



The Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network (CHAP)

The Canadian HIV/AIDS 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 2017 Newsletter



NEWS FROM THE (PAST) CHAIR

Being the chair of the CHAP for the 2016/2017 year was amazing and I want to thank everyone who made this experience so pleasant, in particular all the members of the executive (Natalie Dayneka, Alice Tseng, Deborah Yoong, Dominic Martel). Thank you for your hard work and great advice! I take this opportunity also to welcome Karen Tulloch as a new member of the executive. She has volunteered to take on the secretary position. I wish all the best to Dominic Martel who is our new CHAP chair. I am

confident he will be an exemplary chair and I will be available as past chair to guide him as best as possible.

I also want to thank everyone who actively participated at the CHAP annual general meeting in Montréal. We had a very, very productive, educational and stimulating meeting again this year. Some highlights include the CHAP position statement for universal access to antiretroviral drugs in Canada as well as a change in our network name to the: Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network (CHAP) / Réseau canadien des pharmaciens en VIH et hépatites virales. Many of our educational sessions focused on difficult to manage HIV and hepatitis C in highly treatment experienced patients and I think these sessions were very appreciated by the group.

On a more personal note, I also want to thank everyone who participated in the Antiretroviral Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Conference and Workshop on April 6th. I hope this training will be beneficial to your practice.

The next CHAP annual general meeting is in Vancouver and I hope to see you all there. This year there seems to be less rain in Vancouver than in Montréal so I am already looking forward to it!

Have a great summer everyone,

*Nancy Sheehan,
McGill University Health Centre
Past chair, 2017/2018*

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW CHAP MEMBERS!

Carley Pozniak

Carley is the new pharmacist with the Positive Living Program, Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon.

Suganthan Thivakaran

Sugi is a clinical pharmacist at Pharmacy.ca in Toronto, and is also pursuing his Pharm.D. at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.

Kim Dhand

Kim works part-time for the Positive Living program in Saskatoon providing expertise in HCV to clients.

Marissa Millman

Marissa is a pharmacist working with Danny Lui in Guelph.

Laura Bron

Pharmacist | Pharmacy Owner, Elevate Medical Pharmacy, Thunder Bay, ON. Our pharmacy recently opened alongside Elevate Clinic (formerly AIDS Thunder Bay), and specializing in HIV and Hepatitis C treatment

INTRODUCING THE NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBER

*Karen Tulloch, new CHAP secretary
2017/2018*

Karen Tulloch is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist who has worked in the areas of Psychiatry and Neurosciences before coming to the Oak Tree Clinic, an interdisciplinary HIV clinic which provides care for HIV positive women and their families, at the BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre in 2011. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia. She was a lead author on the SOGC Canadian Perinatal HIV guidelines and has been responsible for the development and implementation of the current Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission program within BC. She is currently the co-Principal investigator for an ongoing research study at BC Women's Hospital which is evaluating the use of cabergoline for lactation suppression in women living with HIV.

Karen lives in Vancouver BC with her husband, two daughters and chocolate lab. In her spare time loves anything swim, bike, run and favorite home away from home places include Whistler, San Diego and Maui!

CHAP AGM SUMMARY

The annual CHAP general meeting (AGM) was held on April 5th 2017 at Hotel Bonaventure Montréal as a CAHR conference ancillary event. This year's CHAP AGM was again a success and a great day for discussion on HIV and viral hepatitis pharmaceutical care and knowledge sharing. Sixteen working group members and four general members participated in the daylong AGM meeting. The meeting was presided by the CHAP chair, Nancy Sheehan (McGill University Health Centre, Montréal).

Dr. Thibault Mesplède (PhD, Lady Davis Institute, Jewish General Hospital) gave a plenary during the breakfast symposium on integrase inhibitor resistance. Dr. Mesplède presented interested data and discussion on HIV drug resistance to integrase inhibitors (raltegravir/elvitegravir/dolutegravir/cabotegravir, bictegravir). This was followed by a discussion of antiretrovirals in the pipeline by Dr. Kevin Robillard (PhD, Scientific Medical Liaison, Viiv Healthcare). During the lunch symposium, Dr. Steven Shafran (MD, FRCPC, FACP, Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of medicine, and Director, Hepatitis Support Program, University of Alberta) described

the challenges associated to the treatment of HCV-infected patients after direct-acting antivirals failure.

The business portion of the meeting was comprised of the treasurer's report, discussion around changes to the terms of references, CHAP position statement on Universal Access to ARV, CHAP endorsement of nPEP/PREP guidelines and election of the 2017/2018 secretary (Karen Tulloch, Oak Tree Clinic, Vancouver). The 2016/2017 secretary becomes the CHAP chair for 2017/2018 (Dominic Martel, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Montréal).

Of note, one of the highlights of the AGM was a change in our network name to the: Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network (CHAP) / Réseau canadien des pharmaciens en VIH et hépatites virales (CHAP).

Updates on the various CHAP projects were given by the projects leader including projects on CHAP observership program, HIV guide pocket card, dolutegravir – metformin drug interaction project, screening tool project for HIV pharmacists, pharmacy POCT (APPROACH study), ARV teaching tool, HCV drug coverage table. Presentations were

also given on various topics such as treatment of multiresistant HIV, complicated to treat HCV, generic antivirals, pediatric HIV case presentation and HIV prophylaxis duration in HIV – exposed neonates, cabergoline for lactation suppression, PREP and HIV resistance, food requirement for cobicistat/elvitravir absorption, transmission of HIV resistant viruses and rapid HIV testing as part of an emergency Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission Program.

CHAP members at the 2017 AGM



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

The next CHAP AGM will be held in April 2018 in Vancouver at the next CAHR annual conference.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

8TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HIV & AGING 2017, New York, USA, October 2-3, 2017.

<http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/8th-hiv-aging-workshop-2017/>

ID WEEK 2017, San Diego, USA, October 4-8, 2017.

<http://www.idweek.org>

The Liver Meeting, Washington, USA, October 20-24, 2017.

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

16th European AIDS Conference Milan, Italy, October 25-27, 2017.

<http://www.eacs-conference2017.com>

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

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

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>

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO CHAP!



CHAP was formed in January 1997 and this year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of CHAP! CHAP has been very successful to achieve its mission in the last 20 years.

Happy birthday to all HIV pharmacists who contributed to CHAP in the past!

We can all agree that CHAP is still young and will keep bringing together pharmacists with a clinical and research focus in HIV and viral hepatitis in the future.

MADE IN
1997
20 Years of Being
AWESOME

HIV PHARMACISTS IN THE NEWS!

Congratulations to Nancy Sheehan and the whole McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) team in Montreal involved in the therapeutic drug monitoring program. A tribute to their work was published in the Montreal Gazette.

You can refer to the article “Personalized medicine for patients with chronic viral infections” published in the Montreal Gazette:

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/personalized-medicine-for-patients-with-chronic-viral-infections>

THE CANADIAN TREATMENT ACTION COUNCIL TREATMENT MAP

Here is a brief update from Rounak Khan about this wonderful tool developed by CTAC. CTAC would also like to carry out a webinar with CHAP members in the future, so more to come about this tool in the future!

The Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC) aims to secure and ensure access to treatment, care and support for people in Canada living with HIV/AIDS and HIV/hepatitis C co-infection. Developed by CTAC, first of its kind in Canada, the *Treatment Map (TxMAP)* is a comprehensive online tool that is now available on the CTAC website and is an indispensable tool in increasing access to information on the availability of publicly-funded HIV and hepatitis C treatments throughout Canada.

TxMAP is available at <http://www.ctac.ca/treatment-access-map> . This tool allows community members, service providers, and policy researchers to access information about HIV and hepatitis C treatments available through provincial, territorial, and federal public drug plans in Canada.

Access to treatment is critical for the best possible health outcomes of people living with HIV and /or hepatitis C in Canada. In total, there are 18 different public plans in Canada, with roughly 40 percent of the population reliant on obtaining access to essential medicines through publicly funded drug programs. Until recently, a map of Canada demonstrating available HIV and hepatitis C treatments per province/territory and cross-jurisdictional list of relocation-related legislation and processes linked to treatment access did not exist.

The *TxMAP* will allow community members and service providers to interactively access

information on:

- Publicly funded provincial and territorial HIV and hepatitis C treatment information
- Treatments covered under the five federal public drug plans
- Treatments currently under development
- Cross-jurisdictional list of relocation-related legislation and processes linked to treatment access
- Links to individual and community resources to ease transition when moving between jurisdictions

The *Treatment Map* will be used to change the ways people are able to access information on drug availability nationwide and that it will strengthen avenues for access to treatment, care and support for people affected by HIV and hepatitis C.

Rounak

Rounak Khan PhD
Interim Program Manager
Directrice des programmes par intérim



NEWS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY, FROM EAST TO WEST

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 Anglophone side of Montreal!

We would like to congratulate the shining star in our team, Nancy Sheehan, for winning the Roger Leblanc award which is the most prestigious award a

hospital pharmacist can have in Quebec!!!

<https://muhc.ca/our-stories/article/vocation-pharmacist> and <https://www.apesquebec.org/lapes/rec-onnaissance-et-rayonnement/prix-dexcellence-de-lapes/prix-dexcellence-roger-leblanc-2017>.

We are extremely lucky to have her in our team and she is an inspiration to all of us.

Benoît Lemire is now spearheading the project to launch an anti-tuberculosis TDM program. Nancy also has a very hard-working student helping us update the Quebec ARV TDM guidelines.

In regards to the clinic, we are still only 1 FTE pharmacist and continue on our quest to have more pharmacist time. Katherine, Benoît, Nancy, Alison and occasionally Derek alternate through the 1 FTE position.

Katherine Mousseau will be trained at the inpatient transplant service this summer. We are looking forward to having her insight as the number of HIV patients who receive transplants continues to increase.

Alison's study for the screening tool was accepted for publication in AIDS Care and is now available online:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09540121.2017.1338657> .

Alison now works at the McGill University Health Centre part time as she has chosen to continue working with NorthWest Telepharmacy Solutions.

A few other interesting new reads from our team is a TDM case report in a preterm neonate receiving raltegravir that was led by Denise Kreuzwiser during her HIV specialty residency: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28198351> as well as a mathematical model that predicts virologic failure and resistance of antiretrovirals : <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28556627> .

Have a great summer everyone,

Alison Wong

- **From the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), Montréal** (Dominic Martel on behalf of the UHRESS-team: Isabel Turcotte, Marie-Pierre Marquis, Mathieu Laroche, Suzanne Marcotte and Rachel Therrien)

Bonjour des francophones de Montréal!

At the CHUM, we are getting ready for our historic move to the new building in October 2017. We are expecting the next couple of months to be full of challenges. For those of you who are interested, here is a picture of our new hospital (in March).



As for the HIV outpatient clinic (UHRESS), we will all merge together (with the two clinics merging into one big clinic). However, we will have to patiently wait a couple of years before the clinic moves to the new building as most of the outpatient clinics will be ready in the second phase of the construction project. In the meantime, we will have our clinics relocated at the Hotel-Dieu site on rue St-Urbain. The good news is that we will have more « clinic space » than initially planned. We will still be actively involved with inpatients at the « Nouveau CHUM » as we will have a HIV inpatient rotation as part of our pharmaceutical care activities in the new super hospital.

On behalf of our team, I also would like to wish good luck to Isabel Turcotte who will leave the CHUM for Hôpital communautaire Notre-Dame. We will miss working with you and I am sure that your HIV knowledge will be essential and a plus to your new environment.

I also would like to follow on the ECHO® hepatitis C Quebec project, learning by doing. This project is a success so far! As a reminder, this project reunites on a web platform a multidisciplinary panel of hepatitis C specialists (known as hub) with healthcare professionals (known as spokes) who learn and discuss cases and educational material together. We have actively participated in the project along with health care professionals (physicians, nurses, pharmacists, community workers, etc.) across the province of Quebec who are submitting challenging clinical cases related to hepatitis C.

Rachel is also working on a new version of her website!
<http://www.guidetherapeutiquevih.com>
So stay tuned for the launch of the new website soon!

Finally, our next year will be busy as we will start a new pharmacy residency project at our center, the MONTREAL-C study on drug-drug interactions with direct-acting antivirals.

Dominic

NEWS FROM ONTARIO

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

I have the following items to report:

a) UHN Immunodeficiency Clinic. Things are rolling along, we are treating a next wave of HIV/HCV patients, mostly with Epluseda, now that most of the DAAs are on the provincial formulary.

b) UHN/MUHC HIV residency program. Nancy and I are pleased to announce that we have new resident starting in September 2017. Salin Nhean is currently completing a PGY-1 residency at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, and is very excited to spend a year dedicating herself to HIV.

c) HIV/HCV Drug Therapy App. Michelle, Pierre and I were proud to receive the CSHP National Award in Specialty Practice for our web-based app (<http://app.hivclinic.ca>).

d) CHAP National Observership Program:

The CHAP National Observership Working Group is pleased to announce that three observerships were granted for the first round of applications:

1. Laura Bron, a pharmacist owner of Elevate Medical Pharmacy from Thunder Bay, Ontario, will complete a 2 day observership with Linda Robinson in Windsor in June. Laura and her business partner opened their pharmacy adjacent to Elevate NOW (formerly AIDS Thunder Bay), and share common goals in terms of harm reduction, prevention, advocacy and support. Laura's learning objectives include gaining more knowledge/experience on HIV/hepatitis C coinfection, PrEP, and point-of-care HIV testing.
2. Marlene Fouad, a community pharmacist and consultant from Ottawa, Ontario, serves HIV and HIV/HCV coinfecting patients at two independent pharmacies, and has been a long-standing member of the Ottawa HIV Primary Care Group. Marlene will be completing an observership with Pierre Giguere at the Ottawa Hospital. Her learning objectives include increasing knowledge in HIV and HCV therapy management, care of pregnant women and children, and point-of-care testing.
3. Jam Bravo is a part-time clinical pharmacist with Casey House, a community HIV hospital in Toronto. Casey House has 13 inpatient beds dedicated to sub-acute rehabilitative care, palliative care, and respite care. Casey House

is building a new facility and expanding services, including a day health/wellness program. Jam will be completing a 2 day observership with Shanna Chan in Winnipeg, Manitoba in June. Jam's learning goals include gaining knowledge/experience with managing multi-resistant HIV, advanced HIV disease and opportunistic infections and managing special/underserved populations.

Best wishes to the observers and preceptors for successful and rewarding learning experiences. We look forward to hearing about the completed observerships later on in the year.

At this time, the Working Group is pleased to announce the second call for applications for the Observership program. The deadline for applications was Friday, June 30th, 2017.

More information on the Term of Reference and Application Process may be found at:

<http://hivclinic.ca/chap/activities.php>

The CHAP National Observership Working Group:

Alice Tseng, Michelle Foisy, Mike Stuber, Deborah Yoong, Pierre Giguere, Linda Robinson

Alice

- **From Windsor** (Linda Robinson)

Our clinic has been undergoing many changes in the last 6 months. We are now fully accredited with the Ontario College of Pharmacists and have passed our inspection! I have also had the joy of

training and working with Sheri Livingston, my latest HIV pharmacy protégé. She is fantastic and has taken to HIV pharmacy like a pro. The patients love her and she is doing great things with the pharmacy and the entire HIV Care Team. Are cases keep increasing, on a not so great note, and are often young MSM. We have also had 3 very late presenters with full blown AIDS in the last 3 months. This is a lot for Windsor, but may be a good sign that more people are opting for testing. As for PrEP we still struggle with coverage in Ontario and the prescribing and dispensing has the potential for poor follow up and monitoring. As I presented at the CHAP meeting, this can lead to people converting on PrEP and developing TFV/cytosine analogue resistance, a case that we had involving outside walk in clinic docs and outside pharmacies. On another note, the OHTN is partnering with us and pharma in order to bring the 9th annual ONT HIV PSG Education Day to fruition. It will be held in Toronto on Friday Sept 15th, so save the date, my fellow Ontario CHAP members.

Have a Great Summer,
Linda

NEWS FROM MANITOBA

- **From the Manitoba HIV Program**
(Shanna Chan)

Greetings from Manitoba and I hoping everyone has had a wonderful winter, spring and summer. With the warmer weather, we have had an increase in number of asylum seekers cross the

North Dakota/Manitoba border including a handful of who are HIV positive and are now receiving care through our HIV program. With the addition of the newer HCV medications and change in criteria we have had an increase number of our co-infected patients eligible for HCV treatment so we are ramping up treatment. We will be welcoming back our HIV NP, Kelly, from her maternity leave and bidding farewell to Anna Marquez, NP, who was filling the position. However, Anna is staying within the HIV family and has taken a new position at Oak Tree Clinic in Vancouver! Our HIV program is continuing to develop partnerships in our Northern communities and along the Saskatchewan border and expand HIV screening and services through the province. Our 3rd HIV clinic (the only one outside of Winnipeg) at 7th Street Health Access Centre has been up and running since the end of September with ~25 patients in the western part of MB no longer needing to travel into Winnipeg to receive their HIV care. We welcome Arleigh Andrushak, hired by the Prairie Mountain Health region as their first primary care pharmacist. She has been providing the much-needed clinical pharmacy support to primary care clinics including the HIV clinic at 7th Street Health Access Centre.

NEWS FROM SASKATCHEWAN

- **From Qu'Appelle Health Region & Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative Regina** (Mike Stuber)

Hello from Saskatchewan!

Things remain busy here in the province with the HIV infection rate increasing to 14.5/100k (+6% over 2015) with the majority of cases in the north and rural/reserve communities. With only two active HIV pharmacists (Brent in Saskatoon and me in Regina) it's been challenging to deliver pharmacy care to the communities that need it most.

I have been travelling to a few of the harder hit areas in the eastern part of the province for pop-up HIV/HCV clinics and working to make connections with community pharmacists in the far north to support our patients in those regions. We are promoting use of PrEP in some regions (800% HIV rate increase) through development of tools aimed at primary care practitioners. We have also been working hard to support primary care physicians/NPs in taking on a bigger role in HIV/HCV care to build capacity in Sask to free up our extremely limited ID physician resources. This includes education events and materials for community pharmacists to help provide comprehensive care to our marginalized patients.

We continue to push for universal coverage of ARVs through the provincial drug plan but have so far had little success.

With Saskatchewan's health regions amalgamating into one jurisdiction later this year we will face a few challenges but hopefully some opportunities towards collaboration with other care providers across the province.

Mike Stuber
Clinical Pharmacist – HIV

- **From the Saskatoon Positive Living Program, Saskatoon** (Shannon Stone)

NEWS FROM ALBERTA

- **From Northern Alberta Program, Edmonton** (Christine Hughes, Michelle Foisy):

We are happy to say that spring/summer has arrived on the Prairies! The Northern Alberta Program continues to be very busy with pregnancies, expansion of HCV treatment in co-infected patients in addition to the regular workload.

Staffing changes:

Amy Semaka, a former summer student with NAP, has joined us on a casual basis following completion of her PharmD. Welcome Amy!

Select presentations:

Hughes C. Polypharmacy and drug drug interactions. HIV Therapeutic Management Course. January 27, 2017. Lisbon, Portugal.

Projects:

The APPROACH study (point of care testing in community pharmacies)

launched in Alberta on March 14, 2017. We were fortunate to have excellent media coverage and engagement by community partners. (Christine Hughes)

Abstract presentations:

Hughes C, Nguyen B, Ma C, Schindel T. Pharmacists' perceptions and attitudes towards disease screening and prevention roles including HIV point of care testing. Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference, Quebec City, Quebec. June 3, 2017.

Publications:

Sahajpal R, Ahmed RA, **Hughes CA**, **Foisy MM**. Probable Drug Interaction Between Levothyroxine and Ritonavir: Case Report and Literature Review. Am J Health Syst Pharm 2017;74:587-92.

Tools:

Foisy M. The Antiretroviral Guide- A Tool for Providing Seamless Care and Assessing Antiretroviral Therapy in Hospitalized HIV+ Patients. Alberta, Version 1. Northern Alberta Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton, AB, April 2017. Accessed at: [http://www.bugsanddrugs.ca/documents/Antiretroviral Assessment 2017.pdf](http://www.bugsanddrugs.ca/documents/Antiretroviral%20Assessment%202017.pdf)

Foisy M. The Antiretroviral Guide- A Tool for Providing Seamless Care and Assessing Antiretroviral Therapy in Hospitalized HIV+ Patients. Canada, Version 1. Northern Alberta Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton, AB, April 2017. Accessed at: http://hivclinic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Antiretroviral-Assessment-CDN-Web_2-secured.pdf

This tool can be ordered from CATIE FOC: http://orders.catie.ca/product_info.php?products_id=26449

Bone tool in HIV- we are in the process of updating the bone tool and it should be ready in July 2017. More details to follow once available.

Awards:

Foisy M. APEX Award of Excellence (Alberta College of Pharmacists & Alberta Pharmacists' Association), 2016/17. Accessed at: <https://pharmacists.ab.ca/2017-award-excellence-michelle-foisy>

- **From the Southern Alberta Clinic, Calgary** (Jeff Kapler)

We have enjoyed a marvelous summer so far in Southern Alberta! Our clinic pharmacy and had a fun family picnic on a Sunday in July, temperature was about 32! Conditions have been perfect for people and produce here..... the Saskatoon berry and raspberry crops have been amazing! At the clinic we have also had a bumper crop of patients.... I think June was a particularly fruitful month for babies. Thanks very much for the information/advice from our CHAP colleagues recently, which led to us getting a SAP supply of raltegravir granules on an emergency basis to provide to a newborn whose mom had not had care since her last baby in 2012, and mom's prior genotype had nevirapine resistance. Fingers remain crossed on this one! We've also inherited our first couple of cases of PrEP-didn't-work-out-so-well, ending up in our care... I hope the word "condom" still makes it into those guidelines in bold font!

Our clinic physician complement has been bolstered with the addition of an R5 resident, Dr. Jacqueline McMillan,

who is doing a geriatric assessment clinic once per month (so far, it's a start). Each of those appointments is roughly a two-hour consultation, and our more aged and frail patients benefit from her perspective in the context of their overall care. (And no, Pierre, I am NOT on her roster....)

SAC Pharmacy is switching dispensary software, to the widely used Kroll system. Lots of prep for that, and we're planning to end the summer on a high note with the successful implementation of that!

Cheers from Calgary!!

Jeff

NEWS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

We are happy to finally see some sun after a very long and wet spring. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate when Vancouver hosts CAHR in the spring of 2018.

Our pharmacists have all been working hard, especially with several of our staff off work on either MAT or PAT leaves. We are hoping to be back to our usual staffing levels this fall. In the meantime, we enjoy getting the occasional photo and visit from the exhausted parents.

Generic medications have started being added to the BC formulary (like the rest of the country 😊) and we're hoping to realize some cost savings with this move. In keeping with this move, newer

medications such as tenofovir AF are limited to patients who demonstrate a clinical need for not using tenofovir DF.

Upcoming changes to our post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) program include updated guidelines and a switch from Kaletra to raltegravir with continuation of tenofovir DF and lamivudine in the starter kits. With approximately 300 PEP sites in the province the replacement of starter kits should prove to be a fun summer project.

Spring is also time for the popular spring session course SOWK 452 - HIV Prevention and Care. This UBC course is offered to students in pharmacy, medicine, nursing, social work, dietetics and dentistry and run mainly out of St. Paul's Hospital. The goal of the course is to prepare students interested in working in the HIV/AIDS field as members of an interprofessional team. The course is a highlight of the year for me, the other faculty members and our dedicated team of peer navigators. Many past students have described the course as "life-changing" and the best course that they have ever taken.

Publications:

Lepik KJ, Harrigan PR et al. AIDS 2017 Apr 3 Emergent drug resistance with integrase strand transfer inhibitor-based regimens: Incidence and risk factors

- **From Oak Tree Clinic, Vancouver**
(Karen Tulloch, Carlo Quaia)

Greetings from the Oak Tree Clinic! It was great to see everyone at the CHAP/CAHR meeting in Montreal in April and we look forward to welcoming everyone next year in 2018 on our home turf!

Taking a look back at what occurred over what turned out to be a long (long) winter... we were happy to have finalized updates to our Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission guideline, physician order sets, and provincial prophylactic kits (<http://www.bcwomens.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/hiv-aids-resources/hiv-aids-clinical-guidelines>).

Highlights of the updates include recommending 4 weeks zidovudine monotherapy for infants born in low transmission risk settings (i.e., maternal HIV viral load < 40 copies/mL) while infants born in higher transmission risk settings receive combination (3-drug) antiretrovirals at prophylactic doses. We are still struggling to standardize recommendations made for managing infants born in very high transmission risk settings however, where we have

been changing these infants' antiretroviral regimens to intensified treatment doses on a case-by-case basis. Challenges in this regard include questions of which drugs to use (particularly in the setting of maternal resistance), what doses to recommend, and how to make timely interventions.

Additional highlights to our most recent updates include inclusion of "Guide to Interpret Maternal HIV Test results" as we found that there is often confusion among clinicians regarding the interpretation of lab results obtained at delivery, as well as the use of cabergoline for lactation suppression in women living with HIV. We currently have an ongoing clinical trial with CHUSJ in Montreal evaluating the safety, efficacy and acceptability of cabergoline and hope to have results available by the end of the year.

Best wishes to everyone across the county,

Karen and Carlo

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter!

I hope we will see you all at our next Annual General Meeting in Vancouver!

Dominic Martel, CHAP Secretary 2016-2017