



**JANUARY 2010**

### OFFICERS

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President, Winnipeg  
Shawn Bugden, Vice President, Morden  
Penny Shefrin,  
Executive Treasurer, Winnipeg  
Pat Trozzo, Past President, Winnipeg

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John Cormier, Dauphin  
Leann McCannel, Brandon  
Penny Murray, Winnipeg  
Kim Thiessen, Brandon  
Kris Thorkelson, Winnipeg

### LAY MEMBERS

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Sarah Zaharia

### LIAISON MEMBERS

Janice Coates, C.S.H.P. (MB. Branch)  
Kayleigh Gordon, Student Liaison  
Scott Ransome, M.S.P. Liaison  
Gail Keeley, Government Liaison

### ASSOCIATION STAFF

Ronald Guse, Registrar  
Susan Lessard-Friesen,  
Assistant Registrar  
Ross Forsyth, Assistant Registrar  
Judy Rae, Executive Assistant  
Bev Robinson, Administrative Assistant  
Kathy Cobb,  
Communications Coordinator and  
Quality Assurance Secretary  
Pamela Gordon, Administrative Secretary

#### VISION

Excellence in Pharmacy Practice

#### MISSION

To protect the health and well being of the public by ensuring and promoting safe, effective and progressive pharmacy practice.

#### VALUES

The MPhA activities are based on the following values and are the foundation of what we do:

- ~ Integrity ~ Respect ~ Excellence
- ~ Accountability ~ Collaboration
- ~ Life Long Learning

The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

# NEWSLETTER

200 Tache Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2H 1A7  
Telephone (204) 233-1411 • Fax (204) 237-3468 • Email: info@mpha.mb.ca  
Website: www.napra.ca

## 2010 Council Elections

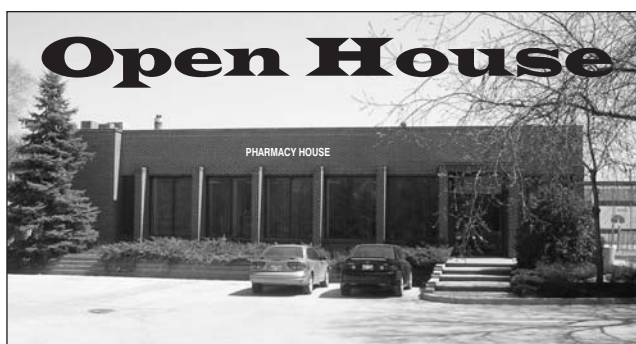
Nominations for Council Elections have gone out to all members. Members nominating candidates to stand for election to council are required to obtain the following from the person nominated:

A SIGNED NOMINATION FORM indicating willingness to stand as a candidate for election to council (forms were sent out and available upon request from the Association office at 233-1411 or on our website at [www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca)).

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of each candidate nominated along with a photograph.

The foregoing particulars are to be mailed to the M.Ph.A., 200 Tache Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H 1A7 on or before **February 5, 2009**, accompanied by the nominator's completed nomination form.

Following the close of nominations, a ballot paper will be prepared and mailed to each member with their notice of the annual meeting. Complete voting instructions will be printed on the ballot.



## GRAND OPENING

of

The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

Join Council & Staff in celebrating the opening of our new location at

Monday, February 1, 2010 ~ 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
200 Tache Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2H 1A7

Light Refreshments Available

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# From the Council Meeting of October 26, 2009

## COUNCIL:

- Passed a motion MPhA Council accept for information the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Organizational Capacity Review Report.
- Passed a motion that:
  - 1) proportional representation and size of Council be evaluated including financial implications,
  - 2) Terms of Reference be established for a candidate Search Committee (for potential Council members), and
  - 3) MPhA representatives meet with MSP to discuss their concerns regarding this recommendation.
- Passed a motion that Council develop a plan to have 1/3 public representation on council, and review the financial implications of the various options and consult with MSP and other interested stakeholders on this issue.
- Passed a motion that MPhA strike a Governance Committee to review governance and structure of MPhA and Council, including establishing a Finance and Risk Committee and a Compensation and Performance Committee.
- Passed a motion that Council meet with MSP and other interested stakeholders to investigate the overall impact of staggering terms for Council.
- Passed a motion that MPhA review, research and revise the current orientation package with the goal to have a new orientation package in place for the orientation of the new Council in April 2010.
- Passed a motion that Council will instruct each Committee Chair to review their Terms of Reference by June 2010, and to perform an annual review of their terms of reference, report the outcomes and recommendations to Council and that Council post the current terms of reference on the website.
- Passed a motion that the Registrar's participation in in-camera sessions is already "by invitation" but in the future, council will formalize the recording in Council minutes of staff members attending in-camera sessions. In addition, a further review under the new office structure will occur as to which staff members routinely attend Council Meetings.
- Passed a motion that an ad hoc Committee be established to deal with a communication strategy and report back to Council in early 2010.
- Passed a motion to develop a Communications and Member Relations position and allocate the necessary resources to do so.
- Passed a motion confirming the plans are underway for the Deputy Registrar position and further recommendations in relation to office restructuring will be provided by the Registrar at the next Council Meeting.
- Passed a motion that Council accept the timelines as set out in the report, further develop the Registrar's Review process and the matter be considered at the Executive Committee on November 16<sup>th</sup> and then for final presentation at the November 30<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.
- Passed a motion that Council is supportive of the recommended project management approach for all major projects it undertakes.
- Passed a motion that the remuneration policy needs reviewing and will refer this issue to the Executive Committee for review over the next 6 month period.
- Passed a motion that Council acknowledges the work that has been done to upgrade the use of technology in the M.Ph.A. and will continue to improve and evolve our capacity in this regard.
- Passed a motion to approve, in principle, the concepts of the "Emergency Continued Care Prescription Documents" subject to confirmation by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba and Manitoba Health.
- Passed a motion accepting the Emergency Temporary Pharmacist Licensing Procedures in principle.

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**THIS NEWSLETTER** is forwarded to every licensed pharmacist in the Province of Manitoba. Decisions of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association regarding all matters such as regulations, drug related incidents, etc. are published in the Newsletter. The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association therefore assumes that all pharmacists are aware of these matters.

**PUBLISHED BY:** The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association, 200 Tache Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2H 1A7 Phone: (204) 233-1411 Fax: (204) 237-3468  
E-mail: info@mpha.mb.ca

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# From the Council Meeting of November 30, 2009

## COUNCIL:

- Passed a motion that retirees within the last 2 years be allowed to obtain an emergency license with a limit placed on it of 6 months.
- Passed a motion that pharmacists licensed under the emergency plan would not be assessed a fee for up to 6 months of practice.
- Passed a motion that the MPhA Open House will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, in conjunction with the Council Meeting and will be held from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Passed a motion directing the Registrar to develop an action plan and to consider Council's next steps when creating the critical path and detailed action plan for work with the Registrar, Vice President, President and the public representative and this be brought forward to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, Kim Sharman, and the Director of MHHL Drug Programs, Mr. Olaf Koester.
- Passed a motion that MPhA schedule a Special General Meeting of the membership in January 2010 for the purpose of 1) reviewing the makeup of council, 2) staggering terms for council, and 3) representative of population and jurisdiction of council members.
- Passed a motion approving, in principle, the job descriptions of the M.Ph.A. Staff as distributed to Council.
- Passed a motion following changes to the M.Ph.A. by-law, as included below, be approved as written:

### *Registrar.*

- 4.17.1 *The registrar shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the council.*
- 4.17.2 *The duties of the registrar may be performed by a person designated by the registrar.*

### *Deputy and Assistant Registrar(s).*

- 4.18 *The Association may employ a deputy registrar and/or one or more assistant registrars.*
- 4.19 *The duties of the deputy registrar and assistant registrar(s) shall be determined, from time to time, by the registrar.*

### *Acting Registrar.*

- 4.20 *The council may, from time to time, appoint an acting registrar. The acting registrar shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the registrar and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the council.*

- Passed a motion accepting the moving back nominations and elections process to accommodate the schedule of elections as follows (subject to approval from our legal counsel and in abidance of Roberts Rules of Order):
  - *Move back nominations for Council to 70 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting,*
  - *Send ballots out 56 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting,*
  - *Have an election occur 35 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting*
  - *The Council Elect, once informed, will have an orientation sometime over the next 30 days, in advance of the Annual General Meeting and Council Elect attend the Council Meeting 1 day prior to the Annual General Meeting and take office immediately at the end of the Council Meeting. The first meeting of the new Council will begin immediately thereafter to elect the slate of officers.*
- Passed a motion directing the Registrar to draft a by-law to give options for consideration of council on the succession planning issue.
- Passed a motion that Council modify the MPhA Pharmacy Standards to enable pharmacies to use electronic means of accessing and storing the MPhA Manual.
- Passed a motion that Rem Weiss be appointed to the Patient Utilization Review Committee.

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# BY-LAW CHANGES

**At the November 30, 2009 Council meeting, the following By-law Change was approved as written below:**

*Registrar.*

- 4.17.1 *The registrar shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the council.*
- 4.17.2 *The duties of the registrar may be performed by a person designated by the registrar.*

*Deputy and Assistant Registrar(s).*

- 4.18 *The Association may employ a deputy registrar and/or one or more assistant registrars.*
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*Acting Registrar.*

- 4.20 *The council may, from time to time, appoint an acting registrar. The acting registrar shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the registrar and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the council.*

**At the January 6, 2010 Council meeting, the following By-law Change was approved as written below:**

- 1.11 *The member shall place the envelope containing the ballot, and marked with the word "Ballot", into another envelope that includes the member's name, licence number and return address and is addressed to the "Election/Ballot Committee", seal the envelope and send it by mail or delivery to be received by the registrar or acting registrar by four o'clock (local time) in the afternoon on the date of the vote .*
- 2.4 *Council will announce a forthcoming election, when the term of any or all Council members expires, at least 77 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting and any two voting members of the association may (regardless of where they reside or practice pharmacy) nominate candidates for the election to council.*
- 2.5 *Every such nomination must be in writing and signed by the nominating members, and must be delivered, mailed or e-mailed to the registrar or acting registrar together with a signed acceptance of nomination by every person so nominated by the members, not less than fifty-six (56) days before the date of the election.*
- 2.6 *If there are more than four nominations in an electoral division, the registrar or acting registrar shall prepare a voting paper (ballot) containing the names of the candidates for election in that electoral division.*
- 2.7 *The registrar or acting registrar shall send the ballot, referred to in section 2.6, and instructions regarding the voting procedure 49 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.*
- 2.8 *At every election of a council member, each voting member may (regardless of where the member resides or practices) vote for not more than four candidates for each electoral division using the proper voting procedure of placing a criss-cross (X) on the ballot opposite the name of the candidate for whom the member wishes to vote, and place the ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" (with no other markings on the envelope).*
- 2.9 *Using the process described 1.11, the "Election/Ballot Committee" envelopes must be received by the registrar or acting registrar no later than four o'clock (local time) in the afternoon 35 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.*
- 2.10 *The registrar shall keep the "Election/Ballot Committee" envelopes unopened, until submitted to the Election/Ballot Committee for counting.*

**For an updated copy of the By-laws, including the above changes, please visit our website at [www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca) and download a copy.**

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;"><i>included with this newsletter</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NAPRA National Drug Schedules Notice board</li><li>• Health Canada Advisories</li><li>• CAPSI Request for Host Pharmacists for International Students</li><li>• PEBC Assessor Recruitment Letter</li><li>• NAPRA Position Statement on the Sale of Non-Approved Marketed Health Products</li><li>• ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin (Vol.9, Issue 10, December 30, 2009)</li></ul>
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## REMINDER

### Awards Nominations Deadline January 25, 2010

Nominations for the following awards are requested.

All nominations along with a biography and photograph should be forwarded to:

The Awards and Nomination Committee, Chair  
c/o 200 Tache Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 1A7

#### THE PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR

A pharmacist, who in the opinion of his/her peers, has made a significant contribution to the profession, during his/her career.

#### CENTENNIAL AWARD

Awarded to a pharmacist or pharmacists for a particular project that has a positive impact on pharmacy.

#### BOWL OF HYGEIA

An award is given annually in appreciation of the time and personal sacrifice devoted by pharmacists to the welfare of their respective communities prompted E. Claiborne Robins, President of A.H. Robins and a third-generation pharmacist in his family, to establish in 1958 the "Bowl of Hygeia" Award for outstanding community service by pharmacists.

#### BONNIE SCHULTZ AWARD FOR PHARMACY PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

A pharmacist or group of pharmacists who demonstrate outstanding excellence in optimizing patient care.

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

This award is open to pharmacists who have made a significant contribution to pharmacy in Manitoba and at the national level.

#### HONORARY MEMBER

An Honorary Membership is given to worthy individuals, who are not registered pharmacists in Manitoba, but have provided valuable and notable service to the profession of pharmacy.

## Young Leader Awards

TEN individual awards are being offered to new pharmacists (1 to 5 years post graduation) and pharmacy students in their final year. These awards will afford the new pharmacist the opportunity of experiencing the professional development gained through participation in the 2010 Manitoba Pharmacy Conference to be held The Winnipeg Convention Centre, 275 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, from April 9 - 11, 2010. Hotel Accommodations will be made at the Delta Hotel, 350 St. Mary Avenue (attached to the Winnipeg Convention Centre).

The deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. If you are interested in applying and taking full advantage of attending the 2010 Annual Pharmacy Conference this year, please call the M.Ph.A. Office at (204)233-1411 and we will email/fax an application

## If You Liked E-Link, You'll Love Sendblaster®!

Starting in January 2010, all MPhA mailings will be sent electronically to the email address listed on the application for licence using a Sendblaster® system.

We have tested this system for several mailings, sending the notices directly from the office as well as through the NAPRA E-Link system. The Sendblaster® system is working well and will be used as the electronic communication link to the members in place of the E-Link system.

From now on, please check your email for messages from **MPhA Notices [mphapharm@mpha.mb.ca]**. We will be forwarding the Newsletter, Professional Development Announcements and other important information from this address. For the best email service, please add our email address to your address book, contacts list, or safe-sender list. **It is important that members let us know if their email addresses change\***.

Please note that NAPRA will continue to send information to your E-Link account so members are encouraged to check their E-Link accounts for up-to-date information from our national organization.

\*This does not apply to members who have sent a written request to continue to receive regular mail.



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## List of Donators to the New Building (Pharmacy House)

**Bronze Level**  
(up to \$999.00)

**Anonymous Donor**  
**Kristine & James Petrasko**  
**Judy & Kevin Rae**  
**Bev & Wayne Robinson**  
**Pasit & Kim Shing**  
**Orville Wagner**

**Silver Level**  
(\$1,000.00 - \$4999.00)

**Bill & Helen Eamer**  
**Ronald & Naomi Guse**  
**Susan Lessard-Friesen**  
**Irene Lewis**  
**Jugnu Lodha**

**Gold Level**  
(\$5,000.00 and over)

**The Cairns Family**  
**Ross Cairns, Grad of 1954**  
**Kim Bright, Grad of 1979**  
**Blaire Cairns, Grad of 1982**  
**Brenda Cairns, Grad of 1985**  
**Pierce Cairns, Grad of 2009**

**Please consider being a part of this major event in Pharmacy History in Manitoba and Thank you to all who have donated towards the New Building (Pharmacy House).**

All donations and the corresponding levels will be permanently recognized in a plaque that will be displayed in the front foyer of the building. The renovations are mostly completed on the main floor, and an open house and opening ceremonies have been arranged for Monday, February 1, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for all members to come and see the new building. The new location will provide for the needs of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association (College of Pharmacists of Manitoba) for many decades.

## Remaining Vigilant Against H1N1 Influenza

Over the past few weeks we have seen a slight decrease in H1N1 influenza activity in the province and considerably less media attention devoted to the issue. However, this should not be misinterpreted as a sign to let our guard down against H1N1. The H1N1 virus continues to circulate within the province and it is expected that illness will continue to occur.

At this time, pharmacists are advised to remain vigilant in their actions to:

- prevent H1N1 infection
- promote vaccination
- ensure early effective treatment with antiviral medication (especially if patients are at risk for severe illness or symptoms are persistent or worsening) and
- refer patients with symptoms of severe influenza illness to seek emergency medical treatment (shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, severe or worsening symptoms, dehydration, drowsiness or confusion or fever in an infant under three months old).

Two-thirds of Manitobans have yet to be vaccinated and it is estimated that half of Manitobans are susceptible to H1N1 infection. Pharmacists should encourage all Manitobans to consider vaccination as soon as possible. The H1N1 vaccine continues to be available in some community or workplace clinics, in public health offices and through some physician offices. Pharmacists can contact their regional health authority to determine where clients can access H1N1 vaccine in their area. Eligible Manitobans should also be encouraged to get their seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations.

Pharmacists are reminded of the need to keep up-to-date on provincial news releases and notices to health care providers on H1N1, *Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Guidelines*, *Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines* and *Clinical Management Guidelines* by frequently consulting the Manitoba Health "Flu in Manitoba" website (<http://www.manitoba.ca/flu/index.html>). As well, it is important for pharmacists to keep up-to-date on MPhA Notices regarding H1N1 and the MPhA H1N1 Pandemic Preparedness Resource Kit located on the MPhA website ([www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca), go to "MB") under "H1N1 Flu Information".

## Practice Advisories for Patient Safety

Part of the Council's commitment to enhance the quality of care and patient safety in Manitoba pharmacies was to instruct the Chair of the Complaints Committee to issue a report following meetings of the Committee.

The intention of the information is to inform pharmacists of medication incidents thereby providing an opportunity to relate and reflect upon their practice.

### Do prescriptions expire?

A complaint was received from a patient that was surprised to hear that their prescription "expired" and the refills remaining could not be filled. Many computer systems used in pharmacies will stop a refill from being processed if it is beyond a year from the original fill date. This is, mostly, an in-house policy and not based on any law, with the exception of targeted substances / benzodiazepines and Manitoba Prescribing Practice Program (M3P) forms. Prescriptions for targeted substances/benzodiazepines do expire one year after the date on the prescriptions and M3P forms are only valid for three days from the time of writing the order, but prescriptions for all other medications do not have an "expiry date".

However, the in-house policies for expiring prescriptions cannot prevent the pharmacist from utilizing professional judgment, after speaking with the patient to gain a better understanding as why the prescription refill is needed, to dispense or not dispense the medication. The pharmacist has the right to refuse to fill the medication based upon an individual assessment of the patient, but not necessarily solely based on the policy.

When these incidents arise, it is important for the pharmacist to speak with the patient, gather further information and then make a decision whether the medication will be provided. Verification from the prescriber would also be helpful. Engaging the patient is key to gain acceptance and understanding.



The Manitoba Colorectal Cancer Screening Program has now changed its name to ColonCheck Manitoba. In addition to distributing FOBT (fecal occult blood tests) through direct mail and the Manitoba Breast Screening Program, they have partnered with physicians, clinics and pharmacies to distribute FOBT kits.

March is Colorectal Cancer month! Cancer screening can save lives. Please contact ColonCheck Manitoba at 788-8635 if you are interested in collaborating with the Program or visit their website [www.coloncheckmb.ca](http://www.coloncheckmb.ca) if you would like to order pamphlets/posters to promote colorectal screening

## Pharmacy Student-Alumni Hockey Game

The Alumni Hockey Game has been arranged for March 20, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Maginot Arena, 910 Maginot. If there is some, yet untapped source of hockey prowess in the ranks of licensed pharmacists out there, let your name be known. The number of pharmacists wanting to play for the alumni team is more than the number of resuscitators available. The game is more fun than the best day at work. And if nothing else, you may make "contact" with a prospective coworker or employee.

Please call Ron at 233-1411 to let your name stand.

Thanks again to the excellent people at **McKesson Canada** who have once again funded this "extreme sporting event".



## Office Restructuring

Pharmacists will notice some changes in the MPhA office staff structure over the next couple months.

The MPhA will be announcing a new position for a Deputy Registrar. The Deputy Registrar's job description will reflect the Registrar's description with some specially assigned areas of responsibility. This person would be able to take over the Registrar's responsibility in the absence of the Registrar. Further clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the Deputy Registrar will be available through the release of the position announcement.

Complementing the new position of Deputy Registrar will be clearer roles for an Assistant Registrar with the primary responsibility for Professional Development and another Assistant Registrar with the primary responsibility for Field Operations.

The duties of an Officer Manager are being assigned to the Executive Assistant to the Registrar. The primary role of the Office Manager is to ensure the administrative support for the registrars and the administrative functioning of the office. The Office Manager is responsible for assigning tasks and doing the performance assessment for the administrative staff.

The position of Communications Coordinator and Quality Assurance Secretary has also been created. As the name describes, this person is responsible for the administrative needs for communication with the members and administrative support needed for the Quality Assurance activities (professional development and field operations). There has also been a slight re-defining of the Administrative Assistant and the Administrative Secretary. There has been no change in the administrative people working at the MPhA, but their role and responsibilities have changed.

MPhA will be providing the necessary support and training for staff in order for a smooth transition.

## Professional Development



Beginning in January, MPhA PD Program announcements are being sent to pharmacists via email. In addition to the environmental benefits of email distribution, we hope this will enable us to inform you of upcoming programs in the timeliest manner.

For the most up-to-date listing of accredited PD programs and other learning resources, make sure to visit the Professional Development section of the MPhA website at [www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca).

For assistance in selecting programs and resources to meet your individual learning needs, contact Susan Lessard-Friesen ([susan@mpha.mb.ca](mailto:susan@mpha.mb.ca)) or Kathy Cobb ([kcobb@mpha.mb.ca](mailto:kcobb@mpha.mb.ca)) in the MPhA office by email or phone (204-233-1411).

The Annual MPhA Learning Portfolio Review will begin soon. Approximately twenty percent of licensed pharmacists are randomly selected each year to participate in this review. Letters will be sent to those pharmacists selected to participate by the end of this month. We thank all pharmacists for their participation in this quality assurance process.

## Congratulations to Manitoba pharmacists receiving Commitment to Care & Service National Awards recognized for renal program - Winnipeg, MB (November 6, 2009)

The increasing prevalence of chronic kidney disease from 20% to 30% over the past decade, according to various reports and the complexity of medication regimens, suggests an expanding role for renal pharmacists caring for these patients. And in this regard, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Manitoba Renal Program (MRP) pharmacists have hit the ground running, earning them this year's Hospital Pharmacy Initiative Award in this year's Commitment to Care & Service Awards, a national awards program hosted by Pharmacy Practice and Drugstore Canada, Canada's leading pharmacy magazines.



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## Can Drugs be Recycled?

The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association is supportive of responsible environmental and public safety practices with respect to the fate of unwanted medications.

However, the recycling of drugs is generally illegal. The risk associated with reusing medication outweighs any benefit that might be gained by recycling the medication. In Manitoba, drugs in sealed, unopened containers may only be recycled if they have been returned from a controlled environment such as a long-term care facility or a hospital.

Any medication that has been released to the public cannot be returned for re-use. The environmental strategy for drugs that cannot be re-used relate to reducing the dispensed quantities should there be any concern that the entire amount of the medication will not be used, re-use or recycling of the packaging, and appropriate disposal of the unwanted medications. The unnecessary waste of medication can be diminished through trial course of treatment or through smaller quantity amounts being dispensed for the first fill of prescribed medication. Equally important is the education of patients, prescribers, pharmacists, government and the pharmaceutical industry on the importance of reducing the cost and environmental impact of waste medication.

Health professionals are in an ideal position to assess and appropriately respond to the individual patient's reasons for returning medication and to assist in the safe disposal of unwanted drugs. However, patients should be informed that medications cannot be re-used and all unwanted medication should be properly disposed. Unnecessary medication kept in the home enhances the risk for accidental poisoning and/or inappropriate use.

Miller Environmental will take unwanted medication from the general public, for proper disposal at no charge at the following address:

Miller Environmental Corporation  
1803 Hekla Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2R 0K3  
Telephone: (204)925-9600

Pharmacies in Manitoba act as a collection depot for unwanted medications from the public and will forward the medication to Miller Environmental.

(This notice will also appear in the respective newsletters for doctors, dentists and nurses).

## NAPRA Celebrates Official Unveiling of Mobility Agreement for Canadian Pharmacists

The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) proudly unveiled the new Mobility Agreement for Canadian Pharmacists (MACP) during a special celebration on Sunday, November 1, 2009 to mark the occasion in Montreal.

The celebration, led by NAPRA President Dianne Donnan and attended by the Association's Board of Directors, was the culmination of a two-year process to update the agreement. The agreement which captures commonly held principles and requirements to allow the movement of pharmacists across Canada without imposing unreasonable or discriminatory requirements is a significant document for pharmacists.

"What we achieved is outstanding. With the signing of the agreement by all of Canada's pharmacy regulatory authorities, it recognizes the high degree of commonality in our profession and provides enhanced mobility for our pharmacists," said Ms. Donnan. Additionally, the MACP is in line with the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), an intergovernmental trade agreement with Canada's First Ministers to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services, and investment within Canada and to establish an open, efficient, and stable domestic market. The MACP will be reviewed periodically by the Association.

"It is also important to thank Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for their financial contribution to our endeavor," began Ms. Donnan. "Our success today was possible as a result of their support over the last two years."

NAPRA's Board of Directors convened in Montreal October 31 and November 1, 2009 for their semi-annual Board meeting.

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## Notice of Discipline Committee Hearing Decision

### Mr. Andrew Strempler

A Hearing was held on March 9, 2009 and October 6, 2009 before a panel of the Discipline Committee in regard to the charges set out in a Notice of Hearing dated February 5, 2009, by the Registrar of the Association, that Mr. Andrew Strempler is guilty of unskilled practice and/or professional misconduct, as described in section 35 of *The Pharmaceutical Act*, in that, in his role as a pharmacist or pharmacy manager in the RxNorth Pharmacy (also known as RxNorth.com Pharmacy and/or Mediplan Pharmacy) located in Minnedosa Manitoba, on or about 2006, he did

1. receive, or cause to be received, prescription orders, either directly or indirectly, from patients located in the United States and allow for the drugs that were dispensed in response to the prescription orders to be supplied from a location outside of Canada, specifically from a business located in the Bahamas, with non-Health Canada-approved drugs;
2. allow the said drugs being dispensed to be shipped through other countries before entering the United States, thereby concealing from the consumer the actual source of the drug and that the dispensing occurred in the Bahamas;
3. allow the name of RxNorth.com Pharmacy to appear on prescription labels of the said drugs, thereby giving the appearance that the drug and dispensing occurred in a pharmacy licensed by the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association;
4. allow the name, address and pharmacy license number of RxNorth.com Pharmacy to appear in an advertisement seen at the URL [www.RxNorth.com](http://www.RxNorth.com) in which non-Health Canada drug products were being advertised;
5. Cause the dispensing of drugs in the manner described above where some of the drug being used were past, or close to, the expiry date thereby preventing the consumer from completely using the drug before it expired.

Upon counsel for the Complaints Committee requesting that a stay of proceedings be entered with respect to the charges as a result of a joint recommendation of counsel to the Complaints Committee and Mr. Strempler, the Discipline Committee accepted this

request and directed that a stay of proceedings be entered upon the following conditions:

1. Mr. Strempler is to write a letter to the Registrar of MPhA requesting that Mr. Strempler's name be removed from the Register of Pharmacists
2. Mr. Strempler is to provide a written undertaking not to apply for registration as a pharmacist in Manitoba without first pleading guilty to the charges contained in the Notice of Hearing;
3. Mr. Strempler is to provide a written acknowledgment that MPhA has the jurisdiction to proceed with the charges contained in the Notice of Hearing;
4. Mr. Strempler is to pay the sum of \$7,500.00 to MPhA toward the costs of the investigation and proceedings to date; and
5. MPhA will publish that Mr. Strempler was charged with the offences outlined in the Notice of Hearing and has voluntarily requested that his name be removed from the Register of Pharmacists and that he is obliged to pay MPhA a contribution to its costs in the amount of \$7,500.00.

Mr. Strempler has complied with the above mentioned conditions. As reported in the November 2009 Newsletter, Mr. Strempler's name was removed from the register and he is no longer considered a pharmacist in Manitoba.

## Annual General Meeting of the M.Ph.A.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010**

Winnipeg Convention Centre,  
275 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

More information on the Conference including the Annual Meeting Agenda and Award Winners will be printed in the next newsletter. Please visit [www.mbp-pharmacy-conference.ca](http://www.mbp-pharmacy-conference.ca) for more information.





# focus on patient safety

Building an awareness for the systems that can lead to adverse events and changing the culture from “blaming” to reporting and learning from medication adverse events are some of the key steps in addressing patient safety in pharmacy practice. It is hoped that this column may facilitate taking those key steps.

## Focus on Fentanyl Transdermal Patches

In spite of numerous alerts, warnings and reports issued over the years, preventable adverse events, including several deaths, associated with the use of fentanyl transdermal patches has continued. These adverse events have been the result of inappropriate prescribing, dispensing and administration of this potent opioid drug.

In the most recent issue of the *ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin* (Vol.9, Issue 10, December 30, 2009), ISMP highlights the analysis of international findings from incidents involving fentanyl transdermal patches and includes recommendations for coordinated, systems-based solutions. These recommendations focus on efforts to better inform healthcare practitioners about the pharmacokinetics and the safe and effective use of transdermal fentanyl and effective strategies to ensure patients, their families and caregivers are well-informed about the use (administration and disposal) of the drug.

A copy of this *ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin* is provided as an attachment to this newsletter. As you focus on patient safety throughout your busy day, make sure to set aside a few minutes to review this bulletin to better focus on fentanyl.

## Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System (CMIRPS)

**CMIRPS** is a national voluntary medication incident and 'near miss' reporting program founded for the purpose of sharing the learning experiences from medication errors. Implementation of preventative strategies and system safeguards to decrease the risk for error-induced injury and thereby promote medication safety in healthcare is our collaborative goal.

### Medication incidents (including near misses) can be reported to ISMP Canada:

- (i) through the website: [http://www.ismp-canada.org/err\\_report.htm](http://www.ismp-canada.org/err_report.htm) or
- (ii) by phone: 416-733-3131 or toll free: 1-866-544-7672

ISMP Canada guarantees confidentiality and security of information received, and respects the wishes of the reporter as to the level of detail to be included in publications.

### Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada)

4711 Yonge Street  
Suite 501  
Toronto, ON  
M2N 6K8

416-733-3131 or 1-866-544-7672 (1-866-54-ISMP)  
Email: [info@ismp-canada.org](mailto:info@ismp-canada.org)  
Website: [www.ismp-canada.org](http://www.ismp-canada.org)



## ISMP Canada Newsletter Subscriptions



**ISMP Canada Safety Bulletins** are designed to disseminate timely, targeted information to reduce the risk of medication incidents. The purpose of the bulletins is to confidentially share the information received about medication incidents which have occurred and to suggest medication system improvement strategies for enhancing patient safety. The bulletins will also share alerts and warnings specific to the Canadian market place.

In 2009, the following ISMP Canada Safety Bulletins have been issued.

- Vol. 9 Issue 10 - Analysis of International Findings from Incidents Involving Fentanyl Transdermal Patches
- Vol. 9 Issue 9 - Engaging Consumers in Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention
- Vol. 9 Issue 8 - The WHO Provides Guidance to Incident Reporting Programs
- Vol. 9 Issue 7 - Hospital-Acquired Hyponatremia: Two Reports of Pediatric Deaths
- Vol. 9 Issue 6 - Top 5 Drugs Reported as Causing Harm through Medication Error in Paediatrics
- Vol. 9 Issue 5 - Prograf and Advagraf Mix-up
- Vol. 9 Issue 4 - Pharmaceutical Bar Coding: Moving Forward in Canada
- Vol. 9 Issue 3 - Labelling of Iron Products
- Vol. 9 Issue 2 - ALERT: Fatal Outcome after Inadvertent Injection of Epinephrine Intended for Topical Use
- Vol. 9 Issue 1 - ALERT: Revatio (sildenafil) Medication Incident

All issues of the ISMP Canada Safety Bulletins, including those issued in previous years, are freely downloadable from the ISMP Canada website at [www.ismp-canada.org](http://www.ismp-canada.org).



The **Medication Safety Alert! Acute Care** edition newsletter from ISMP (US) has been in circulation since 1996. It is a biweekly compilation of medication and device related errors, prevention recommendations and editorial content. It alerts practitioners and managers in a timely fashion to potentially hazardous situations that may contribute to adverse drug events.



The **Medication Safety Alert! Nurse Advise-ERR** is designed to meet the medication safety information needs of nurses who transcribe orders, administer medications, and monitor the effects of medications on patients. Published monthly, the newsletter offers detailed error reports and checklists of evidence-based error reduction strategies.



The **Medication Safety Alert! Community/Ambulatory Care** edition newsletter from ISMP (US) is targeted toward pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nurses, physicians and other community health professionals. This monthly newsletter provides timely information about medication-related errors and adverse drug reactions and their implications for community practice sites, and offers recommendations on how to improve medication safety within the community setting.

ISMP Canada is pleased to distribute The *Medication Safety Alert!* (US) newsletters along with **ISMP Canada Safety Bulletins** to Canadian practitioners and corporations. To subscribe, visit the ISMP Canada website under Products and Services at [www.ismp-canada.org](http://www.ismp-canada.org).

ISMP Canada would like your continued support, in order to achieve our shared mandate of promoting safe medication practices. The distribution of the ISMP (US) newsletter with Canadian alert bulletins is one of many initiatives underway by ISMP Canada to heighten the awareness of medication safety in Canada.

**If you have made changes in your pharmacy, which focus on patient safety that you would like to share with your colleagues, please contact Susan Lessard-Friesen at 204-233-1411.**