Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network
Association Canadienne des Pharmaciens en VIH/SIDA

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Spring 2011 Newsletter

In this issue:

Welcome New Members!
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Welcome New Listserve Members

Winnipeg: Siyao Sun is covering the HIV clinic role during Shanna Chan’s mat leave.

Calgary: Debbie Bunka and Genevieve Olsen have joined the Southern Alberta clinic as casual pharmacists.

Journal Publications


Simmons T, Johnston BL, Slayter KL. Identifying Acute Pulmonary Reactions Associated with the Use of Nitrofurantoin in the Elderly: 3 Case Reports. Submitted to Can Fam Phys, March 2011.


Conference Abstracts/Posters


Immunization Conference. Québec City Convention Centre. Québec City, QC. December 5-8, 2010. (poster)

Isenor J, Tobin C, Bowles S, Slayter K. Immunization Training: Preparing Pharmacists for an Expanded Scope of Practice. 9th Canadian Immunization Conference. Québec City Convention Centre. Québec City, QC. December 5-8, 2010. (poster)


Awards/Recognitions

CCSA 2010 – Joint pharmacist effort optimizes HIV care

Written by Anne Bokma on December 3, 2010 for Pharmacy Practice
Alice Tseng and Michelle Foisy, winners of the Disease Management Category.

The field of HIV is rapidly and continually changing with the addition of new antiretroviral drugs and drug classes that are highly susceptible to drug interactions and adverse effects. For close to 20 years, two Canadians—pharmacist Alice Tseng, of the Immunodeficiency Clinic at the Toronto General Hospital, and Michelle Foisy, HIV Clinical Pharmacist of the Northern Alberta Program and professor at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Pharmacy—have been at the forefront of collecting the most up-to-date information on HIV drug therapy to help clinicians and pharmacists from around the world better serve their HIV-infected patients. Their HIV Drug Therapy Handbook and website are recognized as the leading international authoritative resources on HIV drug information.
The handbook and accompanying website were developed to address and consolidate many of the gaps identified in the rapidly expanding field of HIV. They serve as a centralized repository for current HIV drug information for healthcare professionals with a main focus on drug interactions and to promote safe and rational prescribing of antiretrovirals.

The handbook was launched in 1992 as a 14-page pocket-sized publication with only three antiretrovirals from one drug class. By 2010, the ninth edition had grown to a 550-page manual with an accompanying CD-ROM. Fully referenced, in-depth information on 24 antiretrovirals from seven different classes is included (with a total of 1,544 references) as well as 19 tables on drug interactions. The website (www.hivclinic.ca) was launched in 2000 and houses the handbook as well as 75 patient medication fact sheets in English and French, and sections for provincial and national pharmacist groups to promote networking. It is updated quarterly and has received more than half a million hits since its inception. An international independent published review of HIV drug interaction websites ranked this website as one of the top in the world. The site is fully accessible, free of charge and does not require any user registration or passwords.

"I truly cannot think of two more dedicated and deserving individuals for this award," noted Christine Hughes, Associate Professor & Chair of the Pharmacy Practice Division at the University of Alberta. "The quality of the handbook and website speaks to the commitment to excellence that both Alice and Michelle have demonstrated for years in the care of HIV-infected patients, and the translation of knowledge to other healthcare professionals. This type of work is essential in promoting the profession of pharmacy as well as improving the quality of life of Canadians living with HIV."

The award judges agreed wholeheartedly. "Your body of work in HIV care has rightly garnered you international recognition," said one. "Your dedication to evidenced-based care has improved the health of patients around the world and enabled pharmacists to elevate their roles on multidisciplinary teams. 'Congratulations' is the least we can say."

Michelle Foisy - Alberta Pharmacy Centennial Award of Distinction, 2010/11
Christine Hughes - Alberta Pharmacy Centennial Award of Distinction, 2010/11
Kathy Slater - Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS)
Member of the Year, 2010-"for unwavering assistance during the H1N1 pandemic"

Other CHAP Projects, News
Healthcare Worker Placements in Africa (info circulated after CHAP AGM)
http://www.ahp.org.za/
http://www.ohafrica.ca/ (OHAfrica has been able to hand over the clinic to the Ministry of Health, and as far as I (Jessica) know, no longer has Canadian volunteers.)
http://www.care.ca
http://www.cpar.ca/
http://www.cacha.ca/upcoming_events.php (CACHA continues to require pharmacists for their missions, and have been increasing in #s of missions per year. While they don't manage HIV patients specifically, they are a significant part of the patient population that comes for the clinic visits.)

http://www.medshare.org/services/medical-mission-teams
www.reliefweb.int
www.pharmahuma.org

http://www.globalmedicforce.org/ (I (Benoit) I have done a wonderful project with them 4 years ago. They do mentoring for HIV professionals, 6 weeks at the time, with reasonable financial support. I was in Lesotho with them.)

www.vso.org.uk (I (Kirstin) spent 18 months in Malawi with VSO and I know that they recruit in Canada as well. They don't advertise always for Pharmacists, but they need them.

**Announcements**

Cade Keith Chan Burley (son of Shanna Chan and her husband Brent), born April 11, 2011!! Congratulations!!