University of Waterloo celebrates innovation and entrepreneurship

The University of Waterloo, School of Pharmacy, held its first Business Awards Ceremony on April 5, 2012. Presented at the ceremony were the Scotiabank Pharmacy Entrepreneurship Award and the Pharmasave Industrial Case Study Competition Award.

The **Scotiabank Pharmacy Entrepreneurship Competition** provides a great opportunity for budding entrepreneurs among the University of Waterloo pharmacy students to pursue new, innovative ventures under the broadly defined umbrella of health care industry. For the 2011 competition, 12 contending individuals or teams submitted comprehensive plans proposing novel enterprises, and the top 3 ventures were then selected to deliver presentations to a panel of stakeholders from various sectors.

The winning venture was MyPharmacyPatient, a highly innovative educational platform developed and led by Peter Pagacz, a third-year full-time student at the University of Waterloo, School of Pharmacy. Currently, MyPharmacyPatient is developing an e-learning tool that gives students access to interactive and easy-to-use virtual patient cases. The learning platform will be available on demand to educational institutions and students via the Internet, and is compatible with tablet technology. The grand prize, valued at \$15,000 was generously sponsored by Scotiabank and Scotia

(L to R): Roderick Slavcev (University of Waterloo), Elizabeth Heald (Scotia Private Client Group), Peter Pagacz (winner of the Scotiabank Pharmacy Entrepreneurship Competition), Viona Duncan (Gowlings), Paul Smith (Scotiabank) and Jim Whetstone (KPMG).

Private Client Group, with professional services provided in kind by Gowlings and KPMG.

The ceremony also saw the awarding of the second annual **Pharmasave Industrial Case Study Competition (ICC)** Award. The ICC is an incentivized final examination of the comprehensive core “Fundamentals of Business Administration and Management” program. In the past 2 years of implementation, teams of pharmacy students were sought as consultants to analyze and offer strategic solutions toward the self-sustainability of the School’s

Clinical Capstone program. This “free market” approach to education and assessment was met with overwhelming student enthusiasm and quality of performance. After submitting reports, delivering presentations and defending their proposals to a panel of judges, the winning team — Mihir Patel, Catherine Prochazka, Alia Thawer, Calvin Poon and Vanessa Raco — was chosen to receive the \$5000 cash prize, generously sponsored by Pharmasave.

These competitions represent only a few of the components of the comprehensive Business Curriculum designed and

developed by Dr. Roderick Slavcev, who holds the Shopper’s Drug Mart Professor of Business and Entrepreneurship Chair. This comprehensive and multicomponent undergraduate program aligns with the School’s mission of generating graduates with the necessary management skills needed to lead the profession of pharmacy. ■

— Jesslyn Tjendra,
Roderick Slavcev and Mary Stanley