

Mona Kwong, BSc(Pharm), PharmD, MSc

Starting my career as an undergraduate assistant in the mid-1990's, I've worked as a staff pharmacist, clinical pharmacist, pharmacy manager, and an owner. I've completed various degrees and certificates while always working as a frontline community pharmacist in downtown Vancouver.

From 2005 to 2011, while continuing to manage and work in a community pharmacy, I was a part-time faculty member at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences where I worked as a researcher in primary care initiatives, and as a coordinator and lecturer of the experiential program supporting preceptors and students.

I continue to teach and provide support about roles of pharmacists and interdisciplinary practices such as through precepting, mentoring, and hosting students from various disciplines and IPGs at the pharmacy, teaching and certifying pharmacists in BCPhA's Pharmacy Injection Workshops, completing various projects as part of my consulting work and with my volunteer work in Science 101, a UBC run initiative for the inner-city community.

Professionally, I have remained active in various interprofessional groups to contribute to the understanding and value of pharmacists in patient care:

- Current District 1 Board Member and Vice-Chair with the College of Pharmacists of BC and Committee involvement (experience in Governance, Registration, Audit and Finance, Injection, Legislation Review)
- BCPhA Board experience
- Committee experience with the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia
- Committee experience with the College of Registered Nurses of BC

I have a strong desire and am genuinely motivated to make a positive difference to patients, and to have a positive impact on the practice of pharmacy today and for the future.

The College of Pharmacists must work to enable pharmacists to practice to the fullest extent of their abilities through positive and meaningful collaboration with patients, the pharmacy community and other healthcare professions. Only by supporting and enhancing the role of the pharmacist, will we be able to make significant decisions in the best interest of the public - our patients, and be a valued and trusted member of the healthcare team in the provision of quality care.

As a self-regulated profession, we still need to continue to move away from a world of black and white rules, and instead reflect on what it really means to be a healthcare professional. Frontline pharmacists should be able to focus on providing the best possible patient care in a practice environment that is enabling and permissive, where outdated bylaws are updated to meet today's patients' needs, and where pharmacists can embrace practice change, using not only the rules and laws, but also their ethical professional judgement. Only then can patients achieve "better health through excellence in pharmacy."

Our College Board has the ability to once again make BC pharmacists practice leaders across Canada. Electing individuals with relevant yet diverse backgrounds will only increase the expertise and knowledge of the Board, while maintaining an effective regulatory and professional framework for our evolving profession.

Bylaw and legislation changes and updates to enable a more effective regulatory and professional framework take time because of the need to go through a series of legislation processes. I am asking for your vote for a second term to continue contributing my expertise primarily to the areas of policy, legislation, governance and finance.

My fellow colleagues who nominated me have found me to be a valuable contributor to the College Board and believe I will continue to have a positive influence on its decisions because of my wide breadth of experience, passion and perspective, and because I am truly in touch with patient care as a practicing pharmacist. Thank you for considering me for a second and final consecutive term for the Board position in District 1.

