



Sharon Murphy Enright

Lessons Learned from Others' Experiences Enrich Our Lives

Sharon is an extremely creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial pharmacist. She continually reads literature outside of pharmacy and health care and has always thought deeply about where pharmacy needs to go and how she can assist practitioners. Sharon is great at making and seizing learning opportunities and has developed and conducted two startup education and training businesses—one of which she sold to a major corporation. She is a master at assisting people in applying business and nonpharmacy literature by developing and conducting educational programs for close to 100,000 pharmacists and other health care professionals. Sharon's recent involvement has focused on developing, implementing, and conducting the year-long online ASHP Foundation's Pharmacy Leadership Academy as well as authoring the Foundation's Leadership Resource Center. She is currently the Course Master and a primary faculty member for the ASHP Foundation's Pharmacy Leadership Academy and President of EnvisionChange LLC.

Sharon completed her bachelor of science in pharmacy degree at the University of Connecticut and a master's of administration, business, and behavioral sciences degree from George Washington University. She completed a residency at Yale–New Haven Hospital and Medical Center and the ASHP Executive Residency. Her letter indicates that since any knowledge has a very short and increasingly limited lifespan, it is only through continued growth and learning that we can continue to contribute. She ends her letter by saying, *love your work but don't make it your life.*



Dear Young Pharmacist,

The opportunity to gain from the sage advice of experienced leaders is an invaluable advantage in our hectic and complex world. Every lesson we learn from the experience of others will make your journey through life richer and more rewarding. The perspective provided by the experience of others creates a lens through which to view options, opportunities, and the directions our lives can offer.

My greatest and most memorable personal experience with early sage advice was unique. After finishing a residency at Yale–New Haven Hospital, I was fortunate to be selected as a Resident in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Executive Residency—a one-year training program in professional policy and association management. One of my first assignments was to staff the Residency Conference. Unbelievably, I found myself at dinner with Paul Parker, Cliff Latiolais, Don Francke, Don Brody, and Warren McConnell enjoying a part in a conversation about professional practice issues, goals, and aspirations, inviting me to be an active participant in the dialog. Their generous advice and interest set me on paths I could not have imagined before and gave me insights it would have taken decades to assimilate.

I have chosen to focus my advice to you on learning. During my ASHP-accredited residency at Yale, I was assigned a very wise mentor/preceptor—Gary McCart. One of our first conversations involved assessing my education and training and my confidence in my readiness for practice. Although I was successful academically and felt comfortable with the knowledge I had gained, I knew that I was not well enough prepared clinically to feel confident in independent practice. Gary helped me to recognize that deficiency as a gift, giving me the awareness and will to gain the clinical skills I would need *if* I chose clinical pharmacy as my career. More importantly, he helped me realize that most knowledge has a very short and increasingly limited lifespan and only through continued growth and learning could I contribute as a professional leader. My belief and commitment to continuous learning as a means to finding career options took root.