



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

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Linda Sulz, Pharm.D.

“Spring” 2013 Newsletter



“Getting to Zero”, World AIDS Day 2012

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NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone,

Happy Spring, though for most of us, it doesn't quite feel like it has arrived yet. I must report that it has been an exciting year serving as Chairperson of CHAP. I truly feel that our group continues to become more notorious every day. This year alone, we have endorsed tools of practice, supported clinical trial grant proposals, provided statements for or against policy from government and shared questions, cases, and responses amongst ourselves and others. We are soon to have an updated web page which promises the ability to share knowledge and practice tips at an even greater level than our incredible network already accomplishes. Thanks to the brilliant foresight of the founders of CHAP, namely Alice Tseng and Michelle Foisy, we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of this great organization, this year. It continues to be in a class by itself, certainly in HIV, but also in the field of Pharmacy. I'd like to thank my Executive, Christine Hughes, Jeff Kapler, Alice Tseng, and Deborah Yoong, for their support this year. It has been a wonderful journey as chair of CHAP and has allowed me to 'check off' another wish from my professional bucket list. Thank you for the honour of serving as the leader of CHAP 2012-2013.

- *Linda Robinson, Chair*



AGM Agenda (attached)

The AGM will be held Wednesday April 10th in Vancouver. Breakfast will start at 0730, and the first speaker will begin at 0800. Dr. Brian Conway will be addressing a topical issue - *Hepatitis C/HIV Co-infection: Treatment Challenges*. We are also fortunate to have Dr. Marianne Harris present a lunch symposium on *An Up-to-Date Review of Integrase Inhibitors*.



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REGIONAL PROGRAM UPDATES

Thank you to everyone for sending updates for this newsletter!

NEWFOUNDLAND (Debbie Kelly)

Once again we find our clinic in some turmoil as Dr. Missaghi has accepted a position in Calgary, leaving us without an ID specialist in the HIV clinic. We have an interim internal medicine physician from South Africa helping us out, who is great, but we are anxious to get some stability to our clinic again. Recruitment for a new ID specialist is ongoing, and in the meantime myself and our nurse practitioner are continuing to hold our twice monthly non-physician clinics. We will be presenting a poster describing these non-physician clinics at CAHR (see below), and we are hoping to do a formal evaluation of patient satisfaction (hopefully in collaboration with Jeff and his non-physician clinic colleagues!) over the coming year.

From a clinical perspective, our patient numbers have grown from about 140 to nearly 160 in the past year or so. Part of this is an increase in transient care (ie. people moving into the province), but we also have had a spike in new infections in the province, which is concerning. We are in the process of updating our post-exposure prophylaxis guidelines for Eastern Health, and there is some momentum to standardize PEP across all health regions in the province, and eventually to address the nPEP standards as well. We have run into some issues with drug coverage for newer ARV for PEP purposes, in particular for Truvada and Prezista, which are special/prior authorization for most private insurance plans, and this has slowed down the progress on the PEP guideline update.



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Winnipeg (Shanna Chan)

I am currently on maternity leave and Brenda Rosenthal has been doing a great job filling in. Laine was born on Nov 5, 2012 at 4:05 AM (earlier than expected) and was the same morning I was due to give the second of my two HIV lectures at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Pharmacy. Much thanks to Alfred Gin, ID clinical pharmacist, who was able to do his STI lecture during that time slot (I finished up the second lecture 1.5 weeks later during his original time slot).

After 40+ years of nursing, of which 20 years has been providing direct HIV care to patients, clinical nurse specialist with our hospital site HIV clinic, Jocelyn Preston, will be retiring at the end of April. Jocelyn has a special connection with many of our patients and will be greatly missed by both patients and members of our HIV team.

We again had fantastic (warm enough for shorts) weather for the 2012 Winnipeg AIDS Walk for Life which happened last September. A good turn out including participation by care team members of our HIV clinics. A total of \$17,928.82 was raised which will be used locally to help fund our Persons Living with HIV Fund.

We have a committee that is continuing to work on updating the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). Unanimous decision to continue to give IV AZT intrapartum for all mothers regardless of viral load.

There has been an amalgamation of regional health authorities in Manitoba and Churchill (a town in the far north) has now joined the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA). Although we are called the Manitoba HIV Program we only have jurisdiction in the WRHA, so now we hope we can better provide HIV service to those living Churchill. We are also using more telehealth (video conferencing) for patients in rural Manitoba so they won't have to travel to Winnipeg as often.

And always looking for improvement, the MB HIV Program has documented an agreement with the WRHA Population Health and Surveillance Program and WRHA Healthy Sexuality and Harm Reduction Program to support a working group for service and surveillance improvements.



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Saskatchewan (Shannon Stone)

Things continue to be bustling in Saskatchewan. The numbers of new diagnosis remain about the same as in previous years but we have more pharmacists to meet the challenge. There are 2 pharmacists that are working in this area. Each is 0.5fte, one in Regina - Mike Stuber and one in Saskatoon - Kelly Buxton giving a total of 1.5 pharmacists. Each area is working on different initiatives with community pharmacists to improve communication between clinic and community. There continues to be clinics provided on an outreach basis to 2 Northern Communities and 2 on-reserve clinics. For these clinics, the team travels out to those areas, providing services in the community at the local health center, hospital or home visits as required. There is interest from other communities to have these same services expanded into their communities. Hepatitis C remains a challenge as about 70-80% of our HIV patients are coinfecting with HCV. We are eagerly awaiting approval for the new meds in coinfections.

Windsor: (Linda Robinson)

In Windsor, Bronwyn and I are proud to say that we organized a pilot study amongst various sites in Ontario to utilize the Medsrec Tool that was created and endorsed by CHAP last year. The abstract was submitted to CAHR and we were granted a poster session, so we are excited about that. I will present our methods and results to the CHAP members and perhaps other provinces may take this on as well. Other news from Windsor is that we are still getting a fair number of new and young diagnoses. Our testing nurse has broadened her outreach which is contributing to this. Our doctors and we have certainly adopted the philosophy of treating as soon as someone is ready, regardless of CD4, and many patients are opting to start right away. We still struggle in Windsor, as in all of Ontario, with payment for coverage of meds when someone is not on disability or social assistance. It is an ongoing frustration. We have recently modified our PEP protocols and once they are complete, we will be sharing them with the LHN that we belong to. We will soon be meeting with Labour & Delivery to modify the vertical transmission guidelines, based on the new Maternikit. We are also pleased to report that our hospital pharmacy residency program has finally been given official status after a 3 year "proving period"; all of the residents continue to request our program as an elective and rate it as one of the most interesting.



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Ottawa: (Pierre Giguere)

Things are going well here, although a bit too much on the busy side, like all of you I am sure. It is now official, we will be switching our PEP drugs to DRVr-TVD as of March. Along with this initiative, we will conduct at the same time a QA study looking at tolerability (and adherence and QoL as secondary outcomes). I am also working on a nice PK project, which I hope to be able to tell you more at CHAP. Unfortunately, there has been no replacement for Charles yet.

From the viral hepatitis side, we (Alice and I) have finalized the first edition of the Hepatitis C Drug Therapy. Thanks to Alice for her outstanding leadership. I intend to spend more education time this year in HCV, to palliate my lack of knowledge in this area.

Vancouver: BC Womens and Childrens (Carlo)

I wrote a short article for Positive Living Magazine; "A Bitter Pill to Swallow". (Sept/Oct 2012 issue).

Calgary: (Jeff Kapler)

Kathy Lee has moved to a provincial position for medication reconciliation - leaving the Southern Alberta Clinic ("SAC") after over a dozen years! She will be missed in our clinic's Pharmacy family..... Genevieve Olsen will be rejoining our team in April upon completion of her mat leave. (Sheer coincidence that the CHAP meeting is on her second day at work - she knows she can call Jeff or Jinell while we're away in Vancouver!!)

Edmonton: (Christine Hughes & Michelle Foisy)

Things continue to be busy in Edmonton as the patient population continues to grow. The Northern Alberta Program provides care to ~1900 patients in the northern part of the province which covers a very large geographic area. We have seen a significant growth in new patients from certain geographic regions and our program is working on a couple of outreach initiatives to build relationships as well as provide education to health care providers in these areas. We also continue to see a large influx of patients from other regions in Canada. One of the big initiatives over the past year has been to update our regional perinatal protocol. This is



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always a huge undertaking and thanks to Michelle Foisy for leading the charge in terms of coordinating this effort! In addition, Alberta's NPEP protocol was recently updated and became available online in January 2013.

St. Michaels: (Deborah Yoong)

We're still fairly busy here at SMH. We have about 1200 active adult HIV+ patients and see patients for hepatitis B/C or co-infects 2 days a week. We continue to see a number of nPEP (~100/year) and have started getting inquiries about PrEP. Thanks to CHAP for helping us with our pharmacists' survey on PrEP!

Overall, I think we're well staffed with 5 MDs to see our HIV population, 1 hepatologist (once a week), 1 psychiatrist (twice a week), 2.5 FTE nurses, 1.6 FTE pharmacists, 1 SW and 1 dietitian. We are finally close on getting a clinic database that will help us provide both efficient patient care and easily extract data from so we can do both QI projects, answer some research questions and maybe collaborate with others across the country!!!!

Posters - CAHR

Jinell and Kathy have two posters accepted:

*Viral Suppression in HIV+ patients with suboptimal adherence to HAART
Use of post-HAART dual therapy in patients with limited ARV options*

Pierre has two posters accepted:

*Efficacy and Lipid Levels in HIV-infected Adults receiving Boosted Protease-Inhibitor (PI) compared to Atazanavir Only: A Meta-analysis
Antiretroviral Adherence in an Outpatient HIV Clinic*

Foisy MM, Hughes C, Yuksel N. The Development of a Tool for Preventing and Managing Bone Disease in HIV-infected Adults. Presented at: The 22nd Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Vancouver, BC, April 11-14, 2013. (Poster)

Foisy MM, Hughes C, Yuksel N. The Development and Implementation of a Regional Interdisciplinary Perinatal HIV Protocol. Presented at: The



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22nd Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Vancouver, BC, April 11-14, 2013. (*Poster*)

Lefebvre M, **Hughes C**, Yasui Y, Saunders LD, Houston S. HIV treatment outcomes among immigrant/refugee patients in Northern Alberta. Presented at: The 22nd Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Vancouver, BC, April 11-14, 2013. (*Poster*)

Kelly DV, Burt K, Bowmer MI, Schulz C, Missaghi B, Lane C. "Description of a nurse and pharmacist-managed clinic for routine assessment of HIV+ patients". 22nd Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Vancouver, BC, April 11-14, 2013.

Yoong D, Naccarato M, Gough K, Lewis J, Bayoumi A. Characteristics of patients receiving compassionate supply of antiretroviral medications and associated medication costs in a Toronto HIV speciality clinic (accepted for a poster presentation); 22nd Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, April 11-14, 2013.

Yoong D, Naccarato M, Sharma M, Wilton J, Senn H, Tan DHS. Preparing for PrEP: Assessing perceptions, beliefs, and readiness of Canadian pharmacists for the implementation of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (accepted for a poster presentation); 22nd Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, April 11-14, 2013.

Publications:

Tseng A, **Foisy M**. Handbook and website on HIV drug therapy. *Am J Health Syst Pharm* 2012;69(15):1284-6.

Ahmed R, Cooper R, **Foisy M**, Der E, Kunimoto D. Factors associated with reduced antituberculous serum drug concentrations in patients with HIV-TB coinfection. *J Int Assoc Physicians AIDS Care* 2012;11(5):273-6.

Kelly DV, Bishop L, Young SW, Hawboldt J, Phillips L, Keough TM. Pharmacist and physician views on collaborative practice: Findings from the Community Pharmaceutical Care project. Accepted for publication in *CPJ*



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2013 (May/June).

Kelly DV, Burt K, Missaghi B, Barrett L, Keynan Y, Fowke K, Grant MD. Responses to pandemic AS03-adjuvanted A/California/07/09 H1N1 influenza vaccine in human immunodeficiency virus-infected individuals. *BMC Immunology* 2012;13:49. doi:10.1186/1471-2172-13-49. Available at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2172/13/49> (Highly accessed article).

Hall J, **Hughes C, Foisy M**, Houston S, Shafran S. Iatrogenic Cushing syndrome after intra-articular triamcinolone in a patient receiving ritonavir boosted darunavir. (accepted for publication *International Journal of STD & AIDS*)

Awards/Recognitions:

Debbie Kelly was honoured to be inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) this year.

Debbie Kelly received the Past-Chair award from the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board at the annual conference this past September.