



# The Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network (CHAP)

*The Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network (CHAP) was formed in January, 1997, and is comprised of pharmacists involved in HIV practice across Canada. CHAP members meet on an annual basis, communicate regularly through e-mails, and collaborate on a variety of projects and publications.*

## *Fall 2015 Newsletter*



### **News from the chair**

Dear CHAP,

It is an honour to serve as your chair. CHAP has accomplished so much over the years and continues to offer a huge service for all its patients across Canada.

At the annual meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland in 2014, CHAP voted to expand its mandate to include not only HIV but also viral hepatitis. To support this change, it was suggested at the last annual meeting in Toronto in 2015, that we should announce our expanded mandate. If you are an active member of one of the major Canadian Viral Hepatitis Infection Treatment Centres, please announce our expanded mandate at your centre. At

further annual meetings, dedicated time will be allocated for education and clinical discussion of not only HIV, but also viral hepatitis infections. Our focus will remain HIV and co-infections, but this may be expanded in the future.

The CHAP Executive has started initial planning for the next Annual General Meeting. The tentative date is Wednesday, May 11, 2016. We are looking for suggestions for speakers and topics at this meeting. **Please let me or one of the executive know if you have a suggestion.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the CHAP executive, Shanna Chan (Past Chair), Nancy Sheehan (Secretary/Incoming Chair), Alice Tseng and Deborah Yoong (Treasurers). I am very appreciative of their hard work, always present support, and guidance.

***A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributes to CHAP!***

***See you at our Annual Meeting in Winnipeg!***

*Natalie Dayneka, CHAP Chair 2015-2016  
ndayneka@cheo.on.ca*

# Welcome to All the New CHAP Members !

## Melice Bell

Melice is a pharmacist working at the Oak Tree Clinic in Vancouver, BC.

## Shayna Campbell

Shayna is a pharmacist working at the Northern Alberta Program in Edmonton, AB. She has international health experience in HIV, tuberculosis and pediatrics.

## Graham Foster

Graham works at a community based pharmacy providing care to patients living with HIV, in partnership with St. Paul's Hospital (Vancouver, BC).

## Veeral Ghandi

Veeral is a pharmacist working at Pharmacy.ca in Toronto, ON. He is also a member of the Ontario HIV Pharmacists Specialty Group.

## Megan Hanks

Megan is a pharmacy student at the University of Alberta & Royal Alexandra Hospital Northern Alberta Program (Edmonton, AB).

## Ayesha Hassan

Ayesha is a pharmacist working at the HIV clinic in Kamloops, BC.

## Jeff Herbert

Jeff is a pharmacist working in a large independent pharmacy in Prince Albert, Sask. that provides care to many patients living with HIV

(many receiving methadone). He also works at Access Place, a primary care clinic focused on HIV, hepatitis and sexual health.

## Zahid Somani

Zahid is a pharmacist working at The Village Pharmacy in Toronto, ON. He is also a member of the Ontario HIV Pharmacists Specialty Group.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI)**, Boston, USA, February 22-25, 2016.  
[www.croiconference.org](http://www.croiconference.org)

**International Liver Congress (EASL)**, Barcelona, Spain, April 13-17, 2016.  
<http://www.ilc-congress.eu>

**Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) annual meeting**, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, May 12-15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.  
<http://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference>  
Abstract submission deadline: January 13, 2016  
Early bird registration deadline: March 21, 2016  
Online registration closes: May 3, 2016  
**CHAP annual general meeting**  
tentative date, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

**17<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV & Hepatitis Therapy**, Washington DC, USA, June 8-10, 2016.  
**17th HIV/HCV PK Workshop**  
Abstract submission deadline: March 18, 2016  
Regular registration deadline: April 13, 2016  
Late online registration deadline: May 25, 2016

Check out the new CAHR travel awards program for help with funding to go to HIV meetings!  
<http://www.cahr-acrv.ca/hcp-travel-awards-competition/>

## News from across the country, from east to west

### News from Newfoundland

- **From Provincial HIV Program, Eastern Health, St. John's** (Debbie Kelly)

Jessica Burry was named this year's Memorial University Alumni Horizon Award recipient. She is recognized for exceptional achievement by a Memorial graduate under the age of 35. Details at:

<http://today.mun.ca/news.php?id=9666>

Congrats Jessica for this exceptional honour!

Jessica, who's a CHAP member, has been working recently in a measles vaccine campaign in the Democratic Republic of Congo with Médecins sans frontières (MSF). Jessica mentions that MSF are short on pharmacists. [Please get in touch with her if you are interested in helping out.](#)

### Nouvelles du Québec

- **Hello from the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), Montréal** (by Dominic Martel and the rest of the UHRESS-team : Isabel Turcotte, Marie-Pierre Marquis, Mathieu Laroche, Rachel Therrien)

We are having a very nice fall season so far here in Montreal. Nice weather, very little rain and we are slowly preparing for our next big step,

moving in the « nouveau CHUM » (probably next fall). We have finalized our model for providing HIV pharmaceutical care for outpatients and inpatients in the new superhospital. Our model of practice will consist of 2 full time HIV-specialized pharmacist positions, present from Monday to Friday in the « Nouveau CHUM ». One will be responsible for HIV outpatients at the clinic and another pharmacist will cover inpatients. It will be great to finally all work together in one site and thus no moving between different hospitals and from the hospital wards to the outpatient clinic many times per day! We are expecting a busier clinic than ever with the merger of patients from UHRESS Hôtel-Dieu and from UHRESS Notre-Dame in the same clinic.

For those of you interested, here are some pictures of the « Nouveau CHUM ».





<http://www.chumontreal.qc.ca/patients-et-soins/nouveau-chum-et-hcnd>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI6ow12cJC4>

Rachel is still busy with her drug-drug interaction website and leaflets on new hepatitis C direct-acting antivirals (DAAa) should be ready soon. Suzanne and Rachel are preparing for our annual HIV symposium at the end of November where they will present clinical cases on drug-drug interactions with DAAs, antiplatelets/ anticoagulants and antiretrovirals.

On my side, we have developed a tool, along with a pharmacist in oncology and with hepatologists, on the management of HBV prophylaxis when initiating chemotherapy. Our goal is to implement our protocol as soon as possible and we will be giving presentations to oncology colleagues soon. I also have to work on the CHAP HCV drug coverage tool. Unfortunately, I am behind schedule as I was waiting for HCV drug coverage decision in the province of Quebec which we now have. Therefore, there should be more to come about this tool later on this year!

Finally, we just want to wish everyone a Happy Holidays...

- **From the McGill University Health Centre, Montréal (Alison Wong, Nancy Sheehan, Benoît Lemire)**



We have finally made the big move to our dazzling new hospital (...dazzling on the inside)! The move itself went great, very efficient, very controlled etc. I hope not too much of the bad press made it to each of your provinces but there are some small issues with drainage, the computer systems crashing and some other inconveniences.

Apart from that, our patients have followed us to the new Chronic Viral Illness Service clinic and, since our office is now directly opposite of the physicians, we have been significantly busier than before with consultations!

Since our move to the mega hospital, we have also taken the initiative to cover hospitalized patients (which was not possible before as those patients were on a separate site). This has increased our workload significantly as these are not the simplest patients, as you can imagine. We are still continuing our ongoing negotiations with the administration to increase our FTE to 2 pharmacists.

In regards to the team, Marie Courchesne is no longer with us as she has decided to stay with the Neurological Institute (which will only move a few years down the road).

Katherine Mousseau has temporarily left us for her 2<sup>nd</sup> maternity leave (2<sup>nd</sup> boy), but she has assured us that she will be back! Nancy has (...finally ;) ) decided to reduce her involvement at the Faculty of Pharmacy (Université de Montréal) (down to 15%) and so she will be more often with us in clinic. Finally, Benoît and Alison are still around, not much has changed.

The Québec Antiretroviral Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) Program has recovered after the big move and we can finally look forward and start developing again. The biochemistry laboratory is actively developing the new analytical methods for dolutegravir, elvitegravir and rilpivirine. We hope that these will be available in a few months. We will notify everyone once these tests can be ordered. We are also preparing a request to our health ministry to expand our program to include the TDM of anti-tuberculosis medications. Benoît is taking the lead on this project.

Please note that since the move there are new requisition forms that must be used to order antiretroviral TDM. Please call us at 514-934-1934 x 32168 if you wish to order some. For more information, please don't hesitate to visit our website: [www.muhc.ca/quebec\\_tdm](http://www.muhc.ca/quebec_tdm)

Regarding research projects, there are quite a few things going on:

- 1) The development of the screening tool is ongoing. It is now safely in the hands of 4 pharmacy residents this year who are finalizing the protocol and are submitting to the Research Ethics Board in December. We will likely have results of this study in a year. **You will be solicited in January to participate in the**

**development of the tool through a survey (Delphi Method)** so I hope that you will all find time in your tight schedules to participate and help us out!

- 2) The study evaluating the potential clinical impact of the federal interim health program changes in medical coverage is ongoing as well. Who knows what changes will occur now that the Liberals are starting a new era...

## News from Ontario

- **From Toronto General Hospital, Toronto** (Alice Tseng)

Michelle Foisy, Pierre Giguère and I are (still!) working on the HIV/HCV app based on our website. The end is finally in site and we hope to be able to recruit some CHAP members to beta-test a version of the app near the end of November.

- **From Windsor** (Linda Robinson)

The Windsor clinic is going through some changes. Most of our staff is coming into retirement status and one of our original nurses just retired this month. Unfortunately, this unleashed news from our current acute care hospital that we are affiliated with, stating that those nurse hours would only be available for coverage until the spring, end of fiscal year. Windsor is proposing that our new super hospital that is supposed to be coming, will not house any outpatient clinics. Our feeling is that the Windsor HIV clinic will be looking for a new home and status sometime in the next year or two. Needless to say I am involved in the fight to

keep the "team approach" alive, highlighting the necessity of the pharmacist/pharmacy.

On another note, Melanie and I are still sharing the position approximately 75% me and 25% Melanie. Our residents from last year will both be submitting their research projects as abstracts to CAHR this year and we are submitting to journals for publications currently. One looks at the utility of patient self-assessment for depression and adherence and the other is a case series of 7 patients treated successfully with Stribild™/darunavir.

As for some other projects I am or have been involved in, I can inform all of you that the updated version of the Medrec form that I spoke about at CHAP AGM last year will be available for download soon on the CHAP website. There was supposed to be a workshop series and printed available colour copies, but unfortunately our friends at Janssen have pulled out of that commitment to the completion of the project. I am excited to be working on a desktop reference for quick ARV DDI information with Alice Tseng, Rachel Therrien, and Mike Stuber. Some of my latest speaking engagements are either on DDI or resistance, as there seems to be an interest in this area resurfacing. Perhaps it is new staff. I think we will see a lot of changeover in staffing in the next five years, as some of the original HIV gurus (including myself) approach retirement. This, I am hoping, will offer many opportunities to educate and train the newcomers to carry on our legacy.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Winnipeg!

## News from Manitoba

- From the Manitoba HIV Program  
(Shanna Chan)

Greetings from Manitoba! We are looking forward to people coming for the CAHR conference in May 2016 and the CHAP AGM May 11, 2016!



In Manitoba, we continue to see an epidemic of newly diagnosed patients with a transmitted drug resistant strain of HIV (M41L, L210W and T215S), clade B, with 11 patients in 2014 alone. We are fortunate to be working with Dr. Richard Harrigan at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV to phenotype six patient samples. By learning more about this strain, we hope to use this information to help guide current antiretroviral therapy for these patients (simplification) as well as use the collective information to aid the selection of regimens for new cases with the same mutation pattern. It will also help us determine if tenofovir / emtricitabine will offer protection if people chose to use it for PrEP.

This past summer/fall, I participated in a pharmacy residency project within my health region (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority) that is evaluating clinical pharmacy services within collaborative ambulatory care clinics. For 3 months, select ambulatory care pharmacists were

asked to track their activities. With the information the study will look to quantify and assess how the pharmacists' practice align with evidence based key performance indicators, as well as assess differences in practice trends between pharmacists working 3 or more years compared to less than 3 years. Another component of the study was a survey to the pharmacists' healthcare team members to determine their perspective on ambulatory clinical pharmacy services. Analysis is underway and it is anticipated the results of the study will be submitted for presentation at an upcoming Canadian pharmacy conference in early 2016.

Hope to see you all soon!



Picture of the Human Rights Museum and downtown Winnipeg skyline

## News from Saskatchewan

- **From Regina** (Mike Stuber)

Nothing too exciting going on here in Regina, but work continues on the particular challenges we have with delivery of pharmacy services to rural and remote/northern communities in Saskatchewan with our limited pharmacists throughout the province (myself and Shannon Stone in Saskatoon as only

dedicated HIV coverage). I will be attending some rural clinics as our physicians have begun limited ID service to some reserve communities around Regina and in the north.

As far as CHAP initiatives go I am involved with the development of the DDI tool with Linda Robsinson, Alice Tseng and Rachel Therrien that should be ready by the new year. I am continuing to teach the HIV section of therapeutics to fourth year pharmacy students at the University of Saskatchewan. As well I gave a WebEx seminar in September to pharmacists in Saskatchewan on HIV. I am exploring the development of a more formal mentorship or shadowing experience as there has been interest from a number of community pharmacists who would like to develop their knowledge in HIV practice.

## News from Alberta

- **From Edmonton** (Christine Hughes, Michelle Foisy):

Fall has been beautiful so far although the white stuff likely will be flying before long! We are hopeful that the predictions for a mild winter hold true (thanks to El Nino).

We would like to welcome Shayna Campbell who joined the Northern Alberta program (Royal Alexandra Hospital site) in August 2015. Shayna graduated with her BScPharm from the University of Alberta and subsequently received her Masters of Science in Global Health with a focus on health policy analysis, health economics and global health management. She has

international health care experience in HIV and TB. **Welcome Shayna!**

As HCV treatment in our co-infected population is expanding, we have increased collaborations/linkages with the HCV program including HCV nurses. This includes patient consults, development of drug information resources (including drug interaction tables) and screening for interactions for patients prior to treatment.

In terms of other good news, Christine was promoted to full professor which will be effective July 1, 2016.

**Congrats Christine!**

**Congratulations to Michelle and Christine for their recent publications!**

**Foisy MM.** HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP): an update for pharmacists on a new prevention strategy. *Pharmacy Practice* 2015;2(6):27-30, with tables available in the tablet version of the article or published online at [www.CanadianHealthcareNetwork.ca](http://www.CanadianHealthcareNetwork.ca)

Sidhu V, Foisy MM, Hughes CA. Discontinuing *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia prophylaxis in HIV-infected patients with a CD4 cell count < 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. *Ann Pharmacother* 2015 Sept 10. [Epub ahead of print]

## News from British Columbia

- **From St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver**  
(Linda Akagi)

We've had some changes in staff since the last newsletter. We were sad to see Brianna Shannon leave for Penticton, but were very pleased to have Osric Sin make the leap from the inpatient to the ambulatory setting. Os provided support for many years to the 10C ward (ie the former HIV unit at SPH) and is well versed in providing care to patients with complex needs.

Kathy Lepik and the CfE's Pharmacovigilance Program recently released an Alert Bulletin highlighting emergent resistance with integrase use in BC.

[http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/centredocs/bccfe\\_safetyalert\\_no5\\_2015\\_11\\_06\\_final1.pdf](http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/centredocs/bccfe_safetyalert_no5_2015_11_06_final1.pdf)

Incomplete medication adherence appears to be a contributing factor in the described cases.

The BC CfE in HIV/AIDS will hold its next HIV/ARV update on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Topics covered will include an update on HIV prophylaxis, treatment guidelines and integrase resistance. The event will be recorded and available on the CfE website for later viewing [www.cfenet.ubc.ca/clinical-education-and-training/opportunities](http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/clinical-education-and-training/opportunities)

*Thank you to everyone who submitted!*

*See you at our next Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg!*

*Nancy Sheehan, CHAP Secretary 2015-2016*