



## CHAP NEWSLETTER: Summer 2022

*Editor: Carley Pozniak (CHAP Secretary 2021-2022)*

*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 Outgoing Chair-Linda Robinson

Happy Summer to all of you and a big thank you for the opportunity to act as your Chairperson this past year. We were able to accomplish many things this year, including carrying out a successful AGM on May 25, 2022. Though the road to get to the eventual virtual event was rather convoluted at times, we pulled it off with great success. I thank all of you who attended and contributed to this great day of learning, sharing, and socializing. The minutes attached to this newsletter will highlight this great day. I truly hope we can all get together in person next year to finally celebrate coming through this unprecedented, but productive time of education, networking, and sharing. I want to express sincere thanks to my executive support this year, Carley Pozniak, Jennifer Hawkes, Alice Tseng, and Deborah Yoong. Your patience and support over eight executive Zooms was invaluable. I'm also proud to say that our projects, initiatives, endorsements, and updates to the Terms of Reference are really something to be proud of. I see so many past or long term members who deserve the recognition of CHAP Emeritus/Emerita status, while at the same time, am so excited to see such young, keen members stepping up to join the Working Group and contributing to CHAP projects as General Members. Twenty five years ago Alice Tseng and Michelle Foisey had a vision for a specialized group of pharmacists who were caring for patients living and dying from HIV and AIDS. This group continues to thrive and I see many more years of incredible professionalism and networking to come. This year has definitely been a labour of love for me and I am proud and honoured to have served a second term as Chairperson of this grand organization. I look forward to working with Carley as we plan our meeting in Quebec City next year.

Love to all,

Linda Robinson

**There is honor in all work, in all tasks, but take it one step further. Make what you do a labor of love. Then your work will truly touch and change the world in the way you desire. The work you do, whatever your chosen field, will be work that heals.**

Melody Beattie

## Updates From Across the Country



Hello from the Oak Tree Clinic!

Since our last update, which was approximately one year ago, we have had a few leadership changes within our clinic, including a new Medical Director and Program Manager. Our clinic continues to operate as a hybrid model, with in-clinic, telephone and virtual patient visits. We have successfully incorporated a Reproductive ID clinic within our clinic (2 days a week) and are now looking towards further expansion to include a Pediatric ID clinic.

We have had two pharmacy residents complete their residency projects in the Oak Tree clinic. The first project which Karen presented at the CHAP AGM last month, was entitled Post-Partum Contraception in Women Living with HIV (WLHIV), and the second project, which will be presented at BC Residency Research night, evaluated the use of once daily boosted darunavir during pregnancy. We will be excited to share the findings of this study with the CHAP group.

Karen has been involved in the working group which is updating the Canadian HIV Pregnancy guidelines. The draft guideline is now being sent to the SOGC committee for review. We look forward to the next steps of revision and publication. Stacey is also spearheading a project with a Directed Studies pharmacy student, which will review the clinical information from instances where the "Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission" protocol was used in BC, in order to provide insight into how to optimize our program.

### Publications:

- King EM, Prior JC, van Schalkwyk J, Kestler M, Tkachuk S, Loutfy M, Murray MCM. Menopausal hormone therapy for women living with HIV. *Lancet HIV* 2021;8(9):e591-e598.
- Carvalho S, Lee T, Tulloch K, Sauve L, Samson L, Brophy J, Money D, Kakkar F, Boucoiran I. The use of antiretroviral agents during pregnancy in Canada and compliance with North American guidelines. *HIV Medicine* 2022;1-9. <http://doi.org/10.1111/hiv.13346>
- Cvetkovic A, King E, Skerritt L, Loufty M, Tseng A, Murray M, van Schalkwyk J, Boucoiran I, Marcotte S, Hankins C, Savoie E, de Pokomandy A, Pick N, Tkachuk S, Rowe T, Smill F, Walmsley S. A practical

clinical guide to counselling on and managing contraception, pre-conception planning, and menopause for women living with HIV. JAMMI. 2021; 6(4):278-295.

We wish you all a wonderful summer!

Karen, Stacey & Gloria

The Oak Tree Clinic (Vancouver)

Vancouver: St Paul's Hospital (SPH) - Linda Akagi and Erin Ready

Hello from the west coast!

The BC CfE HIV/AIDS (BC CfE) program is celebrating its' 30 year anniversary in 2022. Many changes have occurred from the program's beginning when the diagnosis of an HIV infection was associated with a rapid and fatal disease to a preventable and treatable chronic disease. As part of the program's anniversary, the BC CfE is hosting a series of conversations. The first conversation on June 1<sup>st</sup>, featured Dr. Peter Phillips discussing the 'early days' of the disease. It was a very sobering and moving reminder of how dark that time was for patients and health care providers. The next conversation is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> and will focus on the early days of HAART. More information about the series, can be found at the BC CfE's education site <https://education.bccfe.ca/>

In many ways, it is beginning to feel like the worst of the pandemic is behind us. However, from a staffing perspective, each wave of the pandemic seems to bring a new surge of sick calls and scheduling adjustments to ensure that all patient care positions are covered. We continue with a mix of telephone-based and in-person appointments and drop-ins for physicians and pharmacists; there are advantages and disadvantages to both types of consultations, but it is nice to be able to offer the option to our patients.

In terms of a project update, Erin Ready has been working on a paper with an ID fellow and several ID physicians at St. Paul's Hospital and Vancouver General Hospital. The paper discusses considerations for the management of antiretroviral therapy and opportunistic infections in people living with HIV who are undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplant in British Columbia; Kathy Lepik and Linda Akagi have contributed as reviewers. The ID fellow recently presented the work on behalf of the group at our local ID Rounds. We hope to have a manuscript for submission prepared within the next month or so.

Last, but not least, our work on the CHAP *Role of the HIV Pharmacist* paper continues in collaboration with Stacey Tkachuk (across the city at Oak Tree Clinic). We now have all sections submitted from CHAP co-authors across the country and plan to have a draft circulated amongst co-authors to review soon.

Publications:

**Evolving patterns of antiretroviral drug interactions in people living with HIV in British Columbia, Canada**

Katherine J Lepik, Lu Wang, Marianne Harris, Taylor McLinden, Sidhant Guliani, Linda Akagi, Junine Toy, Paul Sereda, Viviane D Lima, Julio S G Montaner, Rolando Barrios

AIDS 2022, Published on line ahead of print

PMID: 35285822 DOI: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000003226

Conference presentations:

- CAHR 2022:
  - **Lepik KJ**, Hunt OL, Bacani N, Wang L, Toy J, Sereda P, McLinden T, **Akagi L**, Harris M, **Ready E**, Trigg J, Montaner JSG, Barrios R. *Incidence and type of adverse reactions following brand-to-generic antiretroviral product substitution in British Columbia, Canada.* (Oral Abstract presented by Kathy Lepik)

Northern Health in BC

Our regional specialized support team consists of a pharmacist and a social worker. 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. With the current COVID-19 situation, our health authority has continued to experience challenges with staff shortages, long appointment and lab wait times, staff turnover.

The HIV self-testing pilot that launched in June 2021 and has a handy peer support line that is accessible via video or text. <https://connect.im-ready.ca/booking/steps/matching>

A few programs have been trained on dry blood spot (DBS) testing and we are looking forward to being able to provide this in conjunction with Hepatitis C point of care (POC) testing for World HCV Day in July and at an Overdose Prevention Health Fair in August.

We have been working hard on a collaborative prescribing model for PrEP, as we do not yet have pharmacist or nurse prescribing in BC (apart from a handful of trained nurse practitioners).

We have had recent success with linking 13 patients to 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 Prince George Nechako OAT Clinic has been successful in incorporating HCV treatment, HCV engagement incentives, HCV education and HCV screening into their busy opioid agonist treatment clinic. The pilot began in October 2021 and is excited to see the first (successful of course!) SVR-12 results come through.

Our northern region, as well as BC, has continued to see more deaths from the overdose pandemic than the COVID-pandemic. We have seen 26 consecutive months (March 2020-April 2022) with over 100 illicit drug toxicity deaths/month. [Northern Health has the highest rates in BC in 2022 at 58/100,000](#), while the total number of COVID-19 deaths is 3, 614 (352 in Northern Health) between March 2020-June 4, 2022.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hawkes

University Hospital of Northern BC, Prince George



After (I think) three delays in launching Connect Care as well as the Willow Ambulatory system at SAC and some of the other acute care, cancer and ambulatory sites on May 28, I can say it's been rocky and the system does not easily accommodate our needs but this is what we have to deal with! I feel like our monthly reports to finance as to our budget spending on meds will be wildly out of line compared to our usual.... And I am sure that there are going to be a lot of weirdness in the months to come!! Our user comfort with using the software is improving, but holy cow, what a lot of work still to be done which surprises me because I thought our friends in Ottawa would have had everything straightened out by the time we finally launched!! Well, we will get there, eventually!

I will be going on leave for awhile starting June 24, and my temp position has not yet been filled but Kathy Lee will be the most- regular pharmacist at the clinic for the time being. Shayna is still enjoying her mat leave with the now 10-month-old twins who are soooo handsome!

### **Jeff Kapler, Clinical Pharmacist**

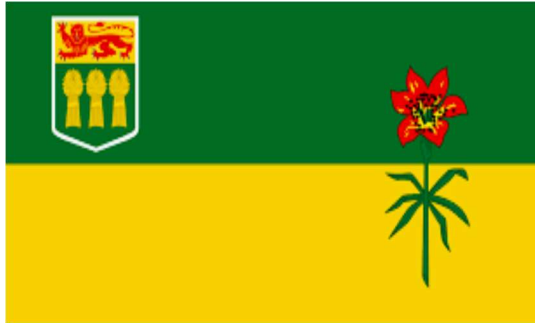
Southern Alberta Clinic  
Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre

Greetings from the Northern Alberta Program (NAP)!

We are looking forward to the summer months and a bit of vacation time after another challenging year. Things are slowly returning to a bit more normal, with about 90% of patients being seen in person. Virtual remains an option for some patients including when the patient or provider is isolating with symptoms. Dr. Stan Houston (our long-standing and dedicated Medical Director) has officially retired as of the end of March. We will miss him dearly but wish him well in retirement. Dr. Shannon Turvey has been the Medical Director over the past year or so, however she is leaving to move to the West coast. Best wishes Shannon! Dr. Steve Shafran will be taking over as Interim Medical Director. Wishing everyone a great summer!

**CHRISTINE HUGHES, BScPharm, PharmD, FCSHP**  
Professor and Interim Dean  
*Pronouns: she/her*

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
College of Health Sciences  
Faculty of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences



Greetings from Saskatchewan!

We're happy summer is here, this is usually the time when most of our team gets a few holidays in. We've had a few changes with staffing, one of our dear ID physicians, Dr. Kogilwaimath, has resigned from his position and is now working on his MPH at Harvard. Although we're sad to see him go, we're wishing him all the best in this next chapter. We are lucky to be gaining a new physician, Dr. Angela Lapetsky, who is a family physician with an interest in HIV care. She will bring with her primary care experience that will be a huge help in addressing some of the other health challenges our patients face. We've also gained some temporary funding which will allow some additional nursing and pharmacy support. The new pharmacist will be a 0.5 FTE and we'll be working hard to gather information on the positive impact the extra pharmacy support has for our patients in the hopes of keeping the funding permanently. Once we know who the successful applicant is, I'll share their name with the CHAP group.

On the COVID front, I was working full time at my current position and helping out on many weekends from March to May with DDI checks for patients eligible to receive early therapeutics. I was also involved in reviewing a document with MedSask that Saskatchewan prescribers can use as a guide for prescribing Paxlovid. The Ontario Science table document on DDI's with Paxlovid was a key resource in helping to develop the Saskatchewan document.

In September I'll be planning to attend the International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV and Other Viral Illnesses in Barcelona, Spain. I'm excited to see what Alice Tseng and her colleagues have put together in what is sure to be a great conference!

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful summer ahead.

Carley Pozniak  
Positive Living Program, Saskatoon SK



- **UHN Immunodeficiency Clinic update:** Well, just as things were starting to recede on the COVID front (the hospital will stop its screening at the entrances on July 1<sup>st</sup>, but masking continues to be required on site and the mandatory vaccination policy remains in place for all staff and essential care partners), we have..... monkeypox! The negative pressure room in the clinic is now being used for all monkeypox/related STI exams and things have been very busy. The city is hosting a number of walk-in clinics and the demand is very high.
- **HIV/HCV Drug Therapy app:** The app development team has been working on a new beta version of the app (coming soon), with additional user-friendly features. Drugs which have been added to the DDI database include nirmatrelvir/ritonavir and tecovirimat. The app team is also very pleased to welcome two new contributors to the pharmacy team: Salin Nhean and Tessa Senneker, who will lend their expertise to the database updates.
- **CHAP Observership:** After being on a 2 year hiatus (like everything else due to you know what), we are pleased to announce that the CHAP Observership program will be ramping back up this fall! The Observership working group is looking for new members, as well as additional observership preceptors. The call for Observerships will come out in early fall. Stay tuned!
- **International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV and Other Viral Illnesses** This year I am honored to be one of the co-chairs of the workshop, which will be held as a hybrid meeting in Barcelona, Spain this coming September. The abstract submission deadline has been extended to July 1. The organizing committee has put together a stellar program, featuring abstract presentations, plenaries, a debate and roundtable discussions on long-acting ARVs, new antiviral therapies for HBV, HSV and monkeypox, the role of oral vs LA prep, DDIs with COVID treatments, multipurpose technologies, etc. As an official endorser, all CHAP members can receive a discounted registration rate. Please reach out to Linda at [rxlinda@hotmail.com](mailto:rxlinda@hotmail.com) for more details.
- <https://academicmedicaleducation.com/meeting/clinical-pharmacology-2022>

Alice Tseng

Hello from Windsor!

We have welcomed our newest doctor, Dr Daniel Abraham into the mix, as our clinic director, Dr Jeff Cohen says his final goodbyes to his patients this month. Dr Cohen is retiring from our clinic at the end of June, and after 30 years of seeing patients, and needless to say, there have been quite a few tears from patients that have mixed emotions seeing him go.

In the process of shifting the patient load to our two remaining physicians, we are redesigning our PrEP program to include a more nurse/pharmacist-involved approach to help reduce the amount of required doctor visits to once yearly. We are still in the early stages of figuring this out, so I will have to keep anyone interested posted on this.

Other than that, we have continued the push to see our patients back in office again, and have been met with some hesitation by few. We are hoping to restart lab services here again soon, which will make things more convenient for patients when then come for their appointment or medications, for those that preferred our clinic nurses to draw their samples.

Enjoy the summer!

Sheri Livingston



From the Clinique des infections virales chroniques (CIVC) du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)

Dominic Martel on behalf of the CIVC pharmacists – Mathieu Laroche, Suzanne Marcotte, Marie-Pierre Marquis and Rachel Therrien.

Hello everyone,

In the past months, we have been busy with different clinical challenges and projects related to HIV care, viral hepatitis and other viral diseases. Of note, our team was responsible for managing the initial nirmatrelvir/ritonavir consults and drug-drug interactions at our hospital for a few months when it



became available this year before it could be used in community pharmacies across the province. At the clinic, pharmacists will now be able to prescribe various drugs for different conditions (law 4 in Quebec and new scope of practice) as we have finalised a document in agreement with the clinic physicians expanding some of our prescribing rights within the hospital and we will see, in the following months, how this will change our practice.

Regarding projects, Rachel, myself (in collaboration with Nancy Sheehan at the CUSM) and others have started the PHARMA-C project. We are interested to assess the feasibility of rapid HCV testing in community pharmacies in the province of Quebec. Hopefully we will have interesting results to share next year.

Here are some abstracts and publications by members of our group:

Bouchard A, Bourdeau F, Roger J, Taillefer VT, Sheehan NL, Schnitzer M, Wang G, Jean Baptiste IJ, Therrien R. Predictive factors of detectable viral load in HIV-infected patients. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*. 2021; Nov 8.

Ruiz I, Huard G, Fournier C, Bissonnette J, Castel H, Giard JM, Villeneuve JP, Fenyves D, Marleau D, Willems B, Corsilli D, Correal F, Ferreira V, Martel D, Mathieu A, Vincent C, and Bilodeau M. A real-world experience of SARS-CoV-2 infection in a tertiary referral centre of Montréal: Unexpected low prevalence and low mortality. *Can Liv J*. 2021; 4(4): 391-400.

Filippov Y, Wartelle-Bladou C, Parent J, Martel-Laferrrière V, Brissette S, Kotsoros B, Marcotte S, Martel D. Importance of a clinical pharmacist specialized in hepatitis C treatment for the management of potential drug-drug interactions in a multidisciplinary ECHO® hepatitis C expert team. PO-1221. *International Liver Congress*. June 23-26, 2021.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,

Dominic



NEWS from Nova Scotia

from the QEII Health Sciences Center Infectious Diseases Clinic, Halifax (Tasha Ramsey)

Hello from Halifax! A few exciting research updates:

We are looking forward to the fall when we will start the 1 year testing period for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis by pharmacists in NS as part of Approach 2.0 with Debbie Kelly and Christine Hughes.

This fall will also bring the implementation phase of PREP-Rx exploring pharmacist prescribing for HIV PREP in NS, a project I have the privilege of working on with Dr. Kyle Wilby.


I hope everyone has a great summer!

Tasha

## CHAP member updates from October 12, 2021 to July 15, 2022:

- Best wishes to **Alissa Koop**, [koop@hhsc.ca](mailto:koop@hhsc.ca) who is leaving the clinic in Hamilton to work in an oncology-based practice at Hamilton Health Sciences Centre.
- **Caitlin Chew**, [Caitlin.chew@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Caitlin.chew@cw.bc.ca) is a new pharmacist at Oak Tree Clinic, Vancouver.
- Congratulations to **Heather Jarman**, who is retiring from her position at St. Joseph's Health Care in London, ON! Heather will remain part of the general membership (email [hpoland@rogers.com](mailto:hpoland@rogers.com)) and we look forward to keeping abreast of her new adventures. And welcome to **Janhavi Malhotra** ([janhavi.malhotra@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:janhavi.malhotra@sjhc.london.on.ca)) who is the new pharmacist with the HIV ambulatory program at St. Joe's.
- **Madonna Masburn** ([Madonna.s.mashburn@kp.org](mailto:Madonna.s.mashburn@kp.org)) has just started an HIV clinical pharmacy service at Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center in Southern California. She spent a number of years managing diabetes and is now recently back to HIV. She is very happy to be included in CHAP.
- **Jenny (Jenisha) Patel**, [jenishapatel@hotmail.com](mailto:jenishapatel@hotmail.com) works in a pharmacy dispensing HIV and hepatitis medications in Kitchener. An infectious diseases specialist has joined their team and she would like to expand her knowledge on HIV and hepatitis treatment practice.
- **Calli Safnuk** [calli.saf@gmail.com](mailto:calli.saf@gmail.com) recently graduated from a Year 1 residency program at Alberta Health Services, and is now working in Tofino. She practices in a community setting and works closely with the surrounding Indigenous communities.
- **Matt Miller**, PharmD, ACPR, [matt.miller@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:matt.miller@interiorhealth.ca) is the new pharmacist for the HIV clinic in Kamloops, BC.
- **Chase Fisher**, [cfisher@bccfe.ca](mailto:cfisher@bccfe.ca), is a clinical pharmacist starting up a new practice with the BC Centre for Excellence primary care Hope to Health clinic in the downtown Eastside. Chase completed his hospital residency with Interior Health in 2016 and has previously practiced in critical care, internal medicine, and palliative care.

**Exciting opportunity for CHAP members to receive a discount on registration to attend the International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV, Hepatitis, and Other Antiviral Drugs 2022, virtual or in person, September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**



CHAP members are entitled to a  
25% discount on registration  
Code: **ENDORSER25**

## CHAP Project Updates

1. Role of the Pharmacist paper-In the final editing stages now, will be planned for submission in September 2022 to Canadian Pharmacists Journal. Project leads Stacey Tkachuk and Erin Ready.
2. CHAP observership program-Will be looking for applicants for the 2022-23 year, resuming this opportunity for new pharmacists in this area or current pharmacists looking to expand their scope of practice. Alice Tseng will be sending out a call for new preceptors, stay tuned.
3. Dual Therapy – Christine Hughes (AB), Pierre Giguere (ON), Tasha Ramsey (NS), Shayna Campbell (AB) Link to the continuing education course that was developed <https://www.ecortex.ca/course/view.php?id=1349>

## Closing remarks from the Incoming Chair:

Thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter, nice to see what everyone is up to. I'm always amazed at all of the extra projects, publications and other activities the CHAP members are involved in throughout the year. Congratulations to all on the contributions you're making to our profession and for the benefits our patients will experience as a result of your hard work. It has been a wonderful year serving as the CHAP secretary, the mentorship and friendships that have come along with working on the executive team are invaluable, thank you! A special mention goes to Linda Robinson for pivoting so quickly with our AGM this year given the change from in person to virtual format and then a change in the date it would be held as well. She navigated this efficiently and smoothly; we ended up with a successful AGM in the end! Also thanks to Jenn Hawkes, Alice Tseng, and Deb Yoong for all of your contributions on the executive team this year. I've seen firsthand now how much extra time and commitment they've put forward along with offering mentorship to new members like myself. I wish you all a wonderful summer and here's hoping CAHR will go ahead in person in Quebec City, 2023!

Carley Pozniak, CHAP Secretary 2021-22.