

Hamilton, Ontario (PRWEB) September 15, 2007 -- The Ontario Pharmacists' Association (OPA) announced Iris Krawchenko as the recipient of the **2007 Pharmacist of the Year Award** at its annual conference on September 8, 2007 in Huntsville, Ontario.

"The Pharmacist of the Year Award is one of the most prestigious honours at OPA," said Ken Burns, Chair of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association. "This award is presented to a distinguished practitioner who has rendered outstanding service to the profession, the Association, and the community."

Iris Krawchenko graduated from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Pharmacy in 1985 and completed a residency in Hospital Pharmacy at McMaster University Medical Centre in 1986. In 1989, she began working for Dell Pharmacies in Hamilton and shortly thereafter became a shareholder.

In addition to her work as a community pharmacist, Iris has involved herself in various professional organizations. **She is the Past President of the Hamilton and District Pharmacists Association from 1992-1993 and was honoured to accept the OPA District Shield Award during her presidency.**

Iris represented the Ontario College of Pharmacists District 8 since 1998, and was elected as its President in 2003/2004. Iris is credited with the creation of the Task Force on Optimizing the Role of the Pharmacist of which she was Chair.

From 1999-2002, she was a board member of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada. Iris was a member of the Advisory Board for "Quality in Family Practice" with the College of Family Physicians of Ontario. Currently she sits as a member of the Advisory Board for Pharmacy Technicians at Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology. She also sits on the Pharmacy Programs Steering Committee for the Hamilton Family Health Team and is an advisory board member of the Hamilton Family Medicine Association.

Iris received the 2005 Commitment to Care Award, Honourable Mention for Best Adherence Initiatives for the creation of the Pediatric Antibiotic Compliance Program, which has been implemented at all Dell Pharmacies.

Iris was the 2006 recipient of the Commitment to Care Award for the Best Pharmacist/Physician Team. Together with Dr. Richard Tytus, they developed and piloted "The Passport to Health" Program and created a patient focused DVD entitled, "Hypertension - A Patient's Journey".

Iris has served as a Director of Dell Pharmacies for two terms and has chaired numerous committees. Currently, she is Chairman of the Board of Directors for Dell Pharmacies. She is also the Pharmacist Manager at the Dell Rosedale location and has most recently achieved the designation of Certified Geriatric Pharmacist.

"OPA is proud to have Iris as an active member and we look forward to her continued presence and contributions to the profession," said Burns.

The Ontario Pharmacists' Association is the professional advocacy association representing the views and interests of over 10,000 practicing pharmacists and pharmacists-in-training, in Canada's largest province.