

## **MIKOLAJ PIEKARSKI DISTRICT 7**



Mikolaj Piekarski, PhD

My name is Mikolaj Piekarski and I was born 34 years ago in Poznań, Poland. It is my home town where I completed my schooling, including the Pharmacy program at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences (MSc in Pharmacy – equivalent to a PharmD program). After obtaining my pharmacy degree I started working in the Heliodor Świącicki University Hospital in Poznań. This big teaching hospital (almost 900 beds) allowed me to develop in many fields of hospital pharmacy. I was involved in the preparation and management of enteral and parenteral nutrition programs, both for inpatients and outpatients. I was also involved in the management of clinical trials, negotiating of supply contracts, and a preceptor of pharmacy students doing their practicums and internships. I was also an instructor of many practical courses for physicians, nurses and pharmacists regarding enteral and parenteral nutrition. My work kept me busy, but gave me a lot of practical knowledge.

Together with working at the hospital, I was hired as a full-time instructor/lecturer at the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences. This work involved teaching “Medicinal Chemistry” to Polish and English-speaking students, as well as required work on research projects. This allowed me to obtain a PhD degree in Pharmacy. My dissertation was titled “Stability of N-[(piperidine)methylene]daunorubicin (PPD) in aqueous solutions and in solid state” and was accepted as “Exceptional” by the Dean of Pharmacy in July 2013. My research was focused mainly on stability of daunorubicin derivatives in different environments, and also on stability of different mixtures of analgesia agents. During my time at the University I participated in a 3-month research internship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. My research focused on the biochemistry of vision at the Department of Pharmacology, under supervision of Prof Kris Palczewski and Dr Marcin Golczak. During this trip, I was able to visit the Pharmacy Department at Cleveland Clinic hospital.

While working full time at the hospital and the University, I also worked part time in a community pharmacy (mostly weekends and night shifts), which allowed me to “stay in touch” with this aspect of pharmacy.

In March 2013, I immigrated to Canada and in 2014 I obtained my full pharmacy license in BC. I began working as a clinical pharmacist at BCCA Center for the North in Prince George, doing a relief position for a few months. In March 2015, I was hired as a full-time pharmacist at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia in Prince George and that is my current place of employment. I also continue to work as a casual pharmacist in Shoppers Drug Mart in Prince George.

I would like to be a part of the College board, as I want to be a part of the changes that our profession is undergoing. I would like to support the extension of scope of practice for pharmacists – mostly prescribing privileges, as well I would like to be a strong voice for the more rural hospital pharmacists. I would also like to present work and development opportunities for new graduates, to show them that working outside Metro Vancouver is also interesting and fulfilling.