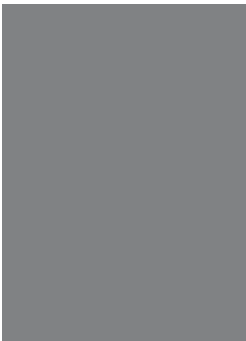


Wearing a Badge of Pharmacy Honor

Richard Logan, PharmD

L & S PHARMACY • *Charleston, Missouri*



As with any business owner, Richard Logan, PharmD, is concerned about protecting his community pharmacy from crime.

Of course, most people don't assume that the local community pharmacist is also a member of the county sheriff's department, as one unlucky

man who tried to pass a photocopied prescription for hydrocodone discovered the hard way.

"He was extremely surprised when he found that out," Logan says. "He remains the only person I have handcuffed and arrested in the pharmacy. He pleaded guilty to a class D felony for fraudulently attempting to obtain a controlled substance. I don't think he's gotten over the surprise yet."

Logan says he became involved in law enforcement in 1992 when a close friend of his was elected county sheriff. As the county covers 435 square miles and only had three depu-

ties, the sheriff-elect realized he was going to need some help to address a growing drug problem and still serve the county's citizens.

"He convinced several civilians to join him, attend law enforcement academy, become officers, and use our talents to serve Mississippi County [Missouri]," Logan says. "I was one of those people."

Once he embarked on a second career, Logan was doing double duty.

When not fighting crime, Logan can be found at his "day job" at his two businesses, L & S Pharmacy in Charleston, Missouri, and Medical Arts Pharmacy in nearby Sikeston. The two communities, with a local population of about 4,000, are located in the southeast corner of Missouri in the upper Mississippi River Delta region at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

"It's a very low-income area," Logan says. "Despite that, people here have a community pride that is remarkable and infectious. I grew up in the community and came

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back. Both of my sons grew up here and came back. People who come to visit can't believe the sense of community, concern for each other, and friendliness our little corner of the world has to offer.”

L & S was established in 1976 by Logan and his business partner Ken Seiler, RPh, (pictured in blue shirt above) when both were newly minted pharmacy grads. They acquired Medical Arts, a clinical pharmacy, the next year. Logan runs L & S, and Seiler is in charge of Medical Arts. They employ about 25 people, divided between the two locations. Logan's son Tripp, PharmD, also works with him.

Technology has become an integral part of operations at L & S and Medical Arts, and Logan says it is a primary reason the business has been successful.

“I remember very well in 1984 when Kenny and I jumped into the new technology of pharmacy computer systems,” he says. “We were the first in our county to computerize.”

Since then, they have kept close tabs on any new pharmacy-related technological developments. When robotics

was developed, they were immediately interested. To them, increased productivity, accuracy, and automation were synonymous with increased profitability.

“At L & S, we have recently installed new computer software, offering us more flexibility to adapt to new technology in the future,” Logan says. “It currently is linked to our Parata robotic unit, new point-of-sale system, and electronic signature capture software, giving us a better command of all aspects of the pharmacy workflow.”

Logan points out that complacency is never an option.

“We discovered that if your practice is not technologically current, and you are not constantly working to keep it that way, you are losing ground, and patient care will suffer,” he says. “All of the technological tools we use are designed to help us take better care of the people who entrust us with their health care. Our robotics system has given me efficiency and accuracy. That gives me less worry, more peace of mind, and the ability to sleep at night. This is all at a time when prescription volumes are rising and we as a profession seem to be beset by wolves on all sides. Technology is a saving grace.”