SCPP’s 109th AGM

The 109th Annual General meeting of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals was held virtually for the first time on September 23, 2020. A video of the meeting is posted on the SCPP website.

The meeting provided members with an opportunity to ask questions about the annual report, audited financial statements and bring forward any items of ‘new business.’

Past-President Marilyn Younghans gave a word of thanks as she chaired her final meeting.

“A little over a year ago, I spoke to you in my initial speech about professionalism and I just want to say thank you to all of you for all the hard work you do every day,” said Marilyn. “I think nothing has forced us to show how professional we are like this COVID pandemic has, and I am so proud to be able to be colleagues with all of you. The way you’ve been available to patients through all of this while lots of places were closing their doors … always accessible, always providing good service to the public of Saskatchewan and essentially pushing forward the mandate of our college, which is safety....”

The meeting also included: a welcome to the new Council as of July 1; a recognition of SCPP award recipients; a report by SCPP Registrar Jeana Wendel; and an address by President Stephanie Scott, who was installed as Council President for the 2020-2021 year.

See all the award recipients recognized at the meeting on page 5.

SCPP would like to thank all who attended.
Council met for their regularly scheduled September meeting the afternoon of Sept. 23 and again on Sept. 24, 2020.

Council welcomed its newest members, Shauna Nowakowski (Division 4), who is the first elected pharmacy technician in the College’s history, and university student representative and Senior Stick Kelly Hu. The meeting was held using the virtual WebEx format.

Council began the meeting with an environmental scan of the issues which had been brought to the attention of Council members since the last scheduled meeting. This scan allows Council to identify major issues arising from the internal and external environment, and determines what implications they may have to the strategic plan and goals of the Council. Some issues are common across the province and some were unique to specific areas including:

- The upcoming flu immunization season and the challenges presented by managing patients and adhering to the directives of Public Health due to COVID-19 are on the top of most pharmacists’ minds. Council members noted that the recent MicroSCOPe contained valuable information, including information regarding extended pharmacy interns (2020 U of S pharmacy graduates) providing flu immunizations.

- Council also reported that there are anecdotal reports that pharmacists may not be following Public Health directives as they pertain to social distancing and masks.

- Councillors reported that there are some concerns about the increased time needed to perform a consultation to provide a patient with an exempted codeine product, due to the new requirements and training.

- Council continues to hear that members have questions about the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Compounding Standards and requirements.

The Registrar provided a report to Council which included the following highlights:

- Updates were provided on the key objectives of the strategic plan. It was noted that there have been some manageable delays on the strategic plan due to shifting priorities during the beginning of the COVID pandemic in order to provide timely information to pharmacists. SCPP staff continues to monitor, create, and update documents on the COVID section of the website.

Continued on next page
The goals of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan are:

- To have functioning competency assurance and quality improvement programs.
- To align pharmacy regulations with modern pharmacy practice.
- To empower pharmacy professionals to practice autonomously to deliver safe patient care.
- To have enhanced transparency to stakeholders, supported by contemporary governance and management.

The Registrar provided progress on each of the key initiatives, the success criteria measurements, and an update on the status/progress. The Registrar also highlighted key initiatives not on the Strategic Plan including:

- Ensuring pharmacists are appropriately selling and assessing patients for exempted codeine products;
- Having updated Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Standards and ensuring all members receive training;
- Providing training and education to pharmacy professionals on harm reduction to support Saskatchewan patients;
- Updating bylaws, policies and assessment processes for International Pharmacy Graduates to ensure competence and readiness to practice;
- Ensuring a criminal record check is in place for all registrants as a condition of licensure;
- Updating the jurisprudence exam;
- Ensuring compliance of all registrants and licensed pharmacies with the NAPRA Compounding Standards to ensure safety of the public, integrity of the product, and safety of the staff; and
- Ensuring SCPP’s operational objectives are completed as recommended by Council.

The Registrar provided Council with an environmental scan which Council reviews and determines what, if any, items require further information or addition to the Council agenda or risk matrix.

Continued on next page
The scan provided to Council included information on:

- SCPP’s recent MicroSCOPe newsletters regarding the publicly funded flu immunization program and harm reduction initiatives;
- Available information on asymptomatic COVID testing;
- PEBC examination updates;
- The recent Health Canada announcement of the extension of the section 56 exemption for pharmacists under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) as well as statistics from the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) as to pharmacists prescribing CDSA medications;
- Concern over serious deficiencies reported by Health Canada’s Office of Controlled Substances from inspections of Saskatchewan pharmacies;
- The inappropriate use of the protected title “dispensary” by businesses other than pharmacies and the corresponding cease and desist correspondence sent to those businesses;
- MySaskHealth Records will soon contain information from the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP). The record already contains test results, including COVID test results.
- Updates to the SCPP website including a latest news section, and the complaints/discipline sections of the website to increase information available to the public about our processes and decisions, as well as updated information on training requirements for pharmacy professionals.

Members of the public and other professionals are now also able to subscribe to our newsletters.

- Another successful NIRO Board Governance training and education event was held on September 10th.

As part of Council’s regular business, Council reviewed progress on the Professional Autonomy Framework and pharmacy manager bylaws, policies, and training, committee updates, bylaw amendment progress and quality improvement (COMPASS) initiatives.

Council also discussed Regulatory Reform reports from Alberta and British Columbia and their potential impact in Saskatchewan. SCPP has been proactively introducing measures that address many of the concerns expressed in reports from B.C. and AB.

Council was able to review and approve sixteen minor aliment updates completed by the dedicated team at medSask.
# SCPP Awards

The awards below were recognized at SCPP's 109th Annual General Meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
<th>For...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gerla</td>
<td>Emerald Achievement Award</td>
<td>In recognition of dedicated and active participation in the profession of pharmacy for 35 years or more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis Loucks</td>
<td>Member Emeritus</td>
<td>Mr. Curtis J. Loucks has met the requirements of this College and is hereby designated Member Emeritus Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals or &quot;MESCPP.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Markowski</td>
<td>Member Emeritus</td>
<td>Mrs. Janet E. Markowski has met the requirements of this College and is hereby designated Member Emeritus Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals or &quot;MESCPP.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Wells</td>
<td>Safety Excellence Award</td>
<td>For outstanding safety excellence by providing strong leadership and mentorship in safe practices, particularly for pharmacy technicians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Kosar</td>
<td>Certificate of Recognition</td>
<td>For his service as he retires as Past-President of Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palima Shrestha</td>
<td>Certificate of Recognition</td>
<td>For her service as she retires as Senior Stick and College of Pharmacy representative on Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara deHaan</td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Complaints Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy</td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>For outstanding service to the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan. This award is to recognize the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy's 75th anniversary serving the profession of pharmacy in Canada.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmasave #424</td>
<td>Centennial Pharmacy Award</td>
<td>Presented to Pharmasave #424 (formerly Fysh's Drugs) in recognition of providing over 100 years of pharmacy services to the community of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Babcock</td>
<td>Certificate of Recognition</td>
<td>For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Professional Practice Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Borschowa</td>
<td>Certificate of Recognition</td>
<td>For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Registration and Licensing Policies Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan Chow</td>
<td>Certificate of Recognition</td>
<td>For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Complaints Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley Cooper</td>
<td>Certificate of Recognition</td>
<td>For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Discipline Committee.</td>
</tr>
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<td>George Furneaux</td>
<td>Certificate of Recognition</td>
<td>For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Complaints Committee.</td>
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Golden Anniversaries awarded this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reginald Ackerman</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Airey</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Baker</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glen Baker</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne Beckett</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allan Chilton</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eleanor Marion Cote</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie Fitch</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald G. F. Gebauer</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard George</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Gorecki</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lillian Hardabura-Dar</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vernon Harder</td>
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<td>Robert Hartnett</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agnes M. Helmink</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Brian D. Henderson</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Robert Hope</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Maryann Hopkins</td>
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<td>Linda Hunter</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Sandi Hutty</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight Johnson</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agnes Jung</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garry R. King</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Helena Kunz</td>
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<td>Ronald Kyle</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Ronald Lane</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazel Lavoy</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maurine Lehne</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Lundeen</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>William (Bill) Martin</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy McBean</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick McNeill</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaye Mekawi</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Allen Miller</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Phyllis R. Miller</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Wayne A. Miller</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adeline Nyczai</td>
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<td>Donald Orth</td>
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<td>Sylvia Oxley</td>
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<td>Velma Persson</td>
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<td>Leo Revet</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Richardson</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Richardson</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Shepanik</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Lois Staudinger</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Dennis Szafron</td>
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<td>Marilyn Tomney</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Elroy Ulmer</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<td>Kenneth Veroba</td>
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<td>Ron White</td>
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<td>Ron Wilkie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorne Wilson</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>William R. Yakiwchuk</td>
<td>Golden Anniversary</td>
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</table>

Bill Gerla Certificate of Recognition
For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service to the profession and to the public as SCPP Past President.

Dean German Certificate of Recognition
For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Discipline Committee.

Don Kuntz SCPP Certificate of Recognition
For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Professional Practice Committee.

Janet Markowski Certificate of Recognition
For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as a member of the SCPP Complaints Committee.

Peyman Nemati Certificate of Recognition
For outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. This certificate expresses the College’s appreciation for your service as the Division 5 Representative on SCPP Council and as the appointed Chair of the SCPP Professional Practice Committee.
Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program Updates

The Saskatchewan Influenza Immunization Policy (SIIP) for 2020-2021 has now been published by the drug plan and all documents related to the flu program have been updated.

SCPP recently published an extensive MicroSCOPe Special Flu Edition for pharmacists to prepare for the upcoming flu season. SCPP would also like to take this opportunity to clarify responsibilities concerning injections and the seasonal influenza program. Please see below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Questions</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Organization Responsible for Guidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications to inject</td>
<td>Once the required First Aid and CPR Level C and AMC training from CPDPP is complete, pharmacists and extended interns (in 2020 as declared by the Registrar under the emergency bylaws) can apply to SCPP for their Advanced Method Certificate (AMC). See the SCPP Administration of Drugs by Injection guidelines, the most recent MicroSCOPe, SCPP’s Training and Development web page, as well as the Supervision of Pharmacy Interns reference manual document.</td>
<td>SCPP and CPDPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location for administering the flu vaccine as part of the program</td>
<td>The Saskatchewan Influenza Immunization Program is publicly funded and administered by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB). The MoH has specific requirements regarding populations and off-site locations for community pharmacists injecting the publicly funded influenza vaccine. See the SIPP for more information.</td>
<td>MoH and DPEBB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) training</td>
<td>It has been confirmed by the Ministry of Health that TDG training is encouraged but not required for off-site seasonal influenza immunizations. Used sharps must be transported safely (i.e. in rigid puncture-proof containers labelled with the word “BIO-HAZARD” and a bio-hazard symbol) but are otherwise exempt from TDG packaging, reporting, ERAP, and training requirements. See Administration by Injection FAQ document for more information.</td>
<td>MoH, Transport Canada and SGI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for consent</td>
<td>Pharmacists are required to obtain informed consent before immunization. The key requirements for informed consent for all pharmacists are set out in the SCPP’s Regulatory Bylaws and Reference Manual (e.g. must be informed, specific, given voluntarily and documented). However, additional requirements for those participating in the seasonal flu program will be found in the SIM, the SIIP and the Saskatchewan Drug Plan Influenza Immunization Policy (IIP). Please also see SCPP’s Administration of Drugs by Injection and Other Routes FAQs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacists are permitted to obtain informed verbal consent as per the update from DPEBB. Pharmacists must follow the requirements for obtaining and documenting consent according to the Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Pharmacists in the Administration of Drugs by Injection and Other Routes. All documentation for verbal consent must clearly indicate that the consent was obtained verbally. See more information here.</td>
<td>MoH and SCPP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Continued on next page
| Administering flu vaccine outside of regular hours | Pharmacies planning to expand their opening hours or who are planning to administer immunizations outside of regular hours should follow the standards and guidelines set out in SCPP reference manual documents:  
**Modifying Pharmacy Hours of Operations Procedures**  
**Emergency Preparedness – Modifications to Pharmacy Operations and Hours** | SCPP |
| Pre-drawing doses for vaccines, the seasonal influenza vaccine and the role of pharmacy technicians | Please see the Reference Manual document **Scope of Practice – Pharmacy Technicians**.  
It is recommended that no vaccine be drawn up unless using immediately (sterility and cold chain cannot be assured with pre-drawn syringes).  
For the seasonal influenza program, which is a program of the Ministry of Health, they have provided the following statement regarding pre-drawing doses of influenza vaccine:  
Each dose must be drawn up immediately before administration to a client. Pre-drawing from a multi dose vial into syringes ahead of time is not allowed because of the uncertainty of product stability in syringes, risk of contamination, increased potential for administration errors, and biological product wastage.  
Refer to Chapter 8 (1.3.1) of the **SIM** and SCPP’s **Administration of Drugs by Injection and Other Routes FAQs** document. | SCPP and MoH |
| Charging patients for masks | The **DPEBB Influenza Immunization Program (IPP) Policy and Procedures** states that the remuneration fee the pharmacy is paid is for all activities/expenses related to provision of the service e.g. patient assessment, supplies, administration of the influenza vaccine, monitoring the patient, drugs and supplies used to manage adverse events following immunization and required record-keeping. | DPEBB and PAS |
| Mask Use by the Public – Seasonal Influenza | Currently, under the **Public Health Order**, there are no requirements for patients/customers or clients to wear masks when entering a business. The recommendation is that if you cannot ensure you can maintain social distancing, a mask should be worn. The Public Health Order will evolve throughout the pandemic and, as such, members must ensure they are keeping up to date with changes - members are encouraged to check **SCPP’s COVID-19 page** often.  
Businesses may determine their policies regarding the use of masks by customers entering their stores and whether masks are required during immunizations. Should the Public Health Order change with respect to mandatory mask use, members must follow Public Health Orders.  
Please see **SCPP’s Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette** Reference Manual document for requirements.  
Please see **Mask Use by the Public – Seasonal Influenza** in the following pages for more information. | MoH and SCPP |
The Government of Canada has the following recommendations regarding the seasonal influenza program developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in consultation with the Canadian Immunization Committee and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

Mask Use for Clients/Patients and their Accompanying Caregivers/Persons

Depending on jurisdictional advice (Public Health Orders), clients/patients and their accompanying persons/caregivers should be asked to wear a non-medical mask or face covering. This recommendation may be waived for young children for whom mask use is problematic. In addition, non-medical masks or face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of two years, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unable to remove the mask without assistance.

What if patients refuse to wear masks?

In general, where a patient refuses to wear a mask for whatever reason, if practicable, a pharmacist should first offer another form of service such as pre-screening.

Where an in-person visit is necessary (e.g. during immunizations) the following scenarios apply:

- Where a patient refuses to wear a mask for a reason other than a medical issue (such as personal preference, asserting their rights etc.), the pharmacist has the right to refuse to see the patient except in an emergency.

- In situations where a patient asserts that they have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, the pharmacist may still require the patient to wear a mask unless they provide a note from their doctor stating that in their particular case, wearing a mask is contraindicated.

There are very few medical conditions that justify an exemption from wearing a face mask and members should consult with the latest recommendations from Public Health regarding appropriate circumstances for an exemption. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Children under two years of age;
- A person with a medical condition that is unrelated to COVID-19 including breathing or cognitive difficulties, a disability or previous trauma, which prevent them from safely wearing a mask; and
- A person who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person.

Where wearing a mask presents a hardship for the patient because of a medical condition or disability, this raises difficult issues surrounding the duty to accommodate.

Pharmacists offer services to the public, therefore they are subject to Saskatchewan human rights legislation and would have a duty to reasonably accommodate a disability or medical condition. An example of this would be someone who suffers from panic attacks and cannot wear a mask.

Continued on next page
In circumstances where the pharmacy is aware that a person has a medical condition which makes it a hardship for the patient to wear a mask, and the individual has a condition that requires an in-person visit, it would be difficult for a pharmacist to refuse to see that person.

In those circumstances it is therefore recommended that the pharmacist makes reasonable attempts to accommodate the patient while minimizing any risk to themselves, staff, other patients, etc.

Accommodations may include measures such as having the patient wait in their car to minimize time in the pharmacy, having them wear a mask only while going through common areas, possibly asking them to wear a shield instead of a mask (if one can be provided), asking them to attend at the end or beginning of the day, etc.

Members are reminded that community pharmacies must have policies in place around routine infection control and further information about SCPP standards and guidelines can be found in SCPP’s Infection Control Guidelines and Hand Hygiene Reference Manual Documents.

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**S A F E T Y**

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**Be a Part of Canadian Patient Safety Week**


The theme of Canadian Patient Safety Week 2020 is **Virtual Care is New to Us**. As reported on the Canadian Patient Safety Network website, only 10 per cent of Canadians have experience with virtual care, but 41 per cent would like to have virtual visits with their health care providers.

The way to ensure health care providers and patients make the most of virtual appointments is to use tried and true basics – encourage patients to ask questions and to bring an advocate with them to appointments.

Saskatchewan community pharmacies are encouraged to participate in Canadian Patient Safety Week to learn more about how virtual care can be utilized to improve patient safety.

By registering for Canadian Patient Safety Week, the pharmacy has access to a free communications toolkit, promotional products and the ability to download free digital resources. There are also other activities during the week including webinars and podcasts.

For more information and to register please follow this [link](#).
Notes from the Field

Handling Misdirected Faxes

SCPP has been asked what members should do when a fax from a practitioners’ office is sent to the incorrect pharmacy or to multiple pharmacies.

When a pharmacy receives a fax from a practitioners’ office where the fax identifies that it was intended for another pharmacy, the member should advise the practitioner’s office that the fax has been sent to the incorrect pharmacy and request that the practitioner’s office sends it to the appropriate pharmacy. This constitutes a privacy breach and the practitioner’s office needs to be alerted. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan has information regarding misdirected fax transmission.

It is not appropriate to fax the prescription to the intended pharmacy from the member’s pharmacy as per the Electronic Transmission and Storage of Prescriptions Policy.

It is also not appropriate to enter the prescription information into the pharmacy software system to transfer to the intended pharmacy as the patient has not provided consent to collect, use or disclose their personal health information. For more information please refer to the information regarding consent in the Health Information Protection Act.

For more information on handling misdirected faxes you can review the this report from the Saskatchewan Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner (OPIC).

Pharmacist Presence in the Dispensary

The College has been made aware of a number of instances where pharmacy technicians and/or pharmacy assistants are working within the dispensary outside of operational hours without the presence of a pharmacist and are opening the pharmacy to the public without the presence of the pharmacist.

SCPP would like to remind members that this practice goes against provincial and federal legislation – as per federal legislation, only a pharmacist is authorized to be in possession of controlled substances. Without the presence of the pharmacist in the pharmacy, pharmacy technicians and/or pharmacy assistants are unlawfully in possession of controlled substances within the dispensary.

SCPP requirements as outlined in Part J, of the Regulatory Bylaws it states the following:

**Operation of a Pharmacy by a Licensed Pharmacy Technician**

5(1) A pharmacy may operate under the personal attendance and supervision of a licensed pharmacy technicians, where the licensed pharmacist is temporarily absent in order to provide professional services at another location. Temporarily absent means being away for reasonable periods of time of the day during which the pharmacy is open to the public.

The interpretation of the Bylaws does not allow for a licensed pharmacy technician to work within the dispensary outside operational hours or to open the pharmacy prior to the arrival of the pharmacist on duty for the day.

**Section 56 exemption – Transfer to Other Provinces**

Members have asked if a prescription for a CDSA medication may be transferred to another province under the section 56 exemption. The exemption states:

Transfer of prescription means the sending a prescription by a pharmacist to another pharmacy within the same province or territory, for the purpose of having that prescription filled at that pharmacy. Please see the Amendments to Prescription Regulations During COVID-19 document here.

**Long Term Care (LTC) and Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)**

LTC is not exempt from OAT prescribing requirements or the requirements of the Prescription Review Program (PRP). The LTC standards state that “federal and provincial legislation, including the PRP, shall be met when a prescription is issued, including the requirement that all prescriptions must be obtained from an authorized prescriber”.

Methadone prescribed for opioid use disorder (OUD) may not require a total authorized quantity due to specific start and stop dates provided on prescriptions, OAT dose and total daily mg, as the intended total authorized quantity can be accurately determined by the pharmacist.
Updates
Reference Manual, Policies, Drug Schedules and Others

Reference Manual Updates

Pharmacists are responsible for lawful procurement and dispensing, secure storage, proper handling, destruction, and record keeping of controlled substances. Health Canada audits of pharmacies have revealed the following issues:

- Improper destruction and disposal of CDSA drugs
- No reconciliation and critical infractions as to inventory control
- No loss/theft reports reported to Health Canada and/or SCPP as per federal legislation
- Lack of security of CDSA drugs (e.g. not kept secured against loss, other staff having access)

Due to the issues revealed in audits, SCPP has prioritized updating the following CDSA Reference Manual documents:

- Prescription Regulations Summary Chart – Amendments During COVID-1.9 based on the Section 56(1) Exemption - New. For more on Prescriptive Authority, please see page 14.
- Destruction of Controlled Substances
- Forgeries – under review
- Record Keeping Requirements for CDSA drugs – under review
- Reconciliation – under review

Additional guidance from Health Canada can be found in the following documents:

- Handling and Destruction of Post-consumer Returns
- Reporting Loss or Theft

Patient Identification Policy

Due to concerns raised by the public, medication incident reports, and increases in prescription forgeries and drug diversion, a new patient identification policy was communicated in June 2020 to ensure pharmacies are confirming the identity of patients and providing the correct medications to the correct individuals.

SCPP has updated the Patient ID Verification Policy with a new section that provides guidance when delivering controlled substances.

The underlying principles in this section are not new, and guides pharmacy team members how the policy can be applied when delivering medications that is consistent with their federal obligations when dispensing controlled substances.

Fixed-Dose Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) has approved the interim recommendations of the National Drug Scheduling Committee (NDSAC) that:

Acetaminophen and ibuprofen in oral, fixed-dose combinations, in package sizes containing 20,000 mg or less of acetaminophen and 6,000 mg or less of ibuprofen, be granted Schedule III status and,

Acetaminophen and ibuprofen in oral, fixed-dose combinations, in package sizes containing either more than 20,000 mg of acetaminophen or more than 6,000 mg of ibuprofen, be granted Schedule II status.

The National Drug Schedules will be revised accordingly.

Continued on next page
MySaskHealthRecord Updates

Users of MySaskHealthRecord will be able to see their prescription history this fall.

EHealth Saskatchewan has confirmed that data will include 25 months of history and will be available in users’ accounts by October 31. Prescription history contains medications from the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) as recorded in community pharmacies across the province.

Note that medications received at some health care facilities like doctors’ offices, hospitals and cancer clinics may not display on patients’ records.

Other updates to MySaskHealthRecord this year include the below:

The mailing of PIN letters have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and so people registering are asked to phone the support line (1-844-767-8259) to request their PINS.

Immunization history from the Saskatchewan immunization registry (Panorama) was added in the spring of 2020.

A feature called “Share My Record” allows users to share all or parts of their record with other users and has modifiable options to give read/write permissions.

Users can sign up for an interim proxy access during COVID-19 which allows parents and guardians to get access to their children’s health information online, such as COVID-10 results.

COVID-19 Updates

SCPP’s COVID-19 web page continues to be updated as information becomes available. Here are some recent updates:

Pharmacist-Administered Injections During COVID-19

MedSask has provided guidance on pharmacists administering injections during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please click here for detailed information. There are also some helpful demonstration videos.

PIP Prescribing for COVID-19 Positive Patients

The Saskatchewan Health Authority, in collaboration with eHealth, the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch and the Ministry of Health, is recommending the addition of COVID-19-specific information when prescribing electronically using the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP). Please see this memo for more information.

This will allow the community pharmacy to coordinate with the patient to ensure safe dispensing of medications while limiting the risk of community exposure.

Document Updates:

Practice Changes for Community Pharmacy During COVID-19 Pandemic
Prescriptive Authority and Current Exemptions

Prescriptive authority for pharmacists has been in place for over 10 years. To ensure pharmacist-prescribing practices are in line with the spirit and intent of bylaws, SCPP has created a new document called Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority, a companion document called Prescriptive Authority Decision Making Framework and updated FAQs.

These documents provide details of prescriptive authority under normal circumstances. However, in extraordinary circumstances, the Registrar may waive or temporarily suspend specific requirements of prescriptive authority. In these situations, SCPP will notify pharmacists (website news, memos, etc.).

Current Saskatchewan Exemptions:

The SCPP is continuing the Part K Section 10(5) to September 30, 2021 to coincide with the Health Canada exemption as part of our joint response to the challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See the Emergency Exemptions for Prescribing Authority Policy and Practice Changes for Community Pharmacy During COVID-19 Pandemic.

Current Health Canada Exemptions:

Health Canada has enabled an expanded authority for pharmacist prescribing under the current section 56 exemption.

The Health Canada exemption and SCPP bylaws to deal with extraordinary circumstances provide one more tool that helps address risks to patients posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic and other extraordinary circumstances.

SCPP is confident that the exemptions to prescriptive authority can support patients when done so under careful oversight and monitoring. The current Health Canada section 56 exemption has been extended from September 30, 2020 to September 30, 2021. See this SCPP News article for more information.

Reminders

Pharmacy Permits

Deadline for permit renewal applications and requirements is November 1, 2020

For details, refer to the Permit Renewal Guidelines.

Compounding Declarations

As part of meeting compliance with the NAPRA Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding, pharmacies must complete and submit a Compounding Declaration following the completion of a risk assessment identifying their pharmacies level of compounding.

We appreciate that most pharmacies have completed this review and want to remind those that still need to complete the risk assessment and submit their declaration that resources are available on the SCPP website.

In addition, you may contact Brittany Sharkey, Certified Compounding Inspector - Field Officer, with specific questions at 306-584-4330 or brittany.sharkey@saskpharm.ca.
Membership Summary July 1, 2020

As of July 1, 2020, there were 1,862 pharmacist members on the register, compared to 1,885 members in July 2019. This year’s total consists of: 1,686 practising, 54 non-practising, 27 associate, 92 retired, and three suspended members. As well, there were 354 practising pharmacy technician members, compared to 290 in July 2019, and seven non-practising pharmacy technicians on the register.

Candidates from Outside Saskatchewan

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, there were 28 pharmacist candidates from other Canadian provinces/territories as well as 17 International Pharmacy Graduates (IPGs) who registered as practising members. Four pharmacy technician candidates from outside of Saskatchewan registered as practising members.

University of Saskatchewan (U of S) BSP Graduates

There were 80 graduates from the 2020 BSP class at the U of S. Due to the postponement of PEBC examinations as a result of COVID-19, none of the graduates were registered as practising members as of July 1, 2020, but rather have been newly classified as Extended Interns until such time as they can complete all the requirements for a practising membership.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Pharmacy Technician Graduates

There were nine graduates from the 2020 class at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, three of which have registered for their SPTA program, a requirement prior to challenging the jurisprudence examination for SCPP membership.

SCPP wishes to welcome the College’s newest members and encourages them to become active in the profession within their communities and provincially by working with the College and other regulatory and advocacy bodies.

### PHARMACISTS

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<th>Community</th>
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<th>Out-of-Province</th>
<th>Other</th>
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Discipline Matters

The Discipline Committee considers the primary purpose of a discipline proceeding to be the protection of the public and the pharmacy profession as a whole.

The Discipline Committee is conscious of the fact that the public must have confidence in the profession’s ability to regulate itself in a manner that protects the public.

All decisions and orders of the Discipline Committee are posted on the CanLII website in their entirety.

Jennifer Yaholnitsky

On February 10, 2020 the Discipline Committee convened a hearing to hear and determine charges of professional misconduct against SCPP registrant Jennifer Yaholnitsky.

The Discipline Committee was asked to hear and consider the following charge:

• On January 21, 2019 and while Ms. Yaholnitsky was working as a pharmacist at Canora Pharmacy, she was found in possession of an illegal substance, to wit, methamphetamine.

Ms. Yaholnitsky pled guilty to the above charge, however cited different versions of the underlying events than cited by the Complaints Committee.

The Discipline Committee reviewed all evidence presented by Ms. Darcia Schirr, QC counsel for the College and Ms. Yaholnitsky on her own behalf.

The Discipline Committee accepted Ms. Yaholnitsky’s plea and found her guilty of professional misconduct as defined in the Act and the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws, the Code of Ethics and Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists.

Possession of methamphetamine is professional misconduct pursuant to s. 25 of the Act because it is harmful to the best interests of the public, tends to harm the standing of the profession and is a breach of the Criminal Code.

The order by the Discipline Committee for Ms. Yaholnitsky included the following:

• Jennifer Yaholnitsky shall be reprimanded
• Payment of costs to the College in the amount of $18,692.00 within six months of the Order
• Conditions to Ms. Yaholnitsky’s practice for a period of three years following her reinstatement, including:
  ▶ Ms. Yaholnitsky shall immediately advise the Registrar if she is the subject of any disciplinary sanctions taken by her pharmacy employer;
  ▶ In the event Ms. Yaholnitsky changes her pharmacy employer, she shall advise the Registrar of that within seven days of the change; and,
  ▶ Ms. Yaholnitsky shall provide a written copy of the Discipline Committee decision to any future pharmacy employer.

Ms. Yaholnitsky shall ensure that the employer provides written confirmation to the Registrar that the decision of the Discipline Committee has been received.

The entire Decision and Order is available for review on the following CanLII link.

Ryan Toth and Toth Pharmacy Ltd.

On April 28, 2020 the Discipline Committee convened a hearing to hear charges and determine charges of professional incompetence, professional misconduct and proprietary misconduct against Ryan Toth and Toth Pharmacy Ltd. respectively. The hearing proceeded via an agreed statement of facts and a joint submission on penalty.

The agreed statement of facts described the charges summarized below:

• breach of the Voluntary Undertaking signed with the College in March 2019 in regard to use of psychotropic substances, providing notification of the Voluntary Undertaking to his (Mr. Toth’s) practitioner, and self-prescribing;
• failure to co-operate with Health Canada inspectors for a routine inspection under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act;

Continued on next page
• Successful completion of the PROBE Canada Ethics and Boundaries Course and the SCPP Jurisprudence Exam as well as three (3) consecutive negative urine screens, all to be completed prior to the expiry of the suspension and in order to be reinstated
• Upon reinstatement, Mr. Toth's license to practice is subject to the following restrictions:
  ▶ For a period of one year from reinstatement date, Mr. Toth must be under the direct personal and immediate supervision of another licensed pharmacist when dispensing substances listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and those listed by the Prescription Review Program of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.
  ▶ For a period of one year from the reinstatement date, Mr. Toth shall be prohibited from purchasing, acquiring, ordering and receiving any drugs and substances listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and those listed in the Prescription Review Program of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.
  ▶ For a period of three years from the date of reinstatement, Mr. Toth shall not serve as the designated manager of any proprietary pharmacy.
  ▶ Within one year of reinstatement date, Mr. Toth shall successfully complete the “Managing Your Pharmacy: The Business Essentials” offered by the Canadian Pharmacists Association.
  ▶ Mr. Toth shall engage and remain under the care of a primary care physician and authorize the release of reports as may be requested from time to time by the Registrar for a period of five (5) years.
  ▶ Mr. Toth shall engage an addictions counsellor and remain under the care of the counsellor for so long as the

Mr. Toth acknowledged all charges against himself and the proprietor and entered a guilty plea.

Upon reviewing and considering the evidence submitted by way of the Agreed Statement of Facts, the Discipline Committee accepted Mr. Toth’s guilty plea and found him guilty of professional misconduct and professional incompetence as defined in the Act.

The Discipline Committee also found Toth Pharmacy Ltd. guilty of proprietary misconduct as defined in the Act. Mr. Toth’s conduct throughout was not only concerning but fell well below the standard expected for the profession.

The Discipline Committee accepted the joint submission on penalty from Ms. Darcia Schirr, Q.C. counsel for the College and Mr. Roch Dupont, LLP counsel for Mr. Toth and the proprietor which included:

• A reprimand of both Mr. Ryan Toth and Toth Pharmacy Ltd.

• A nine-month suspension for Mr. Toth

• Successful completion of the PROBE Canada Ethics and Boundaries Course and the SCPP

The entire Decision and Order is available for review on the following CanLII links: Decision and Order and Written Reasons.

See Spotlight on Prevention on the next page.
Non-Compliance to Long Term Care (LTC) pharmacy services contracts with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA)

A number of pharmacies in Saskatchewan have contracts with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) to provide pharmacy services to long-term care (LTC) facilities. In recent years, the SCPP Complaints Committee has reviewed 12 complaints against pharmacies with allegations of non-compliance with their LTC contracts with the SHA.

As a result of the investigations, SCPP has determined that in some cases, where the LTC contracts specify a lower dispensing fee than the DPEBB provider agreement, pharmacies are billing DPEBB for the full fee which is professional and proprietary misconduct. The following complaints have been referred to and heard by the SCPP Discipline Committee and there are several more pending discipline:

- Jolyn Schultz and Sunnyside Ventures Ltd.
- Jolyn Schultz and Sunnyside Ventures Ltd.
- 102028500 Saskatchewan Ltd. And Pola Demian
- Ankit Karbhari
- Ryan Toth

Common responses to the complaint allegations regarding non-compliance of the LTC contracts with the SHA are:
- a change in ownership and/or pharmacy manager
- a lack of knowledge of the terms of the contract
- a lack of knowledge of the existence of a contract

It is the responsibility of the pharmacy manager to know of and ensure compliance with any contracts that the pharmacy has in place. If your pharmacy currently services a long-term care facility, please ensure that you have reviewed and are abiding with the terms of any agreements in place. In addition, if there is a change of ownership or change in pharmacy manager, the incoming owner or manager should be made aware of any contracts currently in place.

Key Resource: Pharmacy Manager Responsibilities

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Examination Dates

Below are the exam dates at time of publishing. For the most up-to-date exam schedules, please visit www.pebc.ca.

### Pharmacist Schedule of Exams

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<th>Examination Name</th>
<th>Examination date</th>
<th>Application Deadline Date*</th>
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### Pharmacy Technician Schedule of Exams

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<td>OSPE: Occurred Sept. 20, 2020</td>
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*Applications must be received by the PEBC office no later than the application deadline date.*
From the Desk of the Dean

Dr. Jane Alcorn
Professor and Dean
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition,
University of Saskatchewan

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition has been a very different place this fall with the shift to online learning, but I’ve been impressed with how our faculty, staff and students are continuing to adapt.

The university has recently announced that online learning will continue through the winter term, but activity on campus is slowly increasing in a safe, responsible manner. Updates on the university’s status are available on the COVID-19 response page. Read more.

The faculty and staff (and some of their pets) were disappointed that they did not have the opportunity to congratulate the Pharmacy and Nutrition Classes of 2020 in person, so the college put together a video message to let them know how proud we all are of them. Watch the video.

Teagan Holt and Angela Luo were the most distinguished graduates in pharmacy and nutrition for the Classes of 2020. A full list of graduating student awards winners can be found on our website. Read more.

Danielle d’Entremont received the Canadian Pharmacists Association 2020 Centennial Leadership Award for the University of Saskatchewan.

The award is in recognition of a student who has actively promoted the profession of pharmacy and his/her faculty and has achieved good academic standing. Read more.

PhD student Saniya Alwani has been awarded an Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral. This national scholarship is one of the most prestigious doctoral awards available in Canada and is offered to the highest ranked applicants to Tri-Agency doctoral competitions. Read more.

Dr. Charity Evans is one of two recipients of this year’s New Researcher Award. The award is presented annually to members of the university research community in recognition of significant contributions to knowledge or artistic creativity. Read more.

Drs. Holly and Kerry Mansell are part of a team which developed cannabis education resources targeted toward youth in Grades 7 and 9, which has been made available by the Ministry of Education for use in schools throughout the province. Read more.

The college’s faculty and staff are engaged in a number of COVID-19-related activities, including a number of research projects and new initiatives within our professional services, such as medSask and MAC. A full listing of these new projects and initiatives is available on our website. Read more.

For the latest news from the college, visit our website: pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca.