



M.J. Huston Pharmacist of Distinction

Pinnacle level award

Dr. Mervyn James Huston was born in 1912 in Ashcroft, BC. He graduated from the University of Alberta's School of Pharmacy in 1936 and received his PhD from the University of Washington in 1944. He became acting director of the U of A School of Pharmacy in 1946 and director in 1947, then helped the school evolve into the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He was elected president of the Canadian Pharmacists Association in 1972. He retired as Dean at the U of A in 1978.

Dr. Huston was involved in establishing the first nuclear reactor for pharmaceutical research in a pharmacy faculty. The project evolved into world-recognized research in that field.

Dr. Huston was known for his wit and zest for life. He was a noted academic, author, musician, and humourist. He wrote four texts, including one on pharmaceutical arithmetic, plus other books. He won the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour for his novel, Gophers Don't Pay Taxes, and wrote several radio plays, in addition to a musical drama that was an award winner in the Alberta Centennial Competition. He also received honorary degrees from Dalhousie University and the U of A. He died on March 4, 2001.

Terms of reference

The M.J. Huston Pharmacist of Distinction award, as part of the Pinnacle level awards category, is presented annually to a pharmacist who has demonstrated leadership and advanced the pharmacist profession through a long-time commitment to innovation, continual professional development, and quality patient care.

The winner epitomizes professional pharmacist practice and is an inspiration to those striving to raise standards and advance the profession; and to pharmacists who, through their professionalism, provide models for others.

1. The nominee must be in good standing with the Alberta College of Pharmacists.
2. The nominated pharmacist cannot be currently serving as staff or a board member with the Alberta Pharmacists' Association or on the APEX Awards Committee.
3. The nominee cannot previously have received this award.
4. Nominations for this award must be received by the Awards Committee by the published deadline.
5. The award will not be presented posthumously.

6. The award will be presented at a time deemed appropriate by the RxA Board.
7. Power of decision for granting the award rests with the CEO of the Alberta Pharmacists' Association.

NOTE: This award is not necessarily granted every year.