

## Dr. E. Keith Borden

1932-2019

More than two decades ago, the idea of establishing a Canadian association with a focus on pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoconomics was discussed at length during meetings of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology.

The efforts of Dr. E. Keith Borden, who assumed leadership of the local organization and secured critical financing, resulted in the first two meetings of the Canadian Pharmacoepidemiology Forum, held in the city of Toronto in 1993 and 1994 respectively.



During Dr. Borden's distinguished career, he had a significant influence in developing post-marketing surveillance. While he was with The Upjohn Company, Dr. Borden and his colleague, Dr. John Lee (1), performed a feasibility study in the late 1970s in which staff in 11 United States pharmacies registered more than 70% of patients receiving an oral antibiotic. A subsequent questionnaire sent to the patients asking about benefits and problems during their use of the drug achieved a completed response rate of over 90%. Borden and Lee concluded that larger systems of that type were viable and could be established at a reasonable cost.

The same approach was used to study non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, acne drugs and benzodiazepines in the United States, and a pre-test of the method to study benzodiazepines was performed in Canada (2). The method was revived in the 1990s to study drug utilization in Canada in the Pharmacy Medication Monitoring Program at McMaster University (3), although patient questionnaires were administered by telephone. The program achieved a good level of response from patients—80% or higher—in several studies, illustrating once again that collecting information directly from patients is a practical option.

Dr. Borden also assumed a major role in other studies (4,5) demonstrating that numerous flaws existed in the system of evaluating and listing drugs for reimbursement in provincial formularies, leading to significant disparity in reimbursed drugs between the provinces.

Dr. Borden served as the inaugural President of CAPT-ACTP and was one of the association founders.

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