

The

The official newsletter of the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia

PHARMACIST

February 2011

President's Message

by Rose Dipchand, President, PANS

Happy New Year! With a new year comes a lot of changes. The Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists released the new Standards of Practice: Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists. With this brings a lot of opportunity and a lot of questions. [more...](#)

From the Desk of the Executive Director

by Allison Bodnar, Executive Director, PANS

It's a new year and there are a lot of new things on the horizon for pharmacy in Nova Scotia. There is no doubt, it is going to be a busy year for us at the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia. We are ready to rise to the challenge. [more...](#)

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Have an interesting story idea or know of a pharmacist we should profile, we want to hear about it. Email amy@pans.ns.ca or call 422-9583, ext 4.

Partners

The Best Way to Save for Retirement

by Jonathan Neale CFP, CJM Solutions+

Is there a "best" way to invest in an RRSP? Is there an "easy" way to save for retirement? Investment expert Jonathan Neale examines these questions. [more...](#)

Work/Life Balance

Substance Addiction: In the Workplace and Beyond

by: Nadine Wentzell, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Consultant

In Nadine's first instalment of her new series on addiction she examines what exactly is addiction. [more...](#)

Work/Life Balance

De-stressing through Changing Times

by Nadine Wentzell, Workplace Performance Consultant

In Nadine's fourth instalment of her series on Work/Life Balance, she focuses on change and transition and how to deal with it. [more...](#)

Also in this issue:

(click on link to view each piece)

[Collaborative Care of Older Patients](#)

[Dal CPE: Supporting Pharmacy Practice Change](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[First Aid and CPR Training](#)

[International Pharmacy Graduates \(IPG\) Multi-stakeholder Work Group](#)

[Introducing the Craig Ennett Award](#)

[Links of Interest](#)

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[Mortgage Rule Changes, how do they impact me?](#)

[NSCP : New Standards of Practice](#)

[Quality Assurance Standards Training](#)

Partners

The International Pharmacy Graduates (IPG) Multi-stakeholder Work Group: A collaborative approach to welcoming and integrating new colleagues into the Pharmacy Profession

by: Jan Sheppard Kutcher

Every few months a group gathers in either the PANS or College of Pharmacists' boardroom for a very specific purpose. It's a dynamic group – committed, lively, action-oriented and visionary. It is the IPG Multi-stakeholder Work Group.

Too often it is assumed that regulatory authorities alone are responsible for all the challenges related to the assessment, recognition and integration of internationally educated professionals. In fact, there is a variety of stakeholders, each holding part of the puzzle. When the IPG Work Group meets, all the key players are at the table. This means, not only the College of Pharmacists, but also PANS, Dalhousie University – particularly Continuing Pharmacy Education - Community and Hospital pharmacists, Immigration Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS is the main immigrant serving agency in the province), government including the NS Office of Immigration and Department of Labour & Workforce Development, and last, but far from least, an IPG representative.

With all stakeholders at the table, the stage is set for serious discussion and the development of realistic and workable solutions.

First started in 2005, the IPG Work Group has had some very concrete outcomes.

These include among others:

- PANS offers a special IPG membership enabling IPGs to access liability insurance and also signalling a welcome from the profession
- An IPG Communication Skills Lab has been developed and is delivered regularly as a collaborative effort of Canadian licensed pharmacists and ISIS
- Changes to the pathway to licensure include removing the requirement of a hospital rotation in the internship (hence addressing the thorny barrier related of hospital capacity)
- IPGs may now do their internship prior to challenging the OSCE – a significant change which allows them to use the internship to learn about Canadian pharmacy practice

Barriers and gaps are identified, the pathway to licensure is reviewed and updated, information is shared, partnership opportunities are explored & implemented, and systemic changes are made which ensure that the process to licensure is fair, equitable and transparent, while upholding Canadian standards. IPGs bring substantial knowledge, skills and experience to Canada, and they are Nova Scotians by choice. The IPG Multi-stakeholder Work Group plays a significant role in ensuring that IPGs become contributing members of the Pharmacy profession and the communities which they now call home.

Jan Sheppard Kutcher is the manager of Employment Services and Work Force Integration for ISIS (Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services) and serves on the IPG Multi-stakeholder Work Group.

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