



## NANCY SIMONOT

Achievement in Specialized Practice Award

In 2011, after 20 years of working in community and independent pharmacies, Nancy Simonot left a partnership at a medical clinic pharmacy to open NKS Health, a specialty pharmaceutical services company focusing on infused injectable and biologic medications. Today, she is among a select group of pharmacists in Ontario specializing in biologics.

In addition to providing expert training on biologics, Nancy's team at NKS Health – including pharmacists, social workers, occupational therapists, and registered dietitians – offers guidance on infused and injected medications, HIV/hepatitis medication management, and disease state management and awareness. Nancy has grown NKS Health into the largest dispensing pharmacy in Canada for Botox therapeutics (she is affectionately known as the “Botox Lady” thanks to mornings spent delivering Botox to various clinics across the Greater Toronto Area), and has provided more than 1,000 patients with injections for various vaccines, including influenza.

“When I first opened an injection pharmacy and sales were slow, I had colleagues try to dissuade me from wasting my time and money, and to return to mainstream pharmacy,” she says. “But I believed in the concept and persevered, and cannot imagine doing anything else now.”

Nancy's proclivity for innovation recently led her to purchase a machine which tests for inflammation in the intestines of patients with Crohn's and colitis disease. As a result, she now works with more than 50 gastroenterologists in the Toronto area, and is involved in research projects with numerous sites, including Mount Sinai Hospital.

Nancy is passionate about community involvement, and demonstrates that passion through community talks and by sponsoring and volunteering for a variety of local events, including the Arthritis Walk, Robbie's Rainbows, and the Ride to Conquer Cancer.