

Volume 3

March 2002

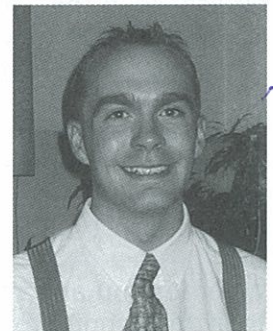
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Aussie, Aussie, Aussie aye, aye, aye!

G'day mates,

By the time you read this article I should be back in Canada. I'm on my second last day of my fourth year hospital placement at the Royal Hobart Hospital, in Australia. This is a tremendous nation that I couldn't begin to describe in words



Although I have been "Down Under" for the last 7 weeks, CAPSI has been steaming full speed ahead. With CPhA now only weeks away, there is no time to spare. Even as I write this article, I find it hard to believe this is the last edition of the 2001-2002 CAPSIL.

Bi-elections have once again been a tremendous success, and our 2002-2003 National Executive Council is preparing to receive their portfolios from outgoing Executive this May, during CPhA Winnipeg. Canadian pharmacy students can rest easy knowing that next year's Executive, lead by Trevor Kidney of Dalhousie University, is at the helm. They have enthusiasm, and motivation to make great things happen next year. One of Council's great strengths is

that with each turnover, we get a breath of fresh air and new perspective. I'm excited to see where they will take CAPSI in the coming year!!

In each of the last CAPSIL issues I've tried to deliver a message through my own pharmacy experiences. This edition is no different, except that this time I am as far away from home as I could be. I have so many flashbulb moments from Oz that I would love to share with you - climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge overlooking Port Jackson and the Sydney Opera House at sunset, being treated with integrity and respect even in the most remote surfer town, as soon as people recognized the Canadian flag sewn on my CAPSI back pack....the list goes on.

The memory, and indirectly the message, I choose to leave you with in my last President's message is this:

Yesterday afternoon I was at the bedside of a terminally ill patient reviewing his medications. In my 'best Canadian accent' I asked him, "How are you doing today?" He trembled a little, as his daughter sat at his bedside and replied, "Not so good, the docs just gave me the bad news" (Ouch! What do you say to that?). I replied to him empathetically, and then we talked for a while.

Before I left, he seemed in better spirits. As I walked out the door I asked him, "Is there anything I can do for you before I go"? He said, "As a matter of fact mate there is". He and his daughter went on to describe a foot cream (brand name unknown to this CDN pharmacy student) that he used to rub on his feet at night before bed. "It's the only thing that stops the burning, and I can't sleep without it", he claimed.

Over the next hour I searched all over the hospital for this cream to no avail. I contacted his community pharmacies, and no luck. Finally I found the product doing a literature search, and I was able to get him a similar product. The look on his face when I walked back into his room and said, "Give this a go, bloke" was worth more than the exhilaration I felt from the summit of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Walking back from the ward I thought, that's what it's all about. Today, when I went back to visit, the man was gone.

That man reminded me of what pharmacy is supposed to be about. I got into pharmacy to make a difference in the lives of other people. My patient was dying. There wasn't a lot I could do for him. He knew it, and I knew it. Yet, I know I made a difference in his life because I cared enough to go the extra mile. Hopefully, he had a good nights rest.

My message? A different health care system, a different part of the world, a funny Canadian accent, yet at the end of the day it was just the pharmacist (to be) and his patient. That man trusted me, and so did his family. I did my best to help him, and I was able to walk home that day thinking, "Today was a good day. I made a difference".

Whether you are a first year pharmacy student, or one of my classmates ready to graduate, I hope that throughout your pharmacy careers you will work hard to make a difference in the lives of your patients. In this way, I am sure the profession of pharmacy will remain strong and focused on what is important, the patient.

I have enjoyed being President this past year. It has changed my life, and I thank you for the opportunity. This is your Pres saying, "Cheers", and signing off one last time.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Duplisea BSc
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