the Newfoundland Medical Board which will in turn report to the Minister of Health and Community Services.

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Included with this Issue...	
Adverse Drug Reaction Newsletter from January 2000.	
A copy of the premier edition of NAPRA's newsletter, <i>Outlook</i> . Take the time to read this newsletter to see what our national regulatory body is working on.	
The Application for the 2000 CCCEP/VI Home Study Program.	

Publishing Schedule	
Mar-April Deadline.....	April 14th
May-June Deadline.....	June 16th
Sept-Oct Deadline.....	October 6th
Nov-Dec Deadline.....	December 8th

Professional Relations Assistant Appointed

Melanie Healey has been appointed to the new association staff position of Professional Relations Assistant. A 1996 graduate of Memorial University's School of Pharmacy, Melanie comes to the position with extensive staff and managerial experience in community pharmacy.

Melanie's primary responsibilities are to provide day-to-

day resources and support to the Pharmacy Economics Affairs Committee. She will also, where possible, be assisting other association committees in their activities both within the profession and with outside bodies. Melanie has also taken on editing this newsletter.

Any member needing assistance from the association can contact Melanie at the association's office.

CSHP News

PAW 2000

- Our branch is working with both CAPSI and NPhA on a variety of activities such as trivia contests, mall displays, etc for Pharmacy Awareness Week 2000 (March 6-12). We encourage you to get involved in promoting our great profession during this week.

CAPSI/CSHP National Poster Competition

- Our branch will again host the provincial competition in March with the winning team going on to compete on the national level. All three classes of students are invited to participate by working up a pharmaceutical care case in poster format. A panel of

judges from CSHP will select the winning entrant based on a set of criteria. A continuing education event is planned for late March, during which the winning team will be announced. We invite all pharmacists to join us at this event - more information will follow!

Semi-Annual Meeting

- We are currently in the process of planning our semi-annual meeting for the spring. While the details aren't finalized, we are hoping to hold the meeting in Grand Falls-Windsor in April in conjunction with the NPhA zone meeting for the area as well as a continuing education session.

Barbara Thomas
President
Nfld & Lab. Branch, CSHP

Update from the Advocacy Task Force

The Task Force has been working for the last several months to determine the level of support for a separate advocacy body for all Newfoundland pharmacists, providing a unified voice and various programs to better our profession.

We are comfortable with the level of support expressed by members for an advocacy group (a so-called "Newfoundland Pharmacists Association") through our membership survey, individual feedback and discussions at the annual conference in September. In establishing this, we have perhaps completed part of our mandate. However, much remains.

While our province is one of the last to attempt to

establish such a body, this is understandable given our geographic diversity, limited membership and funding. These factors also make it difficult to relay information to all members even though we try to keep you as informed as possible.

Over the next few months, in coordination with Melanie and Don, we will gather information from other provinces on how their societies work with emphasis on funding, mission statements, types of programs and member satisfaction. Rest assured that we are listening to your input and hope to develop a framework for consideration as soon as possible. Please contact me, or any task force member, with any feedback or questions you may have.

Regards,
Keith Bailey, Chair

Confusion With Zyban® and Wellbutrin®

There are currently two products on the market, Zyban® and Wellbutrin SR®, which contain the same active ingredient, sustained release bupropion hydrochloride. However, the two products are quite different in terms of indications, dosage and support. Zyban® is indicated for smoking cessation in conjunction with behavioral modification. Wellbutrin SR® is indicated for the symptomatic relief of depressive illness. Therefore, pharmacists should ensure that they are not used interchangeably. This is important for several reasons:

Pharmacist Integrity

Since many insurers cover Wellbutrin SR® for depression but do not cover Zyban®, the substitution of Zyban® with Wellbutrin® to obtain reimbursement is fraudulent.

Patient Care

Because smoking cessation is achieved under optimal conditions, pharmacists have a significant role in counseling patients who have been prescribed Zyban®. The Zyban Plus® program provides a variety of support materials, including a 1-800 number, to the patient.

Also, there is a possibility that patient records could be misconstrued if either medication is used for a purpose other than the one indicated.

Substituting Wellbutrin SR® for Zyban® not only negates the benefits of counseling and support of the Zyban Plus® program but could also result in professional liability for the pharmacist involved.

For more information, call the Glaxo Wellcome Drug Information Line at 1-800-668-6051.

Ref: Glaxo Wellcome RX Q&A

Historical Pharmacy

The 34th International Conference on the History of Pharmacy was held in Florence on October 20-23, 1999. Over 450 delegates attended the conference. A feast of presentations ranged from perspectives on specific therapies to professional issues.

Discussions on the changing nature of pharmacy often centered on the role of historic pharmacists, a reminder of the value of developing the

James J. O'Mara Museum as a historical center.

At the conference I presented a short account of 20th century Newfoundland pharmacy and, for the international audience, raised general questions about the nature of colonial pharmacy.

Dr. J.K. Crellin is a History of Medicine Professor with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University. He is also a member of NPhA's museum committee



Quick Notes

Diane-35®

- We have become aware of some confusion regarding this product. It is indicated for the treatment of acne not responsive to other treatments, with associated signs of androgenization. There has been some concern as to its contraceptive efficacy.
- Diane-35® contains 2mg cyproterone acetate and 35mg ethinyl estradiol. The estrogenic content is the same as all oral contraceptives while the progestin content is the cyproterone, which is also an anti-androgen. Because of its pharmacological properties, Diane-35®, when used cyclically, will prevent ovulation and possible contraception.
- While the product should not be used solely for its contraceptive properties, if taken as recommended, it will provide reliable contraception.
- If compliance is uncertain and contraception is necessary, an additional non-hormonal method should be used.
- It is important that patients be informed that they should not take an additional hormonal oral contraceptive at the same time as Diane-35®.

Bowl of Hygeia

- The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the 2000 Whitehall-Robins Bowl of Hygeia. Long considered one of the most prestigious awards in pharmacy, the Bowl of Hygeia is awarded annually to one pharmacist in each province in Canada and one in each state in the United States to recognize outstanding community service through pharmacy.
- There are many pharmacists who contribute freely of their time and talents in the service of their communities, and as often as not this contribution goes unrecognized among their fellow pharmacists.
- If you know of such a pharmacist, please take the time to make the nomination. The Awards Committee frequently has no knowledge of the significant

contributions that pharmacists are making to their communities.

- Deadline for receipt of nominations is March 31, 2000. Further information, including nomination forms, may be obtained by contacting the Association office at 753-5877.

Tuberculosis Meds

- Did you know that tuberculosis medication in Newfoundland is provided to patients free of charge through our hospital pharmacies? If a patient presents with such a request, they should be redirected either to Health and Community Services or to the hospital from which they were discharged. It should also be noted that NLPDP will not reimburse pharmacies for these medications.

Notes from the Office

- We ask anyone with copies of educational videos to please return them at their earliest convenience.
- We now have the January 1, 2000 edition of the APSI pricing guide. It is available to members, upon request either on disk or paper copy.

New Council

- Following the elections held by mail-in ballot in the fall of 1999, the council for the 2000-2001 term officially took office on January 1st. At their first meeting, an executive for the next two years was elected. Council is still awaiting notice from the Minister of Health and Community Services of who the 3 lay persons and 2 pharmacists appointed to council will be. See page 6 for a list of your new council.

Heart and Stroke Foundation

- In May and June of this year, the Heart and Stroke Foundation will be giving away free poster display kits to individuals who are interested in posting public educational displays. Call 753-8521, fax 753-3117 or visit their website at www.heartandstroke.ca

Secretary-Registrar's Notes

Narcotic and Controlled Drug Regulations

- Pharmacists are reminded that, although Narcotic Reports are no longer required to be sent regularly to Health Canada, the federal regulations regarding the purchase and sale of controlled substances (i.e. narcotics and controlled drugs) have not changed.
- Pharmacists are still required to keep prescriptions for narcotics and controlled drugs on a separate file from other prescriptions. Records of purchases and sales must be kept for two years and be available for inspection upon request. On at least two occasions in the past year, our inspectors have found that separate narcotic files were not being kept and records of purchases and sales were not readily available.
- Health Canada no longer provides the "narcotic book" so familiar to most pharmacists. I would suggest, however, that pharmacists either have their own book or keep duplicate packing slips of all purchases filed away in chronological order. I would further recommend that pharmacists continue to generate regular narcotic sales reports and keep them on file for inspection upon request.
- Pharmacists should also conduct regular inventory counts of their narcotics and controlled drugs and compare them to purchase and sale records. This is particularly recommended when there are changes in the pharmacist-in-charge or staff pharmacists.

Prescription Transfers

- Transfers of prescriptions for Schedule F drugs are permitted by Food and Drug Act Regulations but are technically not required. However, it has long been the policy of our association that the patient has the right to the pharmacy to which they wish to take their prescriptions. Where permitted, a pharmacist should respect this right of the patient and transfer prescriptions to the pharmacy of the patient's choice upon request.
- Pharmacists requesting transfer of prescriptions must be aware that, depending upon circumstances, such a request may require a reasonable delay in being responded to. Patients should also realize that extra services such as transferring prescriptions are not a part of the regular dispensing process and that it would not be unreasonable for a pharmacist to charge a fee for such a service.
- While pharmacists may prefer not to have the added

work involved, the transfer of prescriptions is conducted on a daily basis, usually without incident or controversy. We would hope that this high level of professional cooperation between pharmacists continues.

Physician no Longer Practicing

The recent death of a prominent St. John's physician, Dr. Wm. Fanning (the father of pharmacist Maureen Fanning) brings to mind the question of the validity of prescriptions after a prescriber ceases practice, moves away or dies.

While there is no specific regulation that deals with this, the old adage is that "the prescription dies with the doctor". The unwritten standard is that prescriptions should no longer be filled if the prescriber is no longer in practice, since the patient is no longer under the active medical care of that practitioner.

In practical terms, however, a pharmacist would usually provide a first fill, or one refill, of a necessary medication to give the patient an opportunity to find a new physician. While professional discretion will dictate what should be done in a particular situation, it would not be considered appropriate to continue to fill prescriptions when the patient is not under the active care of the prescriber.

Out-of-Province Prescriptions

On a similar note, pharmacists are increasingly encountering instances of prescriptions from out-of-province physicians, or requests for transfers of prescriptions from out-of-province. *The Pharmaceutical Association Act* defines a prescription as "an instruction... by a medical practitioner as defined in *The Medical Act...*" implying that the physician be registered with the Newfoundland Medical Board. Federal Food and Drug Regulations refers to a physician "licensed in a province of Canada".

We have discussed this issue with the medical board and have been told that while no physician may practice in this province without being licensed with the board, it would be appropriate for pharmacists to use professional judgment when encountering such out-of-province prescriptions. Professional judgment in filling any prescription includes consideration of the particular circumstances involved with the patient and the prescription, and confidence that the prescription is from whom it purports to be from.

Update from PEAC

- On Thursday, February 17th, the Pharmacy Economic Affairs Committee met with John Downton and Colleen Janes of the Department of Health and Community Services. The agenda of the meeting contained several ongoing issues including special authorizations, 90-day supplies, direct and wholesale designations and a current "Guide to the Pharmacist".

- With regard to direct/wholesale designations, in the next couple of weeks, a bulletin should be placed on the NLPDP system listing which manufacturers fall into each category. This may have to be revisited once the list is published if any problems are noted.
- Also in the near future, a new version of the "Guide to the Pharmacist" will be drafted by the committee and presented to NLPDP for its adoption.
- Any feedback on these issues would be greatly appreciated.

Registration Changes

Justin Burt from Lawtons Drugs, Kenmount Road, St. John's to Lawtons Drugs, Topsail Road, St. John's

Hubert Cassell from Lawtons Drugs, Campbell Ave, St. John's to Lawtons Drugs, Avalon Mall, St. John's

Cathy Dicks from Parkdale Pharmacy, Elizabeth Ave, St. John's to Lawtons Drugs, Centennial Square, Mount Pearl.

Randy McFadyen from Lawtons Drugs, Centennial Square, Mt Pearl to Lawtons Drugs, Campbell Ave, St. John's

Darrin Park from Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital, Stephenville to Western Memorial Hospital, Corner Brook

Tracy Petten from Lawtons Drugs, Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's to Lawtons Drugs, Military Road, St. John's

Gert Pike from Lawtons Drugs, Cowan Avenue, St. John's to Health Care Corporation, St. John's

David Rogers from Lawtons Drugs, Avalon Mall, St. John's to Lawtons Drugs, Kenmount Road, St. John's

New Pharmacy Opening:
Pharmacy Solutions, Hamilton Avenue

ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS (ADR)

For reporting forms, information, or to report suspected ADRs, mail, phone or fax to:

ATLANTIC ADR REGIONAL CENTER
c/o Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Center
Drug Information Center
1796 Summer Street, Rm. 2421
Halifax, NS B3H 3A7
Tel: (902) 473-7171 Fax: (902) 473-8612

reports are eligible for CEU Credit

PROFESSIONALS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A confidential support program for pharmacists.
Call Rosemary Lahey, M.S.W., R.S.W., Clinical Coordinator

"Care for the Caregiver"

Confidential Help
754-3007
1-800-563-9133



Condolences are extended to:
Dave Galway on the passing of his mother
Wayne Grimes on the passing of his father

Part Time Pharmacists Available

Bob Faulkner - Phone: 576-2797
Bern Billard - Phone: 229-4489
Perry Humphries - Phone: 634-7929

Full Time Pharmacists Needed

Warr's Pharmacy
Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Contact: Bert Warr
Phone: (709) 896-2963

Full Time Pharmacist Needed

Cambridge Memorial Hospital
Human Resource Services
700 Coronation BLDV.
Cambridge, ON, N1R 3G2
Fax: (519) 740-4907

Information on the Web

Canadian Mental Health Association (NF Chapter)
www.infonet.st-johns.nf.ca:80/cmha/

Blue Cross of Atlantic Canada
www.atl.bluecross.ca

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders
www.chadd.org/

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies
www.canadapharma.org

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
www.mssoc.ca

JAMA Women's Health
www.ama-assa.org/women

Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association
www.nf.lung.ca

Nonprescription Drug Manufacturers Association of Canada
www.ndmac.ca

Red Cross
www.crossnet.com

The PharmaChannel
www.thepharmachannel.com

The Arthritis Society
www.arthritis.ca

USP Database
www.housecall.com

Directory

Canadian Pharmacists Association

Phone: 1-800-917-9489
Fax: (613) 523-0445
Email: cpha@cdnpharm.ca
Website: www.cdnpharm.ca

National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities

Phone: (613) 569-9658
Fax: (613) 569-9659
Email: bawells@compuserve.com
Website: www.napra.org

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

Phone: (613) 736-9733
Fax: (613) 736-5660
Email: www@cshp.ca
Website: www.cshp.ca

Drug Information Center

Phone: 1-800-745-3784
Fax: (709) 737-7044
Email: afultz@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

Poison Control Centers

Central Newfoundland Hospital
Grand Falls-Windsor
Phone: (709) 292-2134

Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital

St. Anthony
Phone: (709) 454-3333
Fax: (709) 454-2194

Janeway Child Health Center

St. John's
Phone: (709) 722-1100
Fax: (709) 726-0830

Council Members

President **Margot Priddle**
Vice President..... **Arlene Crane**
Executive Member..... **Keith Hogan**
Zone 1 **Carson Collins**
Zone 2 **David Dawe**
Zone 3 **Thomas Goulding**
Zone 4 **Robin Vatcher**
Zone 5 **Dwight Ball**

Committee Chairs

Awards.....
Discipline **Bernd V. Staeben**
Pharmacy Economic Affairs..... **Barbara Scaplen**
Education **Don Hillier**
Finance..... **Dwight Ball**
Joint Studentship..... **Dr. Linda Hensman**
Legislative **Derrick Hierlihy**
Museum **Joan O'Mara**
Scope of Practice..... **Margot Priddle**

Office Staff

Secretary-Registrar **Donald F. Rowe**
Assistant Registrars-Inspectors **John V. Hogan**
..... **Seumas Gibbons**
Professional Relations Assistant **Melanie Healey**
Secretarial Staff..... **Catherine Waterfield**
..... **Joan O'Mara**

Calendar of Events

March

National Nutrition Month
National Kidney Month
National Epilepsy Month
Red Cross Month

Pharmacy Awareness Week Mar 6-12
Daffodil Days Mar 28-Apr 2

April

National Cancer Month
Parkinson Awareness Month
Allergy Awareness Week Apr 24-29

NPhA Conference 2000

St. John's
Sept 8-10, 2000

More information will follow in the coming months.

CPhA Conference 2000

"Saskatoon Welcomes You!"
June 23-27, 2000

For more information, check CPhA's website or contact:
Wendy Eligh, CMP
Conference Manager
Canadian Pharmacists Association
Tel: (613) 523-7877
Fax: (613) 523-0445
Email: meeting@cdnpharm.ca

4th International Conference on Pharmaceutical Competence

Ottawa, Ontario
October 15-19, 2000

If you would like to be added to advance mailing lists to be kept updated on conference plans, fax (613) 569-9665 or email bawells@compuserve.com.

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Volume 19, Issue 2
 March-April, 2000

Changes Made to Association Council and Executive

The spring meeting of the Council of NPhA was held on Sunday, April 30, 2000. This meeting saw the election of a new Executive Committee following the resignation of Margot Priddle as President. The new Executive, who will serve until December, 2001, are:

President Arlene Crane
 Vice-President Keith Hogan
 Executive Member Dwight Ball

The Council also welcomed Keith Bailey and Brenda Burse as the new pharmacist appointees to Council. Betty Ann Berkshire, Mary Smith and James Smyth were congratulated on their reappointment as lay appointees to Council for a further two years.

On behalf of all members, we would like to thank Margot for her contribution to the association over the last two years and wish her continued success. We look forward to working with the new Executive, especially Arlene, on many exciting new projects that can help us, as pharmacists, be the best that we can be.

Other issues discussed at the Council meeting included:

- discussion of the activities revolving around the disappointing results of the recent budget and what we should do next.
- referral of the report of the Tobacco Free

Task Force to the Legislative Committee for drafting of Standards of Practice respecting sale of tobacco in pharmacies.

- a report on the recent signing of the Drug Schedules by the Minister of Health as well as what should be included in the information package to go out to pharmacies and wholesalers.
- the reinstatement of the Hospital Pharmacists Committee.
- proposed By-Law amendments to change the composition of the Executive Committee to Past-President, President, President-Elect and Executive Member. This change would allow for more continuity than with the present structure, as well as possibly enticing more members to consider serving as President since the term of office would be for one year instead of two.
- the implications for Pharmacists-in-Charge as a result of the pharmacist shortage.
- the results of a recent Zone Meeting in St. John's including discussion of several of the ideas presented by members, what direction we can take from them, as well as preparation for upcoming meetings in Carbonear, Grand Falls-Windsor and Corner Brook.

Inter-Provincial Mutual Recognition Agreement Signed

At the Annual Board Meeting of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), held in Halifax on April 9, 2000, final signing of the Mutual Recognition Agreement took place. This agreement was signed by all provinces (except Quebec) and will be fully effective by July 1, 2001. Under this agreement, pharmacists licensed in any province will be eligible for licensure in any other signing province. Pharmacists without PEBC certification or without pharmacy degrees will be "grandfathered" as long as they are actively licensed as of July 1, 2001. Legislative changes that might be required in any province to accommodate this agreement must be in place before July 1, 2001. Some

other provinces (including Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) will already license Newfoundland and Labrador pharmacists who graduated before the degree program and before PEBC certification were required in Newfoundland. A copy of the full text of the Mutual Recognition Agreement is included with this edition of *The Apothecary*.

"Under this agreement, pharmacists licensed in any province will be eligible for licensure in any other signing province."

Inside this Issue...	
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Included with this Issue...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two CE lessons provided by Abbott Laboratories, Ltd.: "Pharmacy Management Issues in Community-Acquired Pneumonia" "Pharmacy Management Issues in Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Bronchitis" • Simply fill out the answer form and mail or fax to the address or number given. The lessons are provided at no charge. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the "Mutual Recognition Agreement for the Profession of Pharmacy in Canada" 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists' Information Sheet and Application Form. This society is open to all pharmacists who wish to join. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An early schedule and registration form for this year's Annual Conference in St. John's 	

Publishing Schedule	
May-June Deadline.....	June 10th
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CPS 2000

There is a great deal of useful information in the CPS each year that many pharmacists do not even realize is at their fingertips. This includes not only the usual Product Monographs and Lists of any one Manufacturer's Product but also Patient Information as well as the information listed below.

Product News (Peach Pages) - A quick look at what's new in the CPS each year. This includes new brands of previously marketed drug entities such as a new generic brand as well as entirely new entities.

Clin-Info (Lilac Pages) - Contains selected information for health care professionals based on clinical practice. This section is quite extensive and very underutilized. The information contained in this section includes:

- Poison Control Centers
- Body Surface Areas
- Clinical Laboratory Reference Intervals
- Health Organizations
- Narcotic and Controlled Drug Regulations
- Immunization Schedules for Infants & Children
- Vaccine-Related Adverse Event Reporting
- Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting

- Special Access Program
- Drugs Used in Cardiac Resuscitation
- Nonpharmacologic Therapy for Hypertension
- Drugs in Dentistry
- Perioperative Management of Medications
- Malaria Prevention
- Water Treatment Methods for Travelers
- Diagnosis & Management of Dementia
- Drugs & Older Individuals
- Latex Allergy & Parenteral Products
- Drug Exposure During Pregnancy & Lactation
- Antiepileptic Drug Therapy
- Antineoplastic Drug Therapy
- Serum Drug Concentration Monitoring
- Drug Considerations During Porphyria
- Dietary Considerations (includes RNIs)
- Drug Administration & Grapefruit Juice
- Drug Administration & Food
- Nonmedicinal Ingredients Listings
- Drug-Drug Interactions

In addition, the final 25 pages contain Product Monographs for new products or new indications that did not make the actual printing (such as Vioxx®)

Product News

• Actonel® for Paget's Disease

Procter & Gamble will soon be marketing Actonel® (risedronate sodium 30mg) for the treatment of Paget's disease. The drug has also been studied for the treatment of osteoporosis, but is not yet indicated for this use.

• Arava® for arthritis

Aventis Pharma has released Arava® (leflunomide 10mg and 20mg), a new disease modifying drug (DMARD) for the treatment of active rheumatoid arthritis.

• Avalide® for hypertension

Bristol-Myers Squibb and Sanofi Canada are co-marketing Avalide® (irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide, 150mg/12.5mg and 300mg/12.5mg), a combination angiotensin II receptor blocker/diuretic for the treatment of hypertension.

• Avandia® for Type II Diabetes

SmithKline Beecham has released Avandia® (rosiglitazone 2mg, 4mg and 8mg), the first oral antidiabetic agent in the thiazolidinedione class to be marketed in Canada. It is indicated for the treatment of patients with Type II diabetes, to reduce insulin resistance and lower elevated blood glucose. It can be used alone or with metformin. This release follows the withdrawal of a similar drug, Rezulin®, from the US market. Rezulin® was removed following the FDA's study of safety data for the drug class. It was found that Avandia® and another product Actos® (not yet released in Canada) had the same benefits as Rezulin® without the same serious adverse effects.

• Nu-enalapril®

As everyone already knows, in early April NuPharm lost its Notice of Compliance for enalapril. This resulted in the product being removed from the interchangeable formulary and pharmacists were unable to substitute this product for Vasotec®. At that time, NuPharm had an application into the courts to suspend the judgment and thus allow product that was already in stores to be "used up". This application was unsuccessful. Therefore, NuPharm will now accept any and all returns of product. Simply return the product to the wholesaler from which it was purchased and you will be credited for full or part bottles at a value of 1/4 - 1/2 - 3/4 and unopened bottles.

• Cisapride Removal From US Market

Janssen Pharmaceutical has decided to stop marketing cisapride in the United States as of July 14, 2000. This action is voluntary and the delayed effective date is to provide time for patients and physicians to make changes in treatment. The FDA's release states "As of December 31, 1999, use of cisapride has been associated with 341 reports of heart rhythm abnormalities including 80 reports of deaths. Most of these adverse events occurred in patients who were taking other medications or suffering from underlying conditions known to increase risk of cardiac arrhythmia associated with cisapride." The company will continue to make the drug available to patients who meet specific clinical eligibility criteria.

Janssen-Ortho is currently in discussions with the Therapeutic Products Program (the former HPB) to decide what their response will be to this situation in Canada. As soon as these talks wrap up, all pharmacists will be informed of the outcome.

Stroke Awareness

Did you know that stroke is the third leading cause of death and the number one cause of adult disability in Canada? June is Stroke Awareness month in Canada. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador would like your help in educating the people of our province about this preventable condition. As one of the most accessible health care professionals, pharmacists have a role in patient education. One of the main risk factors for stroke is hypertension. As a recent Canadian Heart Health Survey reported, only about 50% of Canadians with hypertension are aware of their diagnosis and only 16% have adequate blood pressure control. These numbers are similar in other countries such as the US. Pharmacists occupy a key role in helping to change the statistics. One, we can help in the education of the public on the preventable stroke risk factors. A recent survey commissioned by the Heart and Stroke Foundation revealed that Newfoundlanders do not know the preventable stroke factors. Two, we can help patients who have been diagnosed with hypertension to manage their disease with both pharmacological and non-pharmacological

methods. One of pharmacist's main roles as stated in the JNC VI Guidelines is "to monitor patients' use of medications, to provide information about potential adverse effects, and to avoid drug interactions." The 1999 Canadian recommendations for the management of hypertension indicate updated choices for first line therapy.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation will have free poster display kits to be utilized during June, "Stroke Awareness Month". All pharmacies are also encouraged to hold Blood Pressure Clinics during the month of June to promote the awareness of this risk factor. For more information or to request a free poster kit, please contact:

Paula Ewing
 Director of Health Promotions
 Heart and Stroke Foundation of
 Newfoundland and Labrador
 P.O. Box 5819, St. John's, NF A1C 5X3
 Tel: 753-8521
 Fax: 753-3117
 E-mail: pewing@heartandstroke.nf.net

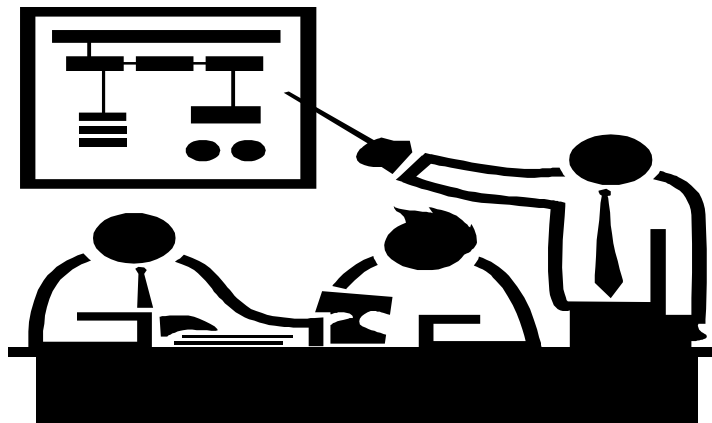
(references available upon request)
 Submitted by: *Stephanie Young*

Advocacy Role Task Force

Spring is a time for optimism and that is certainly how we feel on the committee. Since the last Apothecary, we have met twice. After an in-depth review of information gathered from other provincial pharmacy organizations, we have extracted some of the best ideas from each and added a Newfoundland flavor. We are in the final stages of drafting a framework for an initial advocacy group to be presented to Council for consideration in September.

We will meet again in mid-May to finalize details. In the meantime, NPhA is helping to work on a budgetary breakdown of current finances and alternative revenue sources. We will present a summary of the framework and budget in the June edition of the Apothecary. Please review this carefully and offer any feedback you have to the committee.

Thanks,
Keith Bailey
Chair



PROFESSIONALS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A confidential support program for pharmacists.
 Call Rosemary Lahey, M.S.W., R.S.W., Clinical Coordinator
 "Care for the Caregiver"
 Confidential Help
 754-3007
 1-800-563-9133

PEAC To Prepare Proposal on Wastage

The Pharmacy Economics Affairs Committee is preparing a follow-up proposal to NLPDP with respect to drug wastage in the program. Emphasis will be placed on elimination of wastage through a trial prescription program for first time use of drugs with a high incidence of adverse effects.

A review of the appropriateness of dispensing 90-day supplies of medications at one time will also be proposed. The possibility of a change in the makeup of the senior's co-pay has also been discussed.

This proposal is in response to the indication from the Minister of Health and Community Services, Roger Grimes, that he would be interested in discussing areas of cost savings with our representatives. These cost savings could then be translated into improved compensation for pharmacists from the drug program either through the dispensing fee or through alternative forms of reimbursement (i.e. for cognitive services).

A meeting of PEAC has been scheduled for May 16, 2000 to discuss this and other economic issues.

Association News

- **Protocol For Drug Recalls**

Following the recent recall of several Schering inhalers such as Vanceril®, we have been notified of a problem with several pharmacies with regard to the procedure that should be followed in such an instance.

During a follow-up by Health Canada, two situations of relevance were found:

- one pharmacy did nothing following receipt of the recall notice because the pharmacist-in-charge was unaware of how to retrieve such patient information from his computer system.

- another pharmacy had a situation where a relief pharmacist was not informed about the recall and could have potentially dispensed the offending product.

Neither of these situations are appropriate. Any recall that could potentially jeopardize the patient's safety should be handled in an expeditious manner. All offending product should be removed from the dispensary shelves and all pharmacists working in the dispensary should be notified. If necessary, any patients affected by the recall should be contacted to ensure that they do not possess any of the product in question. If the pharmacist-in-charge is unsure how to retrieve this information from their system, he/she should find out from their software vendor so that this situation does not recur in the future.

- **Reference Materials for Community Pharmacies**

Over the last few months, we have had a number of requests for sources where pharmacists can acquire the texts mentioned in the *Standards of Practice* under "Schedule of Required and Suggested Reference Materials for Community Pharmacies". At the end of this section in the NPhA manual, you will find a reference sheet with

several phone numbers, fax numbers and mailing addresses for many of the required and suggested publications. While this is not an exhaustive list, it is a good summary for most pharmacies. In particular, the *Food and Drug Act* and *Controlled Drug and Substances Act* can be obtained on the NAPRA website.

- **James C. Quick Award**

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations from members for the James C. Quick Award for innovative pharmacy practice to recognize outstanding achievement in the practice of pharmacy in Newfoundland and Labrador. The nominee should be a pharmacist who has introduced innovative methods of services into pharmacy care, or who has by their initiative broadened the scope of practice of pharmacy in this province.

This award is meant to recognize pharmacists who in their day to day practice have raised the expectations of what the public can expect from their pharmacist.

Nominations should be sent to the association offices. Deadline for receipt of nominations is May 31/00.

- **Drug Schedules**

NAPRA's Harmonized Drug Schedules have been signed into our Regulations by the Minister of Health and Community Services. This basically divides all drug entities into four categories:

- those requiring a prescription for sale
- those which require pharmacist intervention and therefore are considered "no public access";
- those which must be sold in a pharmacy but are available from a patient self-selection area
- those which can be sold in any retail outlet.

An information package is currently being prepared and will be sent to all locations as soon as possible.

CSHP Corner

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists is a professional organization representing pharmacists in various types of practice. There are numerous things that CSHP can offer all pharmacists of Newfoundland and Labrador. The enclosed bulletin lists just a few of the many benefits of membership. We are very fortunate again this year to have received an education grant from Hoffman La Roche. This grant will be used to provide a drug information text to each member of CSHP.

The beginning of the CSHP membership year is just around the corner. Current members will be sent a renewal form in the mail. Please complete your form and send it in by July 1st. Enclosed is an application form for new members interested in joining CSHP.

Remember, by supporting organizations like CSHP, you are helping to advance the profession of pharmacy. Each member plays a vital role. If you would like more information about any aspect of CSHP and what it can offer you, please contact the Membership Committee.

Thanks,

Kristi Parmiter, Membership Committee Chair

Congratulations!

- **Ronald Reddy** for receiving this year's PACE/Apotex Future Leader Award. Ron has just completed his last semester at MUN School of Pharmacy and will soon begin his pharmacy career.
- **Megan Turner** for being chosen as this year's Centennial Scholar for Newfoundland. Megan just completed her second year at MUN School of Pharmacy.
- **The Class of 2000 of MUN School of Pharmacy** on their recent graduation celebration. All present including Students, Faculty, Staff and Guests had a wonderful night. We wish all the graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors and look forward to seeing their contribution to our profession.
- **Pat Williams** and his wife, Trudy on the birth of a tiny but healthy baby girl, Amy on December 23, 1999.
- **Steve Janes** and his wife, Josephine McGrath on the birth of their baby girl, Andrea on December 3, 1999.

Registration Changes

Allison Alexander from Best Value Pharmacy, Corner Brook to Western Memorial Hospital, Corner Brook

Bern Billard to Warr's Pharmacy, Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Justin Burt from Lawtons Drugs, Kmart Plaza, St. John's to Out-of-Province

David Collins from Lawtons Drugs, Corner Brook to Lawtons Drugs, Kelligrews

Colleen Densmore from Lawtons Drugs, Kelligrews to Lawtons Drugs, Cowan Avenue, St. John's

Kenneth Fleming from Landfall Pharmacy, Bonavista to Warr's Pharmacy, Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Hala George to Best Value Pharmacy, Corner Brook

Bernadette Johnson from Lawtons Drugs, Kelligrews to Lawtons Drugs, Centennial Square, Mount Pearl

Bradley Payne from The Drug Store Pharmacy, Corner Brook to Lawtons Drugs, Corner Brook

Hilda Randell from Wal-Mart, Clarenville to The Drug Store Pharmacy, Corner Brook

Janet Short to Grace General Hospital, St. John's

Len Skanes from Shoppers Drug Mart, Wesleyville to Wal-Mart, Grand Falls-Windsor

Megan Williams from Pharmacy Solutions to Out-of-Province

Pharmacy Closure:

Bay D'Espoir Pharmacy

Pharmacy For Sale

Well established pharmacy in
Conception Bay North
For further information, contact Boyd Clarke at:
Walter P. Miller and Company
Chartered Accountants
579-2161

Pharmacists Required

- **Full-time Pharmacist** with option to buy out business. Independent pharmacy in Lillooet, BC. Contact: Catherine Stathers, Owner at 1-800-664-DRUG
- **Full-time Pharmacist**, ARP, Aylesford, Nova Scotia. Flexible hours. Contact: Tim Van Zoost at (902)847-3465
- **Hospital Pharmacist**, Regional Health Authority, Churchill, Manitoba. Fax: Human Resources Coordinator at (204) 675-2285 or email crhahr@cancom.net
- **Hospital Pharmacist**, New Miramichi Regional Hospital, Region 7 Hospital Corporation, Miramichi, New Brunswick. Contact Janice Irving-Meek, Manager, Pharmacy Services at (506)623-3071 or email at jmeek@health.nb.ca
- **Manager, Registration Programs**, Ontario College of Pharmacists. Fax: Lisa Baker at (416)703-3114.
- **Pharmacy Manager**, ARP, Lockeport, Nova Scotia. No evenings, Sundays or Holidays. Contact: Tim Van Zoost at (902)847-3465.
- **Relief Pharmacist**, Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital, Stephenville. July 10th-August 25th Contact Ken Walsh at 637-5698.
- **Relief Pharmacist**, Charles L. LeGrow Health Center, Port aux Basques. July 3rd-August 7th Contact Ken Walsh at 637-5698.

Part Time Pharmacists Available

- Bob Faulkner - Phone: 576-2797
- Perry Humphries - Phone: 634-7929
- Basil Walsh - Phone: 579-5727

Condolences are extended to

- **Bert Warr Sr. and Jr.** on the passing of their wife and mother.
- The family of pharmacist, **Dennis Dawe** on his passing.
- **Al Sesk** on the passing of his sister.

Information on the Web

Pharmaceutical Information Network

www.pharminfo.com

Pharmacy Connects

www.pharmacyconnects.com

Drug Information Resources: A Guide to Pharmacists

www.dal.ca/~pharmwww/druginfo/welcome.htm

Pharmacy/Drug Information Filing System

www.dal.ca/~pharmwww/pdiwdyfi/

Therapeutics Letter

www.ti.ubc.ca/pages/letter.html

Healthy Newfoundland and Labrador

healthy.nf.ca

Oncolink - University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center

cancer.med.upenn.edu

Heart Information Network

www.heartinfo.org

Canadian Network for Asthma Care

www.cnac.net

IMS Health Canada

www.imshealthcanada.com

Directory

Canadian Pharmacists Association

Phone: 1-800-917-9489
 Fax: (613) 523-0445
 Email: cpha@cdnpharm.ca
 Website: www.cdnpharm.ca

National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities

Phone: (613) 569-9658
 Fax: (613) 569-9659
 Email: bawells@compuserve.com
 Website: www.napra.org

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

Phone: (613) 736-9733
 Fax: (613) 736-5660
 Email: www@cshp.ca
 Website: www.cshp.ca

Drug Information Center

Phone: 1-800-745-3784
 Fax: (709) 737-7044
 Email: afultz@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

Poison Control Centers

Central Newfoundland Hospital
 Grand Falls-Windsor
 Phone: (709) 292-2134

Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital

St. Anthony
 Phone: (709) 454-3333
 Fax: (709) 454-2194

Janeway Child Health Center

St. John's
 Phone: (709) 722-1100
 Fax: (709) 726-0830

Council Members

President **Arlene Crane**
 Vice-President..... **Keith Hogan**
 Executive Member..... **Dwight Ball**
 Past-President **Margot Priddle**
 Councilors..... **Keith Bailey**
 **Brenda Bursey**
 **David Dawe**
 **Thomas Goulding**
 **Robin Vatcher**
 Lay Members..... **Betty Ann Berkshire**
 **Mary Smith**
 **James Smyth**

Committee Chairs

Awards..... **John V. Hogan**
 Discipline..... **Bernd V. Staeben**
 Pharmacy Economic Affairs..... **Barbara Scaplen**
 Education **Don Hillier**
 Finance..... **Dwight Ball**
 Joint Studentship..... **Dr. Linda Hensman**
 Legislative **Derrick Hierlihy**
 Museum **Joan O'Mara**
 Scope of Practice..... **Margot Priddle**

Office Staff

Secretary-Registrar **Donald F. Rowe**
 Assistant Registrars-Inspectors **John V. Hogan**
 **Seumas Gibbons**
 Professional Relations Assistant **Melanie Healey**
 Secretarial Staff..... **Catherine Waterfield**
 **Joan O'Mara**

Calendar of Events

May

Cystic Fibrosis Month
 Allergy Awareness Month
 Huntington's Disease Awareness Month
 National Mental Health Week (1-7)
 World Red Cross Day (8)
 Multiple Sclerosis Carnation Campaign (11-13)
 World No-Tobacco Day (31)

June

Senior's Month
 Stroke Awareness Month

NPhA Conference 2000

St. John's
Sept 8-10, 2000
 See inclosed schedule and registration form.

CPhA Conference 2000

"Saskatoon Welcomes You!"

June 23-27, 2000

For more information, check CPhA's website or contact:

Wendy Eligh, CMP
 Conference Manager
 Canadian Pharmacists Association
 Tel: (613) 523-7877
 Fax: (613) 523-0445
 Email: meeting@cdnpharm.ca

4th International Conference on Pharmaceutical Competence

Ottawa, Ontario
October 15-19, 2000

If you would like to be added to advance mailing lists to be kept updated on conference plans, fax (613) 569-9665 or email bawells@compuserve.com.

The Apothecary

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, Apothecary Hall, 488 Water Street, St. John's, NF A1E 1B3
Telephone: 753-5877 Fax: 753-8615 Email: npha@nf.sympatico.ca

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May-June, 2000



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, EVERYONE!!

SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER!!

Pharmacist Suspended and Fined for Professional Misconduct

At a recent hearing of the Discipline Committee Gerald J. Whelan of St. John's was found guilty on a number of charges of professional misconduct. The charges for which Mr. Whelan was found guilty include:

- dispensing without question excessive quantities of Ritalin® to the same patient from two different pharmacies in which he practiced, and continuing to dispense without question refills of a prescription when the prescribing physician was no longer in practice (particularly in view of the nature of the drug prescribed [Ritalin®], the unusual quantity prescribed, and the frequency of the refills);

The committee found that Mr. Whalen dispensed 22 prescriptions of Ritalin® 10mg (200 tablets each), 16 of which were filled after the prescribing physician had withdrawn from practice. The committee noted that the patient, a former co-worker of Mr. Whalen, had received 1200 Ritalin tablets from Mr. Whalen during the period from May 13, 1999 to June 22, 1999

- filling fraudulent prescriptions for a narcotic (Robaxisal® with Codeine) to a physician (purporting them to be phoned in by another physician) and subsequently submitting claims to a third party payer for those prescriptions;
- improperly and fraudulently writing prescriptions for a family member (Zovirax®) and for a family member of a physician (Minocin®), and knowingly submitting false or misleading accounts to a third party payer with respect to those prescriptions;
- unprofessionally obtaining long term prescriptions for himself and family members from physicians who had not seen himself or the family members as patients. Mr. Whalen also submitted claims to a third party payer for these prescriptions;
- obtaining prescriptions for a narcotic for a family member in contravention of the "double doctoring" provisions of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, also under circumstances where neither of the physicians had seen that family member as a patient.

Mr. Whalen obtained a prescription for 100 Atasol-30® for a family member from a physician on July 11, 1999, and a similar prescription for 100 Atasol-30® from a second physician on July 23, 1999. The second physician had not been informed of the earlier prescription.

In view of his having been found guilty of a number of charges of professional misconduct, the committee ordered the following:

- that Gerald J. Whalen be suspended for a period of three months, commencing June 26, 2000;
- that Mr. Whalen be fined a sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00);
- that Mr. Whalen be required to pay the sum of Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$18,500.00), representing a portion of the expenses of the Association arising out of the investigation and hearing into the complaints;
- that there be publication of the results of the hearing into the complaints, and the sanctions ordered by the Discipline Committee, on a named basis, in *The Apothecary*;
- that a copy of the report of the committee be forwarded to the Newfoundland Medical Board and to the Federal Health Protection Branch, drug inspectors;
- that Mr. Whalen be subject to periodic monitoring by the Registrar for a period of one year following reinstatement, and that Mr. Whalen report all of his places of employment to the Registrar;
- that notification of the findings and sanctions be provided to all agencies normally advised of discipline matters;
- that Mr. Whalen pay 50% of the total fine and expenses prior to reinstatement, and that the remaining 50% be paid in quarterly installments over a one year period.

Inside this Issue...

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Included with this Issue...

• Adverse Drug Reaction newsletter July, 2000
• Memo to all Pharmacy Technicians regarding the formation of a provincial chapter of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians (CAPT)
• Copy of NAPRA's newsletter, Outlook, May, 2000
• Registration Form for NPhA Conference 2000 (Sept 8-10)

Publishing Schedule

Aug-Sept Deadline.....September 15th
Oct-Nov Deadline.....November 15th

Clopidogrel-Related Adverse Reactions

Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) is a life threatening multiorgan disorder caused by intravascular platelet aggregation. The clinical features have classically been described as: microangiopathic hemolytic anemia, consumptive thrombocytopenia, neurological symptoms (typically fluctuating), renal disease and fever.

Clopidogrel (Plavix®) is a relatively new antiplatelet drug, chemically related to ticlopidine. Clopidogrel is promoted as having a more favorable safety profile than ticlopidine, particularly concerning skin, gastrointestinal and hematological (principally TTP) adverse effects. Because of this, clopidogrel has gained widespread clinical acceptance and has replaced ticlopidine in many clinical settings. It should be noted that TTP associated with ticlopidine was not widely recognized until seven years post-marketing.

Because of the potential clinical implications, on April 20, 2000 the New England Journal of Medicine released the article entitled "Thrombotic

Thrombocytopenic Purpura Associated with Clopidogrel" before its publication date. This article discusses 11 patients, of which 2 died, identified through post-marketing surveillance suspected to have experienced clopidogrel-induced TTP. The investigators observed that TTP associated with clopidogrel differed from cases with ticlopidine in that they occurred sooner after the initiation of therapy (usually within the first two weeks), were more prone to recurrence, and required a greater number of plasma exchange treatments.

It is important for health practitioners to be aware of this potentially life-threatening adverse effect. Appropriate monitoring and education of the patient of potential signs and symptoms will aid in the early detection of hematological changes. Health professionals are requested to report any suspected clopidogrel associated TTP reactions.

Submitted by:
Lynn Stienburg, Coordinator, Atlantic ADR

(References available upon request)

Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network has just published a position paper for pharmacists caring for patients living with HIV/AIDS in the Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy, 2000;53(2):92-103. This paper provides guidelines for practice for Canadian pharmacists caring for HIV/AIDS patients, including issues about adherence, patient counseling, managing drug interactions and adverse reactions, medication acquisition and payment, drug information, research, complementary or alternative medicine, pediatric issues, and needs of special populations. Reprints of this paper may be obtained by contacting:

Dr. Sandra A.N. Tailor,
Department of Pharmacy, Sunnybrook and
Women's College Health Sciences Center, Rm. E-300
2075 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, ON M4N 3M5
e-mail: sandra.tailor@swchsc.on.ca

Submitted by:
Dr. Deborah Kelly
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Health Care Corp.
of St. John's
Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy
Memorial University of Newfoundland

Letter From Your President

My first month in office has been a very hectic one. Zone meetings took place in four centers across the province: Corner Brook, Grand Falls-Windsor, Carbonear and St. John's. Members of the Executive Committee attended each of these meetings where many major issues were discussed. Though the turnout was not what we had expected considering the importance of the issues, we hope that these meetings were an informative and productive way for you, as members, to air your views.

Some of the activities that have taken place as a result of feedback from the zone meetings include writing several letters to the Prescription Monitoring Program and to the Minister of Health expressing our displeasure with the treatment of pharmacists particularly during the past year.

The next time we will get together to discuss issues is at this year's Annual Meeting, which is taking place in St. John's during the NPhA Conference 2000 on September 8, 9 and 10. Once again, we would like to encourage all member pharmacists to take this opportunity to become more involved in Association activities. After all, this is YOUR Association. Please, come out and have your say!

Arlene Crane
NPhA President

Product News

- **Prepulsid® removed from Canadian Market**

Prepulsid® (cisapride), will no longer be available from pharmacies effective August 7, 2000. The decision to withdraw Prepulsid® from the market is founded on the association of the drug with serious cardiac arrhythmias (e.g. ventricular tachycardia, torsades de pointes, and ventricular fibrillation) and sudden cardiac deaths. The continuing occurrence of such adverse events, despite several letters to health care professionals and changes to the Product Monograph, has led to the conclusion that the risks associated with Prepulsid® are not manageable in the setting of licensed drug use. Pharmacists dispensing Prepulsid® should advise patients to immediately contact their prescribing physicians to develop an appropriate treatment plan.

Patients with severe gastrointestinal motility disorders, who are refractory to alternative therapeutic modalities, may be eligible for access to the drug through Health Canada's Special Access Programme. In accordance with the requirements of the Special Access Programme, the prescribing physician has the responsibility to determine if the benefits of treatment outweigh the risk of serious cardiac adverse events. Janssen-Ortho Inc. has indicated to Health Canada that it will limit the availability of Prepulsid® to those patients who have little or no alternative to the drug as a treatment.

- **Lanoxin® changes hands, dramatic price increase follows**

As of June 7, 2000, Glaxo Wellcome no longer owns the rights to the product, Lanoxin®. Virco Pharmaceuticals (Canada) has licensed the marketing rights to the product in Canada and will now distribute the product through wholesalers only.

For the time being, Glaxo Wellcome will continue to manufacture the product until Virco can develop manufacturing and ensure that the same high standards which Glaxo Wellcome had are met.

As a result of this transfer, Virco has announced new product prices which represent a dramatic increase (approximately 210%) to the pharmacy. The only communication from Virco, to date, is the June 7th RXPRESS which stated "In order to continue to make Lanoxin® available to the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who depend on it every day, Virco Pharmaceuticals has implemented a price increase...This increase is necessary for it to be economically viable for us to continue to make Lanoxin® available."

Changes have been made to APSI as well as NLPDP, so all third party payers should be paying the updated prices on all prescriptions.

- **Vioxx® now listed on NLPDP Benefit List**

The COX II Inhibitor, Vioxx®, manufactured by Merck Frosst Canada, has just been added to the Benefit List for the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program. While both strengths of the products are listed, it should be noted that the addition is for Plan N (Seniors) only. Special Authorization is still required for Plan E (Social Services).

- **Boehringer Ingleheim increases minimum order**

In an effort to streamline their ordering process, Boehringer Ingleheim (makers of Atrovent® and Aero chambers®) have decided to increase their minimum order from \$300.00 to \$1000.00 effective July 10, 2000. This will change their status in the APSI price guide from "Direct" to "Wholesale" with a 15% upcharge to cover any markups instituted by wholesalers.

Seamless Care Workshop 2000

The National Seamless Care Task Force is a joint task force of CSHP and CPhA. We are working to facilitate the development and implementation of seamless care strategies for pharmacy in Canada. In late 1998, we organized a national seamless care workshop to begin the process. We are now in the planning stages of another workshop to be held on the weekend of September 29th at the Far Hills Resort in the fall colors of the Laurentians, just north of Montreal. We hope that you will be interested in participating. A brochure is being prepared to go out to pharmacists later this summer.

Both CSHP and CPhA have given seamless care a high priority, and we hope that you will make the time to actively participate in this process. Both our profession and patients will benefit from our efforts.

Robin J. Ensom, PharmD FCSHP
 CSHP Co-Chair
 Pharmacy, Providence Health Care - St. Paul's Hospital
 Vancouver, BC
 Tel: (604) 806-8147
 Email: rensom@providencehealth.bc.ca

Ron Elliott, B.Sc.Pharm.
 CPhA Co-Chair
 Shoppers Drug Mart, St. Thomas, ON
 Tel: (519) 633-3070
 Email: ron.elliott@sympatico.ca

Association News

- **Sale of Tobacco in Pharmacies**

The Standards of Practice regarding the Sale of Tobacco in Pharmacies has recently been approved by our Council. A copy will be forwarded to all pharmacies in the near future.

- **Just a reminder!**

Due to the limited resources of the Newfoundland Drug Information Centre (NFDIC), pharmacists are reminded that the service is intended for the use of Health Care Professionals only. It is not intended for the use of the general public as the vast majority of the information is research-based and therefore not appropriate. Pharmacists who wish to call on behalf of their patients and help them sort out the information are more than welcome to do so.

PROFESSIONALS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A confidential support program for pharmacists.
Call Rosemary Lahey, M.S.W., R.S.W., Clinical Coordinator
"Care for the Caregiver"
Confidential Help
754-3007
1-800-563-9133

Pneumococcal Vaccine Information

Pneumococcal vaccine is recommended for all persons aged 65 years or older, or persons with splenic dysfunction, asplenia, chronic renal disease, chronic cardiorespiratory disease, Hodgkin's disease and conditions associated with immunosuppression. Immunization of children younger than two years of age is not recommended, as the vaccine is relatively ineffective in this age group.

Although pneumococcal vaccine has traditionally been offered simultaneously with influenza immunization, any time during the year is an acceptable time to immunize those patients for whom pneumococcal vaccine is recommended. In fact, it may be desirable to unlink the association between flu season and this vaccine in order to avoid the possibility of giving multiple doses over time. This is since pneumococcal vaccine is normally given only once in a lifetime. Revaccination is usually only considered for certain high risk groups.

For further information please contact:

Margot Mayo

Communicable Disease Control

738-4888

CSHP Corner

We recently organized our semi-annual meeting in Grand Falls-Windsor in conjunction with NPhA's zone meeting for that area. We also held a continuing education session entitled "Compliance in Depression" during the same evening. While we were unable to officially hold our meeting due to a lack of quorum, we did meet with several of our members to update them on Branch activities. We also drew for our member book awards (Merck Manual and AHFS) that were generously provided by Hoescht Marion Roussel. Also, on behalf of the Awards Committee, we are pleased to announce that Heather Ryan is the recipient of the first Eli Lilly CSHP AGM travel grant. This allows her to attend the AGM in Winnipeg this August.

We remind all members that it is renewal time again. Thanks to a generous educational grant from Hoffman-La Roche we will again be offering a reference text to all new and renewing members. We ask that you forward your application to the national office no later than September 1 as we wish to ensure a timely distribution of the texts.

CSHP remains dedicated to the promotion of

pharmacy through its work on various initiatives. One such initiative is its involvement in the development of PSN's or Pharmacy Speciality Networks. These allow groups of pharmacists in similar practise to liaise with their counterparts across the country. PSN's are currently in place for such speciality practises as Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Critical Care and ID. For example, it allows a pharmacist involved in ID to seek out information for a complex patient case from others with the same speciality. This on-line group communication is provided by the list-serve from the national office. Members are encouraged to join the PSN of their speciality practise/interest. For more information, please see the PSN guide at www.chsp.ca

Finally, I invite you to log on to our newly created web site to learn more about CSHP and what is happening in your Branch. You may find us at: www.chsp-nl.com. Our thanks to Dave Smith (St. Clare's site, HealthCare Corp. St. John's) for establishing this for us along with the national website committee.

All the best for a safe and pleasant summer!

Barbara Thomas

President, Newfoundland and Labrador Branch

Registration Changes

Congratulations and Welcome to our new Registrants from the MUN School of Pharmacy, Class of 2000!!

Jeffrey Baker - Shoppers Drug Mart, Freshwater Rd, St. John's

Evenlena Bennett - The Drug Store Pharmacy, Mt Pearl

Darcy Billard - The Drug Store Pharmacy, Long Pond

Paul Bitsack - Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Avalon Mall, St. John's

Stephen Boyd - Grand Falls Drug Store

Darryl Burke - Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Village Mall, St. John's

Stephen Champion - Part Time, The Drug Store Pharmacy

Angela Chapman - Part Time

Jeff Cooper - Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Clarendville

Crystal Faulkner - The Drug Store Pharmacy, Stavanger Drive, St. John's

Lloyd Fudge - The Drug Store Pharmacy, Marystown

Carol Jones - Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Carbonear

Kelly Kavanagh - Lawtons Drugs, Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's

Trevor Lloyd - Shoppers Drug Mart, Lemarchant Rd, St. John's

Nancy O'Brien - Lawtons Drugs Nursing Home Services, St. John's

Tracey O'Neill - Shoppers Drug Mart, Goulds

Co Pham - Out of Province

Ronald Reddy - Sobey's, Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's

Kyla Snow - The Drug Store Pharmacy, Lewisporte

Darren Tucker - Lawtons Drugs, 510 Topsail Road, St. John's

Craig Waterman - O'Brien's Pharmacy, Gander

Holly Benoit from Brookfield Drugs, St. John's to General Hospital, Health Sciences Center, St. John's

Cecil Burke from Trinity Drugs to Part Time

Ken Fleming from Warr's Pharmacy, Happy Valley-Goose Bay to Part Time

Basil Gallant from Lawtons Drugs, O'Connell Drive, Corner Brook to Lawtons Drugs, Mount Bernard Avenue, Corner Brook

Mary Hiscock to Trinity Drugs

George Hutchings from Lawtons Drugs, Mount Bernard Avenue, Corner Brook to Lawtons Drugs, O'Connell Drive, Corner Brook

Donna Hynes-Vail from Shoppers Drug Mart, Goulds to General Hospital, Health Sciences Center, St. John's

Celyn Idami to Sobey's Pharmacy, Grand Bank

Frances James to Blackmarsh Pharmacy, St. John's

Brenda Lambert from Notre Dame Bay Memorial Health Center, Twillingate to Twillingate Pharmacy

Karen Lundrigan to Shoppers Drug Mart, Baie Verte

J. Gregory Peddle from Lawtons Drugs Nursing Home Services, St. John's to Zellers Pharmacy, Topsail Road, St. John's

Craig Rowsell from Blackmarsh Pharmacy, St. John's to Brookfield Drugs, St. John's

Kim Spencer to General Hospital, Health Sciences Center, St. John's

Rob Vail from Shoppers Drug Mart, Torbay Road, St. John's to Novo Nordisk Inc.

Eli Vey From Nu-Quest Distribution Inc. to Part Time

Randy White from Lawtons Drugs Nursing Home Services, St. John's to Out-of-Province

Landfall Pharmacy, Bonavista - Closed

Pharmacists Required

- **Full-Time Pharmacist**, Shoppers Drug Mart, Saint John, New Brunswick. Contact: Janet MacDonnell at (506) 636-9500 or Fax: (506) 636-9511.

- **Full-Time Pharmacist**, D. Ross Cochrane Pharmacy Limited, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Contact: Terry Broom at (902) 542-3972 or Fax: (902) 542-5790.

- **Full Time Pharmacist**, Shoppers Drug Mart, Orilla, Ontario. Contact: David Dobko at (705) 325-2377, Fax: (705) 325-4170 or email: penny.dobko@sympatico.ca

Part Time Pharmacists Available

- Bob Faulkner - Phone: 576-2797
- Perry Humphries - Phone: 634-7929
- Bob Simmons - Phone: 738-5500
- Basil Walsh - Phone: 579-5727

Congratulations to:

- Natalie Beckett on the birth of a son, Noah Matthew on April 16, 2000.
- Melinda Wicks on her marriage to Dr. David Cuthbert, in Scotland on May 15, 2000.

Condolences are extended to:

- Dominic Barry on the passing of his brother.
- Randy Collins on the passing of his brother.
- Paul Hillier on the passing of his mother.
- The family of Mary Hobbs, retired pharmacist, on her recent passing.
- Patricia Locke and Neil Locke on the passing of their husband and brother, Evarard.
- Ron Pomeroy on the passing of his father.

Directory

Canadian Pharmacists Association

Phone: 1-800-917-9489
 Fax: (613) 523-0445
 Email: cpha@cdnpharm.ca
 Website: www.cdnpharm.ca

National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities

Phone: (613) 569-9658
 Fax: (613) 569-9659
 Email: bawells@compuserve.com
 Website: www.napra.org

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

Phone: (613) 736-9733
 Fax: (613) 736-5660
 Email: www@cshp.ca
 Website: www.cshp.ca

Drug Information Center

Phone: 1-800-745-3784
 Fax: (709) 737-7044
 Email: afultz@morgan.uccs.mun.ca

Poison Control Centers

Central Newfoundland Hospital
 Grand Falls-Windsor
 Phone: (709) 292-2134

Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital
 St. Anthony
 Phone: (709) 454-3333
 Fax: (709) 454-2194

Janeway Child Health Center
 St. John's
 Phone: (709) 722-1100
 Fax: (709) 726-0830

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President **Arlene Crane**
 Vice-President **Keith Hogan**
 Executive Member **Dwight Ball**
 Past-President **Margot Priddle**
 Councilors **Keith Bailey**
 **Brenda Burse**
 **David Dawe**
 **Thomas Goulding**
 **Robin Vatcher**
 Lay Members **Betty Ann Berkshire**
 **Mary Smith**
 **James Smyth**

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 Pharmacy Economic Affairs **Barbara Scaplen**
 Education **Don Hillier**
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 Legislative **Derrick Hierlihy**
 Museum **Joan O'Mara**
 Scope of Practice **Margot Priddle**

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 **Seumas Gibbons**
 Professional Relations Assistant **Melanie Healey**
 Secretarial Staff **Catherine Waterfield**
 **Joan O'Mara**

Calendar of Events

July

Personal Health Month

September

National Arthritis Month

Terry Fox Run Sept 17
 World Alzheimer's Day Sept 21
 AIDS Walk Canada Sept 24

October

Autism Month
 Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 Eye Health Month
 Flu Prevention Month
 Lupus Awareness Month
 Psoriasis Awareness Month
 International Day for Older Persons Oct 1
 National Psoriasis Walk Oct 15

NPhA Conference 2000

St. John's

Sept 8-10, 2000

See enclosed schedule and registration form.

Herbal Products Seminar

St. John's

Dates in September TBA

3-day seminar presented by Dr. Frank Chandra. Brought to you by CAPSI/MUPS (MUN School of Pharmacy Students)

4th International Conference on Pharmaceutical Competence

Ottawa, Ontario

October 15-19, 2000

For more information, fax (613) 569-9665
 or email bawells@compuserve.com.

The Apothecary

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, Apothecary Hall, 488 Water Street, St. John's, NF A1E 1B3
Telephone: 753-5877 Fax: 753-8615 Email: npha@npha.nf.ca



Volume 19, Issue 4
August-September, 2000

Conference 2000

Overall, this year's Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association Conference and Annual General Meeting was a huge success. We had some of our highest numbers ever and all events went off without a hitch! Once again we would like to thank the Conference Committee and all of our sponsors. Hopefully, we will continue to see a bigger and bigger turnout especially from our more recent members who, several times at this conference, showed that they have a great deal to contribute to our profession. Next year's Conference will be in Gander and in 2002, we will return to Corner Brook.

A brief overview of this year's AGM follows:

- The Minutes from the AGM 1999 as well as the Financial Statements for the year 1999 were adopted as printed. There were no questions on the Annual Report.
- An update on the *Standards of Practice - Sale of Tobacco* was given. As detailed in the Standards, the restrictions will begin in January 1, 2001 with the mandatory removal of all tobacco-related products by January 1, 2005.
- Amendments to the Bylaws regarding the makeup of the Executive of the Association were passed. This changes the makeup from President, Vice President and Executive Member to President, President-elect, Past-President and Executive Member. This should allow for a smoother transition from term to term.
- A motion was passed to conduct a ballot by mail of all members to determine whether or not the NPhA should continue on its path to establish a separate Advocacy Body from the Association. This ballot has since been sent out and all members are reminded to ensure that ballots are sent back by October 31st in order for their voice to be heard!
- The Issues Forum brought out many of our member's concerns, many of which were dealt with at the Council Meeting immediately following the Conference and many more of which will be dealt with throughout the fall.

September 11th Council Meeting

Immediately following the Annual General Meeting, your Council met to discuss issues arising from previous Council meetings as well as from the AGM and Conference in general. Several issues that were discussed include:

- Dr. Debbie Kelly was confirmed as our new CCCEP representative. Debbie replaces Diane Boone, who has stepped down after many years of dedicated representation.
- John Buckingham was appointed as the Association's new accountant. Frank Kennedy, who has been the Association's accountant for more than 15 years, has recently begun to scale back his clientele in order to ease himself into his much deserved retirement.
- Lay Representatives were appointed to the Discipline Committee. They are Patricia Grainger (St. John's) who is on the Faculty of the Center for Nursing Studies; Fred Hollingshurst (Portugal Cove), an executive producer at the School of Continuing Education at MUN; and Axel Sorenson (Torbay), a retired accountant. This brings the committee up to a total of 12 members, 9 pharmacists and 3 lay representatives.
- Two ad hoc committees were struck. The purpose of the first is to develop a position statement on confidentiality

for the Association. Brenda Burse is to chair. The other is to review and update the *Guidelines on Pharmacy Services to Personal Care Homes*. Margot Priddle will chair this committee.

- It was decided to contract out the task of developing a program to go with the newly adopted *Standards of Practice-Sale of Tobacco*. A consultant has since been hired and the project is expected to be completed before the next Council meeting on November 5th.
- It was decided that a round of Zone Meetings would take place sometime this fall. They will take place in St. John's, Carbonear, Gander and Corner Brook. Dates TBA.
- Some discussion took place over the misinterpretation of the term "trading name" by some pharmacists. It was decided that a pharmacy's "trading name" is the name which appears on the pharmacy's labels, receipts, letterhead and in any telephone book entry. This means that any change in any of the above mentioned items constitutes a change in trading name and hence a change in business license. Any change in business license must be reported to the Secretary-Registrar at least 7 days before the change takes place.

Inside this Issue...

• NIHB & Smoking Cessation Products	P. 2
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• Classifieds	
• Directory	P. 6
• Calender of Events	
• Changes to NPhA Contact Information	

Included with this Issue...

- Adverse Drug Reaction Newsletter October 2000
- Amended NPhA Bylaws. Please remove up to Page 5 from your current binder and replace with the attached pages.
- CAPSI Information Sheet
- Communique From your CPhA Board Member
- Description of Studentships and Preceptor Application Forms

NIHB and Smoking Cessation Products

Effective October 1, 2000, nicotine gum, nicotine patches and Zyban® will be covered by NIHB for a 90-day treatment period, renewable after one year has elapsed. Nicotine patches and Zyban® are new benefits. A maximum allowable quantity and a frequency of use are being introduced for all smoking cessation products, .

Maximum allowable quantities for a 90-day period for each of the different smoking cessation products (gum, patches, tablets) have been calculated on the basis of recommended doses. Coverage will be provided for up to the allowable number of doses during a 90-day period, starting on the date that the first prescription has been filled. Once these quantities have been reached or once the 90-day period has elapsed, the client will be eligible again for coverage for the products beginning one year following the last day of the initial 90-day period.

Quantities of smoking cessation products allowed in a 90-day period (once per year) are:

Nicotine gum	945 pieces
Nicotine patches Habitrol® Nicoderm® Nicotrol®	84 patches or 70 patches or 70 patches
Zyban® tablets	168 tablets

Enforcement of these limitations will take place through NIHB's online adjudication system.

Reprinted from the Health Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits Drug Bulletin August 2000.

A Pharmacist's Guide to the Internet

For those of you who were unable to make the CE on this topic, given by Audrey Fultz, at this year's NPhA Conference, here is a brief rundown of some valuable sites for pharmacists surfing the Web:

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

www.ashp.org

Annals of Pharmacotherapy

www.theannals.com

MUN School of Pharmacy

www.pharm.mun.ca (to be updated soon)

Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

www.cshp.ca

Canadian Medical Association

www.cma.ca

Canadian Pharmacists Association

www.cdnpharm.ca

Doctor's Guide to the Internet

www.docguide.com

Drug Products Database

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/drugs-dpd/index.html

Health Canada

www.hc-sc.gc.ca

NLPDP

www.gov.nf.ca/health/nlpdp

Pharmacist's Letter and Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database

www.pharmacistsletter.com

Pharmacy Connects

www.pharmacyconnects.com

Recycling Reminder

I thought that this would be a good opportunity to remind everyone of the vast number of containers that are now able to be recycled. Many of these pass through our pharmacies every day and most of them end up in the garbage. These include:

Glass beverage bottles Plastic beverage bottles

Aluminum cans Steel juice cans

Tetra Paks Non-Glossy Flyers

#1 and #2 Plastics (most prescription stock bottles)

Just drop by or contact Ever Green Recycling at:

Mill Lane Enterprises

807 Water Street

St. John's, NF

758-3426

Cowan Avenue at Waterford Bridge Road

St. John's, NF

753-3832

Regatta Plaza Building

92 Elizabeth Avenue

753-3382

Ever Green Recycling is a recycling program operated by the staff and clients of the Mental Health Program of the Health Care Corporation of St. John's and administered by the Waterford Foundation.

Melanie Healey, editor

Pharmacy Inspections

Assistant Registrars, Jack Hogan and Seumas Gibbons have recently completed a round of inspections, during which it was found that time and time again several particular regulations and standards were commonly not being adhered to. In particular, the absence of a shredder, ID tags for dispensary staff, and proper display of diplomas and registration certificates seemed to be a problem. Other issues that came up include: missing or outdated reference books, the lack of a lockable door to the dispensary area, and, most troubling, the tendency of some pharmacists to not initial and/or sign their prescriptions as they are being filled.

Because of these issues, we again call your attention to several particular regulations and standards.

•**Regulation 14 (1)** states "All pharmacists shall adhere to standards of practice approved by the council."

•**Regulation 15 (5)(c)** states "The prescription department area shall be so designed by suitable fixtures and a lockable entrance as to discourage entrance by other than authorized persons..."

•**Regulation 15 (6)** states "All persons working in the prescription department shall wear identification enabling the public to determine the name and position of that person."

•**Regulation 15 (7)** refers to the *Schedule of Required and Suggested Reference Materials for Community Pharmacies*.

•**Regulation 15 (8)** refers to *Schedule of Dispensing Equipment for Community Pharmacies* which includes mention of a paper shredder or an in-place contract for the safe disposal of confidential material. Also **Regulation 13 (13)** states "All superfluous confidential records or labels concerning patients and prescriptions shall be destroyed either by shredding or by incineration."

•**Part III, Section 22 of the Act** states "a pharmacist shall display his or her certificate in a conspicuous place in full public view in a pharmacy in which that pharmacist engages in the practice of pharmacy."

With reference to the lack of a pharmacist's written signature or initials on the hard copy of the prescription, it is the position of this Association that, even though the initials of the dispensing pharmacist are printed on the hard copy through most computer programs, the pharmacist is still expected to physically sign or initial each prescription each time it is dispensed (including refills). This is for both your own protection as well as the protection of the other pharmacists you work with. In fact, several past discipline cases have hinged on whether or not the pharmacist who's initials were printed on the prescription was actually the dispensing pharmacist. Take the extra few seconds to ensure that your prescriptions are clearly identified.

Asthma Training Course

The Lung Association is pleased to offer *AsthmaTrec* - the asthma training and educator course. *AsthmaTrec* will teach you the latest information and training in asthma care, based on the Canadian Consensus Guidelines. As the same time, *AsthmaTrec* will give you the tools to better teach your patients how to improve their asthma self-management skills.

What's Involved?

The Asthma Training and Educator Course was developed by the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Lung Associations working closely with experts in the field of asthma education, research and patient care.

There are two components to the course:

- Home study portion - approximately 20 hours
- Three-day seminar and training

Writing the national asthma educator exam is optional. For more information on the next session, contact Nancy at

The Lung Association
726-4664 or 1-888-566-5864
Email: nancy.stokes@nf.lung.ca

Product News

• Transplant Drug Products

There are many instances of physicians directing patients from the transplant clinic to community pharmacies to have their anti-rejection prescriptions filled. The following drugs are paid for by the Provincial Government for ALL patients, through the Health Sciences Center Pharmacy: Sandimmune® (Cyclosporin), Cellcept® (Mycophenolate), Prograf® (Tacrolimus). While some private third party insurers may cover these products, NLPDP does not. If any patient presents themselves to your pharmacy with a prescription for either of these products, please make them aware of this program.

• Availability of Probenacid

While many pharmacists are aware that the Benemid® brand of probenacid by MerckFrosst is no longer available, they do not know that another brand remains on the market. Benuryl® by ICN is still available and the company has no plans to remove it from the market. While not an especially common product, probenacid is still used from time to time by the infectious disease specialists at various hospitals in the province as an adjunct to antibiotic therapy.

PharmAction Program Expands

PharmAction, now in its fifth year of operation, is an effective and popular patient information program distributed in 3,500 pharmacies across Canada.

The program's success has prompted such a positive response from physicians that it is now being distributed in over 1,000 doctor's offices, where it is known as MedAction. For the first time, exactly the same information is now available in Canadian pharmacies and doctor's offices.

PharmAction provides patients with the facts they need to know about a wide variety of topics, including acne, antibiotics, asthma, COPD, cholesterol, congestive heart failure, diabetes, gastric problems,

hypertension, migraine, pregnancy, and your pharmacist. Its unique interactive format helps them focus on the key questions they should be asking, and helps them understand such important treatment issues as the efficacy of their treatment, barriers to treatment, and existing or potential problems such as side effects and allergies.

Covering such topics as the goals and expectations of pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment, and the proper use of medication, PharmaAction provides patients with concise, relevant information developed in cooperation with Medical Societies and Public Health Associations.

For more information, call 1-800-363-5634

The View from MUN: A Student's Voice

My name is Christina and I am second year student in the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University. I am originally from Corner Brook, being transplanted to St. John's quite a few years ago. I am writing this column over the course of the school year to keep you informed about what is happening at the School of Pharmacy and to offer you a student's perspective on the many issues facing our profession today. I hope that my view will serve to generate discussion as to how we can take this profession into the future.

The Pharmacy School is a buzz of activity this week with the welcoming of the Class of 2003, Orientation Week activities and the ritual settling in of returning students like myself. There is excitement in the air as the various student committees, such as CAPSI and MUPS, are seeking new members and executive officers for the coming year. Perhaps the biggest excitement lies with the planning of Professional Development Week (PDW) 2002, a huge student conference being hosted for the first time ever by our School of Pharmacy in January 2002.

Second and third year students are required to present a seminar topic to complete the requirements of the courses Pharmacy 401W and 501W. We recently had our first set of seminars and one seminar in particular has sparked my thinking on an issue facing pharmacists today: Emergency Contraceptives (ECPs) and whether or not to dispense them. This is most certainly an issue of conscience for many pharmacists and the opinions surrounding this issue are certainly divided. As a confirmed Catholic, I chose to uphold the doctrine of my church and that includes the acceptance that life begins at conception. As a future pharmacist, I will choose to take the responsibility of accepting my patient's welfare as my top priority. If I am to put my

patient first, how, then, can I place my own values before my patient and refuse to fill that patient's prescription. This is where the controversy arises.

The reality of this situation is, when a woman or young girl comes up to our counters with a prescription for Preven[®], for example, we have no idea as to the circumstances that arose to put that patient in this situation in the first place. Who are we to judge that patient's reasons for filling that prescription? A second reality is that we, as pharmacists, have professional discretion that gives us the right to refuse to fill any prescription if the prescription is questionable. But, what happens if you are working in a rural setting, you run the only pharmacy within a three-hour radius and someone comes to you with the prescription. Refusing to fill it seriously limits that patient's options.

I respect the views and beliefs of every pharmacist with whom I will have the privilege of working with and I hope that the same courtesy is extended to me when I begin my own practice. I am torn with this issue and I am not sure how I will deal with this issue. I am unsure as to how I will marry my own religious beliefs and my responsibility for my patient's welfare. Perhaps I won't know until I am faced with my first prescription for Preven[®] or some other similar ECP. I hope that this article will prompt you to seriously consider how you will deal with this issue.

That is the view from here for this issue. I hope that you enjoy reading my column and I urge any of you to drop me an e-mail with your suggestions. See you next time!

By: *Christina M. Tulk B.Sc. (Hons)*
cmtulk@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

Registration Changes

Byron Allen from Zellers Pharmacy, Valley Mall, Corner Brook to Zellers Pharmacy, Maple Valley Industrial Park, Corner Brook

Tara Blackwood (Squire) from Lawtons Drugs, Gleneyre Street, St. John's to Lawtons Drug Nursing Home Services, St. John's

Frank Boland to Campus Pharmacy, St. John's

Cecil Burke to Blackmarsh Pharmacy, St. John's

Tim Cobb from The Drug Store Pharmacy, Mt. Pearl to Medi+Plus Prescription Centre, Mt. Pearl

Rod Forsey from Lawtons Drugs, Kelligrews to Lawtons Drugs, Gleneyre Street, St. John's

Tammy Greenland to Parkdale Pharmacy, St. John's

Richard Griffiths to Shoppers Drug Mart, Freshwater Road, St. John's

Kenneth Hand from Grace General Hospital to St. Clare's Mercy Hospital

Francis James from Blackmarsh Pharmacy, St. John's to out-of-province

Maxwell Kennedy from Downtown Pharmacy, St. John's to Nu-Quest Distribution Inc.

Catherine MacDonald from Zellers Pharmacy, Topsail Road, St. John's to Pharmacy Solutions, St. John's

Lynn Ozon from Grace General Hospital to Health Sciences Center

Janet Short from Grace General Hospital to Part Time

Pamela Smith to The Drug Store Pharmacy, Clarenville

Brad Stuckless from Zellers Pharmacy, Maple Valley Industrial Park, Corner Brook to out-of-province

David Swyer to The Drug Store Pharmacy, Ropewalk Lane, St. John's

Wanda Vardy from The Drug Store Pharmacy, Lewisporte to Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Clarenville

Audrey Young from Campus Pharmacy, St. John's to Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Gander

Pharmacy Closed: Zellers Pharmacy, Valley Mall, Corner Brook

Change-of -Ownership: Green Bay Drugs, Springdale to Lawtons Drugs, Springdale

Pharmacists Required

- Full Time Pharmacist required in an independent community pharmacy located in Crapaud, PEI. Centrally located between Charlottetown & Summerside along the south shore. Excellent benefits. Contact George Auld at (902) 658-2212.
- Full Time Pharmacist wanted in an independent community pharmacy in Gravenhurst, Muskoka, ON - about 1 & 1/2 hours north of Toronto. Possible ownership opportunity. Phone (705) 687-3161 or fax (705) 687-1577.
- Full Time Pharmacists wanted at Northern Regional Health Board, Nova Scotia. Would be based at either Aberdeen Regional Hospital, New Glasgow or Colchester Regional Hospital, Truro. Fax resume to Human Resources Department at (902)893-7653.
- Permanent Part Time Pharmacist wanted at Medi+Plus Rx Centre, Mount Cashel Road, St. John's. No nights or weekends. Contact Lloyd Bennett at 753-6557.

Part Time Pharmacists Available

- Bob Faulkner - Phone: 576-2797
- Perry Humphries - Phone: 634-7929
- Bob Simmons - Phone: 738-5500
- Basil Walsh - Phone: 579-5727

Congratulations to:

- Tara Squire (Blackwood) married July 8, 2000
- Jennifer Pelley (Pardy) married July 29, 2000
- Mariette Pittman (Pittman-Cove) married August 4, 2000
- Lisa Hippert (Bishop) married August 26, 2000
- Holly Benoit on the birth of a baby girl
- Colleen Densmore on the birth of a baby girl.

Condolences are extended to:

- Munden Reid on the passing of his wife
- Colleen Ryan on the passing of her father

PROFESSIONALS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A confidential support program for pharmacists.
Call Rosemary Lahey, M.S.W., R.S.W., Clinical Coordinator
"Care for the Caregiver"
Confidential Help
754-3007
1-800-563-9133

Directory

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 Website: www.cshp.ca

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 Fax: (709) 737-7044
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 **Seumas Gibbons**
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 **Joan O'Mara**

Calendar of Events

October

Autism Month
 Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 Flu Prevention Month
 Lupus Awareness Month
 Psoriasis Awareness Month

November

Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month
 Diabetes Month
 Osteoporosis Month

Christmas Seal Campaign Nov 1—Dec 31
 National Down Syndrome Awareness Week Nov 1—7
 National AIDS Awareness Week Nov 27—Dec 1

New Contact information

The Association has recently undergone some computer and internet upgrades. This allows us to now have 24 hour a day access to the internet, gives us the opportunity to develop our own web site as well as assigns each employee of the Association their own email address.

The new contact information is:

- NPhA general information requests
npha@npha.nf.ca
- Don Rowe, Secretary-Registrar
donrowe@npha.nf.ca
- Melanie Healey, Professional Relations Assistant
mhealey@npha.nf.ca
- Catherine Waterfield, Secretarial Staff
cwaterfield@npha.nf.ca
- Joan O'Mara, Secretarial Staff
jomara@npha.nf.ca

The Apothecary

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, Apothecary Hall, 488 Water Street, St. John's, NF A1E 1B3
 Telephone: 753-5877 Toll Free: 1-877-453-5877 Fax: 753-8615 Email: npha@npha.nf.ca



Volume 19, Issue 5
 October-November, 2000



MERRY CHRISTMAS
 and
 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Newfoundland Pharmacists Stand Out in National Awards

Although Newfoundland's 356 community pharmacists make up less than 2% of the 18,268 community pharmacists in Canada, our members of the profession continue to receive an inordinate number of national awards.

- As published in the "My Favorite Pharmacist" article in the September issue of *Pharmacy Practice*, eight pharmacists from across the country were recognized for their outstanding contribution to their patient's health, three winners and five honorable mentions. 43 Newfoundland pharmacists were nominated (see inside for a complete list of nominations) and two were recognized, one as a winner, **Robert McCarthy** of Kelligrews Pharmacy and one as an honorable mention, **Yvonne Moore** of Sobey's Pharmacy, Ropewalk Lane, St. John's. Coming from their patients, this must be very satisfying.
- Each year, *Pharmacy Practice* also holds the Commitment to Care Awards. This year, we can proudly say that three of the recipients are from this province:
 - ♦ **Pat O'Keefe**, owner of Pharmacy Solutions, Hamilton Avenue, St. John's was awarded the Commitment to Care award for Patient-Centered Pharmacy Design.
 - ♦ **Megan Turner**, a final year pharmacy student at Memorial University's School of Pharmacy, has been awarded the Commitment to Care award for Student Leadership.
 - ♦ **Ken Dicks** of Central Pharmacy, Grand Falls-Windsor has received an Honorable Mention for Health Promotion in the national awards.
- The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association's Immediate Past-President, **Margot Priddle** has also been recognized with distinction by being appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Pharmacy Practice. This NAPRA committee develops recommendations for and monitors the "Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists.
- We also take this opportunity to congratulate once again the pharmacists who were honored at this year's Awards Luncheon held at the Annual Conference.
 - ♦ 22 new graduates were welcomed to the Association.
 - ♦ 11 pharmacists received pins for 25 years of service to the public.
 - ♦ **Alfred Dawe** and **Roberta (Bobbie) Scott** were awarded Honorary Life Membership for their outstanding contribution to the profession of pharmacy in this province.
 - ♦ **George Hutchings** was awarded the James C. Quick Award for Innovative Pharmacy Practice.
 - ♦ **Jerry Young** was awarded the Whitehall Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award which recognizes outstanding community service through pharmacy practice.
 - ♦ **Robert Pitcher** received the Roche Preceptor of the Year Award.
 - ♦ **Megan Turner** attended the conference thanks to the Carter-Horner—John D. O'Reilly Conference Bursary, which is awarded each year to a current pharmacy student.
 - ♦ **Jason Druken**, **Andrea Handrigan** and **Scott Lahey** attended the conference with the assistance of the Merck Frosst New Horizons Award which is given to recent graduates who have never before attended the annual general meeting.

Congratulations once again to all of these fantastic pharmacists for doing their profession proud!!

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Included with this Issue...

- PEBC Assessor Interest Survey
- Letter from School of Pharmacy regarding the Pharmacy Students Visitation Assignment
- Record of Purchase and Request to Destroy for Drugs covered by the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
- Government Communications Package

Submission Deadlines for 2001 Publications of The Apothecary

December-January.....	January 10th
February-March.....	March 10th
April-May.....	May 10th
June-July.....	no issue
August-September....	September 10th
October-November.....	November 10th

Nominations for My Favorite Pharmacist

Todd Barrett Wal-Mart, Clarendville
 Lisa Boyd Skinners Pharmacy, Stephenville Crossing
 Dean Brett Norman's Pharmacy, Roberts Arm
 Barry Clarke Lawtons Drugs, Lewisporte
 Berkley Coish England's Pharmacy, Springdale
 David Collins Lawtons Drugs, Kelligrews
 Nancy Crane Drug Store Pharmacy, St. John's
 Kelly Dobbin Drug Store Pharmacy, St. John's
 Marceline Fleming Shoppers Drug Mart, Grand Bank
 Neil Fortune Shoppers Drug Mart, Corner Brook
 Jeff Fost City Pharmacy, Corner Brook
 Karen Francis Medi+Plus Rx Centre, Mount Pearl
 Jennifer Ficken Sobeys Pharmacy, Long Pond
 David Goudie The Medicine Shoppe, Port aux Basques
 Stephen Green City Pharmacy, Corner Brook
 Karen Hicks Shoppers Drug Mart, Pasadena
 Carol Hipditch Sobeys Pharmacy, St. John's
 Keith Hogan District Drugs, Torbay
 Vincent Hogan Shoppers Drug Mart, Bishop's Falls
 Annette Kelloway Sobeys Pharmacy, St. John's
 Darryl Kendall Englands Pharmacy, Springdale

Glen Locke Shoppers Drug Mart, Botwood
 Derrick Long Shoppers Drug Mart, Manuels
 Robert McCarthy Kelligrews Pharmacy
 Deborah Mercer Shoppers Drug Mart, Bay Roberts
 Yvonne Moore Sobeys Pharmacy, St. John's
 Daniel O'Brien Baltimore Pharmacy, Ferryland
 Kevin O'Brien O'Briens Pharmacy, Gander
 Clyde Parsons Baccalieu Trail Pharmacy, Clarke's Beach
 Denise Parsons Glovertown Pharmacy
 Kevin Peddle Upper Island Cove Drug Mart
 Jacqueline Pennell Lawtons Drugs, Trepassey
 Alice Porter Lawtons Drugs, Lewisporte
 Christopher Ralph Shoppers Drug Mart, Grand Bank
 Sharon Randell Hamilton Drugs, Happy Valley-Goose Bay
 David Richards Sobeys Pharmacy, Bay Roberts
 John Rideout Sagona Drugs, Harbour Breton
 Christine Saunders Shoppers Drug Mart, Bay Roberts
 Bernd Staeben Shoppers Drug Mart, Corner Brook
 Gerry Tilley Lawtons Drugs, St. John's
 Robin Vatcher New World Island Pharmacy, Virgin Arm
 Eldon Warren Shoppers Drug Mart, Deer Lake
 Cathy Welsh Lawtons Drugs, Springdale

Congratulations to all of these wonderful pharmacists!!!!

Changes Regarding Sale and Promotion of Tobacco in Pharmacies

As communicated to all members in the July 28th information package and as adopted at the Annual General Meeting held in St. John's on September 9th, the Standards of Practice (Sale of Tobacco) are set to come into effect January 1, 2001.

At that time, a new mindset with regard to selling tobacco and related products in pharmacies will be seen. Several specific changes in common practice will come into effect. These changes include:

♦ Any **new pharmacy** or pharmacist that has a **change of ownership** after January 1, 2001 must be Tobacco Free (i.e. no tobacco products to be sold, advertised or promoted).

♦ **All pharmacies** that continue to sell tobacco products may have only a single tobacco display area.

♦ **All pharmacies** must remove any tobacco promotional material (e.g., interior or exterior signage, display stands, or distinctive shelving). No signage advertising the pricing of tobacco products is permitted.

♦ **All pharmacies** that continue to sell tobacco products must post at eye level in the tobacco section signage with the wording, "If you're ready to quit smoking, ask your pharmacist." At least one copy of this sign will be provided by the NPhA. Additional copies will be available upon request.

♦ **All pharmacies** must begin to record on the

patient profile whether or not a patient over 19 is a smoker, a former smoker, or has never smoked.

♦ **All pharmacies** must participate in "Smoking Cessation Week" (third week of January). NPhA is currently compiling resource materials which will be sent out to all pharmacies prior to this.

A timeline for future changes is as follows:

January 1, 2002	Tobacco products must be sold from a single point of sale
January 1, 2003	All bulk tobacco products (cartons, tins) must be removed from pharmacies
January 1, 2004	All tobacco products must be removed from public display in a pharmacy
January 1, 2005	No tobacco products permitted to be sold from a pharmacy.

As well, we encourage all pharmacies to participate in the Smoking Sucks! campaign. This was organized by the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco and is aimed primarily at the youth population through the use of bookmarks and posters and a website.

Gentian violet revisited

If you thought you had seen the last of gentian violet in your pharmacy school lab days, think again! Gentian violet solution has been making a comeback recently, specifically for the treatment of breast candidiasis (yeast, thrush) in breastfeeding mothers. Breast and nipple candidiasis can be a painful barrier to breastfeeding, often with no apparent clinical symptoms other than pain.

There have been reports in the past that indicated potential concerns of carcinogenicity based on animal data. This has caused some confusion among health professionals regarding the safety of gentian violet. However, it is generally thought that for this indication the total dose required is so low that the risk is minimal. Some experts reserve the use of gentian violet as a second line therapy.

Many lactation consultants, community health nurses and physicians recommend the use of gentian violet to their breastfeeding patients. It is effective, works quickly and is relatively inexpensive. Many patients experience rapid relief after treatment failures with other more expensive systemic therapies.

Here are a few tips for pharmacists on the use of gentian violet solution to treat candidiasis during breastfeeding:

Product selection:

- 0.5 to 1 % aqueous solution (commercially available)

- avoid products containing methanol (intended for laboratory use only)
- solutions that do not contain methanol are distributed by Medisca, Wiler, Sel-Win and Xenex

Dosing information:

- approximately 10 mL is adequate for an entire course of therapy
- usual dose: once daily to each breast prior to breastfeeding for 3 to 4 days (up to 7 days maximum)
- apply solution to the nipple and surrounding areola
- application:
 - ⇒ dip a Q-tip in the solution, put it in the baby's mouth and let him/her suck for a few seconds, then put the baby to the breast (if after feeding the areola is not treated, paint the area with the solution)

Side effects:

- staining!
 - ⇒ baby's mouth and face and mother's breasts will be stained purple; stains will wear off in a few days
 - ⇒ bedtime dosing minimizes stains to clothing
- mouth ulcers in babies (uncommon)
 - ⇒ if this occurs, discontinue use; ulcers usually resolve within 24 hours

By: Audrey Fultz

Drug Information Pharmacist
NF Drug Information Centre

Methadone Prescriptions

On occasion pharmacists in this province encounter prescriptions for methadone and having not dealt with this drug before, seek direction from our office about the relevant regulations.

Methadone may be dispensed by any pharmacy, pursuant to a prescription from a physician "authorized by the Minister of Health Canada" to prescribe that drug.

Pharmacists may confirm a physician's authorization to prescribe methadone with Health Canada by phoning (613) 954-6777. We are aware that most physicians authorized to prescribe methadone do not wish to have their names published to the public. We would recommend that requests from the public asking who is authorized to prescribe methadone should be referred to the Newfoundland Medical Board at 726-8546 (or 1-800-563-8546).

Health Canada has issued a circular letter (#531) on the methadone program and Directorate Guidelines for Dispensing Methadone. These documents are available, upon request, from Health Canada, or from our office.

President's Message

We have just completed our fall round of zone meetings and were encouraged by the increased attendance in each zone. We would, however, like to see more staff and hospital pharmacists present to voice their views.

At the meetings, there was good discussion of issues such as Standards of Practice (Sale of Tobacco), Drug Schedules and the Prescription Monitoring Program.

While the numbers of pharmacists who responded to the mail-in ballot on the formation of a separate advocacy body was lower than we had hoped, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Almost 80% of the responses voted YES to the recommendation.

An interim Board has been appointed to oversee the transition. This Board will first meet before the New Year and will need the support of all pharmacists who get this body up and running.

On behalf of your Executive and Council, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Regulatory Issues

Members are reminded that prescriptions may only be refilled at the pharmacy where the prescription resides. If a patient wishes the prescription to be refilled at a difference pharmacy, the prescription must be transferred to that pharmacy **before** it is refilled.

This can present inconvenience to a patient who wishes a prescription refilled at another pharmacy when the original pharmacy is closed or the pharmacist at the original pharmacy is not available. Supply of a minimal number of doses to "tide over" a patient until a transfer may be accomplished should only be done in circumstances where there is an urgent requirement for

the medication before the original pharmacy's pharmacist is available.

It is not permitted to refill the prescription from another pharmacy based on a pre-existing label, and then transfer the prescription after the fact.

The regulations respecting transfer of prescriptions may be found in section c.01.041.1 of the Food and Drugs Regulations. It is also worth noting that prescriptions for Narcotics and Controlled Drugs may **not** be transferred, and that prescriptions for Benzodiazepines and other Targeted Substances may be transferred **only once**.

*By: Don Rowe
Secretary-Registrar*

New PEBC Examination in 2001

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) is implementing a new practice-based examination component to complement the written examination for certification beginning in the spring of 2001. The two components are known as the PEBC Qualifying Examination - Parts I and II. The new exam component (Part II) will be similar in format to assessments now in use in several Canadian pharmacy faculties and as well as in Alberta and British Columbia practical assessments for licensure and in the Ontario College of Pharmacists' Quality Assurance Program. It will be conducted annually in the spring in eight locations and again in the fall in three of these sites, one of which is a bilingual site. The first administration will be on Sunday, May 27, 2001. More information will be provided in the coming months and also posted on the PEBC web site (www.pebc.ca) this fall.

The new component is based on an assessment model commonly known as the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and is designed to assess communications/interpersonal skills, the application of knowledge to simulations of commonly encountered patient scenarios, and other aspects of professional competence that do not lend well to written examinations. The competencies to be assessed through

both the written and practice-based exams are those adopted (or adapted) by all member provinces of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA). Thus, for the first time in Canada, these provinces will have a common basis for licensure of pharmacists.

PEBC invites pharmacists who are involved in providing or directly supervising patient care services (including dispensing, clinical and drug information services) to participate as assessors in the new examination. It is particularly important that we, as practising pharmacists, are involved in assessing candidates for licensure, in accordance with the needs of the public and the standards of the profession. Those who have been assessors in licensing and quality assurance program assessments would attest that involvement as an assessor is both personally and professionally rewarding.

This is a milestone for our profession, one that the provinces have been working towards, and is a means for many pharmacists to become involved in a national program

Please review the information on the attached Assessor Interest Survey response form and forward your response to the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada, as indicated.

Correct Identification of Prescribers

An issue that continues to come up is the incorrect identification of the prescriber by pharmacists when filling a prescription. This error is especially important in today's day with the Prescription Monitoring Program as well as other programs where followup is sent back to the prescribers.

This part of a prescription is every bit as important as correctly identifying the patient and even the drug.

Take extra care with this part of a prescription especially in cases where there are two physicians with

the same or similar names. A recent incident involved the ID number of Dr. Susan M. King of Newfoundland Drive in St. John's being confused with that of Dr. Susan C. King who is practicing with the Health Care Corporation of St. John's. Both physicians were very upset over this error and it may end up affecting their relationship with the particular pharmacy involved.

Any difficulties with physicians failing to include their identification number on prescriptions, or with illegible signatures or identification numbers should be reported to the Newfoundland Medical Board's offices at 726-8546.

Quick Notes

- **Pharmacy Inspections**

Several more issues have come up in the past while relating to the standards of pharmacy practice being upheld in our province's pharmacies. While the presence of a shredder (Schedule of Dispensing Equipment for Community Pharmacies—effective January 1, 2000) and the use of ID tags (Regulation 15 (6)) continue to be problem areas, several other issues have come up.

1) the amount of "usable" space for preparation of prescriptions. **Regulation 15(10)** states "*The dispensing counter, where drugs are compounded or prepared, shall have at least 1.2 square metres of working area to be utilized for this purpose; and exclude counter space occupied by equipment.*" It has been found that this regulation is regularly being broken with dispensary areas that are barely large enough to fill prescriptions.

2) the recording and retaining of purchases and sales of drugs covered under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. While these records are no longer sent to Health Canada, pharmacies are still expected to maintain them for inspection and audit purposes. Since the official register is no longer available, we have designed a page that pharmacies can use for the purpose of recording your purchases. This is included with this edition of The Apothecary and can be photocopied as needed.

With regard to recording sales of these drugs, most pharmacy software programs are capable of generating these sales as a report.

In addition, it is recommended that all pharmacies do a monthly manual count of their narcotic cupboard and keep this record as well.

Also included with this edition is a sample letter requesting permission to destroy narcotics. This letter should be utilized for those products which cannot be returned to their supplier. Pharmacists-in-charge should routinely check for outdated products and remove them in an expeditious manner.

- **Drug Schedules**

Pharmacists-in-charge are reminded that the extension given to implement the Drug Schedules has passed as of December 1st. Any moving or removing of products should be completed immediately.

- **CPhA Board Meeting**

The next CPhA board meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2001. If any pharmacists have an issue you would like addressed, contact your board member, Bernd Staeben at 634-7913.

- **Speakers List**

We are currently in the process of preparing a Speakers List to be used when we receive requests for presentations by various groups. If any pharmacists have a particular interest and would like to be included on this list, please contact Melanie Healey at our office.

- **Mutual Recognition Agreement**

Although the recently signed Mutual Recognition Agreement among pharmacy licensing authorities will not be fully operational until July 1, 2001, mutual recognition already exists in practice for the Atlantic Provinces. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI will license pharmacists from Newfoundland even though they graduated before degrees and PEBC certification were the required standard. Members desiring further information can contact Don Rowe, Secretary-Registrar.

- **New Toll Free Number**

The NPhA has recently put in place a toll free number for our members that are not in the St. John's and surrounding area. It is 1-877-453-5877.

- **GST/HST Rebate**

We have recently become aware of the possibility of pharmacists who pay their own annual registration fees receiving a rebate from the government for the GST/HST portion of the total. For more information regarding this, contact the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to request a copy of the guide, Employment Expenses which also includes the necessary forms. Information can also be found at their website, at: www.cra-adrc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/t4044eq/README.html

- **Pharmacist Representative Required**

The Stroke Education Committee of the Heart and Stroke Foundation are looking for a pharmacist representative to participate in their committee. They generally meet about every six weeks on Tuesday evenings for approximately two hours. If anyone is interested, please contact Paula Ewing at 753-8521 or pewing@heartandstroke.nf.net

- **Government Communications Package**

Included with this edition of The Apothecary is a tool for pharmacists to use to communicate their issues to government representatives. We are continuing to fight the battle for pharmacy in this province and now we need your help. Through discussions with other groups that have been through this process, we have heard over and over again that when the individual members also communicate their issues, the point is driven home more effectively than if it is only the association representatives discussing the problems. With your help, we will be on our way to improving the practice of pharmacy in this province.

Formation of Advocacy Body Begins!

The results are in and a whopping 77.7% of returned ballots show that Newfoundland pharmacists want a separate body to be formed to deal with advocacy issues. While 566 ballots were sent out and only 224 were returned (39.6%), the overwhelming majority of those who took the initiative to voice their opinion said that they believed that this is a step in the right direction. 18 voted "no" (8.0%) and 32 ballots were spoiled (14.3%)

At the Council Meeting on November 5th, the next steps were taken to get the process started. Names were suggested for an interim Board to be put in place to work with NPhA to deal with issues such as development of an appropriate constitution, breakdown of current services, committees, office responsibilities, etc. We are currently in the process of contacting these

The View From Here: A Student's Voice

Since my last column, the faculty at MUN has gone on strike putting the School of Pharmacy in stasis, mid-term exams have come and gone (thank God) and students are left with labs and assignments to complete before the end of term. No one wants to lose the term so we are all hoping that the semester will begin again soon, especially those who are graduating this year. I have received comments from some of you out there who have read my column and I am very thankful that you took the time to approach me. Change in this profession will happen when we come together and talk about the issues.

For those of you who attended and can remember, the Pharmacy curriculum at MUN is jam-packed. We hardly have enough time to learn all of the theory we have to know before we set out into the work place. This is where extra-curricular seminars given by practicing pharmacists become important. In October, students were given the opportunity to attend a three-day seminar on herbal medicines given by Dr. Frank Chandler. When I took my first look at the medications in pharmacy cabinets and realized that someday I would know how each of these medications acted in the body, I was a little overwhelmed. Coupled with the many herbals on the market, I am mesmerized. There so many herbal products and current trends show that patients are becoming more and more comfortable with choosing alternatives to traditional medicine. Herbal medicines are often these alternatives.

Here is the problem. Currently in Canada there is no official regulation of these products. Steps are being taken to implement such regulation but for now, the onus is on the pharmacist to become informed about

pharmacists and will send out further information as soon as it becomes available.

POLL RESULTS:

	Sent Out	Returned	
Community	370	155	41.9%
Hospital	76	30	39.5%
Part-Time	38	7	18.4%
Administration	21	14	66.7%
Wholesale	6	2	33.3%
Out of Province	17	5	29.4%
Non-Practicing	38	8	21.1%
Undetermined		3	
Total	566	224	39.6%

the validity of claims that these manufacturers are making. Compounding this is the fact that many of the herbs out there interact with disease states and common medications that are dispensed every day. Also, patients are consulting unreliable sources for information about these herbs. Who do you want your patients to consult with about herbal products: you or some random website on the Internet?

By nature I am speculative of products making claims such as those made by herbal manufacturers. But, there are some herbs out there that can be safe and helpful alternatives to our patients. We just have to determine which of the herbs and brand names have evidence behind them to support the claims that they make. As pharmacists and pharmacists-to-be, we pride ourselves on being the 'Drug Experts'. At this point in time, this 'title' encompasses both expert knowledge on herbal medicines as well as on traditional medicines. The next time you are out in the aisle that displays your herbal medicines, take a long hard look at them and decide for yourself how much of an expert you are. Then, take the steps necessary to inform yourself because you don't know what the next person who approaches your dispensary counter is going to ask you and you also do not know what that person may have already taken.

Herbal medicines remind us that a pharmacist's education does not cease when we graduate from university, write the national and provincial exams, and finally get licensed. As long as health care is changing and patients are taking more responsibility for their own health, we must continue to educate ourselves.

By: *Christina M. Tulk B. Sc. (Hons)*
cmtulk@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

Registration Changes

Diane Foley from non-practicing to St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, St. John's

Lynn Ozon from Health Sciences Center, St. John's to St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, St. John's

Bradley Stuckless from out-of-province to part time

Gerald Whelan to Provincial Medical Supplies, St. John's

New Registrations:

Kimberly Duggan to Health Sciences Center, St. John's

Michael Pelkey to Part Time

Change in Pharmacy Name:

Medi Plus Rx + More, Kelligrews to Kelligrews Pharmacy

New Pharmacy:

The Drug Store Pharmacy, Stephenville

CLASS REUNION—BSP CLASS OF 1991
College of Pharmacy, University of Saskatchewan

In late September, the organizing committee mailed out information letters about a Class Reunion to take place on June 29-July 1, 2001.

If you are a member of this class and have not received a letter, please contact:

Andrea (Finstad) Shoobert at ph#306-522-1610 or
 afinstad@sk.sympatico.ca

OR

Susan (Mah) Yee at ph#306-789-4467 or
 gsyee@sk.sympatico.ca

Hope to see you in 2001!!

Pharmacists Required

- Full Time Pharmacist required at Shoppers Drug Mart, Bishop's Falls. Contact Vince Hogan at 258-5880.

Part Time Pharmacists Available

- Bob Faulkner—Phone: 576-2797
- Perry Humphries—Phone: 634-7929
- Bob Simmons—Phone: 738-5500
- Basil Walsh—Phone: 579-5727

Congratulations to:

- Kim Spencer (Carter) married October 7, 2000

Condolences are extended to:

- Larry Loveless on the passing of his wife, Carol
- Fraser Day on the passing on his mother
- Melvin Penney on the passing of his father

CSHP Corner

Now that the lazy days of summer are a distant memory and we are all settling in for the crisp, cold days of winter we find ourselves focusing on the start of a new year of business. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those members who have renewed their membership and to welcome all new members. Thanks to a generous offer from Hoffman-La Roche we were able to offer a reference text to all our renewing and new members (who had forwarded their application for renewal before September 1, 2000).

Since the AGM in September the CSHP executive and chairs of the various committees have met. The purpose of our meeting was to plan the upcoming year for our members. Due to the hard work of our committees we have another busy year planned for you. We have held a continuing education session in October with another scheduled for November. Log onto our Branch's website to see our upcoming education events. (www.cshp-nl.com.)

Keep an eye out for our latest edition of "The Branch Out". This year we would like to have some input from our members with articles centering around

PROFESSIONALS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A confidential support program for pharmacists.

Call Rosemary Lahey, M.S.W., R.S.W., Clinical Coordinator

"Care for the Caregiver"

Confidential Help

754-3007

1-800-563-9133



various clinical areas or issues. We have so much to be proud of in Newfoundland and it would be really great to share our experiences with one another. For article submission contact Owen Osmond (St. Clare's, Health Care Corporation of St. John's). Owen would also be happy to publish any events or announcements in our social section.

The results of the CSHP internet poll regarding the entry level Pharm D are available on our Branch website. Thank you to all of those who responded to the survey.

Finally, may your home be touched and warmed by the wonder and splendor of a bright and beautiful Christmas season.

Susan Gladney-Martin

President, Newfoundland and Labrador Branch

Directory

Atlantic Regional Adverse Drug Reaction Centre

c/o Queen Elizabeth II health Sciences Centre
Drug Information Centre
1796 Summer Street, Room 2421
Halifax, NS B3H 3A7
Phone: (902) 473-7171
Fax: (902) 473-8612
Email: RXKLS1@qe2-hsc.ns.ca

Canadian Pharmacists Association

1785 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, ON K1G 3Y6
Phone: 1-800-917-9489
Fax: 1-800-601-1904
Email: cpha@cdnpharm.ca
Website: www.cdnpharm.ca

Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal

New Address

1785 Alta Vista Drive; Suite 105
Ottawa, ON K1G 3Y6
Phone: (613) 739-2879
Fax: (613) 739-7765

National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities

Phone: (613) 569-9658
Fax: (613) 569-9659
Email: bawells@compuserve.com
Website: www.napra.org

New Address

222 Somerset Street West; Suite 402
Ottawa, ON K2P 2G3

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

Phone: (613) 736-9733
Fax: (613) 736-5660
Email: www@cshp.ca
Website: www.cshp.ca
Local Branch: www.cshp-nl.com

Drug Information Center

Phone: 1-800-745-3784
Fax: (709) 737-7044
Email: afultz@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

Poison Control Centers

Central Newfoundland Hospital

Grand Falls-Windsor
Phone: (709) 292-2134

Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital

St. Anthony
Phone: (709) 454-3333
Fax: (709) 454-2194

Janeway Child Health Center

St. John's
Phone: (709) 722-1100
Fax: (709) 726-0830

Council Members

President..... Arlene Crane
President-Elect Keith Hogan
Executive Member Dwight Ball
Past-President Margot Priddle
Councilors Keith Bailey
..... Brenda Burse
..... David Dawe
..... Thomas Goulding
..... Robin Vatcher
Lay Members..... Betty Ann Berkshire
..... Mary Smith
..... James Smyth

Committee Chairs

Awards..... John V. Hogan
Discipline..... Bernd V. Staeben
Pharmacy Economic Affairs..... Barbara Scaplen
Education Don Hillier
Finance..... Dwight Ball
Joint Studentship Dr. Linda Hensman
Legislative Derrick Hierlihy
Museum Joan O'Mara
Scope of Practice Margot Priddle

Office Staff

Secretary-Registrar Donald F. Rowe
Assistant Registrars-Inspectors John V. Hogan
..... Seumas Gibbons
Professional Relations Assistant Melanie Healey
Secretarial Staff Catherine Waterfield
..... Joan O'Mara

Christmas Hours

Our office will be closed the following days during the holiday season:

Monday, December 25th
Tuesday, December 26th
Monday, January 1st

