



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 practice across Canada. CHAP members meet on an annual basis, communicate regularly through e-mails, and collaborate on a variety of projects and publications.

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE (PAST) CHAIR

It has been an honor to be the chair of CHAP for 2017/2018. As always, it was a busy year for all CHAP pharmacists. As you can all read in the CHAP newsletter, pharmacists involved in HIV and viral hepatitis continue to contribute to pharmaceutical care, knowledge sharing and research in Canada. CHAP is very lucky to have members that are amongst the most dedicated pharmacists in Canada year over year. The future of HIV and viral hepatitis pharmaceutical care looks very promising *A Mari usque ad Mare* ("from sea to sea").

Being the chair of CHAP was a great learning experience for myself and I want to thank the members of the executive (Nancy Sheehan, Alice Tseng, Deborah Yoong and Karen Tulloch) who helped me throughout the year. Being the chair of CHAP is a team effort, and the executive members deserve credits for their implication and advice during the year! Thank you!

News from the chair is always a good moment to welcome the new member of the executive, Mike Stuber, who will take on the secretary position. Finally, I would like to welcome Karen Tulloch who is our new CHAP chair. Karen will be an amazing chair and I am looking forward to guide her and be available as past chair during the year.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all CHAP members who actively participated at the CHAP annual general meeting in Vancouver. The event was very successful because of your presentations and knowledge sharing. It was great to see all of you who were able to join us in Vancouver. Our educational sessions focused on HIV special populations (reproductive health and HIV) and drug-drug interactions with direct-acting antivirals in the treatment of hepatitis C. During the CHAP AGM, we were able to review our terms of reference and discuss the possibility of using a new platform (Slack) to communicate between CHAP members.

The next CHAP annual general meeting is in Saskatoon and I am sure we will all have a great AGM once again next year!

I wish you all a sunny and warm summer,

*Dominic Martel
Centre hospitalier de l'Université de
Montréal
Past chair, 2018/2019*

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW CHAP MEMBERS

Stacy Jardine – Stacy is a community pharmacist working in Peace River (Northern Alberta), in a rural setting. Stacy is interested in becoming more involved in HIV patient care, point-of-care testing and outreach programs for local First Nations groups. Stacy's pharmacy currently offers a clean needle exchange program and she is very interested in becoming involved in CHAP and pursuing the mentorship program. Welcome Stacy!

Ruby Liang – Ruby is a pharmacist working at St. Michaels Hospital in GIM and will be working with Mark Naccarato and Deborah Yoong in the Positive Care Clinic at the hospital site for the upcoming year.

Jay Mutch – Jay recently completed the Pharmacy Residency Program with Alberta Health Services-Edmonton. He will be providing relief coverage for the pharmacists in the Northern Alberta Program at both the Royal Alexandra and Kaye Edmonton Clinic sites.

Wen-Liang Lin – Wen-Liang is the chief clinical pharmacist involved in HIV care at the National Cheng-Kung University Hospital, Tainan, Taiwan. Wen-Liang completed an overseas exchange program in HIV at the University of Buffalo with Dr. Gene Morse in 2007, and has been part of the HIV team at his hospital since that time. Wen-Liang will be a great addition to the international component of CHAP.

Sonal Raythatha – Sonal is a new casual pharmacist at the Southern Alberta Clinic in Calgary. A great group to join!

Robyn Despins – Robyn is a pharmacist providing care across Saskatchewan, particularly in rural and reserve communities. She is involved in the provision of primary care and also sees a number of patients with, or at risk of HIV/HCV.

Farewell to Carlo Quiaia who retired from the Oak Tree Clinic. Carlo has been a CHAP member since 2006 and his experience and insight has been valued. We also love seeing his amazing travel photos each year at the CHAP slide show and hope that he keeps them coming!

Farewell to Andrew Cornacchia who has moved from the Clinic Pharmacy at the University Health Network in Toronto to a position with the Drug Programs branch with the Ontario government. We wish Andrew best of luck in his new career!

WELCOME TO CHAP'S NEWEST WORKING GROUP MEMBER

Jennifer Hawkes – Jenn is from Prince George, BC, and is part of the HIV/HCV Specialized Support Team, which provides support to approximately 100 patients living with HIV/HCV in the northern and remote areas. Jenn has been a CHAP member since 2011 and is looking forward to opportunities for collaborative research and clinical sharing.

Introducing New Executive:

Mike Stuber, CHAP secretary 2018-2019. Mike is a clinical HIV pharmacist based out of Regina, SK. He works out of the Infectious Diseases Clinic at the Regina General Hospital, an interdisciplinary team, which provides care to Regina and southern Saskatchewan. He also sits on the Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative and provides clinical and educational support to almost all of Saskatchewan. Mike also works at Vital Care pharmacy, a community pharmacy specializing in mental health and serving unique and marginalized populations. He has been heavily involved in the implementation of PrEP and universal ART access in Saskatchewan as well as expanding his practice into harm reduction. Outside of work, if you were to ask Mike his favorite travel destinations the answers would be Mexico and Chicago. Together with his husband, he fosters cats and dogs, enjoys camping, going to the gym and taking his pups on hikes across the province.

CHAP AGM SUMMARY

The CHAP annual general meeting (AGM) occurred on April 25, 2018 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver, BC as a CAHR conference ancillary event. The meeting was chaired by Dominic Martel (CHAP 2017-2018 Chair) with a total of 15 working group members and 7 general members attending.



CHAP members at the 2018 Vancouver AGM

There were two symposium presentations this year. Dr. Mona Loutfy (MD, FRCPC, MPH, Women's College Hospital, Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Disease, Department of Infectious Disease, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto) gave a plenary entitled "What's New in Reproductive Health and HIV"

during the breakfast symposium. During the lunch symposium, Dr. Jennifer Kiser (*PharmD, Associate Director, Centre for Translational Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenetics, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Colorado*) presented information on the most common and problematic drug interactions to be aware of with the HCV direct acting antivirals (DAAs). Dr. Kiser also presented preliminary information from her study evaluating pharmacokinetics and adherence-efficacy relationships for HCV DAAs.

The CHAP AGM business meeting included: 1) A summary of CHAP member accomplishments and year in review discussion, 2) the Treasurer's report, 3) discussion around changes to the Travel Grant Allocation Policy, 4) updates to the CHAP endorsement policy to include information specific to the provision of letters of support, and 5) an introduction to "Slack" as a new platform to use for communication among CHAP members.

Mike Stuber (Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region ID Clinic) was elected as CHAP secretary/Chair elect for 2018/2019 and Karen Tulloch, the current CHAP secretary (Oak Tree Clinic, Vancouver) becomes the CHAP Chair for 2018/2019.

Project leaders provided updates and lead discussion on current CHAP projects including the CHAP national clinical observership program, and the tool that

was developed to assist in preventing and managing bone disease in HIV patients. There were proposals and discussions around the development of CHAP HCV pharmacist guidelines, and an update of the CHAP HIV pharmacist guidelines published in 2012.

Presentations were also given on a number of interesting topics such as dolutegravir and diabetes, treatment simplification of resistant HIV cases, treatment of challenging HCV cases, obtaining pediatric antiretroviral medications through the Special Access Program, and an update on the ongoing issue of intake of HIV positive refugee patients.

CHAP wishes to sincerely thank all the sponsors who contributed to the event (*Gold Sponsors: Gilead, Merck; Silver Sponsor: ViiV Healthcare; Bronze Sponsors: Abbvie; Other Sponsor: Theratechnologies*).

The next CHAP meeting will be held in May 2019 in Saskatoon at the 2019 CAHR Annual conference.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Canadian HIV Clinical Forum - Integrase Inhibitors, Toronto, Canada, June 15, 2018.

<https://www.hiv-clinical-forum.org/canadian-hiv-clinical-forum>

22nd International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 23-27, 2018.

<http://www.aids2018.org/>

2018 IDSOG Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA, August 2-4, 2018.

<http://idsog.org/annual-meeting>

9TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HIV & AGING 2018, New York, USA, September 13-14, 2018.

<http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/9th-international-workshop-hiv-aging-2018/>

ID WEEK 2018, San Francisco, USA, October 3-7, 2018.

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

The Liver Meeting, San Francisco, USA, November 9-13, 2018.

<https://www.aasld.org/events-professional-development/liver-meeting>

Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) annual meeting, Saskatoon, Canada, May 9-12, 2019.

<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/future-cahr-conferences/>

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>

KUDOS AND AWARDS!

Congratulations go out once again to Nancy Sheehan! In May 2017 Nancy was awarded the Roger-Leblanc Award of Excellence from the Association des pharmaciens des établissements de santé du Québec. This award recognizes a pharmacist's excellence in their practice throughout their career in a health care center. Please refer to the article as published on the McGill University Health Centre website, which details Nancy's many accomplishments over the years.

<https://muhc.ca/our-stories/article/vocation-pharmacist>



Congratulations also go out to Mike Stuber. Mike has been awarded the Pharmacist of the Year Award from the Pharmacists Association of Saskatchewan (PAS). This award is intended to recognize a pharmacist who provides outstanding service and patient care. Mike has helped bring substantial changes to services in the HIV population he serves and has successfully campaigned for universal coverage of antiretroviral medications in Saskatchewan. Mike received his award on May 12, 2018 at the annual conference of the PAS. Congratulations Mike on this outstanding accomplishment!

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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 are still receiving a higher number of asylum seekers in Montreal than before. As the weather gets warmer, we anticipate that the flow of asylum seekers will increase. Since the last update, we have managed to bill the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) for our pharmacist consults, clinic and phone follow-ups.

For most clinical HIV studies involving antiretroviral initiation or switch, pharmacist consultation time for clinical chart reviews, counselling and follow-ups has been added to the research protocol and budget due to some incidents that occurred. Although we have not yet been solicited much for studies at this point in time, we expect a

rapid increase once these studies start recruiting actively. Unfortunately, we have not yet succeeded in securing an increase in pharmacist FTEs for the clinic (we are presently at 1 FTE for approximately 2000 patients).

Katherine has been spending quite some time on the solid organ transplant floor lately and is now our go-to person for all questions related to transplants. She will likely be involved in future transplant projects, is occasionally doing HIV 101 presentations to community pharmacists and teaching at the Faculty of Pharmacy on travel medicine and virology.

Regarding research, Alison presented a poster at CAHR regarding the potential health impact of the changes in the IFHP program on the care of HIV patients. We have also started the recruitment for the residents' research project entitled "hESITATE-HIV" evaluating the efficacy and tolerability of STRs in treatment experienced patients, project lead by Nancy and Alison.

We also had a booth at CAHR this year regarding the TDM program and hope that you came to see us! The TB side of the TDM program (that is being spearheaded by Benoît) is currently in development. The lab has received funding to develop the analytical methods and this summer we will have students to develop anti-TB TDM algorithms for dose adjustments.

Unrelated to HIV, Nancy is now a board member of the Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board which is keeping her busy.

Some recent publications from pharmacists in our group:

Sanche S, Sheehan N, Mesplède T, Wainberg MA, Li J, Nekka F. A mathematical model to predict HIV virological failure and elucidate the role of lymph node drug penetration. *CPT Pharmacometrics Syst Pharmacol* 2017; 6: 469-76.

Landry S, Chen CN, Patel N, Tseng A, Lalonde RG, Thibeault D, Sanche S, Sheehan NL. Therapeutic drug monitoring in treatment-experienced HIV-infected patients receiving darunavir-based salvage regimens: A case series. *Antiviral Research* 2018; 152: 111-6.

Wartel-Bladou C, Baril JC et al. La prise en charge et le traitement des personnes infectées par le virus de l'hépatite C – Guide pour les professionnels de la santé du Québec. Available at:

Full document:

<http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-002023/>

Summary: <http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-002024/>

Appendix – therapies recommended: <http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-002025/>

❖ 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 completed our merger in the « Nouveau CHUM » and have been working all together for more than six months. As a reminder, the HIV outpatient clinic (UHRESS) is at Hotel-Dieu site on rue St-Urbain (on the left) and we also remain actively involved with inpatients at the « Nouveau CHUM » as we have a HIV inpatient rotation as part of our pharmaceutical care activities in the new hospital (on the right).

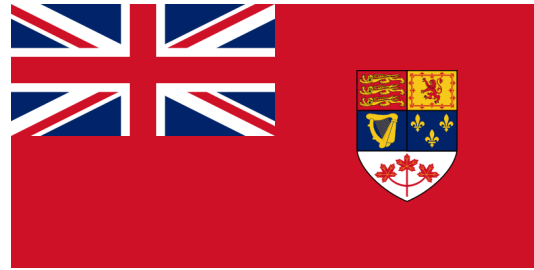
We are still involved in the ECHO® hepatitis C Quebec project, learning by doing. I will have the chance to go to Toronto in June to the Global Hepatitis Summit where we will have an abstract regarding this project.

We are finalizing the data collection from our pharmacy residency project, the MONTREAL-C study on drug-drug interactions with direct-acting antivirals (Suzanne and Dominic) and I am looking forward to present you the data at the next CHAP meeting.

Next year, Rachel will also lead a pharmacy residency project which will focus on the 90-90-90 target. More importantly, the project will focus on the identification of factors associated to a detectable HIV viral load. This project will be a multicentric initiative hopefully between the CHUM and MUHC in Montreal and the CHUS in Sherbrooke.

I am sure that we will have a lot more to say in the next newsletters regarding these projects that keep us busy, as always! Have a nice summer everyone!

NEWS from Ontario



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

Although everything is business as usual here at St. Michael's (SMH), our HIV pharmacy team has undergone a small change and is now made up of myself, Mark Naccarato and Ruby Liang. Tony is taking a 1-year leave from his pharmacy position at our family practice sites to work exclusively on research activities and Mark will split his time between the family practice site and the hospital clinic. Because of this change, Ruby, a clinical pharmacist at SMH who works on general medicine will be joining our Positive Care Clinic team 2 days a week and providing vacation coverage. Please join me in welcoming her to our national HIV pharmacy family. She's been added to our listserve and has already found the discussions on CHAP very interesting!

At the hospital site we continue to steadily see new patients for both HIV care and prevention. In 2017, we had close to 300 new referrals for PrEP, saw over 400 individuals for HIV PEP, and added 337 new HIV-positive patients to our program. Unfortunately we still continue to admit patients to hospital with late stage disease and continue to manage many opportunistic infections

common from back in the day. The movement is simplification of therapy and for the mass majority, patients are on either a single tablet regimen or a simplified 2-tablet combination. Our biggest challenges these days are continued engagement in care and managing the psychosocial issues that plague our patients.

Access to hepatitis C therapies in Ontario changed early this year, removing the need for a minimum fibrosis score. Now, all recipients of provincial drug insurance can have access to hepatitis C treatment (free for youth under 25, those receiving social assistance, and low income seniors), regardless of co-morbidities or stage of fibrosis.

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

a) UHN Immunodeficiency Clinic - Not much new at our site other than some minor personnel changes. We are happy that we now have 2 full-time social workers dedicated to our program (an increase from 1.6 FTE), particularly when we know that social workers at other programs are being cut. We welcomed back Aneeta Lal from her maternity leave in January, and were sad to say goodbye to Andrew Cornacchia, who now is with the Drug Programs Branch in the ministry. Salin Nhean, our HIV pharmacy resident, is currently recruiting participants at our PrEP clinic for her study to examine the use of appearance and performance

enhancing supplements in this population.

Our very own Dr. Sharon Walmsley was made a Member of the Order of Canada last year, and will be receiving her insignia in Ottawa this week. This is a particularly special honor for Sharon, as she was nominated for this award by the late Dr. Mark Wainberg.

b) Research - Dr. Walmsley recently received a CIHR Foundation Grant for her CHANGE-HIV study, which will examine and define correlates of healthy aging in HIV. One component will focus on polypharmacy, inappropriate medications, and medication de-prescribing. Nancy and I are part of the research group working on this aspect of the grant.

c) Ontario HIV Pharmacists Education Day – save the date! Early planning is underway for the annual Ontario HIV Pharmacists Education Day. Following the success of the OHTN Endgame Conference in 2016, where the Ontario Pharmacists Day followed the 2 day clinical conference, plans are afoot to again host the pharmacists day in conjunction with the OHTN clinical conference. Date TBC, but likely the first week of December in Toronto. Stay tuned!

❖ **From Windsor**
(Linda Robinson)

The Tecumseh Byng Clinic Pharmacy has passed official credentialing with OCP and is now a fully accredited pharmacy. This comes at a very appropriate time for us because our two

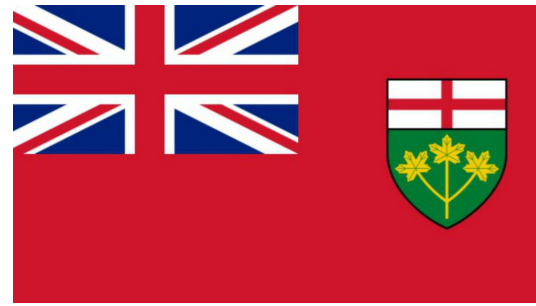
clinic docs are starting to slow down their practices, and while we did most of the primary care as well as HIV Care for our patients, they are now going to the community to hook our patients up with family doctors for their primary care. This puts the pharmacy at a unique advantage as now being the only place in the clinic that has an ongoing complete record of all medications, as our patients see us as the "gatekeepers" that pull it all together. One of our clinical roles is to reconcile and update the patient chart at each visit and this has now become more important than ever as we have definitely surpassed 50% of our patients being over 50 now. We now have greater than 350 patients and one of our docs is also seeing over 40 PrEP patients. I feel this number is going to only keep increasing now that ODB covers PrEP and also because OHIP+ now pays for all medications for children and youth up the age of 25 in Ontario.

Sheri Livingstone, my second pharmacist, has been chosen as a successful candidate for the CHAP Observership Program and will be spending time at the end of June with Alice and Deb Y in Toronto. She is very keen and working out to be a great partner and contingency plan for me. I look forward to what she brings back to the clinic and me after her time in Toronto.

From the Ontario Pharmacy Group, it looks like our conference will be held in the fall, in conjunction with the OHTN Education Day, as it was 2 years ago. This works out well because our delegates also get coverage for more

learning from the OHTN Education which really works out to a great deal of education with travel and accommodation covered. We are just in the early days of planning our agenda but will likely look forward to some of you as potential guest speakers in the future.

NEWS from Manitoba

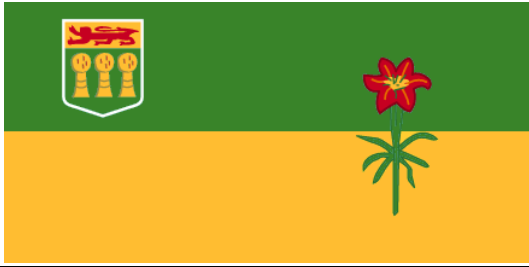


❖ From the Manitoba HIV Program (Shanna Chan)

Happy Spring everyone!

Select members of the MB HIV Program, including the HIV pharmacists and HIV physicians, are now available for online consultation to primary health-care providers through eConsult in Manitoba. eConsult (Store and Forward) is a secure web-based application that allows primary health-care providers to consult with specialists for advice, recommendations, and/or diagnosis about some non-urgent health-related conditions. There have not been any eConsults to the HIV pharmacists so far, but we are willing and able! In the near future, there will be discussion about the possibility of having PrEP on eConsult with the HIV pharmacists potentially managing these consults.

NEWS from Saskatchewan



❖ From Regina (Mike Stuber)

The first part of 2018 has been busy in Regina. We have a number of exciting things underway including the realization and successful implementation of the Pharmacist run PrEP clinic following reimbursement of FTC/TDF for PrEP. We have ~30 men assessed, reviewed and initiated on PrEP by myself and a sexual health nurse. We are beginning our first set of quarterly reviews and I couldn't be happier with how things have turned out. We have received great feedback from patients and a lot of interest to help implement clinics around the province. Pharmacists are critical to efficient use of PrEP. We will be pursuing some publications around this initiative in the future.

A full review of the Canadian PrEP guidelines with tips and tools for implementation in Saskatchewan has been posted to our website skhiv.ca and I have been busy providing education around the topic to family physicians, public health and other allied health professionals.

Things are moving forward with improved access to ART. We are

working on streamlining financial support, removing barriers and there is significant talk about universal ART access in SK.

Our collaborative prescribing agreement has been fully realized and I now have a great deal of independence with respect to drug selection, lab ordering and prescriptive authority under my own name.

Final reviews are underway for a community pharmacy ART checklist/interactive website to facilitate improved care for people living with HIV. Thanks go out to Matt Manz, Lindsey Ziegler and Linda Robinson for their valuable insight and contributions. This is part of an overall initiative to build capacity for HIV care in community pharmacies. We have had made amazing strides on this front and now have a number of local pharmacies providing exceptional HIV care. Community pharmacies are now a full part of our HIV care team in Regina.

Our harm reduction approach has added Take Home Naloxone kits to the toolkit. We have distributed over 50 THN kits to clinic patients/family members through the provincial program and partnership with a local specialty pharmacy. We have gained some traction in the quest to make THN kits available through Emergency Departments as well.

Work is continuing on creative ways to provide care in rural, remote and reserve communities where access is challenging but where the bulk of new infections are found.

Unfortunately we are seeing an upswing in new infections again in the south half of SK which is keeping us quite busy. We are also hitting some roadblocks on pharmacist HIV POC testing with lab licenses being a sticking point. We are confident we will find solutions and be able to provide tests in the next few months.

❖ **From Saskatoon – Positive Living Program, Royal University Hospital**
(Carley Pozniak)

We have a few research initiatives that our site is involved in.

We contribute information to *Canoc* as I suspect most sites in Canada do—a pan-provincial cohort of people living with HIV who are taking, or who have taken, ARVs. We have two sites that submit data: PLP out of Royal University Hospital and the Westside Community Clinic.

There is also the *CTN-222 study*, a national study that looks at health issues specific to people living with both HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV), namely, the effect of HIV medication and treatment interruptions on liver disease progression. This is a prospective cohort study: Patients who agree to participate are enrolled in the study and, every six months, they complete a questionnaire and provide a sample of blood.

And lastly the *WATCH study*, our social worker Shelly is quite involved with this. WATCH (Women, ART, and the Criminalization of HIV) is a community-

based research project that examines how the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure is understood and experienced by women living with HIV across Canada. The WATCH team also examines how the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure impacts women's social and sexual relationships, and their interactions with legal, health and social service providers. I haven't been too involved with any of these to date, as I am new to this position in the last year. I had some involvement with the data entry of ARVs that was then submitted to Canoc.

We recently had some very exciting news in Saskatchewan that ARVs will be covered for those with a valid SK health number. That will take care of a previously large workload in getting people's drug coverage sorted out.

Looking forward, I would like to see our team in Saskatoon focusing our efforts on engaging and retaining our patients in care as well as increased testing in hot spot areas of Saskatchewan using treatment as prevention. Unfortunately we have had many cases of AIDs, which adds an extra layer of complexity in caring for our patients. We've had 11 new cases of HIV in March of this year alone. A large proportion of the patients we have often are very hard to engage in care.

NEWS from Alberta



❖ From Edmonton

(Christine Hughes, Michelle Foisy)

Greetings from Edmonton. Spring has been slow to start, but we are getting there and looking forward to the promise of tulips and green grass in Vancouver at the upcoming CHAP meeting.

We have a couple of updates since the last newsletter. Treatment of hepatitis C coinfections continues to expand and additional staffing (RN) was hired to help coordinate treatment. Also, congratulations to Colleen Benson and Pam Nickel who received their additional prescribing authorization in January 2018! We will be engaging in more discussion on how the HIV pharmacists in our clinic can put prescribing into action. Stay tuned.

Publications:

Tan DHS, Hull MW, Yoong D, Tremblay C, O'Byrne P, Thomas R, Kille J, Baril JG, Cox J, Giguère P, Harris M, Hughes C, MacPherson P, O'Donnell S, Reimer J, Singh A, Barrett L, Bogoch I, Jollimore J, Lambert G, Lebouche B, Metz G, Rogers T, Shafran S. Canadian guidelines on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis and non-occupational post-exposure

prophylaxis. *Can Med Assoc J* 2017; 189: E1448-58.

Boswell R, Foisy MM, Hughes C. Dolutegravir dual therapy as maintenance treatment in HIV-infected patients: a review. *Ann Pharmacother* 2018 Feb 1 [Epub ahead of print].

Hughes CA, Yoong D (2018). Opportunistic Infections. In JJ Schafer et al. (Eds.), *HIV Pharmacotherapy: The Pharmacist's Role in Care and Treatment*. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Foisy MM (2018). Care transitions for HIV positive individuals. In JJ Schafer et al. (Eds.), *HIV Pharmacotherapy: The Pharmacist's Role in Care and Treatment*. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Select Presentations:

1. Hughes C. *Eliminating Hepatitis C virus: The Pharmacist's Role*. Presented at the RxA Spring Professional Development Conference. Edmonton Alberta; March 3, 2018.

2. Hughes C, Kielly J. *HIV Point of Care Testing in Community Pharmacies: the APPROACH study*. Presented at: HIV and HCV point of care testing in Canada – technologies and community programs webinar (Canada-wide). November 20, 2017.

3. Foisy M. *HIV Update: New Treatment Approaches-(French Track)*. Presented at the Professional Development Conferences (PDW) hosted by The Faculty of Pharmacy &

Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta; January 12, 2018.

4. Foisy M. *Assessing HIV+ Inpatients-Tips & Tools for Practice*. CSHP 44th Annual Banff Seminar, Banff, Alberta; March 17, 2018.

❖ **From Calgary - Southern Alberta Health Clinic**

(Jeff Kapler on behalf of Shayna Campbell, Geneviève Olsen, Jinell Mah Ming)

Greetings from Southern Alberta... it's April, it feels like spring is flirting with us, but as usual it can never be here soon enough! Best news seen here so far is that the Spring update to the provincial formulary has arrived, so the DAA's are available to patients regardless of fibrosis status or presence of co-morbidities.

Shayna will be involved in an upcoming research project called DRUM 2. DRUM 2 is the Development of a Rural Model for Integrated Shared Care in First Nation and Metis. DRUM 2 will build on the work of DRUM 1, which works with 3 communities in Northern AB, and will expand work to include the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), as well as the Blood Tribe and Stoney Nakoda Nation, large Southern AB First Nation communities. The guiding principles for DRUM will include an Elders Council with Elders from each of the participating cultures (Northern Cree, Métis, Blackfoot, Nakoda).

Jeff is co-chair with Christine Hughes on a Pharmacy Working Group, one of several groups on the Alberta CDC 2016-2020 STBBI Strategy Development project. The focus of our group is facilitating the availability of stigma training, exploring how community pharmacists may become more key in STBBI testing and possibly treatment, system improvement for provision of outreach to vulnerable populations, and expanding access to publically funded vaccinations from community pharmacies.

We have gained a tiny bit of experience with tesamorelin here, with one patient lined up to receive it and another who has been on it for about seven months now; the latter has enjoyed a decrease in visceral adipose by roughly the size of a pop can from her gut. Interestingly, her hair quality and color has returned to that of her youth! Both of these patients have the sheer luck of each having two private insurance plans that cover the ~\$3000/month...

Jinell has been splitting her work between our HIV clinic and TB Services on a temporary basis for the past year, and recently the funding for the TB position was made permanent (but still 2-3 days per week)! We've enjoyed having a pharmacist colleague in that clinic to liaise with on some of our common (and often complex) patients.

Publication (Shayna): Krentz, H. B., S. Campbell, V. C. Gill, and M. J. Gill. "Patient perspectives on de-simplifying their single-tablet co-formulated antiretroviral therapy for societal cost savings." *HIV medicine* (2018).

NEWS from British Columbia



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

It's been a mixed bag of weather on the West Coast, but we are not complaining about the wet stuff...especially when we hear stories of white stuff still falling east of us! However, I would suggest that anyone planning on attending the annual CHAP meeting to pack an umbrella, just in case our skies don't clear that week. We are looking forward to being the host city for this year's CAHR conference and I look forward to catching up with those of you who can attend.

The big news for the HIV program in BC has been the implementation of a publicly funded pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) program. The Ministry's funding announcement occurred over the Christmas holidays and St. Paul's pharmacy responded with the first prescription being filled on January 8th. Since that date, we have enrolled over 1200 patients into the program. More than half are new enrollees to PrEP and most (as expected) are living within the Greater Vancouver area. The rapid expansion of

this program has put a lot of pressure on the existing staff and their response has been nothing short of outstanding. Guidelines, tools for health-care providers and information on the PrEP program can be found at:

<http://cfenet.ubc.ca/hiv-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep>

The availability of generic antiretrovirals on the BC formulary continues with the introduction of generic emtricitabine-tenofovir DF, tenofovir DF and atazanavir. This move has had a tremendous impact on the overall drug budget and has allowed expansion of our prevention programs to persons at high risk for HIV acquisition. This includes coverage of post-exposure prophylaxis for consensual sex or needle-sharing and PrEP for individuals at ongoing risk for HIV acquisition.

Publications:

Lepik KJ, Yip B, Ulloa AC, Wang L, Toy J, Akagi L, Lima VD, Guillemi S, Montaner JSG, Barrios R. Adverse drug reactions to integrase strand transfer inhibitors. *AIDS* 2018; 32(7):903-12

❖ From the Oak Tree Clinic, Vancouver (Karen Tulloch)

Staffing changes continue to occur at our site and most notably Carlo Quaia has retired. We do have a clinical pharmacist who will soon be joining us soon! Stacey Tkachuk is a recent graduate of the UBC PharmD class of 2018. She has been a clinical pharmacist at the BC Children's and Women's Hospital since 2015 working in the areas of high-risk antepartum, post-partum

infants and the neonatal intensive care unit. Stacey did do a 4-week clinical rotation with us at the Oak Tree Clinic at the start of her PharmD program and will begin working at the clinic on a full-time basis in June 2018.

On the clinic initiative front, we do not have a lot of new news to report. We continue to work towards developing a HCV treatment program for mono-infected women of childbearing age at our clinic. One important clinical issue that we are also working to improve at our site is improvement in our local (and provincial) HCV screening in HCV exposed infants.

❖ **From Prince George**
(Jennifer Hawkes)

Our HIV and Hepatitis C Specialized Support Team, which began in September 2016 has been growing from a pharmacist, to add a 0.8 Social worker and now a 0.8 Nurse Practitioner. We had wanted to have a 0.2 dietician but this was too hard to fill and so were only able to get a casual for 2 months. The Admin support has increased from 0.2 to 0.5 FTE. We have continued management and structure changes, but have had team success with collaborating with other community resources and care providers and patients to have some great outcomes in terms of psychosocial stability and viral suppression/cures.

Our team does outreach and aims to build capacity and look for solutions to fill any gaps – we are a complimentary service to what is already being

provided, and support the patients, and care providers. The NPs are also interested in temporarily filling gaps with OAT provision/continuation that exist.

Our northern, rural and remote population is diverse, however the majority we serve comprise a population of marginalized, Aboriginal, incarcerated, PWID (as well as alcohol, inhaled and tobacco addictions), intergenerational trauma afflicted, and poor/homeless. Gaps still exist in trauma counseling.

Publications/awards:
<http://www.catie.ca/en/positiveside/su/mmer-2018/ask-expert>

Jennifer Hawkes was recipient of CAHR HCP Travel Award for the International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of Antiviral Therapy 2018
Spring 2017 Healthier You Magazine - on p12-13 you can read an article about our team
<https://issuu.com/pgcitizen/docs/pgsg-170127-mz-a>

Our team was also featured in the 2017 CATIE Bright Ideas Blog -
<http://www.catie.ca/en/pc/elements/northern-health>

And that's a wrap for the 2018 Spring CHAP Newsletter! Have a wonderful summer and we will look forward to seeing everyone in Saskatoon at our next Annual General Meeting.
With warm regards,
Karen Tulloch (CHAP secretary 2017-2018)