

The President's Message: The Science of Drug Discovery and Development

As the end of the year approaches, planning activities for the 6th Annual Symposium of the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS) are at a feverish pitch as the program committee is trying to finalize all aspects of the meeting. Mark your calendar and start planning your attendance! The symposium will start late Wednesday afternoon, May 28th and will run to midday Saturday, May 31st, 2003. It will take place in Montreal, Quebec at the Downtown Delta Hotel. The theme of the symposium is "The Science of Drug Discovery and Development".

The Symposium will be held a couple of weeks earlier in 2003 than in previous years. This is to allow CSPS to have its meeting back to back with the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (AFPC) which will be held in the same hotel. Furthermore, in 2003 the AFPC meeting is held jointly with the Canadian College of Clinical Pharmacy (CCCP). This adds significant complexity to the logistics of these meetings but the rewards for members of the respective societies should be handsome. We will have a very exciting program, which will offer a broad spectrum of scientific lectures, posters, debates, teachers' conferences, just to name a few. Details of the CSPS conference are posted at www.ualberta.ca/~csps. You will find not only the program, but also details on how to become a CSPS member, register for the conference, become an exhibitor, nominate an outstanding scientist for recognition and many other useful pieces of information.

In 2003 CSPS is also considering offering a one-day workshop on entrepreneurship during the day on Wednesday, May 28th, just prior to the official opening of the Symposium. The workshop is still in the planning stages and our target is to finalize topics and confirm speakers by the end of January. We would like to offer in-depth information to participants on a variety of subjects including writing a business plan, getting financial backing, protecting intellectual property rights and becoming an entrepreneur in the academic environment. This is a new undertaking for CSPS and the organizing committee hopes for a good response from our membership and from enterprising scientists across the Country.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and successful 2003 and hope to see you next May in Montreal.

*Elizabeth B. Vadas, Ph.D., President, CSPS,
Chair of the Scientific Program Committee*