CPhA's Pharmacist of the Year: Diane Lamarre

CPhA GIVES THIS AWARD TO RECOGNIZE A PHARMACIST who demonstrates leadership and exemplifies the evolution of the pharmacy profession toward an expanded role in health care.

A devoted pharmacist, teacher and humanitarian, Diane Lamarre of Longueuil, Quebec, is dedicated to advancing the profession of pharmacy within our own borders and abroad. She is a true leader for pharmacy, always striving to balance patient care, public education and support for pharmacists as the profession continually evolves.

On a global scale, Diane is passionate about bringing quality pharmaceutical care to patients around the world. She has been actively engaged with Pharmacists Without Borders—Canada since 1998, serving as president since 2007, and has undertaken more than 30 personal missions to countries such as Bosnia, Kosovo, Mali, Uganda and Haiti. “We have an opportunity to help implement pharmaceutical care in developing countries,” she says. “Our evolving profession here in Canada is a great opportunity for pharmacists to make a difference to patients abroad, across Canada and right here in Quebec.”

Diane is also committed to education here at home. A respected professor at the Université de Montréal, Diane has played a tremendous role in the evolution of the university's Faculty of Pharmacy program and curriculum. She was the first community clinical pharmacy professor in

the history of the university and developed and implemented the first community-based clinical pharmacy teaching program in Canada. She also developed the first Canadian Master's Degree in Professional Practice, Community Component and the Pharmaceutical Care/Internship Supervisor Microprogram.

As the role of the pharmacist expands, Diane is devoted to ensuring that pharmacists are practising at the height of their knowledge and skills. For the past 2 years, she has been a vocal spokesperson in support of Quebec's Bill 41, expanding Quebec pharmacists' scope of practice to include extending prescriptions, prescribing for minor ailments, substitutions and injections. She met with more than 2250 pharmacists in 16 cities throughout 2012 to explain the implementation of the new law. “For a long time we underused pharmacists, despite their excellent education and knowledge,” explains Diane. “Now, we're asking pharmacists to contribute to therapeutic decision making that will benefit the patients and help them get the most from their drug therapy.”

The driving force for everything she does is her patients. “I'm very proud to be a pharmacist,” Diane says. “I've always been concerned about patient needs and I think that we have to adapt our profession to make sure we're putting patients first.” She is frequently asked to share her expertise with the media and the public, and she takes every opportunity to help Canadians better understand what their pharmacist can do. “I'm proud that pharmacists are being considered in public issues and decision making.”

Diane holds a BPharm and MScPharm from the Université de Montréal. She writes the “Votre santé sur ordonnance” column for the *Journal de Montréal*, which is read by more than 1 million people each week, and she has written and reviewed countless articles, columns and research papers. She is the independent owner of 2 pharmacies in Montreal and is currently president of the Quebec Order of Pharmacists. A multiple award winner, Diane was named one of CPhA's Centennial Pharmacists in 2007

BY CHRISTINE
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and was the recipient of the CPhA International Leadership Award in 2002.

In her words:

When I started training to become a pharmacist, I was told that because pharmacists aren't involved in compounding, they might disappear; more recently, the Internet would let patients look up their

own medications and pharmacists wouldn't be that useful anymore. But pharmacists are even more essential today because we've kept close to patient needs and we can use our skills and knowledge to individualize patient therapies. We can't forget that our first mission is the patient and that everything we do must come back to helping patients benefit in the best way possible.

The Translator

The Translator is a CPhA initiative that supports knowledge translation between pharmacy practice research and health policy. Each issue features a number of pharmacy practice research articles, briefly summarizes them and discusses the health care policy implications. These articles are submitted by researchers who have a strong desire to support evidence-based health care policy and best practices. The latest issue highlights the roles of pharmacists in managing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) medication therapy and adherence:

- A pharmacist-managed adherence clinic improves antiretroviral adherence among patients with HIV.
- One-to-one pharmacist counselling increases the likelihood that patients with HIV are able to completely describe antiviral drug resistance.
- HIV clinical pharmacist modification of antiretroviral therapy results in lower pill burden, higher adherence and improved clinical outcomes.
- Community pharmacist medication therapy management consistently boosts antiretroviral therapy adherence and appropriateness in patients with HIV/AIDS.

To read more, see www.pharmacists.ca/the-translator. *The Translator* is made possible in part through an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer.

Watch for our next issue on Minor Ailments.