

NAPRA Notes

Vol. 12, Num. 1, Winter 2017

This edition of NAPRA Notes highlights just some of the many activities in which the organization has engaged this past year. The year 2016 saw significant changes and many accomplishments at NAPRA..... We said farewell to some and welcomed others who have come aboard to continue to move NAPRA forward to fulfill its goals.

2016 - A year in review

✓ **NAPRA Leadership**

The NAPRA Board of Directors for 2016-2017 was elected at NAPRA's 2016 Annual General Meeting on April 24. A roster of dedicated and experienced representatives of NAPRA's member organizations have been serving the organization with diligence and foresight over the last year, leading the organization through a period of change and renewal as described later in NAPRA Notes.

Anjali Acharya became NAPRA's President at its Board meeting in April 2016. Anjali has represented the Alberta College of Pharmacists on the NAPRA Board since 2012 and served as NAPRA Vice President for 2015-2016. Working with Anjali on the Executive Committee are Vice President Glenda Marsh, Past President Craig Connolly, and Board member Linda Hensman. Chair of CPRC, Bob Nakagawa, as well as NAPRA's Executive Director, also participate on the Committee in ex-officio capacities.

Already three quarters into her one-year term as President, Anjali has provided steadfast support and guidance to NAPRA through this period of change and exploration, and shares, "An organization like NAPRA must evolve in ways that serve our members in the best possible way, and I'm proud to play a role on NAPRA's journey."

✓ **Governance Review**

Good governance is a fundamental component of a healthy and productive organization, and organizations must routinely review their governance structure to ensure productivity and effectiveness in meeting their mandates. NAPRA has taken on the challenge.

As NAPRA has evolved over its 20-year history, so has its governance needs. Therefore, in April 2016, NAPRA's Board of Directors initiated a process to update and strengthen NAPRA's governance. An Ad hoc Committee on Governance presented recommendations to the Board of Directors in November 2016 and NAPRA is currently engaging with its Member Organizations for feedback. NAPRA will continue its governance renewal activities through 2017.

✓ **New Publications**

NAPRA continues its production of valuable foundational documents for pharmacy practice.

Pharmacy Practice Management Systems Supplemental Requirements

NAPRA approved the Pharmacy Practice Management Systems Supplemental Requirements on Traceability and Bulk Preparation Labelling to Support NAPRA's "Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists" and the "Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding". This new document boosts the initial 35 requirements found in the PPMS document published in 2013, by three additional requirements that together address technical, functional and administrative requirements of practice management systems. The new requirements also complement NAPRA's model standards for pharmacy compounding. The supplementary requirements outlined in the PPMS supplemental document, which is now available on the NAPRA website, will come into effect on January 1, 2019.

2016 - A year in review

✓ **New Publications (continued)**

More NAPRA Compounding Standards

NAPRA published two new standards in late 2015 and 2016, respectively: Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-hazardous Sterile Preparations and Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Hazardous Sterile Preparations. NAPRA also has underway the development of the third and final document in the compounding series, Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-sterile Preparations, with a release date to be determined later in 2017.



✓ **Pharmacists' Gateway Canada**

In 2016, nearly 2,400 International Pharmacy Graduates enrolled in Pharmacists' Gateway Canada and over 3,000 inquiries were handled by NAPRA staff. Since the program began in August 2014 to provide licensing information, self-assessment tools and a centralized document repository for IPGs, over 5,600 candidates have enrolled in Pharmacists Gateway Canada and staff has responded to over 6,000 inquiries. The Gateway is providing an important service and NAPRA is committed to ensuring its effectiveness and value to users. Enhancements to the Gateway are currently underway to offer a more robust system and to improve the user experience. The enhanced system will be implemented in the second quarter of 2017 after thorough testing.

✓ **National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program**

While numerous jurisdictions continue their journeys to transition to a new regulatory framework for pharmacy technicians, NAPRA continues to administer the National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program. The program allows individuals already working as pharmacy technicians in certain jurisdictions to upgrade their skills to align with changes in the scope of practice of pharmacy technicians without returning to school for a full-time training program. NAPRA welcomed Robertson College in Winnipeg, Manitoba as an educational institution offering the program. The institution joins the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology and the Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick in offering in-class courses. On-line courses are available through Selkirk College. In 2016, over 1,600 students enrolled in the National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program or challenged the Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR) Exams.

✓ **National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee**

Au Revoir to NDSAC Chair

NAPRA Board of Directors and members of the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) extend their thanks and appreciation to outgoing committee Chair, Dr. Carlo Marra. Dr. Marra joined NDSAC in 2010 and chaired this committee from 2014 to 2016. We wish Dr. Marra much success as he and his family move to New Zealand where he has accepted the position of Dean of the University of Otago's School of Pharmacy. NAPRA welcomes Dr. Thomas Bailey as the new Chair for NDSAC. Dr. Bailey has been a member of NDSAC for four years.

Naloxone Hydrochloride Injection and Nasal Spray

Naloxone, when indicated for emergency use for opioid overdose outside hospital settings, was removed from the federal Prescription Drug List in January 2016. NDSAC received submissions requesting placement on the National Drug Schedule for both naloxone injection and naloxone nasal spray. Both drugs were granted Schedule II status – the injection in June 2016 and the nasal spray in December 2016. For both drugs, the public consultation periods were shortened to 10 days, in response to federal/provincial/territorial government actions to increase access to naloxone for public health reasons.

2016 - A year in review

✓ **Engagement with Health Canada on Opioid Use in Canada**

In response to a growing national crisis in the use/misuse of opioids in Canada, Health Canada held an Opioid Conference and Summit on November 18-19, 2016. NAPRA attended the Conference on November 18 that gathered a large group of experts from across the country. As a part of the Conference, Bev Zwicker, Registrar of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists, participated on a panel on Reducing Rates of Addiction and shared numerous ways that pharmacy professionals, including regulators, can help address the crisis.



Bev Zwicker , Registrar, Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

NAPRA also attended the Opioid Summit on November 19 as one of 42 organizations who have committed to specific actions to address the opioid crisis. NAPRA President Anjali Acharya signed the Joint Statement of Action to Address the Opioid Crisis on behalf of NAPRA. NAPRA has committed to:



Anjali Acharya, NAPRA President

- By November 2017: Developing and implementing a pharmacist-patient communication tool that will provide guidance to pharmacists on how to have difficult conversation with patients regarding opioid use.
- By November 2018: Contributing to national monitoring and surveillance through compiling the extent by which provinces are able to gather data from multiple sources on the doses of opioids, for example, in “morphine equivalents” or another common measure, to possibly correlate national Prescription Monitoring Program data with new national guidelines on watchful doses that are prescribed to patients across all provinces and territories and Canadian Forces Pharmacy Services.

“Enhancing patient care and public protection is a primary mandate of NAPRA and its members. It is important that we continue to show leadership on issues like the opioid crisis as we have a critical role to play,” Anjali concludes.

✓ **Initiatives with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy**



.pharmacy Continues to Move Forward

NAPRA continues to be an active participant of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) new .pharmacy program which will help consumers around the globe be sure that the medications they buy online are safe. NAPRA and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) have entered into an agreement for services where NAPRA will assist NABP in the review of Canadian applicants for the .pharmacy top level domain name.

Stay tuned for public service announcements regarding the .pharmacy program in 2017 and find out more at www.safe.pharmacy.

Ron Guse Honoured by NABP

NAPRA President Anjali Acharya and Executive Director Carole Bouchard attended the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in 2016. During the meeting, Ronald Guse, former Registrar for the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba and former NAPRA Board and CPRC member, received the 2016 Honorary President Award. Ron was selected to acknowledge his ongoing commitment to the boards of pharmacy, to protecting public health and to the NABP'S initiatives. NAPRA congratulates Ron for this well-deserved award.

2016 - A year in review

✓ **Carole Bouchard Steps Down as NAPRA Executive Director**

After eight years as Executive Director of NAPRA, Carole Bouchard stepped down at the end of August 2016. During her final Board meeting, the Board of Directors acknowledged Carole's contributions and celebrated her accomplishments. Among Carole's many contributions during her tenure included the introduction of important services like the National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program and Pharmacists Gateway Canada for International Pharmacists. NAPRA is bigger and stronger for having known Carole's years of dedicated service.



CAROLE'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone at NAPRA (Directors, Registrars and staff) as well as all of the organization's stakeholders for all of the support, collaboration and friendship offered over the past eight years. I have greatly appreciated each and every one of you as well as all of our interactions, whether big or small.

It is certainly with mixed emotions that I am saying goodbye. I will truly miss you all. To everyone at NAPRA, I wish you my very best.

Carole Bouchard

✓ **Mentoring the Next Generation of Pharmacists**

Will Lickley, a student in the PharmD program at the University of Waterloo, completed a four-month co-operative placement at NAPRA during the summer of 2016. With an interest in the drug industry, Will was drawn to a placement at NAPRA to grow his understanding of pharmacy regulation. While at NAPRA, Will reviewed and updated our resources for the Pharmacy Practice Skills and Knowledge self-assessment and completed a gap analysis of NAPRA's 2014 Entry to Practice Competencies. Student placements are a valuable means of moving specific projects forward while encouraging young people early in their journeys in our rewarding profession.

✓ **New Executive Director for NAPRA**

The NAPRA Board of Directors welcomed Adele Fifield as Executive Director for NAPRA in early September to replace outgoing Executive Director, Carole Bouchard. Adele is a veteran senior executive and leader and was previously the Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR). She has over 25 years of experience working in the national charitable and nonprofit sector. Five months into her role, Adele says "I'm honoured to be a part of the pharmacy regulatory community and to play a role in fulfilling such an important function in patient care and public protection. I'm also thrilled to be working with so many individuals who are passionate about what they do and strive for excellence each day."



Adele Fifield, New NAPRA Executive Director



FAREWELL—AU REVOIR!

RETIREMENTS

Marshall Moleschi



NAPRA also said farewell to long-time NAPRA Board member Marshall Moleschi who retired on September 15, 2016. Marshall was Registrar of the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia from 1995 to 2011 before becoming Registrar for the Ontario College of Pharmacists where he was serving at the time of his retirement. During his 11 years on the Board, he was very active on many committees and Board initiatives. Marshall retired to British Columbia to be closer to family and to enjoy the great outdoors. NAPRA wishes him well in his retirement.