

CSCC Award for Education Excellence
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Donald LeGatt

Don LeGatt is a clinical biochemist in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Capital Health/University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. He holds the rank of Clinical Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Alberta.

Don received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at University of Saskatchewan, and the Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan with a major in Toxicology in 1979. Don was a post-doctoral fellow in the neurochemical research unit, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences/Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta from 1979-1981. In 1981, Don joined the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology as section head for Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring. Don brings a unique dimension to the TDM and Clinical Toxicology service in Edmonton due to his background as a pharmacist and expertise in the analytical/clinical toxicology and TDM. Since 1983, Don has been a CSCC member and a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry since 1986.

Don has been a very active teacher at the University of Alberta. He teaches in various faculties of medicine courses including applied laboratory toxicology, clinical biochemistry, MED III –clinical toxicology and as independent research project supervisor. In the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, he has lectured in many different courses on pharmacokinetics, TDM and Toxicology. In addition, Don has been an examiner on many Ph.D. examinations and served on several graduate student committees.

Don played a key role in the development of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Clinical Toxicology, an initiative of the Alberta Medical Association. This initiative was very innovative because it extended beyond the urban communities to address the needs for clinical toxicology services in rural Alberta.

Don is an enthusiastic teacher to the broader health/medical community beyond the University of Alberta teaching hospitals. Don often went to the student rather than have the student come to the larger centres. He has presented several continuing education sessions in many smaller centres in Northern Alberta on topics such as *Point of Care Devices for Toxicology*, *Investigation of the Poisoned Patient: A Clinical Practice Guideline*, *The Bad Alcohol – The Labs Role in Treatment*.

In addition to his educational activities in Alberta, Don has been very active in clinical and laboratory research at U of A. He has published widely in major international journals and been an invited speaker outside North America on several occasions.

Dr. Donald LeGatt is a very worthy recipient of the 2005 CSCC Award for Education Excellence. On behalf of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists, I wish him continued success in educating a wide variety of students at University of Alberta and offering continuing education programmes throughout Northern Alberta. I am sure that Don will continue to be active educating current and future clinical chemists and other healthcare professionals in Canada. Congratulations!