



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.

Spring 2015 Newsletter



News from the (past) chair

Spring is (finally) here! It was great seeing all those who were able to attend the CHAP Annual General Meeting in Toronto this past April. There was a multitude of questions and great discussion following the two presentations by our two speakers, Dr. Evan Collins and Dr. Darrell Tan, on the topics of HIV denial/denialism and PEP & PrEP (psst....if you missed it, copies of their presentations are saved on the CHAP website in the file storage section). Viral hepatitis and the role of CHAP and its members in the care/management of (co)-infected patients reflected in the meeting both as a topic for discussion and case presentations. Overall, a very successful and productive meeting followed good food and even better company. Much thanks and appreciation to the CHAP Executive (Alice, Deborah Y, Christine and Natalie) for all their help in organizing this year's meeting and looking forward to seeing you at next year's meeting in WINNIPEG!!! Don't worry; the chance of snow is fairly low in May.



Welcome to CAHR 2016, Winnipeg, MB

Save the date! We're excited to announce the date and host city for CAHR2016!

Date: May 12th-15th, 2016

Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba

I would like to send a very big thank you to Alice, Deborah Y, Christine and Natalie for all their assistance and guidance this past year – their help and expertise has been invaluable. I would also like welcome Nancy Sheehan as the 2015-2016 Secretary and Natalie Dayneka as the current Chair.

In closing, I want to say how very proud and privileged I am to be a member of such an amazingly dedicated group of people whose impact on HIV care on a day to day basis is immeasurable.

Shanna Chan

Past Chair, 2015-2016

Welcome to New CHAP members

Anisa Shiviji

Rahul Sahajpal

Sheilagh Stroud

Jason Kielly

Anna Folk

Congratulations to new Working Group Member:

Michael Stuber

News from Alberta

Edmonton

Part 1 – Submitted by Michelle Foisy

Publications:

Foisy MM, Tseng A. Development of a collaborative professional group for HIV pharmacists: experience from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network. *Int J Pharm Pract* 2015; 23(3):232-233.

Posters:

Pittman E, Li E, **Foisy MM.** Addressing Medication Errors in HIV-Positive Inpatients: A Clinician's Guide to Assessing Antiretroviral Therapy [abstract CS17]. Presented at: The 24th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Toronto, ON, April 30-May 3, 2015. (*Poster*) Published: *Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol* 2015;26 (suppl B):63B.

Gunther M, Ahmed R, Huang D, Makowecki J, Sloan K, **Foisy MM.** Reducing Gaps in Therapy by Involving Clinical Pharmacists in the Care of Patients with HIV at a Large Correctional Facility [abstract CS52]. Presented at: The 24th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Toronto, ON, April 30-May 3, 2015. (*Poster*) Published: *Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol* 2015; 26 (suppl B):73B.

Select Presentations:

"HIV Infection and Treatment: A Primer for Pharmacists." Presented at: CSHP 46th Professional Practice Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Feb 4, 2015 (Oral Plenary Session)

"Addressing Medication Errors in HIV Inpatients: A Clinician's Guide to Antiretroviral Assessment."

Presented at: 1) CSHP 46th Professional Practice Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Feb 4, 2015 (Oral Concurrent Session); 2) Pharmacy Educational Session, Toronto General Hospital, Feb 3, 2015; 3) CSHP National 2015 Webinar, February 25 & 26, 2015.

Awards:

Michelle Foisy, Christine Hughes. CSHP National, 2015 Success Story Competition, 2014/15.

Winner for Goal 2: Increase the extent to which pharmacists help individual non-hospitalized patients achieve the best use of medications. Submission entitled: "Optimizing HIV Perinatal Outcomes: Pharmacist Contributions in a Collaborative Care Model."

Submitted by: Michelle Foisy

Part 2 – Submitted by Christine Hughes

It was so good to see many of you at the CHAP meeting! Spring/summer weather has arrived so we will enjoy it while we can. There never seems to be a dull moment here in Edmonton. We are really happy that Pam Nickel, the full time pharmacist at the Kaye Edmonton Clinic, is back from her leave. Welcome back Pam! Domina Huang who did an amazing job filling in for Pam will continue with the Northern Alberta program at the Royal Alexandra site. Chantal Ho has moved to an inpatient pharmacist position.

Updated Tables for Toronto HIV Clinic Website:

We have recently updated the Antiplatelet Agents and Novel Oral Anticoagulant drug interaction table which will be available on the Toronto HIV Clinic website.

Presentations:

1. Hughes CA, Koshman S, Sahajpal R. Prevalence and awareness of cardiovascular disease risk factors in HIV-infected patients. Presented at the 24th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Toronto, ON, Apr 30-May 3, 2015. (oral abstract) Published: Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol 2015; 26 (suppl B):O010.
2. Hughes CA, Goondi D, Foisy M, Stadnyk M, Houston S, Robinson J, Vaudry W, Singh A. Evaluation of adherence to regional guidelines to prevent perinatal transmission. Presented at the 24th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Toronto, ON, Apr 30-May 3, 2015. (poster) Published: Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol 2015; 26 (suppl B):CS42.

Submitted by: Christine Hughes

News from British Columbia

Vancouver: St Paul's Hospital

There continues to be no shortage of work here for pharmacists who have an interest in HIV. We are currently providing antiretroviral therapy to over 6800 patients through the provincial drug treatment program. The focus on 'Treatment as Prevention' and improved testing methods have helped to increase the numbers of patients who are starting therapy at higher CD4 counts. Approximately 60% and 40% of our treatment-naïve patients are initiating treatment at CD4 counts >350 and >500 cell/mm³, respectively.

The BC CfE in HIV/AIDS held its biannual HIV update on April 20th. The continuing education event covered a number of topics including, arrhythmia effects of antiretrovirals, HIV and bone disease and HIV/HCV drug interactions with the new DAA regimens. The latter presentation was co-presented by Junine Toy (SPH Pharmacy) and Mark Hull.

The next big event in Vancouver is the 8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention from July 19-22, 2015 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. We hope that many of you will consider visiting our lovely city and attending the meeting!

Submitted by Linda Akagi

Oak Tree Clinic News

Greetings from the Oak Tree clinic! This year spring was sprung on us in February, as mountain bikes took over the ski trails early, and we were all thankful that this was not our year to host the Winter Olympics!

We have recently welcomed two new pharmacists to our clinic. Arlene Tyndall brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team having worked in the HIV field for over 15 years in the ambulatory and HIV program at St. Paul's Hospital and at the MAT (Maximally Assisted Therapy) program within the Downtown Community Health Centre. Melice Bell, will also join us soon as she returns after the birth of her first child. Melice trained in France and previously worked in a wide variety of settings at Kelowna General Hospital. This will be her first foray into the HIV field and we are excited to have her join us!

With the recent listing of the direct-acting antiviral drugs, Sofosbuvir (Solvadi®) and Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir (Harvoni®) by BC Pharmacare, we are quickly moving towards the opening of a Hepatitis C treatment program at our clinic. We are still in the process of exploring how the treatment program will look and in defining the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists within this program. From a clinic perspective, we expect to focus first on providing treatment for patients with HIV/Hepatitis C co-infection, with consideration for future expansion toward care for mono-infected patients as well. This is definitely new territory for us and we look forward to liaising with other centres across the country to share their experiences with this initiative.

Updates from a research perspective:

- Data from the first three years of our experience with using the rapid HIV antibody test within the BC Women's Hospital labour and delivery unit were introduced by Dr. Sarah Saunders (PGY-4 UBC Obstetrics & Gynaecology) at the UBC Obstetrics & Gynaecology Academic day. While all test results have been non-reactive thus far, our results highlighted the need to improve on the interpretation of results and the management of high-risk women who present in the potential 'seroconversion window period' of infection. Our findings will be further presented at the FIGO World Congress of Gynecology & Obstetrics Meeting in Vancouver, in October 2015.
Saunders S, Tulloch K, Money D et al. An evaluation of the introduction of Rapid HIV Testing in a Perinatal Service. University of British Columbia Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology 15th Annual Academic Day. Vancouver, B.C., 2015.
- The revised Canadian SOGC Perinatal HIV Guidelines were published in the fall of 2014
Boucoiran I, Tulloch K, Caddy S, Money D. SOGC Guidelines: Guidelines for the care of HIV positive pregnant women and interventions to reduce perinatal transmission. J Obstet Gynaecol Can 2014;36(8):721-51.
- Our article discussing our shared experience with the GAMI Clinic at Sainte-Justine Hospital, using Raltegravir for rapid viral load reduction late in pregnancy has been accepted for publication and is currently in press with CJIDMM.
Boucoiran I, Tulloch K, Kakkar F et al. Third trimester Raltegravir initiation: impact on maternal HIV viral load and obstetrical outcome. CJIDMM [in press].

Thanks for reading and best wishes to all!

Submitted by Karen & Carlo (Oak Tree Clinic)

News from Manitoba

The Manitoba HIV Program is in the process of analyzing the new HIV patients to care data for 2014. Of great concern is the rise in proportion of MSM in our newly diagnosed (~30%). We are also seeing transmitted drug resistance of the TAM1 pathway with 11 new cases in 2014. We have been in

discussion with Dr. Richard Harrigan from the BCCfE to phenotype the samples to help us better understand this local strain in order to be able to better manage their medications.

A hot topic in the community is PrEP and there has been much discussion amongst the care providers and health educators on how to respond to the subject. There is an information session being planned for June organized by one of the local community sexual health groups.

It's been announced that CAHR 2016 will be in Winnipeg and we excited to host and are getting ready! Anybody know what a 'social' is? Come and you may find out!



Submitted by: Shanna Chan

News from Ontario

News from Windsor

As spring arrives our two hospital pharmacy residents are adding the finishing touches to their research projects, which both happen to be in the HIV clinic this year. Congratulations to Michelle who will be presenting comparative results of patient self-assessment of depressive symptoms and adherence practices at baseline and 6-7 months post standard of care interventions. Jessica will be presenting a case series of seven patients we have successfully switched to DRV/STR. They have worked hard and I look forward to sharing links to their publications in the fall. Melanie McQueen has now been my regular back up pharmacist in Windsor when I am away on consulting or provincial business. She should be very proud of the steep learning curve she has successfully navigated. In our clinic we are ramping up our treatment of co-infection now that we can access Harvoni® through provincial reimbursement. We also seem to have a recent increase in new patients, mostly MSM who have been infected in the last 2-4 years and are under 30 years old. Obviously prevention messages and strategies should still remain in the spotlight in our days of "simpler" management of HIV. On a final note, the Ontario HIV PSG 7th Annual Education Day will be held in Toronto on Friday June 12th. Once again we have a stellar day planned with great speakers, panels, and breakout cases planned.

Best Wishes for a great and safe summer for all,

Submitted by: Linda Robinson

News from Toronto

Positive Care Clinic, St. Michael's Hospital

All is well in Ontario...although we still don't have universal access to antiretrovirals.....(sigh)
We're operating as usual and unfortunately continue to see many newly HIV diagnosed individuals. Some are very early in disease but others are clearly advanced and immunocompromised. We are happy to have open access to dolutegravir through the Ontario public insurance system, but as mentioned, continue to help many patients access antiretrovirals almost on a daily basis. Our research on this access issue was (finally) published in the journal Healthcare Policy (<http://www.longwoods.com/content/24148>). We included a chart of how all the public plans cover ARVs (see attachment) which we can add to the HIV/CHAP website.

Our emergency department continues to see patients daily (or nightly) for PEP and we have recently changed our PEP protocol at our centre to Truvada + dolutegravir.

There is an upcoming HIV Pharmacy Education Day in Toronto on Friday, June 12th, 2015 and we're hoping to educate and address HIV PEP and PrEP issues.

Our hepatitis C management (in mono- and co-infected patients) is starting to ramp up with Harvoni available (with conditions) on the public formulary and are seeing results consistent with studies. Otherwise, the weather is great...and hoping to get more of this much needed sunshine!

Submitted by: Deborah Yoong

News de Quebec

Montreal

1. **Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)**

Hello all,

It seems the winter lasted forever! Fortunately spring is here in Montreal and we could even say that we are now having real summer days in Montreal in May!

We have had busy months in the clinic with the new hepatitis C all oral treatments, being involved with HIV inpatients and of course the entire outpatient HIV clinical challenges we all like!

We have had a recent very well organized « HIV clinical pharmacology workshop » day organized by the « Programme National de Mentorat sur le VIH-SIDA » where various HIV-clinical pharmacists presented us on different topics, drug-drug interactions, conference coverage, etc. Nancy Sheehan (MUHC), Alison Wong (MUHC), Suzanne Marcotte (CHUM) and myself all presented on different HCV/HIV related topics and cases. We were very lucky to have Alice Tseng from UHN, Toronto as an invited lecturer on antiplatelets and anti-coagulants drug-drug interactions with antiretrovirals. Finally, Rachel Therrien (CHUM) closed the day with a nice presentation of this year's CROI meeting.

<http://www.pnmvs.org/vih/> for more information on this useful resource for HIV clinical pharmacists and for more updates on recent events.

From a research perspective, the pharmacy team will have some involvement in a future CTN trial at our center (more to come in the next issue).

Rachel is still involved in trying to develop tools, with the help of many pharmacy students, to help non

HIV-pharmacists at our centre and in community pharmacies to identify and manage drug-drug interactions with antiretrovirals when dispensing medication.

In the next issue, I will probably be able to tell you more about our move to a brand new hospital in downtown Montreal as the CHUM is soon to be transformed in the « Nouveau CHUM » (April 2016)!
Submitted by: Dominic Martel

2. McGill University Health Centre

Hi everyone!

So depending on when Natalie sends out this newsletter, we might still be at the CHEST or we may have moved to the wonderful new Glen. Either way, our closest colleagues are now our moving boxes.

We have significantly less documents/papers than before though. Thanks to the move, we have finally abandoned our pharmacy shadow charts thanks to a new pharmacy tab in our database (see image) and electronic charts. We have also been allocated a bigger pharmacy office that can fit three people instead of just two in the hopes that more pharmacist time will be allowed for the clinic.

A few other updates as well:

- Marie Courchesne has now left our team to be the head pharmacist at the Montreal Neurology Institute
- Katherine Mousseau is still with us for a few more months but will be leaving on maternity leave in November. She did guarantee that she will be coming back after though!

In regards to TDM, we have updated the data collection forms and the address behind the form as well. Please email us your request for new data collection forms if needed to .

Chronic Viral Illness Service Pharmacy Team
McGill University Health Centre
Montreal, Quebec
Submitted by: Alison Wong

News from Saskatchewan

Hello all from sunshiny Saskatoon,

We have survived yet another long cold on the prairies and are enjoying a hot spell so far in May. Looking forward to the long sunshine filled days of summer...

The Saskatoon program continues to be a busy place with the addition of the new hepatitis c treatments to the provincial formulary. In addition to the new treatments, our program has added a new part-time (0.3FTE) hepatitis c dedicated pharmacist. Her name is Kim Dhand and she is shared with the TB clinic creating a great link for co-infected patients in the province. A BIG welcome to Kim.

The HIV side of the program continues to bring forth challenges and successes. Our program now has a single full-time pharmacist position with Kelly Buxton working casually as she is able. Ongoing partnerships with a family physician clinic help to offset our low number of ID specialists to provide HIV care. The program continues to provide care and support to the patients in the Saskatoon area and most of Northern Saskatchewan.

On the inpatient side of care, the addition of Jaris Swidrovich to the team at the St. Paul's Hospital on the west side of the city has been a great help to facilitate discharge and seamless care for our patients. His primary clinical role is to focus on patient who are HIV positive or have addictions and are on methadone. He sees many complicated cases and is quickly becoming an expert on the management of multiple opportunistic infections. Welcome Jaris to the team.

That is all I have for now, take care everyone and take the time to stop and smell the flowers of the summer.

Submitted by: Shannon Stone

Publications

Wong A, Giguère P, Robinson L, Martel D, Toy J, Sulz L, Sheehan N, Lemire B, Foisy M. Survey of Healthcare Professionals on the Role of Pharmacists in an Outpatient HIV Clinic Setting [abstract SS48]. Presented at: The 24th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Toronto, ON, April 30-May 3, 2015. (*Poster*) Published: Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol 2015; 26 (suppl B):117B.

Wong A, Giguère P, Robinson L, Martel D, Toy J, Sulz L, Sheehan N, Lemire B, Foisy M. Survey of Healthcare Professionals on the Role of Pharmacists in an Outpatient HIV Clinic Setting [abstract Tues-19]. Presented at: CSHP Professional Practice Conference, Toronto, ON, January 30-Feb 3, 2015.

Hughes CA, Goondi D, Foisy M, Stadnyk M, Houston S, Robinson J, Vaudry J, Singh A. Evaluation of Adherence to Regional Guidelines to Prevent Perinatal Transmission [abstract CS42]. Presented at: The 24th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Toronto, ON, April 30-May 3, 2015. (*Poster*) Published: Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol 2015; 26 (suppl B):70B

Yoong D, and CHAP. 2015 Revision of the Table: Characteristics of public drug benefit programs in Canadian provinces and territories for coverage of antiretroviral drugs for the general population, 2014 (in revision – to be posted on CHAP website)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 2015 Minutes - See CHAP Dropbox for Draft Copy

CAHR Ancillary Summary – See CHAP Dropbox

Future Meetings

The CAHR website lists the following meeting locations:

CAHR 2016 May 12-15th, Winnipeg

Proposed CHAP Annual General Meeting Wednesday May 11, 2016

CAHR 2017 April 24-27th, Montreal

CAHR 2018 April 26-29th, Vancouver

2015 General Meeting Presentations

A PDF copy of Dr. Evan Collins' slides from his presentation on HIV Denial/Denialism at the CHAP AGM 2015 in Toronto (May 29, 2015) has been uploaded the CHAP website in the file storage section under presentations. To access them you will need to log in. If you can't remember your login information, please contact Alice Tseng.

Thank-you to every-one who submitted!

A big Thank-you to everyone who contributes to CHAP!

See you at our next Annual Meeting in Winnipeg,

Natalie Dayneka, CHAP Secretary 2014-2015



CAHR 2016 May 12-15th, Winnipeg