



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.

FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear CHAP Members,

Greetings from the sunny coast in Australia where my family is living for 6 months and only returning once the Vancouver rains are gone! All discussion of weather aside, I am very excited to serve as your CHAP chair for the coming 2018/2019 year.



CHAP currently has 17 working group members and our general membership base from all parts of the country, continent and the world now totals 177. I know as a clinical member 'in the field' I have always appreciated the network we have built and

the insight and advice that each and every one of you provides.



I would like to take this opportunity to remind general members to consider submitting an application for inclusion on the CHAP working group if interested. As CHAP aims to have working group representation from across the country, we are currently interested in the addition of working group members from the Atlantic provinces, Saskatchewan and/or Manitoba. Information on nomination for working group membership is available on the CHAP website (<https://hivclinic.ca/chap/network.php>). If you have any specific questions on the application criteria and

roles/responsibilities of a working group member, we welcome you to contact either myself or another working group member to discuss.

At this time, I would also like I to sincerely thank Dominic Martel for his work last year as CHAP Chair, and Deborah Young and Alice Tseng for their tireless work (year after year) as CHAP co-treasurers. As it was my first glimpse into the inner workings of the CHAP executive, I was able to learn a lot from this excellent team. Dominic did an excellent job at planning, organizing and chairing our executive meetings throughout the year, as well as the 2018 CHAP annual general meeting. I look forward to continue to work with him in role as past chair for the coming year. I also look forward to working with this year's CHAP secretary, Mike Stuber and thank him for agreeing to be a part of the executive team.

This year the CHAP annual general meeting will again be held in conjunction with the annual CAHR meeting (May 9-12/2019), in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. You can find information about CAHR 2019 on the conference website (<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/>) Please make note that abstract submission deadline is January 4, 2019.



The CHAP AGM will occur one day prior to the official start of CAHR, on Wednesday

May 8, 2019. You can expect to receive information on the event in the coming months. At this time, the executive team welcomes any suggestions from CHAP members in regards to ideas that you might have for presenting speakers, presentation topics, new CHAP initiatives, and clinical cases and controversies. Please feel free to contact either myself or other executive members if you do indeed have ideas for our upcoming meeting.

G'day to you all and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the spring.

Sincerely,

Karen Tulloch, CHAP Chair 2018-2019
Oak Tree Clinica, Vancouver, BC, Canada

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW CHAP MEMBERS

Nicole Bootsman (Saskatoon, SK) is a community pharmacist at Mayfair Drugs. She would like to learn more about HIV care with a special interest in PrEP implementation.

Jon Smith (Hamilton, ON) of Hamilton Wentworth Detention Center is licensed in both Ontario and California. He recently moved back to Canada after spending the majority of his career in San Francisco working with HIV in MSM, IDU and HCV/HBV coinfecting populations.

Andrew Ibrahim (Guelph, ON) of Westmount Pharmacy. His pharmacy is located in the same medical building as the ARCH team. He is interested in expanding

his HIV knowledge in order to best serve the patient population.

Shelina Bardai and **Janice Chan (Toronto, ON)** are the new pharmacists at the Clinic Pharmacy, University Health Network.

Carmen Allen (Saskatoon, SK) is the new HCV pharmacist at the Saskatchewan Health Authority in Saskatoon. She is replacing Kim Dhand in that role.

Aisha Shoaib (Toronto, ON) has recently started at Pharmacy.ca. She replaces Veeral Gandhi who recently joined Abbvie as a Medical Science Liaison.

Stacey Tkachuk (Vancouver, BC) has recently joined the Oak Tree Clinic as their full time clinic pharmacist. Stacey has previously worked at BC Children's and Women's hospital and completed a rotation at Oak Tree clinic last year. She recently completed her PharmD training at UBC.

Salin Nhean (ON/QC) is currently completing her residency at University Health Network in Toronto and McGill University Health Centre in Montreal

Fond Farewells:

Aneeta Lal is moving on from the Clinic Pharmacy at University Health Network in Toronto, after more than ten years! Aneeta has taken on an exciting position at SunLife Financial. We wish her all the best.

Sandy Walker who retired from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in July. Enjoy your retirement!

Linda Sulz retired in August from her position as the Pharmacy Manager of Outpatient & Antimicrobial Services for the Saskatchewan Health Authority in Regina. Linda was our original CHAP representative from Regina and has been a strong early supporter of CHAP initiatives. Best of luck Linda, you will be missed!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2018 HIV Endgame 3 Conference. December 6-7th, 2018. Toronto.
<http://www.ohtn.on.ca/endgame/>

10th Annual HIV Pharmacy Education Day. December 7th, 2018. Toronto

Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) annual meeting, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, May 9th-12th, 2019.
<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/>

CHAP annual general meeting

May 8, 2019

Abstract submission deadline:
January 4, 2019

Early bird registration deadline:
March 11, 2019

Last date for online registration:
May 6, 2019

International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV, Hepatitis C & Other Antiviral Drugs. Netherlands. May 14-16, 2019

<https://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/20th-international-workshop-clinical-pharmacology-hiv-hepatitis-antiviral-drugs/>

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>

CROSS COUNTRY UPDATE

Nouvelles du Québec



- ❖ **From the McGill University Health Centre, Montréal**
(Alison Wong on behalf of the Chronic Viral Illness Service (CVIS) pharmacy team)

Hello from the McGill University Health Centre in Montreal!
We have just undergone a major political change in the provincial government: the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) has overthrown the Liberals as of October 1st, 2018 and are now in power as the majority government. We are uncertain of the implications this will have on our healthcare system and the immigration policies, but change is in the air.
On a more local level, our small Chronic Viral Illness Service pharmacy team is under a bit of human resources duress due to our involvement in extra-curricular activities such as university involvement, research, other projects, sick leave and personal commitments. That being said, we are pleased to announce that Laurence Messier will be joining us in February 2019! Laurence is presently completing her Masters in Advanced Pharmacotherapy

at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) and has had a strong interest in HIV for a few years now. We are extremely pleased to welcome her to our team.

We have just launched in Québec a new APES specialty group on Chronic Viral Illness ("Groupe spécialisé en Maladies Virales Chroniques"). The first meeting will be held in a few weeks. For Québec pharmacists, communicate with Nancy Sheehan or François LaLonde at l'APES if you wish to become a member.

Regarding the various projects that we are working on, Benoît continues to develop the TB TDM algorithms and Nancy has been tasked to make a business case for the development of Pharmacy Research Unit at the MUHC. Both Alison and Nancy are wrapping up the current residents' project regarding the use of STR and STR+ in multi-experienced patients. Katherine and Nancy are involved in one of next year's MUHC residents' project regarding outpatient solid organ transplant clinic and Nancy is involved in a multicenter study with the CHUM (CHUM pharmacy residents) on determinants of detectable viral loads.

New publications from our group since the last CHAP newsletter include (a few in collaboration with other CHAP members):

Nhean S, Bravo J, Sheehan NL, Walmsley S, Tilley D, Tseng AL. Successful use of the potent enzyme inducer enzalutamide in a treatment-experienced HIV-positive male with prostate cancer. *AIDS* 2018; 32(17): 2640-2642.

Denault JS, Cabot JF, Langlois H, Marcotte S, Sheehan NL. Optimizing concentrations of concomitant antiretrovirals by reducing etravirine doses: two case reports of complex drug-drug interactions. *Antivir Ther* 2018; doi:10.3851/IMP3274

Sanche S, Mesplède T, Sheehan NL, Li J, Nekka F. Exploring an alternative explanation for the second phase of viral decay: Infection of short-lived cells in a drug-limited compartment during HAART. *PLoS One* 2018; 13(7): e0198090.

❖ **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)

Hello from the CHUM (Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec)

It has been a busy summer in terms of research and projects.

We are finalizing our pharmacy residency project, the MONTREAL-C study on drug-drug interactions (DDIs) with direct-acting antivirals (Suzanne and Dominic) and we have just submitted two abstracts to EASL regarding this project. So stay tuned for the results which will be presented soon!

Rachel is also leading this year's hospital (M.Sc.) pharmacy residency project at

the CHUM which will be a multicentric project done in collaboration with Nancy Sheehan at the CUSM. The primary objective is to identify the predictors of having a detectable viral load in HIV patients on treatment. The secondary objectives are to characterize the subjects with a detectable viral load and those with an undetectable viral load, to identify the predictive factors of virologic failure, transient rise in viral load and low persistent viremia. This study also aims to explore whether plasma concentrations of antiretrovirals are associated with the events listed above, and to identify target plasma concentration values to prevent these events.

We are still involved in the ECHO[®] hepatitis C Quebec project, learning by doing. Every week, it seems we are getting more and more questions on the management of DDIs with HCV antivirals. The CHUM ECHO[®] hepatitis C Quebec team has presented two posters in scientific meeting this summer.

- Implementation of the first French-speaking echo hepatitis C program in a large tertiary - quaternary care university hospital: participants' satisfaction, knowledge and self-confidence after year-1. V. Martel-laferrière, A. Roy, N. Soucy, S. Brissette, M-C. Chayer, L-C. Juteau, B. Kotsoros, D. Martel, R. Therrien, I. Thibeault, C. Wartelle-bladou. Global hepatitis Summit, Toronto, June 2018.

- Implementation of an ECHO® Hepatitis C Program in a University Hospital: Opportunity to increase access to HCV treatment for people who use drugs and provide knowledge in addiction. S. Brissette, V. Martel-Laferrière, LC Juteau, J. Parent, A. Roy, B. Kotsoros, N. Soucy, D. Martel, S. Marcotte, R. Therrien, C. Wartelle- Bladou. CSAM Annual conference, Vancouver, October 2018.

Suzanne is also developing interesting interdisciplinary projects and protocols related to substance abuse disorders. This is very relevant to our inner city patient population where the opioid crisis remains a great concern in urban centers in Quebec, especially in Montreal. In Quebec, naloxone kits are available to patients free of charge in community pharmacies. Even though naloxone has been available for more than a year, the uptake has not been as high as expected. Suzanne is currently working on a project to distribute naloxone kits in the emergency department to high risk patients. In addition, buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone™) will be offered in the emergency room to interested patients with the help of community pharmacists instead of the traditional reference to an addiction outpatient clinic in order to facilitate access to opioid substitution replacement therapy.

Also, as our new hospital being right downtown (same people, new building 😊), we are trying to get a better standard of care for patients with addictions by developing

interdisciplinary protocols for the systematic use of CIWA or COWS for PRN meds in patients with alcohol or opioid addiction.

In addition, the clinic is really busy this year (probably due to the merger of our two clinics and increased workload) and we are dealing with very challenging inpatient cases.

As you can all see, there is a lot going on, so stay tuned for the updates!

Take care and see you soon,

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

NEWS from Ontario



❖ **From Ottawa Viral Hepatitis Clinic, Ottawa**
(Pierre Giguère)

Cheers from Ottawa,
There is quite a lot going on at TOH these days. From an HIV standpoint, we are still having a regular flow of new patients: A mix of transfers and new diagnosis. We are a lot into 'modernizing' therapies. Interestingly, I

found that patients have a strong preference for Biktarvy due to pill size and no food restrictions. So far, no complaints due to tolerance! Comes second Juluca and not much for Odefsey. I am curious to see how dolutegravir/3TC will fit in.

Our institution is going through a major IT change: we are moving to EPIC (like in Alberta). We expect a major change in the way we will provide services. At the end, I think that this is a fantastic software, but big changes usually come along with big stress too. Natalie knows better than me on that topic!! On top of this, we are going 24/7. I still have no clue how this will impact my job, but I shall know sometimes in the Spring. Implementation date is June.

To fill in my free times, I keep working with our fantastic App team on a new version. We are also ready for the Ontario HIV CE day in the next few weeks. And I remain available to support my kids sports activities (Hockey, swimming and volleyball). Life goes on!!

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Saskatoon!

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

All is pretty stable here at the Positive Care Clinic at St. Michael's Hospital. We continue to see a steady number of new diagnoses, with an influx of individuals here on student and work visas. We continue to have 5 physicians providing HIV care (to ~1800 pts), 3 physicians

providing hepatitis care, and 3 physicians providing PrEP (300+ pts). In November 2018, the St. Michael's Family Health Team is kicking-off a QI initiative to improve and eradicate hepatitis C. The Family Health Team has put together a Hepatitis C Advisory Committee which includes both physicians and pharmacists with specialized knowledge that can lend guidance to primary care providers. The program supports primary care providers to treat their patients while providing a protocol for those that need referrals to Hepatology (eg. decompensated cirrhotics, ESRD, prior HCV treatment or drug resistance). Across the six different Family Health clinics, data suggests 371 of 727 patients that have tested positive for HCV still require to be treated.

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

a) **UHN Immunodeficiency Clinic.** We were sad to say goodbye to Aneeta Lal, pharmacist in the Clinic Pharmacy as she moved on to an exciting career opportunity at Sunlife. Aneeta was with the Clinic Pharmacy for 10 years and is greatly missed. We are very lucky though to welcome Shelina Bardai as the new pharmacist at the Clinic Pharmacy. Shelina has some previous HIV experience in the US and is a wonderful addition to the clinic team.
b) **UHN/MUHC HIV residency program.** Nancy and I would like to congratulate Salin Nhean on successfully completing all her rotations and passing her final oral exam. Salin is

now writing up the results of her project entitled "SUPPLEx: appearance- and performance-enhancing Supplement Use in Pre-exposure Prophylaxis patients" and will be submitting an abstract to CAHR. Salin has returned to her hometown of Baltimore, MD and is actively looking for a position in HIV (she's open to coming back to Canada - hint!) We wish her all the best in her future career. Salin will remain part of CHAP as an international member.

c) **Ontario HIV Pharmacists Education Day.** The dates for the OHTN Endgame 3 Conference and Ontario HIV Pharmacists Education Day have been confirmed for December 6 & 7th at the Intercontinental Hotel, Toronto. We are very happy to have CHAP members Debbie Kelly and Mike Stuber attend as presenters for both the Endgame and Pharmacy Day sessions. This year marks the 10th annual HIV Pharmacy Education Day since the Ontario HIV Pharmacists Specialty Group and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network began co-hosting this meeting. More information on the Endgame and Pharmacy Education Day is available at:

<http://www.ohtn.on.ca/endgame/>
<https://hivclinic.ca/pharmacy-org/ontario-hiv-professional-specialty-group/meetings/>

d) **CHAP National Observership Program.** Sheri Livingston (Windsor) completed a 3 day observership in Toronto with Alice Tseng (University Health Network) and Deb Yoong (St. Michael's Hospital). For the fall round of applications, 3 observerships were approved: Aisha Shoaib (Toronto) will do an observership with Pierre Giguere (Ottawa), Andrew Ibrahim (Guelph) will do an observership with Sher Livingston

(Windsor), and Stacey Tkachuk (Vancouver) will do an observership with Jenn Hawkes (Prince George). We wish everyone a successful observership experience. An application for renewed funding has been submitted to Gilead so that we can continue to offer this program in 2019.

Thanks,
Alice

❖ **From Windsor**
(Linda Robinson)

Greetings from Southwestern Ontario! Things haven't really changed much in our neck of the woods. We continue to see more and more PrEP starts, yet are still getting more new infections. Our PrEP numbers have probably tripled since the last newsletter. No scary stories to report there. Sheri and I are still equally sharing the Tecumseh Byng clinic in Windsor and I am also helping with some program/staff development at Pharmacy.ca in Toronto. I also have plenty of good reason to visit Toronto because Ellis Andrew Derek Robinson arrived on Nov 1, weighing in at a whopping 9lb.1 oz! I have fully embraced grandmotherhood and can't wait to share pics at the CHAP meeting in Saskatchewan.

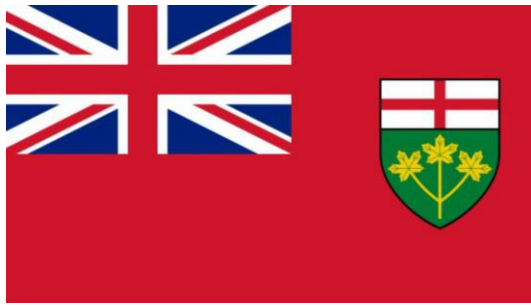
Sheri is going to be taking Andrew, one of the newest observers to take part in the CHAP observership program, very soon, here in Windsor. She will be the first of our previous trainees to take on this role and "pay it forward" and she will be great at it.

I am excited to be part of the publication that was really spearheaded by Deb Yoong, regarding the differences in ARV cost across the country. Congrats to Deb for this CMAJ Open publication!

This work will be presented at the Ontario HIV End Game Conference in early December, at which time we will also be hosting our 10th Annual HIV Pharmacists Education Day. We are pleased to welcome all of our Ontario attendees, as well as Deb Kelly and Mike Stuber as guest speakers from the CHAP working group.

*See you soon in Saskatoon!!!
Linda R"*

NEWS from Manitoba



❖ From the Manitoba HIV Program (Shanna Chan)

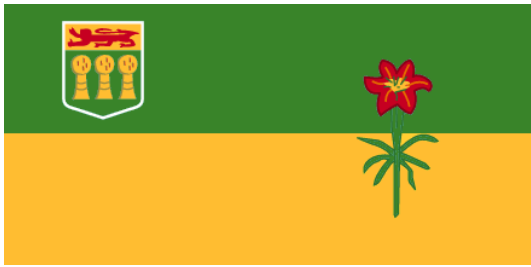
Greetings from Manitoba! Happy to report that at long last the medications for PEP for adolescents and adults have changed to Tenofovir DF/Emtricitabine and Raltegravir (from Zidovudine/Lamivudine and Lopinavir/Ritonavir). The MB government makes available a 3 day starter kit at no cost that are available

through depot sites where people may present post exposure (e.g. emergency rooms, urgent care clinics, STI clinics), but unfortunately, there still is a substantial out of pocket cost for the remaining 25 days to be filled through a community pharmacy. Disappointingly also there is no program which covers the cost of PEP for sexual assault victims. On a related note, PrEP is still not an eligible benefit under the MB provincial drug program (I heard from Benoit that Alberta, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia have recently added coverage for PreP).

Our MB HIV Program is actively gathering data and developing a plan for a proposal submission to the MB government to fund the cost of antiretrovirals for those do not have the cost of them paid for entirely by some type of program (e.g. First Nations and Inuit Health or Interim Federal Health Program for Refugees) and have an out of pocket cost (which is substantial due to an annual deductible up to 6.98% of family total income). A big thanks to Mike Stuber for sharing of Saskatchewan's HIV Program's process/strategy in getting additional funding that has resulted in universal drug coverage for ARVs those affected and living in Saskatchewan.

-Shanna

NEWS from Saskatchewan



❖ **From Infectious Diseases Clinic,
Regina General Hospital, Regina**
(Mike Stuber)

Happy foggy/snowy fall from the Queen city! It has been a pretty busy year for me with a number of ongoing projects.



Our clinic has undergone some major staffing changes, including the retirement of Linda Sulz which leaves me as the only pharmacist in our area. This has added to the challenge of ever increasing patient numbers, but we have some ambitious new staff that are rapidly learning.

Our pharmacist run PrEP clinic has taken off and we currently manage about 100 patients between myself and an RN via collaborative prescribing agreement. Further PrEP clinics have started at a non-profit in Saskatoon and there is lots of interest from smaller communities hardest hit by the HIV epidemic in SK.

Our multidisciplinary HIV group, the Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative, is exploring new options to provide HIV/HCV education to healthcare professionals which we hope will provide some novel opportunities early next year. We are also updating our PEP kits to be more aligned with Canadian guidelines and other centres. Due to the transition to a single health authority there are some challenges in pushing forward with major changes but we are seeing progress and I think we're all looking forward to some clarity on how things will work when it all is sorted out.

Finally we have overcome the barriers to our pharmacist HIV testing pilot and are ready to roll it out starting December 3. The community pharmacists involved are quite excited to get started.

Although we are involved in a number of trials here at RGH, we don't have much to report on the pharmacy side at the moment but are working on a few things for CAHR next spring in Saskatoon.

NEWS from Alberta



❖ **From Edmonton**
(Christine Hughes, Michelle Foisy)

After a very beautiful October, winter appears to have now arrived in Edmonton. It was good while it lasted! Here are some updates on behalf of the pharmacist team with the Northern Alberta Program.

Staffing changes:

We are pleased to welcome Michelle Bender as a casual pharmacist at both the Royal Alexandra Hospital and Kaye Edmonton Clinic sites! Michelle was a student with the Northern Alberta program over the past couple of years and graduated with her BScPharm in 2018.

What is new? PrEP at last!

The Alberta government officially announced this fall that PrEP would be publicly funded as of October 1, 2018. PrEP guidelines and eligibility criteria have been developed in Alberta which are largely based on the Canadian guidelines. See:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page16048.aspx>

PrEP can only be prescribed by designated health professionals which requires completion of a minimum amount of education on PrEP and filling out an application form. At this time, only physicians and nurse practitioners can apply to be designated prescribers for publicly funded PrEP, however it is anticipated that this will expand to pharmacists in the future.

Publications

Hughes C, Yoong D, Giguere P, Hull M, Tan DH. Canadian guideline on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis and nonoccupational postexposure prophylaxis for pharmacists. Canadian Pharmacists Journal. (in press).

Robinson J, Hughes C. Prevention of in utero and intrapartum transmission of human immunodeficiency virus. JAMMI (available online August 28, 2018).

Lefebvre M, Mayan, M, Hughes C, Houston S. Adherence among chaos: exploring how control and relationships influence adherence to HIV medication. Cogent Medicine ; 5(1):1430197. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2331205X.2018.1430197>.

Posters

Foisy MM, Pittman E, Li E. Development of a Pocket Card for Assessing Antiretroviral Therapy, Providing Seamless Care, and Preventing Medication Errors in Hospitalized HIV+ Patients [abstract CSP4.01]. Presented at: The 27th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR 2018), Vancouver, BC, April 26-29, 2018. (Poster)

Foisy MM, Hughes CA, Yuksel N. The Development of a Tool for Preventing and Managing Bone Disease in HIV-Infected Adults [abstract P160]. Presented at: The HIV Drug Conference, Glasgow, UK, Oct 28-31, 2018. (Poster) Published: Abstract Supplement of HIV Glasgow. J Int AIDS Soc 2018;21(S8):e25187, p. 112. Accessed at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/jia2.25187>

Kelly D, Kielly J, Hughes C, Hancock S, Kang H. Client and Provider Satisfaction with a Pharmacist-Administered HIV Point of

Care Testing Program – the APPROACH Study.

Presented at: 27th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR 2018), Vancouver, Canada, April 26-29, 2018. (poster)

Hughes C, Kelly D, Kielly J, Hancock S, Kang H. Findings from the APPROACH study: a pharmacy-based point-of-care testing model for HIV in two provinces. Presented at: 27th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR 2018), Vancouver, Canada, April 26-29, 2018. (poster)

Foisy MM, Hughes CA, Yuksel N. The Development of an Updated Tool for Preventing and Managing Bone Disease in HIV-Infected Adults [abstract CSP8.09]. Presented at: The 27th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR 2018), Vancouver, BC, April 26-29, 2018. (Poster)

Presentations

Foisy M, Hughes C. Antiretroviral and PrEP Update. Presented at: Boyle McCauley Health Centre Edmonton, AB. October 15, 2018.

Hughes C. Progress against the HIV Epidemic: is the end in sight? Presented at: Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation (GANG) provincial meeting. Edmonton, AB. September 29, 2018.

Hughes C. A New “APPROACH” to HIV Testing. Presented at: Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds Edmonton, AB. July 19, 2018.

Hughes C. Rapid HIV Point of Care Testing in Community Pharmacies: A new APPROACH? Presented at: American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Microbe. Atlanta, Georgia. June 8, 2018

❖ **From Southern Alberta Clinic, Calgary**
(Jeff Kapler)

Hey from Southern Alberta! We started this season with what some had called “snowmageddon”, a great dump of snow on Oct 3!! (Thanks to our pals in Northern Alberta for loaning us your snowplows and people for those couple of days to help dig us out!). The weather has smartened up since then, we had a halloween free of white matter, for a change!

Business (busyness?) as usual at the Southern Alberta Clinic (SAC)! Shayna and Morgan (one of our pharmacy technicians) collaborated on a study that Morgan presented (and took the prize) at the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians last month. The title was “Cost Savings While Maintaining Patient-Centered Care in HIV +ve Patients”. Eligible patients were offered the choice between a single-tablet regimen vs. a two-tablet qd regimen that consisted of a generic product plus a brand product. The actual savings realized was \$1.3M in the first year.

Our clinic is not involved with PrEP, but as of Oct 1 Alberta joined the group of provinces funding emtricitabine/tenofovir DF to patients receiving PrEP care and monitoring from someone listed as a designated prescriber. Those prescription are filled at community pharmacies, and the coverage is linked to the patient's Alberta Health Care number.

A year ago, Calgary's first supervised consumption site for injection drug use ("Bring Your Own Drug" arrangement) opened in the same building as SAC. At the end of October, a new program was added, also in our building. It's my understanding that this is the first Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (iOAT) program in North America, offering prescribed doses of hydromorphone for self-injection at TID dosing. The plan for the program for now is to manage up to 30 clients who failed other opioid substitution therapy.

Warm regards!!

NEWS from British Columbia



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

It's that time of year in Vancouver for umbrellas and rubber boots, but we are not complaining too much as we've enjoyed an unusual run of warm, dry weather this year.

The HIV program continues to grow with our publicly funded pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) program. The St. Paul's Ambulatory pharmacy was successful in their funding proposal to the provincial HIV program and was able to secure additional positions (1 FTE pharmacist and 1 FTE technician) to help support this program. We are now providing PrEP to approximately 3000 people in the province. The expansion of PrEP prescribing by qualified nurse practitioners in 2019 should help to relieve the pressure on some of the local clinics that have long waiting lists for PrEP assessment.

The BC CfE in HIV/AIDS HIV Fall Update took place on October 22nd and pharmacists Junine Toy and Kathy Lepik took part in the presentations. Junine provided an overview of the BC PrEP program and Kathy summarized antiretroviral adverse drug reactions on behalf of the CfE's Pharmacovigilance Initiative. All of the presentations from the update are uploaded on the CfE's website and are available for viewing at <https://education.cfenet.ubc.ca/hiv-updates/>

That's it for this 2018 Fall CHAP Newsletter!

I hope everyone has a fantastic finish to 2018 and much happiness and success in 2019.

I am looking forward to welcoming you to our upcoming Annual General Meeting this May in the beautiful City of Bridges, The Paris of the Prairies, ToonTown, Saskabush or the more familiar but less colourful Saskatoon. See you in Saskatchewan!

*Thank you for reading and Best Wishes,
Mike Stuber (CHAP Secretary 2018-2019)*