

Message From The Dean



The last 12 months have been exceptional for both the profession of pharmacy in Canada and for the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. The recently passed regulations expanding the scope of pharmacy practice have had a significant impact on how we educate tomorrow's pharmacist. Our innovative new curriculum has entered its second year and features courses and modules that are specifically designed to develop and practice the skills required to deliver this new standard of care. Additionally, we have significantly expanded opportunities for experiential learning in practice settings, accelerating the ability of our students to make meaningful contributions to the health care system and enabling many of you to participate as mentors.

This coming June, the Faculty will graduate the first class of students from the Combined Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy-Doctor of Pharmacy program. Established in 2011, the combined program builds on the skills and knowledge acquired in the first three years of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program, augmenting students' practical experience in specialized settings and further developing their problem solving, clinical and research skills to ultimately produce advanced pharmacy practitioners.

Research at the Faculty continues to be broad and multidisciplinary, encompassing all aspects of drug therapy. We now have more than 80 researchers and practitioners who work on the leading edge of pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical science research. Over the course of the past year, a number of our researchers received national and international recognition including:

Dr. Carolyn Cummins was named the recipient of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award, the Connaught New Researcher Award and the Bickell Foundation Medical Research

Award for her outstanding research in the fields of anti-inflammatory drugs and diabetes.

Awarded to an individual 40 years of age or less who has made notable contributions to research in Canada, Dr. Shana Kelley was recognized with the Steacie Prize for her development of nanomaterial-based detection systems that can track minuscule quantities of biomolecular analytes. The detection systems developed by Dr. Kelley are powerful new tools for cancer and infectious disease identification, and represent a major advance over the current time consuming and painful methods.

Dr. Murray Krahn is the recipient of a five-year Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) New Initiatives Fund grant. Through this significant grant, Dr. Krahn will establish the Centre for Evaluation of Technology Innovation (CETI) which will draw together resources from across the University to become the leading international methods and policy centre for Early Health Technology Assessment.

Dr. Micheline Piquette was named the recipient of the AFPC-Pfizer Career Research Award. Designed to recognize research excellence and stimulate the development of research programs in all areas of pharmacy, this award acknowledges Dr. Piquette's work in developing novel therapeutics and strategies for the treatment of ovarian and breast cancer.

As a result of all of these achievements in education and research, the Faculty received an international ranking of 11th best Pharmacy school in the world, and top-ranked Pharmacy school in Canada from the 2012 QS World University Ranking. This ranking reflects our academic reputation, student-faculty ratio, research influence and alumni support. We will continue to build on this ranking by enhancing our already cutting-edge educational programs; advancing research that addresses issues relevant to modern drug therapy, discovery and delivery; examine the role of pharmacists in the health care system, and build on our commitment to life-long learning that improves professional competency. Until next time,

Henry J. Mann, Pharm.D., FCCP, FCCM, FASHP