

CHAP NEWSLETTER: December 2023

Editor: Sharan Lail (CHAP Secretary 2023-2024)

Mission Statement: To bring together pharmacists with a clinical and research focus in HIV and/or viral hepatitis to optimize patient outcomes and promote the profession of pharmacy through communications, education, research, and clinical practice.

Message from the Chair - Tasha Ramsey, 2023-2024

Hello CHAP members!

Thank you all for another excellent year. I am so grateful to be your CHAP Chair for 2023-2024. I appreciate learning from all of you through our CHAP email chain and the projects our working group members are engaged in.

CHAP executive was busy in 2023 with past-Chair Carley Pozniak organizing and leading our Annual General Meeting in Quebec City where we were finally able to connect in person. CHAP chats continued this year with the most recent in November: HCV Resistance and Re-treatment with Dr. Feld (recording available [here](#)). We plan to continue our CHAP Chats in 2024. Planning is also underway for our 2024 CHAP Annual General Meeting in London Ontario on April 24th.

We welcomed Benoît Lemire, Jonathan (Jon) Smith, and Erin Ready as working group members and Linda Akagi will continue her CHAP involvement with emeritus status.

I would like to thank Carley Pozniak for her work in 2022-2023 as Chair, Deborah Young and Alice Tseng for their continued commitment as CHAP co-treasurers, and welcome Sharan Lail as our secretary.

I look forward to what 2024 will bring for CHAP and hope that you all have restful holiday season.

Tasha Ramsey

Updates From Across the Country

British Columbia



Hello from downtown Vancouver! In with the new and .. also in with the old? This summarizes the theme of a couple of topics that have kept us busy here at St Paul's Hospital (SPH) Ambulatory Pharmacy over the past summer and fall.

In terms of the “new”, BC has joined the list of other Canadian provinces to publicly fund long-acting injectable cabotegravir and rilpivirine. The SPH Ambulatory Pharmacy team has been holding education sessions for local clinics to help them screen clients for clinical eligibility and support clients who pursue switching to injectable ART. We find there is often a mismatch between healthcare providers' initial expectations and their perspectives after learning more about the product. These sessions help healthcare providers understand that injectable cabotegravir and rilpivirine is not necessarily a solution for all adherence challenges, and gain appreciation for the logistical complexities for product storage and administration. We are seeing new prescription requests for cabotegravir and rilpivirine submitted by prescribers across the province, and this trend will likely continue as clinics establish workflows to incorporate injectable ART into their practices.

Switching gears from novel injectable ART to an oral antibiotic that's been around for more than half a century ... the other drug that has dominated SPH Ambulatory Pharmacy life lately is doxycycline. This fall, Dr. Julio Montaner and the BC Ministry of Health announced that the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) will be partnering up to launch a doxycycline initiative to reduce the spread of bacterial sexually transmitted infections (b-STIs), specifically syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. Doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy-PEP) will be available free of charge to gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) and transgender women who are participants of either the BC-CfE PrEP or HIV treatment programs. The SPH Ambulatory Pharmacy is currently tackling the logistical challenges of centralized drug distribution for this newest program. Doxycycline for b-STI Prevention via the BC-CfE is set to roll out on December 1st, so stay tuned to hear how that goes.

Articles:

Ready E, Chua D, Sin O, Tung E. Identifying interactions to prevent life-threatening complications [Internet]. BC College of Pharmacists. 2023-Oct-23. Available from: <https://www.bcpharmacists.org/readlinks/guest-post-identifying-interactions-prevent-life-threatening-complications>

Vancouver: St Paul's Hospital (SPH)

Erin Ready (on behalf of Linda Akagi, Kathy Lepik, Osric Sin, & the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy team)

Hello and a few updates from the Oak Tree Clinic!

Staffing:

This summer we welcomed pharmacist, Peter Pham, a recent pharmacy resident graduate, in a part-time role to the Oak Tree Clinic. Stacey will also be leaving the clinic next spring to take on a new administrator role within the hospital.

Clinic:

We are navigating change with the upcoming implementation of a comprehensive electronic medical record system (CST). Our clinic is also moving towards the design and implementation of care pathways for our day-to-day patient care.

An interesting trend we have noticed over the past year has been a continued decline in the number of pregnant patients with HIV but a relatively busy reproductive ID clinic population, with our top three diagnoses being syphilis, CMV and hepatitis.

Publication:

- The Canadian HIV Pregnancy guidelines have been submitted and are in the final review stage with the SOGC.
- Gacic N, Tulloch K, Money D, Tkachuk S. Daily ritonavir-boosted darunavir for viral suppression in pregnancy (DRV-P). *HIV Med.* 2023 Oct 10. doi: 10.1111/hiv.13546. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37816686.
- Flinton L, Nicholson V, Frank P, Cardinal C, Pang D, Lee M, Murray MCM, Tkachuk S, van Schalkwyk J, Swann S, Louty M, Elwood C, King E. Community AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) 2023. *MenoPos HIV & You. A Guide to Menopause for Women Living with HIV.* [Pamphlet]. Toronto, Canada

Wishing you all a wonderful winter holiday.

Karen, Stacey, Gloria & Peter

The Oak Tree Clinic (Vancouver)

Northern Health in BC

Our regional specialized support team consists of a pharmacist and a social worker. We are hoping to soon expand our supports with more peer involvement. Northern Health also has an HIV/HCV Network which provides funding to seven community organizations throughout the region to promote such activities as education, harm reduction and treatment support.

Our referrals have been steadily increasing with November 2023 being our busiest month yet since the team's inception in 2016.

Dried blood spot (DBS) testing has been expanded within Northern Health with a virtual training platform to expand this low-barrier testing option.

We have been working to expand PrEP access to our regional withdrawal management center in efforts to reach the population who use IV substances (which is the risk factor for HIV acquisition 44% of the time in Northern BC).

We have had success this year with continuing to link patients to HIV and HCV care and treatment through the BCCDC Test-Link-Call project which provides a cell phone with a 6 month plan to eligible participants (history of substance use, recent incarceration or homelessness). The project was expanded from HCV care to HIV, HCV and Hep B care this summer. This has proven an invaluable engagement tool in many cases!

Our northern region, as well as BC, has continued to see rises in deaths from the unregulated drugs overdose pandemic. We have seen 35 consecutive months (Oct 2020-Oct 2023) with over 150 unregulated drug toxicity deaths/month in BC. [Northern Health's unregulated drug death rate continues to be the highest in BC in 2023 at 61.4/100,000.](#)

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hawkes

University Hospital of Northern BC, Prince George

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Alberta



In April 2023, Jeff Kapler from Southern Alberta Clinic was presented with an Alberta Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, for contributions made to the community.

Jeff Kapler, Clinical Pharmacist
Southern Alberta Clinic
Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre

Hello from the Northern Alberta Program! After a summer of extreme weather, we have had a long and beautiful fall. We have seen some changes in pharmacy staff and some long-coming changes to the clinic coming into fruition.

This June was a farewell to the legend, Michelle Foisy, as she takes a LOA for other pursuits this year with consideration for casual work on her return. Michelle has been foundational in the world of HIV pharmacy and a staple in the clinic in Edmonton. She will be missed and we wish her all the best in her next endeavors. The clinic was very happy to welcome Shayna Campbell to come on once weekly at each RAH and KEC clinic and casual support. She comes from SAC and didn't skip a beat joining the team.

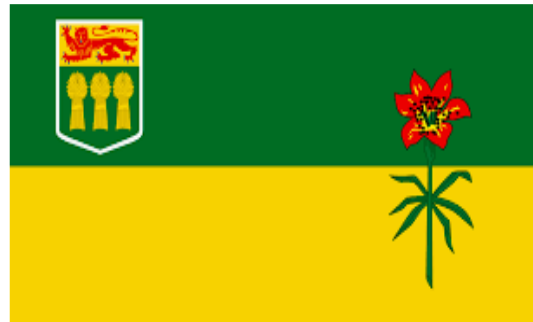
The new director, Dr Bodhan Savaryn, is starting to bring about some changes to the clinic. In addition to the RAH and KEC sites, patients with HIV have also been able to get HIV care through a couple of physicians at the STI clinic. These physicians and patients are joining the ranks of NAP this winter, resulting in ~25% increase in patients at the RAH site. We are re-examining the role of the pharmacist in the clinic and moving towards a consultative model rather than an integrated model. Other clinic

priorities identified include re-integrating the social workers into the clinic and improving workflows, consistent rapid start procedures, and optimized use of the functionalities in the electronic medical record to allow for more effective reporting across the province.

After serving as interim Dean for 2 years, Christine has been appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She continues to be involved in research, teaching, and clinical practice in reduced capacity to accommodate her administrative duties. Congratulations to Christine!

Caitlin Olatunbosun BSP, ACPR, MPH (she/her)
Pharmacy Clinical Practice Leader North

Saskatchewan



Hello from Saskatoon,

We've had some changes in our clinic lately. We have Courtney Dalton as a 0.5 FTE supporting the Positive Living Program mainly at the Westside community clinic but will soon be having her take on a clinic at Royal University Hospital as well to help out with workload. We also just welcomed a new ID physician to our team, Dr. Jack Janvier who previously practiced in Calgary, AB. We'll be providing support to his patients in the near future, not sure what this will look like yet. We continue to have many new HIV cases being diagnosed, heterosexual transmission is taking the lead v.s. people who inject drugs, syphilis rates continue to be high as well. I just recently finalized my collaborative prescribing agreement for HIV treatment and have been using it already. Thanks to Jackie Myers in Regina for sharing her agreement and experience. Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas season ahead, looking forward to seeing folks at the AGM in London, Ontario!

Carley Pozniak, BSP, ACPR
Pharmacist – Positive Living Program
Royal University Hospital
Saskatchewan Health Authority

Regina Infectious Diseases Clinic

Well, the weather outside is not so frightful as we've seen unseasonably warm temperatures and a suspicious lack of snow so far in Saskatchewan. Hoping some more of that white stuff falls so that winter activities can commence!

2023 has been a year of expansion at the ID Clinic in Regina. We've onboarded a new ID physician, Dr. Christopher Lewis, who moved here with his family from South Africa along with an Internal Medicine physician one day per month to help with complex metabolic cases and support our OAT prescribing. We also now have a nurse practitioner 2 days per week which has been huge asset in terms of meeting primary care and prenatal needs of our clients. She also hopes to soon be able to help meet the OAT needs of our population. Despite all the new prescribers, on the ground resources such as our unit clerks, nurses, pharmacist and social worker have not increased and we've experienced a lot of turn over lately including loss of some very experienced staff.

We've also welcomed the Prenatal Outreach and Resource Team (PORT) to our clinic space as an extension of Sanctum 1.5 in Saskatoon (more info here: <https://sanctumcaregroup.com/programs/port-prenatal-outreach-and-resource-team>). This incredible team of social workers wraps support around pregnant women at risk of child apprehension or transmission of BBIs and has been a gamechanger in keeping our pregnant clients engaged in care. They couldn't have come at a better time, as our latest stats show most of our new HIV infections are in women of child-bearing ages.

Lastly, I've been fortunate enough to be involved in the creation of videos surrounding stigma for people who use opioids. Our 3rd video in the Beyond Stigma series entitled "Strength in Connections" was just released in November and I wanted to share with you: <https://subjectmatter.ca/work/strength/>. Please feel free to share widely with anyone you think may find useful. If interested, the first two videos can be found here:

Beyond Stigma: Treating Pain in OUD - <https://subjectmatter.ca/work/beyond-stigma/>

Beyond Stigma: Nurturing Circles of Care - <https://subjectmatter.ca/work/circlesofcare/>

Cheers to a magical holiday season!
Jackie Myers
BSP, AAHIVM

Ontario



Hamilton (SIS):

Hello fellow pharmacists! Wanted to share some updates from Hamilton.

Patients: we have been enrolling 2-3 patients per week on average, which has been keeping us very busy.

Staff: pleased to announce Dr. Matthew Clifford has joined our team. Bringing us his expertise from his training in Vancouver. That brings us to 6 infectious disease specialists now.

Clinic: we have hit our 1 year anniversary of administering long acting injectables in house. This has been a collaborative effort with our outpatient pharmacies and neighboring ASOs. Sitting at 30 patients and counting!

Hoping to see some of you at the 2024 conferences.

All the best!

Devon

Devon Labana, PharmD, RPh
Clinical Pharmacist
Special Immunology Services (SIS) Clinic
Hamilton Health Sciences

Happy Winter from Windsor, ON!

We've had a pretty steady fall until the cyberattack that had paralyzed our hospital systems here, rendering our computer system useless and making life a whole lot harder for staff. This included all hospitals in Essex county, as well as Chatham and Sarnia.

It's been a few weeks so far in "code grey", and we are slowly starting to get our computer programs in the clinic back up running fully, but the main hospital is still pretty behind and they expect mid December before all computer programs, Cerner, Pyxis, pharmacy databases and ordering systems to be working fully again. For now, it's back to paper charts and deciphering handwriting!

Patients here are doing well, lots of new Canadians to intake, but we have a new doctor joining us in January, Dr Stephan Hambaz to help with the load. I will introduce him a little more once I get to meet him properly.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season,

Sheri Livingston, PharmD AAHIVP
Tecumseh Byng Program
Windsor Regional Hospital



Hello everyone! On September 29, the Ontario HIV Pharmacists' Professional Specialty Group partnered with the OHTN and provided a very informative and well attended Education Day for our 15th consecutive year! The theme was "Strengthening Allyship with Key Populations: The Pharmacists' Role". We had stellar morning plenaries that focused on Indigenous Health and Transgender Health followed by an afternoon of exciting case presentations and practice examples. All in all we had a day of great education, awareness, and sharing while overlooking Lake Ontario on a beautiful sunny day. Special thanks to our planning committee, Alice Tseng, Deborah Yoong, Pierre Giguere, and to co-chairs Sue Gill and yours truly,

Linda Robinson

Greetings from Toronto, Ontario! We have hit the minus zero temperatures now in late November and have had our first flurries. We are finally fully staffed in our clinic (yay!) with 4.0 FTE nurses, 2 pharmacists, 1 social worker, and a dietitian! Our HIV/PrEP/PEP clinics are busy with most visits in-person and few occurring via phone. Of our 1800 HIV patients, we have about 90 individuals doing well on injectable therapy with the majority receiving it bimonthly. Only a handful of patients have switched back to oral therapy because of the inconvenience or unexpected degree or duration of pain experienced, and I think we only have had one with virological failure. We have quite a bit of STIs occurring and we are starting to use more doxy-PEP on a case-by-case basis while we wait for the Doxycycline as an Intervention for bacterial STI Chemoprophylaxis (DISCO) trial to start up. There have been rumours, however, that patients are accessing doxycycline through pharmacies as pharmacists in Ontario were authorized to prescribe medications for minor ailments as of January 2023, including doxycycline for Lyme Disease post-exposure prophylaxis. Hopefully, our province will soon realize that pharmacists in communities are a great resource and can also manage STI treatment and prevention rather than have patients pretend to have a tick bite. Our quest for universal ARV access in Ontario also continues with some momentum in drafting and submitting a business case to our Minister of Health. Hope for 2024...

-Deborah Y.

St. Michael's Hospital, Positive Care Clinic

Hello from the St. Michael's Hospital Family Health Team! I was on secondment to the Ministry of Health working on COVID-19 projects, and returned to my home base as an HIV pharmacist. Since returning in May 2023, I feel there are 2 notable changes:

1. We now have 3 ways to administer Cabenuva!
 - a. The patient support program provided by Viiv.
 - b. Through Casey House – HIV hospice up the street from us (thanks Jon Smith!)
 - c. In our clinic – this is reserved for patients who are unable or unwilling to receive Cabenuva through options a or b!
2. Fostemsevir! In November, I had two patients who need this medication to ensure safe use of anticoagulants and antiplatelets. Both patients had significant treatment histories with multiclass resistance. It is an exciting time to have more and more options!

Lastly, thank you all for being there when I need you! My physician colleagues are always so grateful and impressed that I can pose our clinical cases to a group of experts from across the country (and often around the world!). Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season, and a happy new year.

Sharan Lail

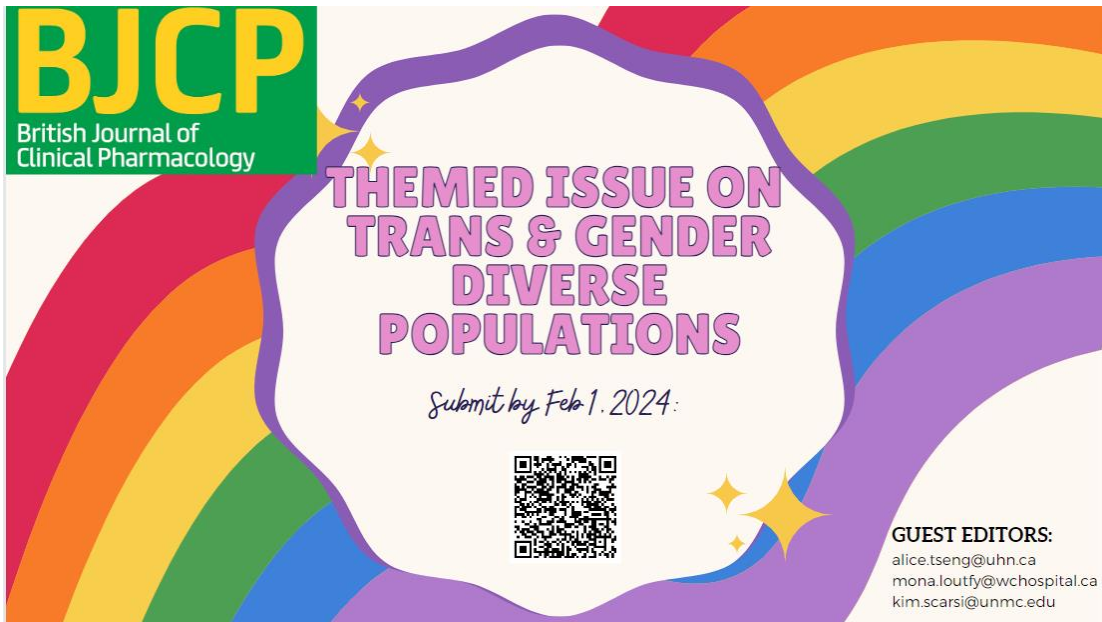
Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner HIV, St. Michaels Hospital Academic Family Health Team

Leung V, Gill S, Llanes A, Khawaja A, Stagg A, McCreedy J, Jacobovich M, Ho G, Powis J, Kandel C. A retrospective cohort study of prescribing outcomes in outpatients treated with nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir for COVID-19 in an interdisciplinary community clinic. PLoS One. 2023 Oct 19;18(10):e0293302.

1 Michael Garron Hospital, Toronto East Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, **2** Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Suzanne Gill
ASP/ ID Clinical Pharmacist
Michael Garron Hospital Immunodeficiency Clinic


- **UHN Immunodeficiency Clinic update:** Like so many other things, our weekly HIV rounds were put on hold at the start of COVID. We were very excited to bring them back this fall in a new, collaborative format as citywide HIV rounds. These rounds are a group endeavour involving UHN, St. Michael's, Sunnybrook, Maple Leaf Medical, HQ, and others. The rounds are held twice a month on Mondays from 12-1 pm via Zoom, and are open to interested HCP. So far, rounds have been very well received. If you are interested in being on the mailing list, please let me know at alice.tseng@uhn.ca
- **Themed issue on Trans and Gender Diverse Health for British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology:** I will be guest editing a themed issue on Trans and Gender Diverse Populations for the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, along with Dr. Mona Loutfy and Dr. Kim Scarsi. The [call for submissions](#) was launched as part of Transgender Awareness Week 2023 and the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th, in honour of the many trans, nonbinary and gender diverse people who lost their lives. Trans and gender diverse people are an underserved and underrepresented population, despite facing complex medical, pharmacological, psychosocial and societal challenges and needs. This topic is more urgent today than ever, and we hope this special issue will help to stimulate and promote meaningful research in this area. We are seeking original research articles and review articles that explore advances in trans care, including optimization of gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT) and sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) preventative and treatment strategies, and future direction of the field. The themed issue will be released on March 31, 2024, the International Transgender Day of Visibility. Please consider submitting a manuscript or sharing this invitation with others working in the field. All submissions will undergo external peer review.



BJCP
British Journal of
Clinical Pharmacology

**THEMED ISSUE ON
TRANS & GENDER
DIVERSE
POPULATIONS**

Submit by Feb 1, 2024:



GUEST EDITORS:
alice.tseng@uhn.ca
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Antiviral PK workshop (September 11-13th, Rome): This year's edition of the workshop took place in Rome, and there was great CHAP representation, including members participating as invited plenary speakers (Nancy Sheehan), oral abstract presenters (Pierre Giguere, Tessa Senneker with her prior resident Samantha Robertson), and attendees (Stacey Tkachuk, Jinell Mah Ming and Chase Fisher). I was honored to co-chair again with Dr. Kim Scarsi. The workshop was followed by the Liverpool Course, featuring excellent speakers. Enduring materials for the [PK Workshop](#) and the [Liverpool Course](#) are available online. Next year's workshop will be the 25th edition, to be held in Liverpool, UK – dates will be announced soon!

- **CHAP observership program.** Coming back after a hiatus due to (you guessed it) COVID, three CHAP members participated in the [Observership Program](#) this year:
 - **Jon Smith, Casey House (Toronto). Observership with Alice Tseng, UHN (Toronto) and Carley Pozniak, Royal University Health Hospital (Saskatoon):**
 My name is Jonathan Smith, and I am a pharmacist at Casey House in Toronto. I had the opportunity to complete a 1-day observership with Alice Tseng at the TGH Immunodeficiency Clinic, and 2 days with Carley Pozniak at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. At TGH we had discussions about the utility of pro-viral genotyping, using newer agents in multi-drug resistant HIV and research in general. In Saskatoon I had the opportunity to be involved in a clinic visit with a newly diagnosed pediatric/young adult, which I would not see in my current position. Carley and I also discussed TDM at my request since this is an area of interest for me. This led into unique case discussions including around the utility of CNS penetration efficacy of various antiretrovirals. At both sites we talked about various knowledge resources used in patient care. Although I'm not a new HIV practitioner, I also appreciated the collegial aspect of the observership since I've only been practicing back in Canada since 2018. Post-covid it was great to put a face to two of the names I recognize as HIV pharmacy leaders. Overall, as the sole pharmacy practitioner at a site, this experience introduced me to new patient populations, gave me new ideas for patients similar to mine and allowed me to discuss unique cases on a collegial level. I am thankful CHAP gave me the opportunity to participate in such a great experience.
 - **Janhavi Malhotra, LHSC (London). Observership with Dominic Martel and Rachel Therrien, CHUM (Montreal):**
 I had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the CHAP Observership Program with Dominic Martel and Rachel Therrien at the CHUM. I was able to gain tremendous insights on the role of a pharmacist across different institutions and their practice in managing HIV/HCV/HBV. They were gracious hosts and helped educate me on the various ways in which serology can be used to improve patient care outcomes. Some of the teaching included the interpretation of HIV genotypes and extrapolation of information to provide sound recommendations on treatment choices. In addition, we also focused on gathering information on HBV/HCV serologies and using clinical information to make appropriate drug therapy choices. Dominic and Rachel also highlighted the role of therapeutic drug monitoring in their practice and its use in managing drug interactions. The observership program is a unique opportunity for new pharmacists in the field of HIV/HCV to learn from experience colleagues. Thank you to the CHAP group for fostering such a unique program.
 - **Becki Rosenbaum, pharmacy.ca (Toronto). Observership with Deb Yoong, SMH (Toronto):**
 Going into the CHAP observership, my learning objectives centred around understanding the clinical side of HIV diagnosis and ongoing treatment. This included learning more about treatment initiation and considerations when starting therapy, monitoring parameters, interpretation of lab values/genotyping results, and gaining experience with resistance testing prior to adjusting therapy. I work in a community

pharmacy where we serve a large population of people living with HIV. My practice mostly involves counseling on new or changed ARV regimens, assessing drug interactions, facilitating financial access to medications and support programs, as well as navigating side effects and adherence issues. Without having an understanding of all that happens in clinic prior to that prescription coming to me, it felt as though I was lacking clarity on what a person living with HIV experiences as they are connected to care and through ongoing treatment.

- During my observership at the Positive Care Clinic at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, I observed Deborah Yoong as she helped people in clinic during various stages in their HIV care - some who were new to therapy, some new to therapy in Canada, and some who had been coming to the clinic and managing their HIV for years. We also reviewed and discussed previous cases so I could see how resistance testing is done in practice, and to demonstrate the importance of baseline testing and routine viral load monitoring. I now have much more of an understanding about how different mutations confer associated resistance and how that translates to choosing an appropriate regimen. This experience will undoubtedly strengthen the HIV care I provide. Not only did I broaden my knowledge in the field, but it is also more evident to me how important my current role in community pharmacy is, especially when adherence to therapy and having access to treatment are such crucial factors in treatment success. Thank you for such a great learning opportunity.
- Observership applications for next year will be open in early 2024. The program is open to new practitioners as well as experienced pharmacists looking to gain exposure to new areas of practice. In person, virtual, or hybrid Observerships are available. More information on the Observership program and the application process are available at: <https://hivclinic.ca/chap/activities.php>
- **HIV/HCV Drug Therapy app:** The updated version of the app is now live at: <https://hivclinic.ca/app/> As a reminder, some of the new features include Quick Pick links in the Drug Information section so users can quickly find information on Liquid/Crushing information and Renal Dosing for individual drugs. In the Drug Interactions section, you can now search for complete chemotherapy regimens by acronym (e.g., you can type and select "BEACOPP" rather than typing and selecting the individual components of this regimen). A real time-saver!

Alice Tseng

HIV Pharmacotherapy Specialist, Immunodeficiency Clinic, Toronto General Hospital
Associate Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto

Quebec



Hello from the CVIS and Montréal (McGill University Health Centre),

The pharmacy team at the Chronic Viral Illness Service (CVIS) is in transformation ... and has grown if we include the babies and babies to come. Laurence Messier has just left on parental leave and Alison is currently on parental leave. Katherine Mousseau has come back from her sabbatical but is now working one day per week at the hospital and 4 days per week at l'INESSS (Institut national d'excellence en santé et services sociaux). In January, we will start training a new pharmacist who will be joining our team, Ms. Caren Jabamikos.

We will also be welcoming Julian Hopwood-Raja, this year's HIV advanced (year 2) pharmacy resident (UHN/MUHC joint program) in Montréal for his second half of his residency program at the end of March.

Regarding the HIV Year 2 residency program, we underwent our second Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board accreditation survey visit at the end of November / early December. Surveyors spent time in Toronto and in Montréal and overall the feedback we received was very positive. We want to thank everyone who participated in the survey visit (i.e., coordinators, preceptors, residents and past residents). Our program becomes stronger each time we go through this intensive program evaluation process.

We also have new members joining the CVIS interdisciplinary care team (Dr. Sean Yaphe, and a new social worker to come).

We have been working under our collaborative practice agreement since a year now, and we love it !!! Independent prescribing, so great. It mostly accelerates the implementation of our interventions and everyone seems to benefit. An important portion of our workload at present continues to be switching patients to Cabenuva.

Finally, we have been very busy with various research projects. A group of Masters in Advanced Pharmacotherapy (Year 1) residents worked in 2023 with Nancy and Benoît on the association between dolutegravir and the development of neuropsychiatric adverse events, a PharmD honors student worked with Nancy on the utility and usefulness of TDM of dolutegravir, a Masters in pharmaceutical sciences student worked with Nancy and Dr. Isabelle Boucoiran on the post partum HIV cascade of care in Ontario, our new Y2 resident has started working with Alice Tseng and Nancy on two research projects related to HIV geriatrics, and a new group of Y1 residents will be working with Benoît on a systematic review on universal free access to antiretrovirals. Many of these results will hopefully be presented at CAHR 2024 in London, ON.

Nancy Sheehan, PharmD, MSc
Département de pharmacie,
Services des maladies virales chroniques,
Programme provincial de dosage des médicaments antirétroviraux
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et Professeure titulaire de clinique,
Faculté de pharmacie, Université de Montréal

Nova Scotia



From the QEII Health Sciences Center Infectious Diseases Clinic, Halifax (Lucas Thorne-Humphrey and Tasha Ramsey)

Greetings from Halifax! A few exciting research updates:

One year ago on December 1, 2022 HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis screening by pharmacists began as part of Approach 2.0 under the leadership of Debbie Kelly, Alberta provincial lead Christine Hughes, and Nova Scotia provincial lead Tasha Ramsey. We have 11 participating pharmacies in Nova Scotia and are excited to continue until March 2024.

PrEP-Rx exploring pharmacist prescribing for HIV PrEP in NS, a project led by Dr. Kyle Wilby, was also implemented in 10 pharmacies from February to October 2023. Stay tuned for results! There are two associated publications that explore target user (linked [here](#)) and community pharmacist (linked [here](#)) acceptance of a pharmacist-led prescribing service for HIV PrEP.

Clinically, we have restarted a community outreach clinic with regular visits for HIV and hepatitis C to reach our most vulnerable patients at the North End Community Health Centre (Halifax). Depot cabotegravir/rilpivirine was added to our high cost drug program that funds antiretrovirals for those without private insurance. Driven by new infections, immigration and movement from Ontario and British Columbia our HIV clinic patients have also continued to climb with a greater than a 5% increase even since May 2023.

Happy holidays! Lucas and Tasha

Newfoundland and Labrador



Here's an update from the NL provincial HIV program...

Clinic update – we have seen a very significant increase in referrals to our clinic in the past 18 months. Many are newcomers with complex needs. Some are new diagnoses – in fact, it's the highest number of new HIV diagnoses that I've seen in a year since I started in 1999. Concerning. Additionally, our patients are experiencing higher needs related to mental health and addictions, housing instability, and other supports. Compounding this, we are without a clinic NP – our NP is on parental leave until Sept. 2024 and we have been unable to fill the position. So we're all taking on a bit more, and as result scope has been expanding to support the needs as well. I'm now doing PrEP management as a delegated responsibility for our clinic physician. This has been such a rewarding and fun aspect to the job, but it is time-consuming. Not enough prescribers to meet the demand for PrEP in our province. Which dovetails nicely into research work that some of us are involved in...

Research: Christine Hughes, Tasha Ramsey and I are continuing our work with the APPROACH study – community pharmacist testing for HIV, Hep C and syphilis across NL, NS and AB. The study is ongoing through to March 2024. We look forward to sharing an update on our results at the CHAP meeting this year. Our team was also successful in securing a CIHR grant to support the next stage of this work – working with provinces to scale and sustain a pharmacy-based sexual health services model, which incorporates not only testing, but also pharmacist prescribing for PrEP and treatment of STIs. Kyle Wilby from Dalhousie, who has led PrEP-Rx (pharmacist prescribing for PrEP in NS) is a co-lead on this project as well. We'll be working on this over the next 5 years with a goal of moving this from "research study" to a regular healthcare service in as many provinces as we can support to do so!

I'm also excited to share that I received a grant from Gilead to hire some research assistant support to get our HIV clinic database updated so we can better monitor our progress on Cascade of Care targets again. This funding is through 2025.

I don't think we have any new medications to share info about but I did just enroll our first Cabenuva patient this week (yeah, I know... old news to everyone here)! But it's exciting for us as the nursing staff instability in clinic for the past 18 months has been a real barrier to offering the injectable therapy to our patients. Hoping the "new and improved" ViiV patient enrollment program is as helpful as promised. We continue to rely heavily on both the Gilead and ViiV patient support programs for financial support for our patients, including many newcomers, students and others who otherwise would fall through the cracks.

There have been publications but I'm writing this on a flight and I don't have easy access to pulling them together so will have to update that another time. I really enjoyed the Hep C treatment chat in November and look forward to more... as well as seeing many of you in London this spring!

Bye for now from The Rock,

Deb
Deborah Kelly
DR. DEBBIE KELLY, BSc(Pharm), ACPR, PharmD, FCSHP, AAHIVP
Professor and Special Advisor, Practice Innovation
Clinical Pharmacotherapy Specialist – Provincial HIV program
Pronouns: she/her
School of Pharmacy, Memorial University of Newfoundland

CHAP member updates from February 8, 2023 to November 30, 2023:

New CHAP members:

- **Pamela Ip** pam@prepclinic.ca, **Kishan Rana** kishan@prepclinic.ca and **Rohail Malhi Nawaz** rohail@prepclinic.ca at the PrEP Clinic, Toronto, recently completed their certifications through AAHIVP. Congratulations and welcome to CHAP!
- **Jinglin Tang**, Jinglin.Tang@vch.ca has started working at the Gilwest Clinic in Richmond, BC.
- **Cheyenne Boehm**, BSP, ACPR, BCIDP, Cheyenne.boehm@ahs.ca, Cheyenne.boehm@usask.ca is a registered pharmacist in Alberta who joined Southern Alberta Clinic in a temporary role until Dec 2024.
- **Ariel Xue**, ariel.xue@ahs.ca is a new pharmacist working with the pediatric HIV population at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary.
- **Peter Pham**, peter.pham1@cw.bc.ca is a new pharmacist joining the Oak Tree Clinic group.
- **Mazin Assafeen**, mazinassafeen@gmail.com is the Pharmacy Manager at Maple Leaf Medical Pharmacy, Toronto. Mazin is experienced in HIV / PreP / PEP / HCV therapy modalities, drug interactions, counseling of diverse and multicultural communities. He works alongside with Maple Leaf HIV Research on treatment optimization and developing customized care plans and monitoring blood work and follow-up, and is experienced in managing co-morbidities (Cardiovascular, Endocrine, Renal, weight gain) in HIV patients.
- **Kelly Kizlyk**, BSP, kelly.kizlyk@usask.ca is a pharmacist/medication information consultant with medSask, a medication information service based out of the University of Saskatchewan.
- **Marion Perchoc**, PharmD, mperchoc@ohsn.on.ca is the Senior Lead, Testing and Clinical Care Initiatives at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network. Marion is a pharmacist and has worked with individuals living with HIV in the pharmacy, hospital, and now the OHTN setting. Her current focus in the HIV sector includes managing research projects, developing social programs in the community, and facilitating educational and KTE opportunities for health care providers.
- **Mirabella Chan**, mirabella@pharmacy.ca is a new pharmacist at Pharmacy.ca in Toronto.
- **Michelle Wong**, mwong40@providencehealth.bc.ca is a clinical pharmacist who has recently joined the Ambulatory HIV team at St. Paul's Hospital. She has been working at St. Paul's Hospital for several years on the inpatient Urban Health ward, and so she's already got a strong HIV knowledge base and is already very familiar with some of our patient population.

New WG members:

- Jon Smith (Casey House), Erin Ready (BC CFE), Benoit Lemire (MUHC)
- Departing: Linda Akagi

CHAP Emeritus:

- Linda Akagi

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.
May 2024 bring peace and safety to all around the world.



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