



# The Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network (CHAP)

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

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## FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

### NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear CHAP members,

It is with great honor and privilege that I will serve this year as the CHAP chair. As you all remember, CHAP has celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and will continue to bring together pharmacists with a clinical and research focus in HIV and viral hepatitis.

CHAP has recently updated the CHAP terms of reference. In 2017, the name of the group was changed to the Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network / Réseau Canadien des Pharmaciens en VIH et Hépatites Virales (CHAP) in order to reflect the involvement of many CHAP members in management of both HIV-viral hepatitis co-infection and viral hepatitis mono-infection. This is highlighted in the 2017 terms of reference and you can find the update on the CHAP website.

(<http://hivclinic.ca/chap/downloads/CHAP%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf>).

CHAP has currently 18 working group members. I would like to take the

opportunity to remind general members that they can submit an application for inclusion in the CHAP working group if they are interested. I will send a reminder by email with the specific criteria required to be considered a CHAP working group member. Of note, CHAP does not have representations in some provinces (e.g. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, etc.), therefore addition of working group members in these provinces would be an asset for our network. If some of you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact me for application.

News from the chair is always a great tribune to underline the efforts and endless work of the past chair. I would like to congratulate Nancy Sheehan (now past chair) for all of her hard work and dedication to CHAP during last year. The 2017 CHAP annual general meeting was a great success and the whole meeting was appreciated by all CHAP delegates who attended. Thank you Nancy for serving CHAP for the last year and you can be proud of what has been done during the year! I also want to thank Karen Tulloch who volunteered with great enthusiasm to serve

as secretary and be part of the CHAP executive. Finally, the CHAP executive would be incomplete without the great efforts of Alice Tseng and Deborah Yoong who year after year act as our treasurers and they deserve credit for their involvement over the years. A new secretary will be elected at next year's AGM so please consider joining the team which is a great way to learn more about CHAP and its role.

The CHAP AGM is planned for Wednesday April 25th, 2018 (the day before CAHR). The meeting will be in Vancouver, British Columbia. You can find all the information about CAHR 2018 (April 26-29<sup>th</sup>, 2018) on the official website <https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/>, including some important dates such as the abstract submission deadline of Dec 15th 2017.



We are presently welcoming any suggestions for speakers, presentations, discussions, new CHAP initiatives, etc. for the AGM. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have ideas and stay tuned as I will communicate with you shortly for a list of possible suggestions for speakers. Looking forward to see you all in Vancouver in April!

**Dominic Martel, CHAP chair 2017-2018**

Unité hospitalière de recherche, d'enseignement et de soins sur le sida  
Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal  
dominic.martel@umontreal.ca

## WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW CHAP MEMBERS

**Arleigh Andrushak** - Arleigh is a pharmacist hired by the Prairie Mountain Health Region to provide clinical care to some of the primary care clinics in the region including 7<sup>th</sup> Street Health Access Centre (which has Manitoba's third HIV clinic).

**Sheri Livingstone** - Sheri is working with Linda Robinson in Windsor, Ontario, and is a great addition to the clinic team.

**Anne-Marie White** - Anne-Marie is a 2015 Laval University graduate currently working in the Pharmacie Danielle Desroches Inc community pharmacy in Montreal which specializes in HIV/STI's.

**John Vu** - John is a recent graduate of the Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services Pharmacy residency program in Vancouver, BC, who is now working at the BC Children's and Women's Health Centre. During his residency John completed a clinical rotation at the Oak Tree Clinic and will be working in the clinic on a casual basis.

***Farewell to Eden d'Entremont-MacVicar and welcome to Rosalie Nguyen***

Eden departed from Ottawa, Ontario in August 2017 and moved to the South Shore of Nova Scotia – Liverpool to work in a primary care clinic. Stepping in for Eden is **Rosalie Nguyen**. We wish Eden the best of luck in her new career and welcome Rosalie!

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**HIV & Women 2018**, Boston, MA, USA, March 2-3, 2018

<http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/international-workshop-hiv-women/>

**Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI)**, Boston, MA, USA, March 4-7, 2018.

<http://www.croiconference.org/>

**International Liver Congress (EASL)**, Paris, France, April 11-15, 2018.

<http://www.easl.eu/discover/events/detail/2018/the-international-liver-congress-2018>

**Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR)** annual meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada, April 26-29, 2018.

<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/>

**CHAP annual general meeting**

April 25th, 2018

Abstract submission deadline: Dec 15, 2017

Early bird registration deadline: Feb 26, 2018

Last date for online registration: April 18, 2018

**International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of Antiviral Therapy 2018.**

Washington, DC, USA, May 22, 2017. (TBC)

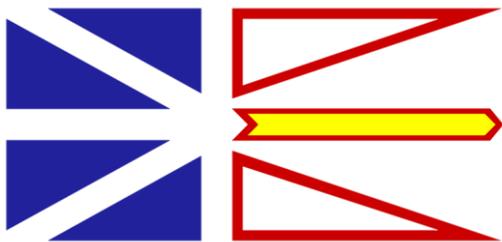
<http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/antiviralpk-workshop-2018/>

Check out the CAHR travel awards program for help with funding to go to HIV meetings!

<http://www.cahr-acrv.ca/hcp-travel-awards-competition/#conditionsoffunding>

## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY, FROM EAST TO WEST

### NEWS from Newfoundland



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

Clinic has been busy. Our numbers have grown and we are now following 185 patients actively. In preparation for World AIDS day we looked at our progress on the cascade of care, and while the first "90" is unknown, 97.8% of our patients are on treatment, and 90.8% have an undetectable VL as measured by < 20 c/mL (it's 97% undetectable if we use a cut off of < 40 c/mL). So we're pretty proud of our stats!

We just completed our first data transfer and contribution to the CANOC study cohort. As provincial PI for this

project, it has taken a very long time to create our clinic database from scratch and then populate it through manual chart reviews. I'm very fortunate to have a great support team working on this, including my RA, Dr. Stephanie Hancock (who has also been our RA for the APPROACH study), and many great pharmacy students who have worked tirelessly on this project for the past 3 years! So we are celebrating this milestone of having all CANOC-eligible patients completely entered. Next we are back-entering all our other patients to create a true NL database for the HIV program. Lots of projects will be able to come from this data in future.

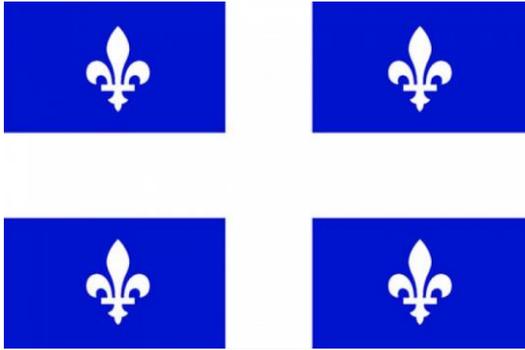
We are very excited that the APPROACH study has now concluded. Testing was concluded in August in NL and September in AB. We are issuing a press release with key findings for World AIDS Day, and are preparing abstracts to present our findings at CAHR, the Canadian Public Health Association conference, and the Canadian Pharmacists Association conference. A manuscript describing our study protocol has been submitted for publication, and we presented at IAS 2017 in Paris this summer about our community engagement to set up the testing model for the study. In a nutshell our results were as follows: 123 tests were performed over 6 months, and one new diagnosis of HIV was discovered. This person received confirmatory testing within 48 hours, and has been successfully linked with care and is doing well on treatment in our clinic. The testing program received overwhelmingly positive support from clients, with 99.2% indicating HIV

testing should be offered through pharmacies routinely. Next steps... in August we submitted a grant to CIHR for the Implementation Science Component 2 competition (we were funded under component 1 for the original APPROACH study), to scale up the pharmacy-based testing model in APPROACH 2.0. Plans are to expand the number of pharmacies in each province, move into 2 additional provinces (Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan), and to offer dried blood spot testing for HIV, Hepatitis C (and B if desired) and syphilis, in addition to the POCT for HIV per the original study. Fingers crossed...we'll hear about the funding announcement in January.

Jason Kielly and I are co-supervising a master student who is doing a project related to the APPROACH study. She will be doing a qualitative investigation of the reasons why we did not see as high uptake in our study among people involved in sex work and those who use injection drugs. Her work will inform possible modifications to the study model, and/or recruitment initiatives for the next phase of the study. Finally, I am in the process of developing and offering a continuing education program on HIV 101 for community pharmacists now, and another program for hospital pharmacists in the new year. I will be highlighting the fabulous tool that Michelle Foisy developed as part of the hospital pharmacist program.

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## Nouvelles du Québec



### ❖ From the McGill University Health Centre, Montréal

(Alison Wong on behalf of the Chronic Viral Illness Service (CVIS) pharmacy team)

Hello everyone!

We started to have a new influx of patients due to their exodus from the United States. We have gone from approximately 5-10 new refugee patients per **month** to 5-10 new refugee patients per **week**! Needless to say, we have renewed our request to increase our FTE at the clinic from one to two (which would bring our ratio down from 1906 to 953 patients/FTE). Until then, we have had a team meeting and have decided that we will start seeing patients only on a consultation basis (with only a few exceptions such as severe side effects, urgent medication access problems, hospitalized patients etc). We plan to implement this change ASAP using a modified version of the screening tool Alison and her team had developed. We are conscious that we will inevitably miss patients who would benefit from pharmacist services; however we hope that this is a temporary measure until more pharmacist time is provided.

On a more positive note, our social service workers recently put together a great fundraising concert starring Barbara Lewis. Katherine got Air Canada to donate two return tickets for Europe for the raffle ticket draw and Benoît personally sold over 20 tickets to the event! We succeeded in raising over 22 000\$ for our patients!

Benoît also lead a student project which resulted in an explanatory video to explain the compassionate and copayment programs. Please feel free to use the video in your practice (available in English and in French)!

<https://infocopaiement.wixsite.com/video> password: video123

Regarding the ARV TDM program, we continue to work on the development of the TB side.

Nancy and Alison are also co-directors of the residents' project that will evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of STRs in treatment experienced patients. Happy holidays!

### ❖ From the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), Montréal

(Dominic Martel on behalf of the CHUM HIV pharmacists - Mathieu Laroche, Suzanne Marcotte, Marie-Pierre Marquis, Dominic Martel, Rachel Therrien)

Bonjour des francophones de Montréal!

We have finally moved into the "Nouveau CHUM" as of November 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 with St-Luc, Hôtel-Dieu and Notre-

Dame hospitals all physically merging into a new facility! As mentioned in the last newsletter, the HIV outpatient clinic (UHRESS) will be located at the Hotel-Dieu site on rue St-Urbain. The clinic will only move to the new building in 4 years as most of the outpatient clinics will be ready in the second phase of the construction project. We will have one full time equivalent HIV pharmacist at the outpatient clinic five days per week. We will still be actively involved with inpatients at the « Nouveau CHUM » as we will have a HIV inpatient rotation with one full time equivalent HIV pharmacist as part of our pharmaceutical care activities in the new super hospital. We will all finally be together and hopefully this will bring more clinical sharing and project ideas together. Here are some pictures of the NCHUM, a great architectural project with more than 300 000 square feet of space in the heart of Montreal, with twice the place of Montreal Place-Ville (a landmark building of downtown Montreal). We even have small robots (see picture) who deliver medication from the pharmacy to the various floors across the hospital.



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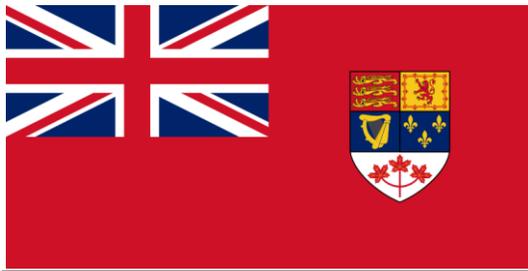
We are still involved in the ECHO<sup>®</sup> hepatitis C Quebec project, learning by doing. We have started our pharmacy residency project, the MONTREAL-C study on drug-drug interactions with direct-acting antivirals (Suzanne and Dominic). Rachel has completely redone the drug-drug interaction on her website and will launch a new version

before the end of the year (with a smartphone and a tablet version).

<http://www.guidetherapeutiquevih.com>

Rachel also wishes to finish working on her pharmaceutical opinions project which will help pharmacists to identify and manage drug related problems and these opinions will eventually be available on her website. Also, Rachel presented an interesting conference to Quebec HIV pharmacists on the unusual use of hormonotherapy and steroids in our patients.

## NEWS from Ontario



### ❖ From the Ottawa Viral Hepatitis Clinic, Ottawa (Pierre Giguère)

Hello everyone,

What a festive year for Ottawa! After special activities related to the 150th anniversary of Canada all completed, we hosted the Grey Cup Final last weekend. Sorry for Albertans who missed again this year.

In our clinic, it seems like we have more new patients in the last little while: a mix of new infections and transfer from other provinces. It is sad to still see new infections in this era. The Prep clinic is a success. Dr. MacPherson sees over 100

patients, with another 75-100 waiting to see him. Clearly, there is a high demand which cannot be filled with our current system. Involving public health, involving designated family physicians are potential solutions.

Ellen Dawson, our graduated pharmacy resident, completed the survey on the knowledge and clinical approach of dolutegravir and metformin co-administration. Thank you to all CHAP members who accepted to participate. The results and conclusion will be submitted to CAHR. I am going to be happy to give you a snapshot at our next annual meeting.

nPEP and Prep national guidelines will be published very soon. Stay tuned for the announcement. Deb (Y), Christine and myself were asked to be members of the panel. That was a great experience. The guidelines were endorsed by a number of associations and groups, with CHAP being one of them. Kudos!

The mobile app version of the webapp [hivclinic.ca](http://hivclinic.ca) was released in the Fall. Michelle, Alice and I are quite proud of the final product. I hope that it can help you in your busy clinical days. No time to catch our breath, we are already working on the version 2.0. Keep telling us how we can do better. If you have not yet tried the mobile app, it is 'yours to discover'.

❖ **From Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa**  
(Natalie Dayneka)

*Editor's note: Natalie was unable to send a detailed update from CHEO however I have included the following note as she is actively involved on the "front line" of patient care.*

"I am in the middle of doing night shifts as 'superuser support' because of our conversion to electronic charts. If you wake up at 2 am for any reason, think of me at work." Natalie

❖ **From St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto**  
(Deborah Yoong)

Greetings from Toronto on November 10, the first snowy day of fall (feeling like -19)!!

The Positive Care Clinic continues operate at full steam with 11 clinics a week caring for HIV-positive, viral hepatitis, PEP, and PrEP patients.

Access to antiretrovirals is still slow to improve; however, public funding of FTC/TDF for PrEP was approved on August 30 and more patients are now seeking and able to access PrEP. Access means no out-of-pocket costs for social assistance recipients and low income seniors, and an income-based deductible (~4%) for working individuals. With greater access, it has definitely been easier to transition our recurrent PEP users to PrEP. OHIP+ will also kick in January 1, 2018 where individuals age 24 and under will have

universal access to medications. Yay! This will definitely help but we still have a ways to go for everyone age 25-64. Linda and I continue to work on our research paper on drug access and thank all those who are answering our questions and reviewing the paper for accuracy. We hope to submit the paper by late November/early December.

Teaching at our site continues with many learners, including pharmacy students, family medicine fellows through the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) program, and the CHAP observership! We've now had 6 family medicine fellows complete a pharmacy rotation learning and managing drug interactions, drug resistance, and drug access. The program has been well received and the demand continues to be high. It is getting a little bit harder trying to find real-life cases of complex drug interactions and drug resistance for learners but it's really because medications are easier to tolerate, easier to work with, and harder to develop resistance. Not a bad thing really.

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

a) **UHN Immunodeficiency Clinic.** At the end of August, we were pleased to host Alice Pau, Pharm.D. (Senior Staff Scientist at the NIAID/NIH and Executive Secretary, US DHHS Adult ARV Guidelines Panel) for an afternoon visit. Dr. Pau was very interested in touring the clinic, and we were able to

organize an afternoon of clinical sharing with a few other HIV pharmacists in Toronto. It was a wonderful opportunity to network and share clinical insights. We were very impressed to hear that Dr. Fauci still rounds every week at the NIH! We were also very excited that generic tenofovir DF/emtricitabine was added to the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary at the end of September, with indication for both treatment and prevention. We are experiencing an increase in volume at our weekly PEP/PrEP clinics.

b) **Ontario HIV Pharmacists Education Day.** On September 15, 2017, the Ontario HIV Pharmacists Specialty Group held another successful HIV pharmacy education day in conjunction with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network. The theme of the day was “The HIV Care Cascade: Identifying Gaps and The Role of the Pharmacist”, and including several outstanding speakers such as Dr. Gary Bloch (treating poverty), Violet Umanetz (a mobile outreach program), Yasmeen Persad & Marvelous Muchenje (cultural competency, focus on LGBTQQ and culturally diverse populations), a panel on PrEP, and update on new hepatitis C treatments. A full meeting report is posted online at: [http://hivclinic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Meeting\\_Report\\_Sept15.pdf](http://hivclinic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Meeting_Report_Sept15.pdf)

c) **HIV/HCV Drug Therapy App.** Free mobile versions of the HIV/HCV Drug Therapy app were launched in September and are now available for download in iTunes and Google

Play. Alice, Michelle and Pierre are now working on additions and new features for version 2.0 of the app.

d) **CHAP National Observership program.** In the second round of applications, observerships were granted to Sugi Thivakaran (Pharmacy.ca, Toronto) and Carley Pozniak (Saskatoon). Sugi completed a 2 day observership with Deb Yoong, St. Michael’s Hospital and Mike Stuber (Regina) provided a 3 day onsite training program to Carley. To date, feedback from all participants and preceptors has been very positive. The working group has submitted an abstract on the program to CAHR and PPC, and an application for renewed funding has been submitted to Gilead. The group hopes to be able to continue this program next year.

❖ **From Windsor**  
(Linda Robinson)

Hello from Windsor!

Windsor clinic pharmacy is hopefully expanding hours and services such as selected delivery. We are hoping to be open and operational on all days that the clinic is physically open, not just on clinic days. Up until now our docs and team have been managing HIV patients holistically but we are now trying to get most of our patients outside family doctors to manage their co-morbidities. This puts our pharmacy team in a unique bridging capacity as we will be the gatekeepers and dispensers of all prescriptions through

the clinic pharmacy to be sure of continuity of records. On that note, our clinic has recently been switched to a new EMR. Pharmacists ensure the medication list and prescribing practices are reconciled at each visit. Just another way for us to provide as close to seamless care as we can.

On a CHAP note, it has been very exciting to work on the Observership Team and project. Thanks to Alice for her leadership in this. I had the opportunity to welcome Laura Bron, a young and eager pharmacist, newer to HIV, from Thunder Bay, to my practice site. It was a wonderful experience and I look forward to more.

On the Ontario front, we had our 9th Annual Ontario Pharmacists Education Day in September. It was once again well attended and we focused our topics mainly upon the breakages in the Cascade of Care and how pharmacies and pharmacists can get involved in identifying and filling some of these gaps, especially in working with the marginalized or stigmatized populations.

Happy Fall to all, have a great holiday, and looking forward to seeing everyone in Vancouver!

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## NEWS from Manitoba



### ❖ From the Manitoba HIV Program (Shanna Chan)

Warm greetings from Winter'peg! We are gearing up for World AIDS Day with events planned to raise awareness. Activities planned throughout the week including workshops in Winnipeg and Brandon, MB regarding HIV disclosure, rights and policy, bake sale and awareness table at our hospital based



site, education sessions for care providers "Caring for People Living with HIV, as well as a World

AIDS Day mixer in the evening. In past, the Manitoba government has acknowledged World AIDS Day by "lighting up the leg" (islature) in red.

Despite the rainy weather, we had another successful AIDS Walk on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Due the rain, in lieu of the walk around the neighbourhood, the hearty participants had a dance party and were 'dancing in the rain.'

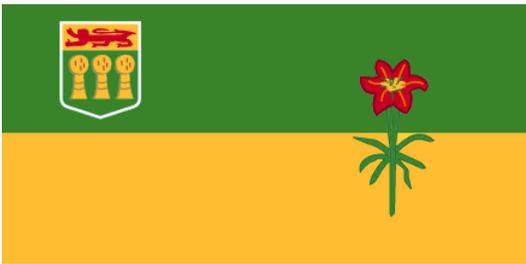


Approximately \$19,000 was raised and will be used to support people living with HIV in Manitoba through programs and services that address harm reduction, “nothing about us, without us,” health equity & the social determinants of health.

*Publications:*

Darraj M, et al. Rapid CD4 decline prior to antiretroviral therapy predicts subsequent failure to reconstitute despite HIV viral suppression. *J Infect Public Health* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jiph.2017.08.001>

## NEWS from Saskatchewan



❖ **From Regina**  
(Mike Stuber)

Winter has come hard and fast to Saskatchewan but it isn't slowing us down. We have been fortunate in

Regina to see a decrease in new HIV infections despite some staggering increases in more northern and rural areas of the province. I continue to provide support to many of these remote sites and have been working with a number of fantastic community pharmacists to help build capacity for multidisciplinary HIV care outside of the main urban centres. We are working hard on creative ways to deliver tools and educational materials to pharmacists across the province in order to shift care into home communities. In that regard we are also working with a number of physicians and nurse practitioners to increase HIV awareness into primary care.

One particularly interesting project is the roll out of PrEP in Saskatchewan as we wait for full formulary addition (hopefully soon). I am working with our public health partners in Regina to establish a pharmacist run PrEP clinic with patients being referred from sexual health nurses or on a self-referral basis.

We are very close to rolling out pharmacist driven point of care HIV testing in Regina. A methadone pharmacy in the city has taken an interest in providing testing and we should be offering the first tests by early 2018.

In addition to the projects that are ongoing, we have had Carley Pozniak begin her role as the pharmacist with the Positive Living Program in Saskatoon. We spent some time together as part of the CHAP Observership program. It's great to have

Carley involved and I'm looking forward to working with her.

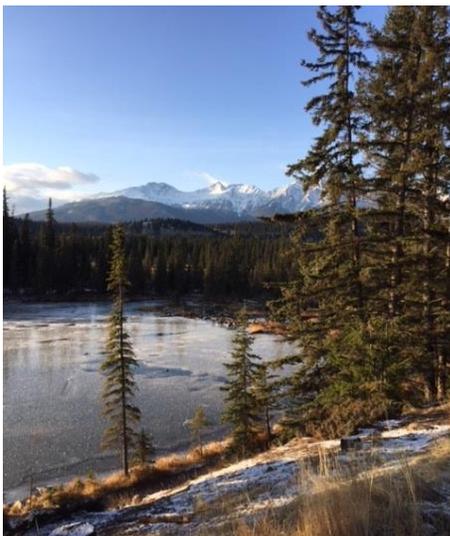
## NEWS from Alberta



### ❖ From Edmonton

(Christine Hughes, Michelle Foisy)

Hard to believe we are well into November and Christmas is just around the corner. Who says the first day of winter is December 21? Snow (and thus winter) has officially arrived in Edmonton and much of Alberta. Although many of us do not look forward to the colder temperatures, the fluffy white snow is incredibly beautiful (especially in the Rocky Mountains!). Here is a recent photo from Jasper to get all of you skiers excited about winter!



Both the KEC and RAH sites are continuing to work on switches to STRs and modernization of ARVs. Since the last newsletter, we have developed a process for rapidly expanding treatment of HIV-HCV coinfecting patients in northern Alberta. Much of this workload is being taken on by the Northern Alberta Program staff. We will be focusing initially on HCV treatment of patients that are stabilized on antiretroviral therapy. Christine and Michelle provided a well-attended HIV-HCV treatment update session to community pharmacy partners in October 2017.

### **Grants (Michelle Foisy): CAHR HCP Travel Award Competition Grant, June 2017**

Grant to attend 18th International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of Antiviral Therapy, Chicago, IL, June 2017

### **Resources:**

Foisy M, Hughes C, Yuksel N. A Tool for Preventing and Managing Bone Disease in HIV-Infected Adults, Version 2, July 2017. Accessed at:

<http://hivclinic.ca/downloads/Bone%20Disease%20PC%20for%20Web%202017.pdf>

Order copies from CATIE:

[http://orders.catie.ca/product\\_info.php?language=en&products\\_id=26063](http://orders.catie.ca/product_info.php?language=en&products_id=26063)

Foisy M. The Antiretroviral Guide- A Tool for Providing Seamless Care and Assessing Antiretroviral Therapy in Hospitalized HIV+

Patients. Canada. Northern Alberta Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton, AB, Version 1, April 2017. Accessed at:

[http://hivclinic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Antiretroviral-Assessment-CDN-Web\\_2-secured.pdf](http://hivclinic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Antiretroviral-Assessment-CDN-Web_2-secured.pdf)

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\*\*See CSHP Spotlight on this project at: <https://www.csHP.ca/michelle-foisy-education-grant-spotlight>

Foisy M, Nickel P, Hughes C, Lamb S, Dayneka N. Antiretroviral Drug Dosing in Pediatric Patients, July 2017. Accessed at:

[http://hivclinic.ca/downloads/Pediatric-neonatal%20ARV%20dosing%20chart%200\\_Sep%202015.pdf](http://hivclinic.ca/downloads/Pediatric-neonatal%20ARV%20dosing%20chart%200_Sep%202015.pdf)

Foisy M, Hughes, C, Lamb S, Tseng A. Oral Antiretroviral Administration: Information on Crushing and Liquid Drug Formulations, July 2017. Accessed at:

[http://hivclinic.ca/main/drugs\\_extra\\_files/Crushing%20and%20Liquid%20ARV%20Formulations.pdf](http://hivclinic.ca/main/drugs_extra_files/Crushing%20and%20Liquid%20ARV%20Formulations.pdf)

#### **Presentations:**

Hughes C. A New APPROACH to HIV Testing: Adaptation of POCT for Pharmacies to Reduce risk and Optimize Access to Care in HIV. Presented as part of a workshop (Exploring alternative methods of testing) at the Canadian Association of HIV Nurses in AIDS Care Conference. Regina, SK; Saturday May 6, 2017.

#### **Publications:**

Tseng A, Hughes CA, Wu J, Seet J, Phillips EJ. Cobicistat versus ritonavir: similar pharmacokinetic enhancers but

some important differences. *Ann Pharmacother* 2017;51:1008-1022.

#### **Book chapters:**

Hughes C, Yoong D. Opportunistic Infections. In *HIV Pharmacotherapy (ASHP)*. *In press*.

Foisy MM. Care Transitions for Persons Living with HIV. In *HIV Pharmacotherapy (ASHP)*. *In press*

## **NEWS from British Columbia**



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

Sunshine has mostly prevailed on the West Coast, but we are anticipating a long, wet winter in the city and lots of snow up in the mountains. It should be a fantastic year for anyone planning a ski trip out this way.

We are almost back to normal staffing levels with most of the MAT/PAT leaves completed. However, we were sad to see Junine Toy leave the SPH Ambulatory pharmacy for a position with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS as Senior Leader for the Drug Treatment Program. We are happy

though that Junine is “still in the building” and is helping to improve the HIV drug treatment program from a different viewpoint.

Our plan to update our post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) program with a switch from Kaletra to raltegravir was unfortunately delayed due to staff shortages over the summer. However, we are now gearing up to replace all our PEP sites with the new starter kits. Other changes to the program include coverage for consensual sexual or needle-sharing exposures and a shorter time-frame for follow up HIV testing.

Inclusion of generic antiretrovirals has made a very positive impact on our overall drug budget and acceptance for this change has been very high among our patients. We are anticipating that the cost savings will help to provide coverage for our expanded prophylaxis program.

❖ **From the Oak Tree Clinic, Vancouver**

(Karen Tulloch, Carlo Quaia)

We said goodbye to our beautiful BC summer, which delivered plenty of heat and sunshine (but unfortunately also excessive fire damage to many regions in the BC interior) and continued to have amazing autumn weather. This photo below was taken November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Pacific Spirit Forest just across the street from where Karen lives. We just need to remind ourselves how spectacular our backyard is once the rain sets in!



*Clinic news:*

We continue to offer HCV treatment to our co-infected patients and 25 patients have been successfully treated thus far. As the BC Pharmacare criteria for drug coverage for DAAs has expanded, we have an increasing number of clinic patients eligible for treatment. Our clinic criterion continues to those who are engaged in care and have demonstrated the ability to adhere to treatment (e.g., have been adherent to ARV therapy with suppressed viral load).

In addition to this, we have begun discussions about offering HCV treatment to mono-infected women of child-bearing age at our clinic. We anticipate that there will only be a small number of women and once we have defined the process, we will start offering them HCV treatment.

*Publications:*

Saunders S, Tulloch K, Maan EJ, van Schalkwyk J, Money D. An evaluation of introduction of rapid HIV testing in a

perinatal program. J Obstet Gynaecol  
Can 2017;39(8):668-75.

*Staffing changes:*

The Oak Tree Clinic is currently going through a number of staffing changes. We have very recently welcomed John Vu, a recent graduate of the BCCWH pharmacy residency program to our pharmacy team. We have also hired a new Nurse Practitioner from Winnipeg who will be a great addition to our clinic. While we have a couple of our other team members (dietician, nurse

practitioner) who will be leaving for maternity leaves, Carlo will be retiring in the early Spring of 2018!

*- It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a bright and dedicated group of pharmacists in a very challenging field of healthcare. Thank you all for your help. - Carlo*

*That's a wrap for the 2017 Fall CHAP Newsletter! I would like to wish everyone a wonderful end to 2017 and health and happiness in the new 2018 year to come. I am looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming Annual General Meeting in Vancouver.*

*Best wishes,  
Karen Tulloch (CHAP Secretary 2017-2018)*