



## CHAP NEWSLETTER: December 2024

*Editor: Erin Ready (CHAP Secretary 2024-2025)*

*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 Chair – Sharan Lail, 2024-2025**

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I address you as the chair of CHAP for the 2024-2025 term. I am honoured to lead such a dedicated and passionate group of professionals.

I am thrilled to share that the 2024 CHAP Annual General Meeting, held in London, Ontario on April 24, 2024, was a tremendous success. We were delighted to have 23 pharmacists from across Canada in attendance. The event was a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge, network with peers, and discuss the latest advancements in HIV care.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Tasha Ramsey, the past-chair of the HIV Group, for her amazing presentation for CHAP Chats on the Fall Respiratory Vaccine Update. Additionally, Linda Robinson has created a groundbreaking HIV Resistance module. This three-part series, designed to help students and clinicians learn the basics of HIV resistance, is an incredible resource now available on our website. Thank you to Tasha and Linda for your contributions to HIV education.

I am also pleased to announce that Jinell White has joined us as a new CHAP Working Group member. We have also awarded CHAP Emeritus status to Jeff Kapler and Karen Tulloch in recognition of their significant contributions.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the 2023-2024 chair, Tasha Ramsey, as well as Deborah Yoong and Alice Tseng, our co-treasurers. A warm welcome to Erin Ready, our new secretary.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making these achievements possible. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year to continue advancing our mission and supporting individuals living with HIV.

Warm regards,

Sharan Lail

Chair, CHAP 2024-2025

### **Updates From Across the Country**

# British Columbia



Greetings from downtown Vancouver!

This year, St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy celebrated the achievements of three dedicated colleagues. We honoured the truly impressive careers of Kathy Lepik, Cynthia Kennedy, and Jennifer Wong this past spring at their shared retirement party. We also welcomed clinical pharmacists Tania Alia and Jessie Yoon to both the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy and CHAP teams (read more about the two of them in the "CHAP member updates" section at the end of this newsletter).

This spring also saw a dispensing software system change that kept us extremely busy as we worked to transfer thousands of records from our old system to the new one, while continuing to provide centralized antiretroviral dispensing and clinical care to people living with HIV across British Columbia, in addition to PrEP, PEP, and doxycycline for bacterial STI prevention for all of the folks enrolled in these British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS programs. Many thanks to our incredible pharmacy coordinator, Osric Sin, for his excellent leadership and guidance throughout this transition.

Things have also been busy on a research front; see below for some of the work that myself and pharmacist colleagues Junine Toy, Kathy Lepik, Linda Akagi, Michelle Gnyra, and Osric Sin have been involved in recently. Of course, it was also very exciting to take our CHAP paper across the finish line and see it published in the Canadian Pharmacists Journal this summer. It was such a pleasure to collaborate with so many CHAP pharmacists on this paper! Special thanks to my co-lead, Stacey Tkachuk, and our mentor, Alice Tseng, for all of their hard work on this project.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Halifax, NS at our AGM in 2025!

## **Publications:**

- Oravec T, Ready E, Hull M, Wright A. Management of antiretroviral therapy and opportunistic infections in people living with HIV undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplant in British Columbia. *J Assoc Med Microbiol Infect Dis Can.* 2024; doi:10.3138/jammi-2024-0013.
- Tkachuk S, Ready E, Chan S, Hawkes J, Janzen Cheney T, Kapler J, Kreutzwiser D, Akagi L, Coombs M, Giguere P, Hughes C, Kelly D, Livingston S, Martel D, Naccarato M, Nhean S, Pozniak C, Ramsey T, Robinson L, Smith J, Swidrovich J, Symes J, Yoong D, Tseng A. Role of the pharmacist caring for people at risk of or living with HIV in Canada. *Can Pharm J.* 2024 Aug 2;157(5):218-239
- Lepik KJ, Hunt OL, Bacani N, Wang L, Harris M, Toy J, McLinden T, Sereda P, Akagi LJ, Ready E, Montaner JSG, Barrios R. Adverse drug reactions attributed to generic substitution of antiretroviral medications among HIV treatment and pre-exposure prophylaxis clients in British Columbia, Canada. *Antivir Ther* 2024; 29(1):1-12. doi: 10.1177/13596535241233128

**Poster Presentations:**

- Toy J, Espinoza R, Trigg J, Zhang W, Thio S, Antic J, Ready E, Barrios R, Montaner J. Systematic Use of HIV PrEP Medication Refill Notifications in a Population-based PrEP Program in British Columbia, Canada. Poster presented at AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference in Munich, Germany (July 2024)
- Ludlam M, Ready E, Shen T, Li J, Espinoza R, Gnyra M, Sin O, Sereda P, Barrios R, Toy J. Clinical outcomes of people living with HIV by level of HIV pharmacy service in a centralized antiretroviral program in British Columbia. Poster presented at the Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR); London, ON (April 2024)
- Toy KJ, Espinoza RM, Trigg J, Shen T, Sereda P, Ready E, Lima VD, Barrios R, Montaner J. Real-world utilization of HIV PrEP medication in a population-level PrEP program in British Columbia, Canada – Poster presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI); Denver, Colorado (March 2024)

Erin Ready (on behalf of the team at St. Paul’s Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy)  
Vancouver, BC

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Hello from the Oak Tree Clinic!

A few exciting updates from our team this year.

In the clinic we transitioned to a new electronic medical record system in February which has been both exciting and challenging. We are still working out some kinks with our workflows and building/updating new order sets. We’ve also been busy managing the increasing number of patients on long-acting anti-retroviral therapy with many new patients starting on long-acting injectable cabotegravir and rilpivirine and a couple on lenacapavir. Another project that has been a focus this year is developing interdisciplinary care pathways to better clarify the roles of providers in our clinic and how we manage certain disease states in our aging population.

A lot has changed in the last year in terms of staffing with the Oak Tree Clinic pharmacists. In the spring we said goodbye to Karen Tulloch. After 13 years at Oak Tree Clinic, we were sad to see her move on to a new role. We also welcomed a new pharmacist Rebecca Chiang, a recent Year 1 Pediatric Pharmacy Residency graduate, who has been a great addition to the team. We are excited to announce that Caitlin Chew has returned to Oak Tree Clinic after completing her Year 2 Pediatric Pharmacy Residency and is the new full-time Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the clinic. Finally, Stacey Tkachuk has transitioned to a new role as Clinical Supervisor at BC Children and Women’s pharmacy department, but she couldn’t leave the CHAP family, she will still be working at Oak Tree Clinic at a reduced capacity.

New Publications:

King EM, Tkachuk S, Tseng A. Aging on antiretrovirals: reviewing the need for pharmacologic data in elderly people with HIV. AIDS. 2024 Sep 1;38(11):1609-1616.

Tkachuk S, Ready E, Chan S, Hawkes J, Janzen Cheney T, Kapler J, Kreutzwiser D, Akagi L, Coombs M, Giguere P, Hughes C, Kelly D, Livingston S, Martel D, Naccarato M, Nhean S, Pozniak C, Ramsey T, Robinson L, Smith J, Swidrovich J, Symes J, Yoong D, Tseng A. Role of the pharmacist caring for people at risk of or living with HIV in Canada. *Can Pharm J (Ott)*. 2024 Aug 2;157(5):218-239

Wishing everyone a Happy Holidays!  
Caitlin, Gloria, Stacey, Peter, Becca  
The Oak Tree Clinic, Vancouver BC

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## Northern Health in BC

Our regional specialized support team consists of a pharmacist and a social worker. We are hoping to soon expand our supports with more peer involvement. 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. Our long-time medical lead and lone ID Specialist for the last 18 years will be retiring in 2024 and 2 new ID Specialists who started in 2023 and will take on this care for the future.

Dried blood spot (DBS) testing has been expanded within Northern Health with a virtual training platform to expand this low-barrier testing option and also allow community sites and not just health authority sites to be testing sites. Pharmacare Special Authority in BC now accepts DBS HCV RNA for approval of the HCV DAA medications.

We have been working to expand PrEP and HCV treatment access to our region in efforts to reach the population who use IV substances (which is the risk factor for HIV acquisition 44% of the time in Northern BC). Building capacity for opioid agonist treatment (OAT) prescribers (physicians and NPs) has been a great tool to reach this population.

We have had 90% success rate this year with continuing to link patients to HIV and 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 project was expanded from HCV care to HIV, HCV and Hep B and now syphilis care this summer. This has proven an invaluable engagement tool in many cases!

Our northern region, as well as BC, has continued to see rises in deaths from the unregulated drugs overdose pandemic. We have seen 47 consecutive months (Oct 2020-Oct 2024) with over 150 unregulated drug toxicity deaths/month in BC. [Northern Health's unregulated drug death rate continues to be the highest in BC in 2024 with one community at over 150/100,000.](#)

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Hawkes  
University Hospital of Northern BC, Prince George

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# Alberta



Hello from the Northern Alberta Program!

The clinic numbers continue to grow as NAP has successfully integrated (nearly all) patients from the STI clinic into NAP and we continue to see an increase in patients from endemic countries who are positive. A helpful piece for workload is that we have been able to utilize the Cabenuva patient support program that now has sites for patients to get their injections that we can utilize, though our Cabenuva numbers remain low. We are happy to have Stacey Dimock added to the team as a casual pharmacist.

Alberta Health Services has had a number of changes. This fall saw the final AHS sites, including corrections, join the provincial EMR. Things are still being optimized but exciting to have everyone on one system and the continuity of care that can be improved through that. AHS is also "restructuring" into 4 pillars: Acute Care Alberta (Spring 2025), Recovery Alberta (Mental health and addictions) (Fall 2024), Primary Care Alberta (Fall 2024), and one for continuing care (TBD). On a smaller level, we are also seeing organization changes to PEP procedures - updating kits and looking to reduce ED visits for PEP by having virtual consults and having kits available in public health clinics.

As things change, Colleen Benson is retiring but will still remain with us casually. She has served patients diligently from KEC clinic and will be missed as a regular staple. Congratulations, Colleen! We will let CHAP know when we have our new recruit.

Caitlin Olatunbosun BSP, ACPR, MPH  
Pharmacy Clinical Practice Leader

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Hello Everyone from Calgary and the Southern Alberta Clinic,

Yes, winter is here, and we are loving the snow. A HUMONGOUS CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Kathy Lee in achieving 35 years of service with Alberta Health Services, including 24 of these amazing years as an HIV pharmacist and being the HIV team lead for the past 2.5 years at the Southern Alberta Clinic.

Due to the Canada postal strike, there is workload that never existed before as we creatively find ways to get medications out to our patients. In Calgary, we have a centralized pharmacy within the HIV clinic, distributing medications predominantly from Red Deer to all areas of southern Alberta. The antiretrovirals cannot be obtained at any other pharmacy. Our site continues to have the highest numbers of patients on Dovato across Canada according to ViiV. We are switching stable patients that

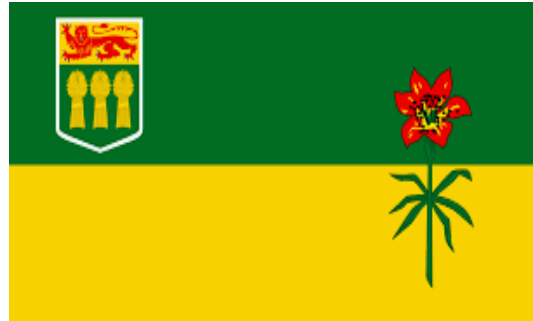
are Hep B negative to this dual therapy, in which patients have been successful. We have a very limited number of patients on injectables, and are slowly gaining some clinical experience with both Cabenuva and lenacapavir. We are supporting the DISCO study (doxycycline in 2 arms, PrEP vs PEP).

We wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year (2025)!!!!

Jinell, Kristi, Cheyanne, Genvieve, Sonal and Kathy

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## Saskatchewan



Update from Saskatoon:

We are fast approaching Christmas and it's been a busy fall! Good news for our team in Saskatoon, we have had a 0.5 FTE permanent position approved for another pharmacist so we will have the current 1.0 plus the permanent 0.5 FTE. We previously had a temporary 0.5 FTE focused on HIV work and a permanent 0.3 FTE for HCV but for the last year haven't had those so will be nice to get back on track.

We welcomed a new ID physician to our practice this year, Dr. Jack Janvier who came to us from Calgary. He is originally from Saskatchewan, glad to have him join our team!

Our office space we work out of while not in clinic had a sewer leak so we've been working at various extra office spaces in the interim. Sounds like by the New Year we'll be back in our regular office space.

December will be busy; I have a pharmacy resident coming to do a rotation and then an observership for four days with Alice Xiao, the pharmacist replacing Natalie Dayneka's role at CHEO. The observership will largely focus on Pediatric HIV care.

Was wonderful to see the Role of the Pharmacist Caring for People at Risk of or Living with HIV in Canada published in CPJ this fall. Congratulations to the leads and all other co-authors on developing this resource. I'll be directing our first pharmacy resident since this came out to give it a read 😊

Happy Holidays to all and looking forward to seeing those coming to Halifax for the CAHR AGM!  
Carley Pozniak

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Warm wishes from the SHA-Regina Infectious Diseases Clinic. Here are a few things that have kept us busy in 2024:

#### Staffing

- Last year I was so excited to share that we had an NP in the clinic 2 days per week to provide much needed primary care services to our clients. Unfortunately, she has been pulled to help pilot the new health bus in Regina, and so connecting our patients to primary care services is still a challenge.
- We've had quite a bit of nursing staff turnover, but I think we have now built a solid team of nurses who are very passionate about this work. We continue to remain short in admin staff.
- As for pharmacists, still just me.

#### Clinic

- Our research team has been very busy with the initiation of many new clinical trials in the areas of HIV, Hep C, and HPV, including recruitment for the ARTISTRY trial as well as an investigator-led trial looking at the use of DTG/3TC in patients on OAT.
- Due to lack of dedicated resources as well as an increase in alternate HIV PrEP services available in SK, we are no longer operating a PrEP program through the ID Clinic and have begun transitioning patients to other services. We will still provide HIV PrEP care to the partners of our patients living with HIV, as desired, on a case-by-case basis.
- Lead by Dr. A. Wong, we had great success in expanding OAT services at the Regina Correctional Centre, including increased use of injectable buprenorphine as well as initiation of OAT at entry into the facility (this was not a service previously provided and OAT was only prescribed as maintenance if the person was already on it prior to incarceration). These services are now being continued by other providers and have made an incredible difference in the ability to engage our patients in continued HIV/HCV and OAT care upon their release.

#### Publications/Awards

- Lam R, Myers J, Gray C, Wong A. Overcoming Challenges during Breastfeeding to Prevent Perinatal HIV Transmission in Canada: A Case Series. Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy. 2024 Nov 13;77(4). Available at: <https://www.cjhp-online.ca/index.php/cjhp/article/view/3572>
- This fall, I was incredibly fortunate to be named the recipient of the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan Pharmacist of the Year Award and the CSHP SK-Branch J.L. Summers Award.
- Stay tuned for an RxFiles Trial Summary on the REPRIEVE trial coming in early December.

Cheers!



Jackie Myers BSP, AAHIVP (she/her)  
Pharmacist, Infectious Diseases Clinic  
Saskatchewan Health Authority – Regina Area

## Ontario



- **UHN Immunodeficiency Clinic update:** The majority of consults continue to involve heavily-treatment experienced patients who require atypical ARV regimens in order to accommodate swallowing difficulties, mobility issues, non-adherence, and/or drug interactions with important comedications such as oncology or cardiology drugs. We have several people on lenacapavir injections and over a dozen on fostemsavir. I was very disappointed to hear that Jamp-prasugrel will be delisted at the end of October upon request by the manufacturer, as this was the only formulation of prasugrel available in Canada, and was our go-to antiplatelet for people who needed treatment and were on a boosted regimen.
- **Citywide HIV rounds.** We have started our second season of citywide HIV rounds. These rounds are a group endeavour involving UHN, St. Michael's, Sunnybrook, Maple Leaf Medical, HQ, and others. The rounds are held twice a month on Mondays from 12-1 pm via Zoom, and are open to interested HCP. The [2024-2025 schedule](#) is available on the clinic website, and includes links to recorded presentations. If you are interested in being on the mailing list, please let me know at [alice.tseng@uhn.ca](mailto:alice.tseng@uhn.ca)



- **Themed issue on Trans and Gender Diverse Health for British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology:**

The themed issue on Pharmacology considerations for trans and gender diverse populations is now [published](#) (October 2024). We were very pleased to have 10 papers plus an editorial for this themed issue, including a great review article [on interactions between antiretrovirals and gender-affirming hormone therapy](#) by Tessa Senneker (Kingston, ON).



- **Antiviral PK workshop (September 18-19th, Liverpool):** This year was the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the workshop, marking a very important milestone, with record attendance. I was honored to co-chair again with Dr. Kim Scarsi. As usual, there was great CHAP representation, including members participating as invited speakers (Pierre Giguere and Tessa Senneker-Liverpool Course), oral abstract and poster presenters (Nancy Sheehan, Jenn Hawkes), and attendees (Linda Robinson, Claude Charbonneau, Lacey DeVreese, Kathy Lee, Dominic Martel). All conference abstracts are published in a special [supplement of BJCP](#). Enduring materials for the [PK Workshop](#) and the [Liverpool Course](#) are available online. [Next year's workshop](#) will be in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on September 3-5, 2025.



- **CHAP observership program.** For 2024, the Observership subgroup was pleased to award two Observerships to:
  - **Alice Xiao, CHEO, Ottawa. Observership with Carley Pozniak, Royal University Health Hospital (Saskatoon).** Alice is the new pharmacist at CHEO, and will be spending time with Carley in Saskatoon to get acquainted with their protocols and practices involving care of pediatric patients as well as those with complex HIV therapy challenges.
  - **Mikaela Klie, Prime Care Pharmacy, Guelph, ON. Observership with Deb Yoong (St. Michael's, Toronto) and Harv Dhunna, CW Health Pharmacy, Toronto, ON.** Mikaela has taken over from Danny Lui (happy retirement, Danny!) in Guelph, and will be spending time with Deb Yoong and Harv Dhunna to gain exposure to managing complex patients in clinic and community settings.

- Alice and Mikaela will be undergoing their observerships in late 2024, and we look forward to hearing about their experiences afterwards.
- Observership applications for next year will be open in early 2025. The program is open to new practitioners as well as experienced pharmacists looking to gain exposure to new areas of practice. In person, virtual, or hybrid Observerships are available. More information on the Observership program and the application process are available at: <https://hivclinic.ca/chap-home/activities/>
- **HIV/HCV Drug Therapy app:** The updated version of the app is now live at: <https://hivclinic.ca/app/> The updated app is available as a progressive web app (PWA), which means that it is built on a web platform technology but provides a similar user experience to that of a traditional app. The advantages of this format are that any updates in features will immediately be noticeable, rather than having to code for changes to the app, pushing the app updates in the online stores, and then downloading the updates to individual mobile devices (at least that's my very limited take on it). As such **the app versions in iTunes and Google Play will be decommissioned!** Please continue to access the app through the above website on your desktop or mobile device using an up to date browser. You can create a shortcut to the site on your mobile homepage for easy access.
- **Year 2 HIV Residency Program (UHN/MUHC):** This was an eventful year for the residency program. We are pleased to announce that our resident, Julian Hopwood-Raja, completed his residency at the end of August, 2024, and is currently writing up his two research projects (yes, Julian is an over-achiever!). He was able to present results from his main study at CAHR and and at the International AIDS Conference in Munich. Congratulations, Julian! Julian is now working in Edmonton at Alberta Health Services on a casual basis while commencing a MHS in Bioethics at U of T. Julian will remain part of CHAP and we wish him the best in his future career.
- Secondly, the residency underwent an accreditation visit last December, and we were very pleased to have been given a full 6-year accreditation award from CPRB. Many thanks to Nancy and the leadership team at both institutions for all the hard work. Thanks also to the many preceptors who continue to support the residency program and also participated in the accreditation process.

Alice Tseng

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Greetings from Ontario!

Clinic

Our patient clinics continue to grow in providing PrEP, PEP, and HIV care with 12 clinics a week and generally 1-2 new referrals per clinic. Most individuals have already started on HIV treatment prior to their first visit with us, with the majority maintained on oral therapy and many are eager to consider injectable therapy. While we have nearly 140 patients on injectable HIV treatment, we have yet to have any patient start LA cabotegravir for PrEP. Although we have had some occasional challenges keeping our patients on schedule for bloodwork, with the help of the Cabenuva support program and the Casey

House Cabenuva program, we have been able to maintain patients in care and receiving their injections.

Staff

We have welcomed Dr. Charlie Tan to our ID staff team here at St. Michael's hospital along with Dr. Sheliza Halani as a Clinical Associate, with a focus on HIV and women's health. We will, however, be losing our legendary Dr. I.W. Fong near the end of the year with his retirement. He has been at St. Michael's hospital for over 30 years and was there to provide care at one of the first HIV clinics in Toronto. He will be missed by his patients and all his colleagues who have valued his opinion, vast knowledge and years of experience.

-Deborah Y

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Michael Garron Hospital Updates:

As we return from summer clinic is getting busy again. We are slowly increasing our Cabenuva patients. Clinic is thinking and planning for administering injections in clinic (currently we use the outpatient help program). This could facilitate injection administration and increased VL monitoring upon transition.

The Ontario HIV PSG group had another fun and interesting Education Day. Great speakers and networking opportunities.

Excitingly, I applied and was successful in obtaining a CAHR educational grant to attend HIV Drug Therapy Glasgow. It was a good conference - but the best part was learning, chatting and dining with 4 other Canadian pharmacists that attended. Also demonstrates the importance of our role in this specialty area and thankful for the support to gain knowledge of current/new evidence. A non conference highlight was attending the Scotland National Soccer game vs. Croatia and celebrating when Scotland won!

Looking forward to Halifax.

Cheers,  
Sue

Sue Gill BSc. Phm, RPh  
Clinical Pharmacist  
Michael Garron Hospital (Formerly Toronto East General Hospital)

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Hi All,

I wanted to share a few updates from downtown Toronto. There have been several professional changes for me recently. In February, my 0.5 FTE position in HIV care was complemented by a 0.5 FTE position in Drug Information. Balancing both roles has been challenging yet rewarding.

My work with HIV learners and research has led to an academic appointment in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto, where I hold the rank of Assistant Professor, Status Only.

Additionally, I've observed a shift in the consults I receive. Every week, I handle multiple consults assessing eligibility for Cabenuva, and more recently, Apretude for PrEP. I am excited about the potential of these injectable therapies and the increased freedom they will offer our patients.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Halifax at our next AGM!

Best regards,  
Sharan Lail, St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team



#### **NEWS FROM THE ONTARIO HIV PSG**

On Friday, October 18, 2024, the Ontario HIV Pharmacists' Professional Specialty Group hosted their 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Day in Toronto. This is an annual event to which pharmacists working in HIV in Ontario are supported through a partnership with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) for travel and accommodation to attend a great day of sharing and up to date information regarding the pharmaceutical care of HIV.

This year the theme of the day was:

#### **State of the Art HIV Treatment and Prevention Practices: A Case Scenario Approach for Pharmacists.**

Our agenda included plenary presentations on Guidelines for pre and post natal care of HIV moms and babies, and Guidelines updated and soon to be released regarding PEP and PrEP. We also had some wonderful case discussions regarding ARV choices in heavily treated newcomers to Canada, ART after CAB failure, PrEP in retail practice, and the use of GLP1 agonists in our patients for weight management. Once again, it was a very well attended and educational day. Many thanks to the planning committee, the OHTN, and our corporate sponsors. If you are a new practitioner in Ontario and would like to be invited to this event next year, please contact me at [rxlinda@hotmail.com](mailto:rxlinda@hotmail.com).

Linda Robinson, co-chair HIV PSG since 2004

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# Quebec



Updates from the Chronic Viral Illness Service (CVIS) at the McGill University Health Centre:

1. **Farewell to Julian Hopwood-Raja**

Our PGY2 resident Julian Hopwood-Rajae completed his residency in August. While we were thrilled to see him succeed, it was bittersweet as we said goodbye when he returned home. Julian, you are already missed!

2. **Nancy Sheehan's Contributions to STI Screening in Pharmacies (with Rachel Therrien and others!)**

Nancy continues to champion STI screening in community pharmacies, collaborating with pharmacy students on two projects:

- Creating a proposal for the Quebec Pharmacists Association advocating for reimbursement for pharmacy services by the Ministry of Health.
- Developing an online resource for healthcare professionals: [Juste une goutte](#). Additionally, Nancy co-authored the article *Hepatitis C screening in community pharmacies—A feasibility and knowledge transfer study: PHARMA-C*, now published [here](#).

3. **International Recognition**

Nancy presented at the "International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV, Hepatitis, and Other Antiviral Drugs 2024" about updated recommendations for antiretroviral drug monitoring. Several CHAP members attended her talk.

4. **Advocacy for Universal Access to Antiretrovirals**

Benoît continues to advocate for universal free access to antiretrovirals in Quebec. He presented a poster summarizing his systematic review on the impacts of universal access at the HIV Glasgow Conference in November. Congratulations to our colleagues in Manitoba for achieving free access for patients this year—this inspires us greatly!

5. **In Memoriam**

We mourn the passing of Dr. Lalonde, former medical director of our clinic, whose legacy continues to inspire those who knew him.

6. **Team Updates**

- Laurence Messier remains on maternity leave, and we welcomed Caren Jabamikos to our team this year. Caren is settling in well and embracing her new responsibilities.

- Nancy and Benoît await approval for their clinical TDM service for antituberculosis medications. Progress looks promising, though the timeline remains uncertain.

**7. Challenges with Asylum Seekers**

The continued influx of asylum seekers places significant pressure on our team. Please fill out the survey we distributed on staffing. This will be helpful not only to us but across all centers in Canada to strengthen cases for additional pharmacist resources.

Looking forward to reading updates from our colleagues across Canada in the upcoming newsletter.

Best regards,

Benoît

On behalf of the CVIS/McGill Pharmacy Team



Greetings from a very rainy NL!

Clinic update – We were very happy to welcome back our clinic NP this October after her parental leave. It brings some much-needed stability to the clinic. I had taken over following our PrEP patients while Kim was off and will continue to follow a couple as it has become an area of practice that I really enjoy (and would love to see expand!). Clinic continues to be busy with new patients coming every month. We’re also seeing a lot more pregnancies in the past couple of years, which is lovely but it’s shined the spotlight on the lack of infant formula support in the province for our new moms, so this is something we are advocating for. Hopefully will have some good news to report on this at next update.

Research – Our APPROACH testing study is in the final analysis and KM stages now, and this is dovetailing into the next phase of work funded by our CIHR THINC grant, which involves working with provinces to implement and scale pharmacy based sexual health/STBBI services (e.g. testing, prescribing, prevention etc). We are/will be working with multiple provinces on this piece of work, which is no small feat! Here in NL a few noteworthy actions on this front... I am working with our province on a Hep C elimination strategy, which is much overdue but exciting to be part of discussions about improving access to testing and looking at testing innovation. As well, we participating in a sexual health strategy consultation last week, so this is another opportunity to support NL in advancing education, prevention, testing and treatment/care in this area. Fun stuff!

Accomplishments and professional bits – I was honored to receive the James C. Quick award from the Pharmacists Association of NL last month for “recognizing a pharmacist who, in their day-to-day practice, has raised the expectations of what the public can expect from their pharmacist through the introduction of innovative methods or services into pharmacy care, or who has, by their initiative, broadened the scope of the practice of pharmacy in this province.”

Along with Deb and Jaris, we’ve been working as part of the Canadian HIV PrEP and PEP guidelines panel, which we are excited to see is in its final stages! A new grant has been submitted to CIHR to fund updating the guidelines when LEN availability comes in the near future. It’s really been a pleasure and privilege to be part of this work.

I’ve also been working with Alice, and Nimish Patel, on updates to the STI management in HIV chapter for the AHSP textbook, *HIV Pharmacotherapy: Clinical Approaches & Applications, 2e*

I’m sure I’m forgetting stuff but will just end by saying I hope to see many of you at our CHAP meeting at end of April and hope you’ll consider staying for the CAHR meeting afterward, which we are pretty excited to see return to the east coast, in Halifax. I have the honour of co-chairing the clinical track for the conference this year, and I’m sure it will be a highlight for our HIV community!

Meanwhile if anyone sees the sun, can you please remind it to visit us out here on the Rock?!

Debbie

DR. DEBBIE KELLY, BSc(Pharm), ACPR, PharmD, FCSHP, AAHIVP  
Professor and Special Advisor, Practice Innovation  
Clinic Pharmacist, Provincial HIV program – NL Health Services  
Pronouns: she/her  
School of Pharmacy, Memorial University of Newfoundland

### CHAP member updates from December 1, 2023 to December 24, 2024:

General Membership:

- **Katherine Kolasa Rocha**, [Katherine.KolasaRocha@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Katherine.KolasaRocha@albertahealthservices.ca), is a clinical pharmacist in Alberta corrections and frequently cares for patients living with HIV and HCV. She has a rich background of working with a community-based outreach team caring for patients with HIV, as well as working in an addictions clinic, and emergency medicine practice. As her history suggests, she is passionate about helping vulnerable populations, and is also completing her MPH.
- **Stacey Dimock**, [Stacey.Dimock@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Stacey.Dimock@albertahealthservices.ca), is joining the Northern Alberta Program team in Edmonton as a casual pharmacist. Stacey comes to NAP with experience in HIV as she managed the Rexall Outpatient Pharmacy at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, which dispenses ART to about ½ of the NAP patients as a designated pharmacy for the Alberta Specialized High Cost Drug Program.
- **Julian Hopwood-Raja**, [Julian.Hopwood-Raja@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Julian.Hopwood-Raja@albertahealthservices.ca), recently completed his Year 2 HIV resident with Alice & Nancy (UHN/MUHC), and is now working at Alberta Health Services in Edmonton.

- **Prabh Gill**, [prabh@prepclinic.ca](mailto:prabh@prepclinic.ca), and **Aaron Tran**, [aaron@prepclinic.ca](mailto:aaron@prepclinic.ca), are pharmacists at The PrEP Clinic; they are in the process of getting their pharmacist HIV certification and they have ample experience in the setting of PrEP, PEP, and HIV care for newcomers.
- **Pamela Ip**, [pip@caseyhouse.ca](mailto:pip@caseyhouse.ca), is the new pharmacist at Casey House in Toronto. Pam will also be staying on in a casual role at her previous workplace, the PrEP Clinic.
- **Haitam Tata**, [haitam@pharmacieduquette.com](mailto:haitam@pharmacieduquette.com), is a pharmacist at Pharmacie Duquette, Clinique L'Actuel site in Montreal.
- **Megan Hickey**, [megan.hickey@horizonNB.ca](mailto:megan.hickey@horizonNB.ca), is currently fulfilling the new role of infectious disease pharmacist at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Her role is expanding to encompass both antimicrobial stewardship activities and coverage of their outpatient HIV clinic. Megan is looking forward to expanding her knowledge and understanding in this area and collaborating with pharmacists through the CHAP Network.
- **Emma Ferreira**, [emma.ferreira.hsj@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:emma.ferreira.hsj@ssss.gouv.qc.ca), **Caroline Morin**, [caroline.morin.hsj@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:caroline.morin.hsj@ssss.gouv.qc.ca), and **Émilie Roy-St-Pierre**, [emilie.roy-st-pierre.hsj@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:emilie.roy-st-pierre.hsj@ssss.gouv.qc.ca), have joined CHU Sainte-Justine's Mother and Child ID Clinic in the last year.
- **Jessie Yoon**, [jyoon13@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:jyoon13@providencehealth.bc.ca), has recently joined the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy team as a clinical pharmacist. She comes to us from Lion's Gate Hospital in North Vancouver. She has over a decade of clinical pharmacy experience in acute care in the Lower Mainland and we're lucky to have her on board as part of our team!
- **Vince Yu**, [Vincent.yu@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Vincent.yu@fraserhealth.ca), has moved from St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy to Fraser Health into a different clinical pharmacy position and will retain his general CHAP membership.
- **Rebecca Chiang, PharmD, ACPR**, [rebecca.chiang@cw.bc.ca](mailto:rebecca.chiang@cw.bc.ca), has joined the Oak Tree Clinic in Vancouver, BC.
- **Alice Xiao, PharmD**, [axiao@cheo.on.ca](mailto:axiao@cheo.on.ca), is a new graduate from UWaterloo and the new pharmacist at the outpatient clinic, CHEO, Ottawa.
- **Tim Lim**, MSc student, [timothy.lim@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:timothy.lim@mail.utoronto.ca), is working with Jaris Swidrovich at the University of Toronto.
- **Bailey Thayer**, [bailey.thayer@ynhh.org](mailto:bailey.thayer@ynhh.org), is an HIV/ID pharmacist at Yale New Haven and is looking forward to being part of CHAP.
- **Allie Lindo**, [alindo@chasebrexton.org](mailto:alindo@chasebrexton.org), is an HIV Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Chase Brexton and involved with their medication adherence support program.
- **Caren Jabamikos**, [caren.jabamikos@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:caren.jabamikos@muhc.mcgill.ca), officially joined the Chronic Viral Illness Service at McGill in January. This new collaboration is all the more welcome, given Laurence Messier's departure on maternity leave. Caren has been practising as a pharmacist at the MUHC since 2022, and works in the field of internal medicine and contributes to research pharmacy.
- **Tania Alia**, [talia@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:talia@providencehealth.bc.ca), is a Dalhousie pharmacy grad who completed her pharmacy residency in 2016 and has been working for the last 8 years as a clinical pharmacist at St. Paul's Hospital. She's primarily been in outpatient heart failure and heart transplant for ~6 years, and for the last ~2 years, she's been working in inpatient/outpatient kidney transplant. We're thrilled to have her join the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory pharmacy team, where she'll provide care to people living with HIV in BC.
- **William Yuan**, [yuanw@hhsc.ca](mailto:yuanw@hhsc.ca), is a new pharmacist at the West End Clinic – Special Immunology Services at Hamilton Health Sciences. He is replacing Devon Labana, who is moving onto a medical liaison position.



- **Emmanuel Thibaudeau**, [ethibaudeau@proximvillage.com](mailto:ethibaudeau@proximvillage.com), is a co-owner of the Proximed Pharmacie du Village in Montreal.

Fond farewells to:

- **Jeff Kapler, Calgary AB.** After 24 years, Jeff is officially retiring from the CHAP working group and general membership. We wish him all the best in his retirement, with much health and happiness. Feel free to reach out to him anytime to check in and/or to book a virtual wine date! [jkapler@shaw.ca](mailto:jkapler@shaw.ca)
- **Cynthia Kennedy and Jennifer Wong, Vancouver, BC.** Both recently retired from the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy, but will remain part of CHAP - [cynthiarx@shaw.ca](mailto:cynthiarx@shaw.ca), [jengron@telus.net](mailto:jengron@telus.net).
- **Jon Smith, Toronto, ON.** Jon has left his position at Casey House and is now an MSL for ViiV.
- **Karen Tulloch, Vancouver, BC.** Karen left the Oak Tree Clinic at the end of April to take on a newly created position at the MS/Movement Disorders Clinic at UBC Hospital. Luckily, she will stay on the CHAP general membership, and will continue to support the HIV/HCV Drug Therapy App. Her new work email is [Karen.tulloch@vch.ca](mailto:Karen.tulloch@vch.ca)
- **Michelle Foisy, Edmonton, Alberta.** I have decided to retire from Pharmacy Practice and move on to other pursuits. The past couple of years I have been undertaking studies in Spiritual Direction/Formation via a program in the States and have really enjoyed it! I am completing the program in June and will see where it all leads. I have really enjoyed CHAP... it has been a long time... I think 1997 was our first meeting attached to CROI... Attending the CHAP meetings has always been one of my big highlights for the year! Not to be missed! Mostly because it gave us the chance to see each other and share. Thanks for being such great colleagues! I truly mean it- the best! I wish everyone well. I am still on the CHAP general mailing list for now... and maybe one year soon I might attend a meeting as a CHAP Emeritus to see you again! With much gratitude and best wishes, Michelle
- **Kathy Lepik, Vancouver, BC.** Kathy retired from her position as Research Coordinator with the BC-CfE Pharmacovigilance Initiative at St. Paul's Hospital at the end of May after 41 years of pharmacy practice (the last 17 in HIV care). Kathy will remain on the CHAP general membership list at [kathylepik@gmail.com](mailto:kathylepik@gmail.com)
- **Sophia Wytsma**, Southern Alberta Clinic, who retired in December 2023.

New Working Group member:

- **Jinell White**, Southern Alberta Clinic

New CHAP Emeriti:

- **Jeff Kapler**
- **Karen Tulloch**

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.  
May 2025 bring peace and safety to all around the world.



<https://hivclinic.ca/chap/>