



## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT...



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## Neil MacKinnon and Roland (RJ) Genge CSHP Foundation Research Grant Recipients

CSHP Foundation research grant recipients are changing the face of clinical practice. Read on to understand some of the exceptional work by our members. Inspired or curious? Apply for a CSHP Foundation grant at [www.cshpfoundation.ca](http://www.cshpfoundation.ca)

In 2002, Dr. Neil MacKinnon and RJ Genge, with colleagues Nicole Hartnell, Erika Jones, and Magdalena Nestel, investigated the perceptions of patients and health care professionals about medication errors using a CSHP Research and Education Foundation (CSHP Foundation) research grant. The group received \$5000 to determine what the factors were that contributed to medication errors and whether there was a difference between those identified by patients and those by health care providers. Their results were published in the *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy* in 2006.

**Q: What impact did the research have in your hospital?**

**A:** This research has garnered more awareness about how errors happen both among health care providers and our patient population. Most notably since 2004, we've seen a significant increase in the involvement of physicians reporting errors and their contribution to the medication error review process. In fact, this particular research question created a foundation on which a new collaborative approach to medication error review in our health authority was built.

**Q. How would you estimate your research impacted patient care?**

**A:** Patients benefit by the multidisciplinary approach to this research question which has improved the integration of all disciplines in the review and prediction of errors in our medication-use system. Medication errors are seen more as system failures than individual failures, and patient disclosure practices have been reviewed.

**Q. Why should healthcare professionals, key decision makers and the general public pay attention to the research done by pharmacists?**

**A:** Pharmacist researchers have made significant contributions to the various pillars of healthcare research, such as basic sciences, clinical, health services, population-based and public health research. Medications are the primary treatment modality worldwide so it makes sense that pharmacists, who are experts on medications and the medication-use system, are significant contributors to this literature.

**Q: Why is an organization like the CSHP R&E Foundation important to you? To the profession?**

**A:** While the size of the grants offered by the CSHP R&E Foundation are not large, they can still be a significant source of funding to a pharmacist who needs to conduct a pilot study or a small project. The grants can be an important first step to obtaining a much larger grant.

**Q: What role did the research grant play in your research career?**

**A:** *RJ says* - being able to work collaboratively with individuals like Neil enables non-teaching/regional practice settings to become uniquely engaged in primary research. For us, the success of this research project has enlightened many of our participants with a new perspective on the similarities, rather than the differences, that transcend regional and provincial practice boundaries when managing medication errors. Our hope is that we can continue to build upon these opportunities to further our involvement in practice based research in the regional /rural setting.

*Neil says* - I look fondly back upon this study as it was done in the hospital in my hometown in Nova Scotia. Researchers typically don't have many opportunities to go back to their roots to do research and it was really personally satisfying to do this study in the same hospital where I worked as a pharmacy student.