

BRANCH OUT

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PSN: TV Station or Great Way for CSHP Members to Communicate?!!

PSN stands for [Pharmacist Specialty Network](#) and is, in a nutshell, a group of pharmacists with similar interests in a particular specialty that want to create a national network. As part of CSHP membership, there are a number of PSNs available for members to join and help connect pharmacists across the country in various ways.



The most popular method to connect individuals is by using an electronic list serve. This enables pharmacists in the PSN to be able to email questions to each other by means of the list serve. The questions are then sent out to the e-mail addresses of all members of the PSN. Members can then send back feedback, which will also be forwarded to all the members in that group.

From my own experience, this is a great way to get in tune to what policies and programs are being developed across the country. In addition, as a relatively new hospital pharmacist, it allows me to get insight on the kind of issues I will have to face in my own practice. Meanwhile, you are developing connections with pharmacists from all over the country.

Another function of the PSN is to develop educational sessions that are presented at the CSHP Professional Practice Conference (PPC) or Annual General Meeting (AGM). These sessions present topics that are specialized toward the PSN theme. For example, at the PPC this past January, the Geriatrics PSN had an afternoon session on managing anemia in the elderly and neuropathic pain management. In addition to the specificity of the educational material, you get to meet your colleagues from the PSN face to face!

There are new ways in which PSNs are growing. Web pages have been started for the various groups.

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Check out our new feature "Pharmacist Faces" on Page 3 !!

Are You Receiving Your Branch E-Mail?



All of our correspondence with branch members is by e-mail. If you fail to receive your e-mail, you will be missing important information regarding branch awards, announcements, AGM reports, and the branch newsletter. While we have the e-mail addresses of all members, many have filters associated with their e-mail server that mark our e-mails as spam.

To correct this you must change your spam filter settings to allow e-mail from the address "admin@cshp-nl.com"

For those that get branch e-mails to their workplace e-mail account, you may need to speak with your IT department.

Any further questions, you may contact me at david_smith@nl.rogers.com .

Pharmacy Technician Conference 2007

Please pass along to technicians at your respective sites the announcement of the upcoming Pharmacy Technician Conference in St. John's, September 14-16, 2007. The conference is for technicians with both hospital and retail backgrounds and will include a range of topics of interest to technicians across the province!!

For more details contact April LeGrow at 777-6455 or Lois Battcock at 777-5084 or e-mail pharmtech2007@hotmail.com to get added to the mailing list.



Pharmacist Faces

As a new way to "meet" fellow NL CSHP members, this feature will present one of our members. By answering a few questions, the goal is for members to learn from the experiences of other members and to put a "face" to a member's name!



Why did you decide to become a pharmacist?

I completed a chemistry degree and then a Master's degree in pharmacology, so I always had an interest in learning how new drugs were synthesized and how they ultimately worked in the body. As I was approaching the end of my M.Sc. studies, I was trying to decide whether or not to continue on to do a PhD. It was at that time that the late Gerald Duncan, the first director of the School of Pharmacy, suggested I pursue a B.Sc. Pharmacy. At first I dismissed that idea, but the more I thought about it, and learned more about the role of the pharmacist outside the dispensary, particularly in hospital and industry, the more it made sense. The rest, as they say, is history.

Name: John Bautista

Workplace: Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre, Grand Falls-Windsor.

Family: His wife, Elizabeth and 3 children: Emily (4yrs), Megan (2 yrs) & Chloe (10 months)

Pharmacy School: MUN

Why did you choose hospital pharmacy and what do you like most about being a hospital pharmacist?

I really enjoyed my clinical clerkship rotations (General Medicine at St. Clare's and Hematology at the HSC) during my final year of pharmacy school, so it seemed the natural route to go. Hospital pharmacy allows me to interact in-person with physicians and other health care providers and be an active and visible part of the health care team. I also have the opportunity to counsel patients at a time when education about new medications is so important. Being able to readily consult my fellow hospital pharmacists about complicated patients is extremely helpful, and the support from our pharmacy technicians and clerical staff also makes for an excellent working environment. My role as a preceptor for clerkship students also makes my job very rewarding, especially when I see students who, at the beginning of clerkship, aren't so eager to pursue hospital pharmacy as a career, but then realize that it can be an enjoyable alternative to working in the retail sector by the end of their rotation.

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Have an idea for future articles or features for Branch Out?!

E-mail rebishop101@hotmail.com

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What changes have you seen in hospital pharmacy since you started your career?



I've been working as a hospital pharmacist for eight years total-in Saint John, Halifax and now Grand Falls-Windsor, and I've seen more acceptance of the pharmacist as an important member of the health care team. There has certainly been a movement of the clinical pharmacist from the dispensary to the floors.

What tips do you have in helping others develop their role as a hospital pharmacist?

A preceptor of mine taught me to "pick your own battles", and that is certainly true. In this business, you have to deal with a lot of different personalities, so knowing "when to let things go" is very important. Developing interpersonal skills is also vital because hospital pharmacists interact with so many other health care providers. We work in an environment consisting of nurses, physicians, social workers, occupational therapists, community and hospital pharmacists, and the list goes on. And remember to get to know your fellow staff members both in the pharmacy department and within the hospital- try to be personable-this will make your job a lot more enjoyable.

Do you have a clinical practice site, and if so, what is your role?

I have two clinical roles: I work as a clinical pharmacist on our mental health unit and I act as the antimicrobial utilization/infectious diseases pharmacist.



What does your daily practice involve?

From a mental health perspective, I attend psychiatry rounds three times a week; I facilitate the medication discussion group for patients twice a month, and I participate in the mental health discussion group for families, which involves meeting with family members of patients admitted with depression. I may also be consulted to do medication histories on certain mental health patients. I am actively involved in the medication reconciliation process, which entails obtaining the "best possible medication history" from newly admitted patients, comparing it to the medications ordered on admission, and verifying any discrepancies with the prescriber.

From an antimicrobial utilization perspective, I review every inpatient that is receiving an antibiotic and ensure its dose and appropriateness. I may also field questions regarding antimicrobial therapy from physicians working in our hospital and our regional sites. I am also responsible for conducting drug use evaluations (DUEs) on antibiotics with high acquisition costs.

What are your interests outside of pharmacy?

When I'm not busy parenting, I pursue my guilty pleasure of videogaming
There are more health care professionals on-line than you think! But starting this summer I'll be starting my new hobby-RV'ing!



A big "Thank You" to John for agreeing to be our first feature pharmacist! If you are interested in participating in "Pharmacist Faces" or if there is a name you would like to suggest, please e-mail rebishop101@hotmail.com.

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You can view some of the PSN web pages, by visiting the CSHP website at http://www.cshp.ca/cshpNetwork/psn/psn-sites_e.asp. Also, some PSNs are moving into setting up teleconferences for its members. I recently attended a Critical Care PSN teleconference, and it was refreshing to have a live discussion with fellow PSN members. Finally, National continues to work with the PSN chairs on completing the PSN review, which will only continue to strengthen the PSNs. The PSNs have been recognized as a valuable resource to our members.

There are a variety of established PSNs available for you. They are:

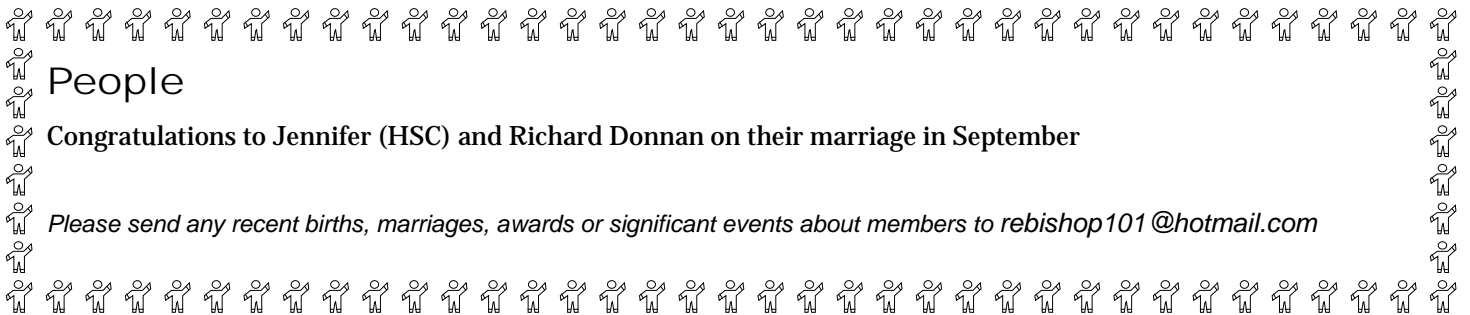
- Ambulatory Care
- Cardiology
- Clinical Pharmacy Consultants
- Critical Care
- Drug Information
- Drug Use Evaluation
- Geriatrics
- Home Care
- Infectious Diseases
- Medication Safety
- Palliative Care
- Parenteral Services
- Paediatrics
- Pharmacy Informatics
- Pharmacy Residents
- Pharmacy Students
- Primary Care
- Psychiatry
- Seamless Care
- Small Hospitals
- Transplant

I have found my involvement with the PSNs to be an extremely rewarding experience, and I encourage everyone to select a PSN they would like to participate in. Joining up in a PSN has no additional charge and is currently part of a CSHP membership. There are several ways to join:

1. Join online at www.cshp.ca (complete the online application form)
2. Contact Robyn Rockwell, CSHP's membership administrator by email, rrockwell@cshp.ca or phone, (613) 736-9733 Ext. 222.



Renelle Butt, Branch Out Editor



People

 Congratulations to Jennifer (HSC) and Richard Donnan on their marriage in September

Please send any recent births, marriages, awards or significant events about members to rebishop101@hotmail.com

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors to the Branch Out. Views expressed in the editorials are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Upcoming Events...



- Semi-Annual General Meeting of NL Branch—May 17,2007 at 7 pm.
Apothecary Hall, 88 Water Street
- CSHP National Annual General Meeting 2007, Aug 11-14, Regina, SK
- Registration for CSHP 2007-2008— Due July 1st, 2007
- PANL Annual Conference 2007 , Sept 28-30, Corner Brook, NL
- CSHP NL Branch AGM, Sept 28, Corner Brook, NL
- CSHP Professional Practice Conference 2008, Feb 2-6, Toronto, ON



Awards Committee

Congratulations to John King, Grand Falls-Winsor — Winner of the Apotex/CSHP-NL Branch PPC 2007!!

Congratulations to Pam Rudkin who was awarded the 2006 Leadership in Pharmacy Practice Award (sponsored by Sandoz)

Congratulations to Lisa Bishop who was awarded the 2006 Alfred Dawe Distinguished Service Award (sponsored by Sandoz)



Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
Soci t  canadienne des pharmaciens d'h pitaux

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR BRANCH ***Semi-Annual Meeting***

Thursday, May 17, 2007. Meeting: 7-8:00 PM at Apothecary Hall, 488 Water Street
Followed by a social evening with pizza and refreshments provided

Please RSVP by May 15, 2007 to: Amy Conway at 777-5548, amy_e_conway@hotmail.com

