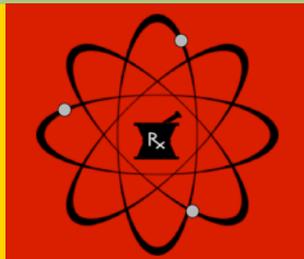


The Nuclear Monthly Missive



Brought to you by the New Practitioners Committee

December 2012

Owner, Operator, Businessman

No HR team, no IT department, no corporate headquarters. This is the world of independent nuclear pharmacy. This is the world in which Tim Quinton (PharmD, MS, BCNP, FAPhA) resides.

Tim is owner, operator, and pharmacist of the independent nuclear pharmacy, [Radiopharmacy, Inc.](#), in Evansville, Indiana and Dix, Illinois. Like in most other nuclear pharmacies, the day is spent compounding and dispensing radiopharmaceuticals, and serving as a centralized

nuclear pharmacy for an 80-mile radius. From compounding Tc-99m products, to making I-131 capsules, to radiolabeling white blood cells, his pharmacies are a comprehensive source for all things nuclear in the surrounding area. Oh, you need CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) testing performed? Yeah, he's got that covered, too. But he's the owner... so that's not *all* he does. Being the owner of two pharmacies means that not only is he the pharmacist, but also he is the HR department, the head of customer relations, the quality specialist, the regulatory compliance officer, and the marketing and sales team. Aye yai yai! That's a lot of roles to fill.

Let's back up and talk about how he got started. Dr. Quinton started his pharmacy career at the



Did you know...

Did you know that in 1978, nuclear pharmacy became the first recognized pharmacy specialty by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties? Hello, BCNP!

Know your MEDICINE. Know your NUCLEAR PHARMACIST.

University of Kentucky, where he earned a Bachelor of Science, followed by his Pharmacy Doctorate. After graduation, he completed an ASHP-accredited residency in nuclear pharmacy at the University of New Mexico (UNM), and unlike most residencies, this one came complete with a Masters in Nuclear Pharmacy. His time during residency was filled with a combination of dispensing radiopharmaceuticals, practicing as a clinical pharmacist, and completing his thesis in gadolinium-tagged sucralfate for GI imaging with MRI. Following his extensive education and training, he served as the pharmacy manager for Syncor Pharmacy in New Orleans for 2 years. He tells me how he soon realized that he wanted his own pharmacy, and in 1990, he moved to

Evansville, Indiana to start Radiopharmacy, Inc. Tim continues to nonchalantly rattle off a modest list of cities

where he has shared ownership of nuclear pharmacies, including two in. . . wait for it. . . Australia. "Time out," I tell him as I abruptly pause the interview. "You mean, THE Australia? As in you owned pharmacies in the continent, Australia?"

"the harder you work, the better you do"



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Suggestions for next month's newsletter? Contact Ashley Mishoe at AshleyMishoe@me.com.

Tim laughed and brushed off my disbelief, as if owning a nuclear pharmacy in Australia is commonplace these days. He has since sold that pharmacy to BMS, but I still find it to be a rather fascinating fact.

Nonetheless, what he enjoys most about his job as an independent pharmacy owner is being in control of the service he provides and being more in control of his future. Tim notes that in his area, “the harder you work, the better you do”, and that he applies this concept daily in his company and with his staff. However, because his pharmacies are not part of a larger corporation, there are more risks involved: risks of your business failing; risks of not having a backup pharmacy to punt your doses to if you’re having “one of those days”. And the hardest aspect of opening a nuclear pharmacy? Complying with all the regulations. I probably could’ve guessed that!



As for his thoughts on the future of nuclear pharmacy, Tim simply states that he wishes he knew what was ahead for us. (Don’t we all!) But he quickly adds that he suspects that the future could be challenging, with fewer low energy products and price erosion potentially occurring, and that there will likely be a stronger influence on the newer PET agents in the marketplace.

“be able to wear a lot of different hats”

Although Dr. Quinton stays busy fulfilling his many roles at Radiopharmacy, Inc., he still finds time to

remain actively involved with APhA, the National Association of Nuclear Pharmacies

(NANP), UNM, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM). He has previously served as the Chair of the Nuclear Pharmacy Section of APhA, and he currently sits on both the Committee on Pharmacopeia and the Committee on Coding and Reimbursement within SNM. Additionally, he sits on the Board of Directors for NANP and on the Editorial Board of UNM’s CE courses for nuclear pharmacists. Because of his continuous involvement, it comes as no surprise when his advice to new practitioners and students is to not be afraid to get involved. He also adds that in order to be successful in independent pharmacy, you need to be flexible, or as he reiterates, “be able to wear a lot of different hats: business, professional, sales, and others”.

Beyond his fascination with nuclear pharmacy, Tim enjoys the great outdoors. . . fishing, golfing, playing sports with his children, and spending the day at the lake, and he is thankful that the career path he chose affords him the opportunity to serve his community while still having time for family and friends. He leaves me with a fun fact about himself, and that is that he is a distant relative of William Clark. Owned two nuclear pharmacies in Australia *and* is a distant relative to Clark of Lewis and Clark? That’s him; that’s Tim Quinton.

Until next time,

Ashley Mishoe

Upcoming Events:

March 1-4, 2013

APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition
Los Angeles, CA

March 3, 2013

Nuclear Pharmacists Breakfast and Business Meeting