

Dr. Sharon Buehler

Dr. Sharon Buehler retired from the position of Associate Professor with the Faculty of Medicine in 2001 after 15 years of service as a Faculty member and 17 years in research support positions. Since her retirement, Sharon has continued to be engaged in research as an Honorary Research Professor .

Sharon's post-retirement service has benefitted not only Memorial, but the local, provincial, and national communities as well. One of the noteworthy roles that Sharon continued with following her formal retirement was acting as Co-Chair of Memorial's Human Investigation Committee (HIC) until 2003. Her work on this important committee, however, continued past that time. Since 2003 she has chaired the HIC Policy Committee which has contributed greatly to the effective and efficient functioning of the HIC. Over the last 11 years she has also been intricately involved with the transition of the HIC to a province-wide ethics board under the Provincial Health Research Ethics Authority including the redrafting of HIC's Policy and Procedures Manual. The legislation governing this transition represents a new governance model for ethics review and is viewed across Canada as landmark in nature.

On the national scene, Sharon's interest in the protection of research participants led to her appointments as Chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)'s Working Group on Case Studies and as Member of the Privacy Advisory Group which produced in 2002 and 2005 respectively CIHR's *Secondary Use of Personal Information in Health Research: Case Studies and Guidelines for Protecting Privacy and Confidentiality in the Design, Conduct and Evaluation of Health Research*. As aptly summarized by her nominators: "Sharon's efforts post-retirement have contributed substantially to the protection of human research participants within the University, the Province, and nationally."

Since her retirement she has also been part of a number of provincially and nationally funded research studies and has continued to be active on peer review panels, co-authoring publications and poster presentations and providing invited presentations at both the provincial and national levels on a variety of topics, a number of which have been in areas related to ethics and privacy. She served on the first Institute Advisory Board of CHIR's Institute for Cancer Research and also as member-at-large on the first Board of the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards.

Amazingly, Sharon finds time to devote to other activities as well. These include serving as member of the Board of Memorial's Pensioners Association and the Provincial Advisory and Registry Advisory Committees of the Cervical Screening Initiatives Program. In the last three years, turning from a focus on cancer education and research to 'aging', she convened the Research Affinity Group on Aging under the umbrella of the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research. She also sits on a Grenfell-St. John's community/government/academic committee working towards a research Centre for Aging while keeping a foot on the ground as a member of the Coordinating Committee of the provincial Aging Issues Network of seniors' organizations.

For her leadership and outstanding contributions to the University and to the community in the important areas of health and wellbeing and the protection of the rights of human subjects in research, MUNPA is pleased to recognize Dr. Sharon Buehler with a MUNPA Tribute Award.

