



Board of Directors Election 2024/2025 Candidate Profile

Candidate Information

Name:

Mike Wolowyk

Community of Residence:

Edmonton

Year of Admission to Practice (Alberta):

1990

Year first registered with RxA:

Formed CHRPA before RxA then joined when RxA began

Current Place of Employment:

Crestwood Apothecary Pharmacy and Compounding Lab

Professional Experience

Identify relevant professional experience, achievements or areas of focus related to your practice history:

I graduated from UofA Pharmacy in 1990, and worked as the managing pharmacist/licensee for 7 years at Lemarchand Dispensary pharmacy next to Dr. Don Groot, the visionary dermatologist that practiced here in Edmonton until 2014. While spending time focusing on dermatology patients and the pharmacy needs of Dr. Groot's amazing practice, I developed a keen interest in pharmaceutical compounding. This is the art and science of small scale custom manufacturing in pharmacy that is the true history of the pharmacy profession. After furthering my knowledge with courses in Houston Texas, and Canada on pharmaceutical compounding I was ready to expand the scope of my practice and began offering sterile compounding services in the home palliative care area while still at Lemarchand Dispensary. In 1998, Dr. Groot announced his intention to move to a new location in Crestwood and offered me the chance to open my own pharmacy in the same building to support his practice. My wife and I were more than happy to make this move and proceeded to build a state-of-the-art retail and "compounding" pharmacy with sterile capabilities. We opened in October 1999 and through a model of exceptional patient service, high quality pharmaceutical compounding, and always putting our patients first, we have grown every year since 1999 to now employing a staff of 16 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. In 2015 we expanded our space by leasing a 900 square foot space on the second floor of our building and built a forward-thinking compounding lab with sterile manufacturing facilities that was beyond the current regulations. I have focused on, and expanded, our pharmacy to pharmacy sales of small-scale manufactured pharmaceuticals (compounds) over the last 12 years. This part of the business is a niche where we are positioned as a local expert in. On the retail pharmacy side, my current passion and interest is in pharmacy clinical services and disease state management. We focus on clinical pharmacist scope of practice with APA pharmacists and injection services. Assessing patients and prescribing, adapting, and measuring outcomes for therapies in disease states such as diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, etc. This is the future of pharmacy as I see it, and we are excited to develop this side of our practice, while still growing our pharmaceutical compounding business. My volunteering started after high school at the Misericordia hospital as a porter and hospital volunteer. Then I was a volunteer with the Canadian Association of Disable skiers as a ski instructor and coach in the 1990's. I have formerly served as president of the Edmonton society of Pharmacists also known as the Capital Health Region Pharmacists association. Being a part of that organization for 10 years until RxA was formed. I was a board member of the Pilgrims Hospice Society in the early 2000's. The Pilgrims board led the organization through its acquisition of the current building where they provide palliative, respite, and residential services for terminal patients and their families. Currently I am a committee member of ACP's Competency Committee serving a three-year term that ends this summer. We have led the development of the new Practice Improvement Program for ACP, and managed the competence cases brought to the committee for reviews. I am now interested in serving as a director for the RxA board as this aligns with my personal feelings on the importance and value of pharmacists and pharmacy practice within the health care system. I look forward to the possibility of supporting and furthering the goals of the RxA board and Alberta Pharmacists.

Leadership History

Describe past opportunities where you held a leadership role either in a professional or volunteer capacity:

See professional experience.

Vision

Describe your personal vision for the future of pharmacist practice:

See professional experience.

Identify from your perspective, RxA's 2024 – 2025 priorities to enhance the profession:

Maintaining the great work that RxA has accomplished over the years.

Keeping Alberta in the position of leadership in pharmacy practice that we have enjoyed for over 10 years now.

Negotiating for fair compensation for pharmacy services.

Managing the scope of practice for pharmacy to optimize the abilities of current graduates in pharmacy.

I am interested in learning from the current board and helping in any way I can to help with supporting this amazing profession that we all enjoy.

