

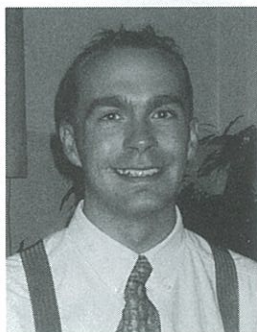
CAPSIL • JACEIP

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY STUDENTS AND INTERNS

Volume 1

December 2001

President's Message



Now that the dog days of summer have come and gone, all attention seems to be focused on the school year that is now upon us. I struggled, some may even say procrastinated, with what to write for the first edition of our CAPSIL. Perhaps this was because after seven years of university, I think I've memorized every opening liner in a welcome back letter possible! Perhaps too, my hesitation has been because this is a bitter- sweet time for me.

Why bitter- sweet you ask? Bitter may be a little harsh. I hesitate to write these clichéd words, yet now they seem most fitting – where has the time gone? It seems like just a daydream ago that I was driving into Halifax for the first time, bright-eyed & eager for my first day at Dalhousie College of Pharmacy.

Two words. No idea. I had no idea what was in store for me. how could I have known? How could any of us have known what lied ahead? And now, convocation is just months away. What about the sweet, of the bitter sweet I mentioned earlier? That has been all that has unraveled between my first day of pharmacy and now.

It wasn't until this past Tuesday September 11, 2001 that I knew for certain what message I wanted to share with each of you. The day started out as usual. Besides having slept in late, my biggest concern was remembering to call home and wish my parents a happy 25th anniversary. I went to class and during break a friend yelled for me to come to the lounge and check out the television.

By now I think you all know what I am talking about. As a crowd of faculty and students slowly gathered around the television in our small lounge, we all watched in disbelief as the 2nd tower of the World Trade Buildings collapsed. It was at that instant that everything became clear to me. You see, just a week earlier a friend and I had taken a helicopter tour over the World Trade Buildings. Moments of clarity and perspective such as these happen infrequently in our lives, I believe, but when they do we must listen.

What does this have to do with you, let alone pharmacy you ask? In that moment of clarity all I could think of was, that could have been us – a week earlier and that would have been us. This is the only advice I have for you. Take it, leave it, it is well intended: Make the most of every second of your time in pharmacy. You never know what tomorrow brings.

If I can leave you with one message it would be that. I have no presidential pearls of wisdom to share with you. I guess Mike and Roland cleaned up on those, proper thing. This much I know is true though: I am an average 'Joe' student pharmacist who became involved with CAPSIL in my second year. I was elected President-Elect in a bi-election with no prior CAPSIL council experience. My speech started off with, "I hail from Saint John, N.B.", and there's been no looking back since!!

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There are so many opportunities awaiting for you as student pharmacists, whether you are a first year rookie or a fourth year rearing to change the world. CAPSI is the gate to these opportunities. By virtue of the fact that you are reading this article, you've proven that you have some interest in our profession.

Just as I had no idea what lied ahead for me as I drove into the grand metropolis of Halifax four years ago, and just as the world went about its business unsuspectingly before the World Trade Buildings disaster, each of you has no idea what tomorrow will bring. Use CAPSI to make the most of your time in pharmacy. Find out what CAPSI can do for you. Get ACTIVELY involved. Share your thoughts and concerns. I guarantee you the return on your investment will pay off one hundred fold. Thanks to CAPSI I have met friends from across Canada - PDW attendees, Centennial Scholars, Rx&D students, the list is endless.

All these experiences have proven to me that the "real thing" is still out there. It's not easy to find, but when you've found it I promise you it will have been worth the journey. Where has the time gone? I'm not sure but I know I have no regrets. I hope you will each be able to say the same in your final year, and that CAPSI will in some small way be the reason.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Thank you!

The organizers of PAW
2001 wish to thank
Whitehall-Robins Inc. and
Clifford K. Goodman Inc.

(Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal),
our Presidents' Club sponsors, for
their generous support.

