

the tablet

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JUL/AUG 2017

Top Class

B.C. pharmacists
win association
awards



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On the cover: Pharmacist Lindsay Kuita, winner of the BCPhA New Practitioner Award, is one of several top pharmacists honoured in the 2017 Excellence in BC Pharmacy Awards.



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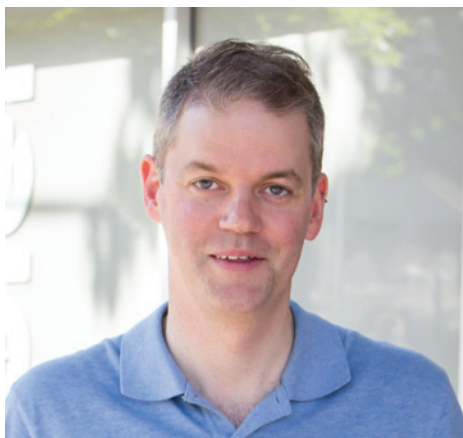
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In the news

B.C. pharmacist named Canadian pharmacist of the year



Craig Plain

B.C. pharmacist Craig Plain has been named the 2017 Canadian Pharmacist of the Year by the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

As pharmacy manager of Pier Health Resource Centre in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Plain has been at the forefront of the opioid crisis, operating an innovative clinical service model and improving health outcomes for the area's most vulnerable population.

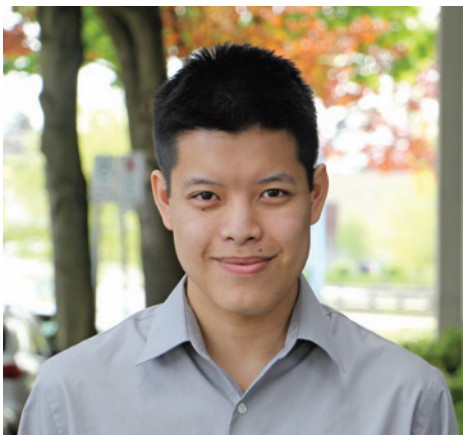
Encouraging long-term, trusted relationships with his patients, Plain not only spends quality, one-on-one time with those who attend the centre, he is also

committed to community outreach, making regular calls to nearby residences, shelters and neighbourhood gathering places to ensure higher rates of medication compliance.

Responding to the unique needs of the DTES, Plain is the only pharmacist in B.C. authorized to administer anti-psychosis injections outside of the hospital, and the pharmacy was also the first in B.C. to distribute free naxolone kits.

Plain was the recipient of the BCPhA's Ben Gant for Innovative Practice Award in 2016.

New marketing and communications coordinator joins the BCPhA



Andy Shen

In May, the BCPhA welcomed staff member Andy Shen as a new marketing and communications coordinator. Andy is a graduate of Simon Fraser University and has worked for a Vancouver-area MP and has done communications work for Fraser Health/Ridge Meadows Hospital. Andy has experience in building websites and creating and managing digital campaigns. In his position, Andy will help manage the new BCPhA website, digital newsletters and campaigns and AffinityRx. He can be reached at andy.shen@bcpharmacy.ca.

BCPhA welcomes new director of finance



Anne-Marie Butler

This summer, the BCPhA will replace the outgoing position of chief operating officer with a new role and title, director of finance.

The successful candidate, Anne-Marie Butler, replaces the Association's former COO Cyril Lopez, who retired in July.

Beginning her new role July 10, Butler is a well-recognized business transformation leader and innovator who has leveraged her core competencies of finance and IT to deliver significant and immediate business value to a number of organizations. BC Egg, where she was the executive responsible for its modernization, is viewed as an innovative industry leader.

A native Haligonian, Butler is an avid yoga practitioner, frequent traveller and mother to five children.

She can be reached at annemarie.butler@bcpharmacy.ca.

Moving our profession forward on our own terms



As I look back at my year as president, it dawns on me just how far we've come in moving the profile of pharmacy and pharmacists forward.

In the pharmacy world, expanding our scope of practice has been a key phrase for advocacy organizations like ours. Pharmacists look to provinces like Alberta as the model we should emulate. We must ask for more opportunity, more legislation, more permission so we can be the pharmacists that we were really meant to be.

But over this past year, the BC Pharmacy Association has shown that you don't have to wait for permission to do what is rightfully within your scope. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the pharmacogenomics work we've advanced this past year.

We continue to propel our pharmacogenomics project forward in an effort to provide more effective health-care services and treatment for patients. This is a truly meaningful advancement for pharmacists and patients alike. Offering patients access to pharmacogenomic testing is an area where pharmacists not only have the scope to practice but where they rightfully belong as the medication experts.

In June, the first B.C. pharmacies began offering patients a self-administered test that will allow the patients, their prescribers and pharmacists pharmacogenomic information that will help inform medication selection. The Association, consistent with our mission to advance the professional role and economic opportunities for pharmacy, connected myDNA with pharmacies, who decided to offer the service. On June 5, the first patient purchased a self-administered myDNA test at a Vancouver pharmacy.

Over this past year, we've continued to collaborate and negotiate with multiple levels of government as well as other health-care professionals on both developing new, vital opportunities to allow

for pharmacists to practice to the full extent of their knowledge and abilities, as well as providing critical solutions for our province's uncertain and ever-changing health-care environment. The Association has worked diligently to be at the forefront of continued advocacy through submissions to the government on rural health care, advocating for telepharmacy and continued work on College bylaws. We have continued to make sure the pharmacy profession is at the table on discussions and plans for opioid substitution therapy, the next steps of medication management and medical marijuana.

Of course, our role is just as much about supporting the day-to-day needs of our membership as it is in pursuing our future goals.

"It has been my privilege to partner with such a diligent, inspiring and purposeful group of professionals."

In response to our membership's desire for continued growth and sharpened skills, we continue to advance our member training programs like travel medicine, diabetes and asthma coaching and regulatory compliance. And I've heard nothing but positive responses from members about the Association's work on training for adaptations and the Modernized Reference Drug Program.

All of these enhancements are truly a team effort, and it has been my privilege to partner with such a diligent, inspiring and purposeful group of professionals, including members from the Association, as well as staff and my fellow Board members. Together, our collaboration has been instrumental in enacting change, implementing key initiatives and envisioning future industry goals.

As I leave my role as president at the end of August, standing at the precipice of immense innovative change for pharmacists and our profession, I am proud of all the work we've accomplished over the past year and am excited about forging the path for great successes in the years ahead.

Celebrating excellence in the advancement of community pharmacy



This issue of *The Tablet* profiles the most deserving award winners who were feted at the awards dinner at our most recent BC Pharmacy Association Annual Conference in Whistler. Since joining the Association I have always said that celebrating the award winners is the best thing I do as CEO each year. And each year it seems the bar is set higher. The stories of commitment we hear about the award winners continue to surprise and humble us all.

What's clear is that all the award winners exemplify the very best of their profession: they are smart, they are innovative and they have a profound commitment to their patients. That is the very essence of who community pharmacists are. They form partnerships with their patients, their physician colleagues and with one another.

“The partnerships we form with members one-on-one allow us to bring new thinking and new solutions to issues that face the profession and the business.”

At the Association our aim is to reflect the values of the membership and to operate as the best of them do each day. We too aim to be innovative, to be committed to meeting the needs of each member and finding new ways to deal with ongoing issues. I like to think the partnerships we form with members one-on-one allow us to bring new thinking and new solutions to issues

that face the profession and business – regulatory boot camp, compliance training, adaptation training and pharmacogenomics are all expressions of our efforts to stay relevant to our members.

For almost a decade there has been one member of the BCPhA team that has made this quest for doing better his daily mission. Many members have had the opportunity to work with Cyril Lopez. He is often the first point of contact for a member who has a problem. He was key in the development of the regulatory boot camp and had provided a great deal of sage advice along the way to many members.

Cyril is leaving the Association in mid-July to pursue an active and happy retirement. It is only fitting in the context of acknowledging the excellence we celebrated at the awards dinner this year to extend that acknowledgement to Cyril. He has been a fine colleague to me and all of the team at the Association and he has helped drive a standard of member engagement that ensures the Association stays responsive and relevant.

Top pharmacists awarded

On May 26, 2017, BCPhA staff, members, friends and family gathered in Whistler to honour the outstanding achievements of seven B.C. pharmacists and two pharmacy students, as part of the annual Excellence in BC Pharmacy Awards Gala.

To read more on this year's winners and their significant contributions to the pharmacy industry, see page 14 of this issue of *The Tablet*. You can also watch videos of the winners at bcpharmacy.ca/awards.

Focusing on benefit programs that you use



As a member association, it is important that we are reviewing and assessing our program offerings on an ongoing basis. It's vital that the time and resources we spend on developing or negotiating benefit programs are considered valuable and useful by our membership. Our internal program audit helps us determine which services should be expanded and enhanced and which may be discontinued, to better align with member needs and preferences.

Recently, we reviewed our eTraining offerings, Affinity Rx discount program and our website. Following are some of the results from our analysis.

Our eTraining programs first launched in October 2013, with one course on "Expanded Access to Public Funded Vaccines," to fill a member need. We now have more than 30 courses with a majority being complimentary for members. Some are simple recordings, while others are lengthy accredited programs with anywhere from 2.0 to 32.5 accredited CEUs. More than 1,300 members have taken at least one course, with a total of about 5,300 course completions. With such high usage and a growing list of programs, we decided to upgrade our learning management system to improve the online experience. We are also committed to delivering a minimum of 15 hours of professional development on a minimum of six Learning

Records every year and a minimum of five hours of accredited learning to meet your required level of learning.

Our Affinity Rx program launched in April 2012. Since its inception, we have sold more than 10,000 tickets for movies, shows and sporting events; more than 500 subscriptions to resource materials; booked more than 3,000 hotel nights and car rental days; and have almost 3,000 Telus subscribers. But not all programs have worked

"Our internal program audit helps us determine which services should be expanded and enhanced."

out. Dell computers, Zipcar, YYoga, FedEx and ski tickets are all offers that didn't make the cut, so we have since removed those offers.

Our current website has served us well as it was last updated in 2010. A seven-year life span for a website is quite remarkable, but the site has seen better days. As we have vastly expanded our tools and resources, benefit programs, online learning, events and news, the site is bursting at the seams. Our web analytics shows a high level of traffic, but it's not mobile-friendly. Our job is to make the information from the Association easy for you to access. We interviewed a variety of members earlier this year for feedback and have begun the work in developing a new website that will launch before the end of this year. Our goal is a website that makes accessing our benefits, news and events, as well as resources and tools easy and user-friendly.

A few other benefit programs we will be launching over the next year or two include an online community for pharmacists, a registry for working groups and volunteer opportunities and a mentorship program. We will make every effort to plan out and promote these programs, with the goal of investing only in those programs deemed valuable and advantageous to the majority of our membership.

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Where do we go from here?



The BC Pharmacy Association Conference, which took place in Whistler from May 25-27, was a great success by all measures. Feedback from attendees indicates that the speakers were very well received as they delivered excellent presentations on a wide variety of interesting and relevant topics. The social events were fun; especially the gala awards banquet where we honoured some of B.C.'s finest pharmacists.

As with all such events, for some attendees the highlights of the conference were the numerous networking opportunities. I witnessed many intense conversations between pharmacists from different banners, chains and independent pharmacies from all corners of the province, from Vancouver to Fort St. John. It is this sharing of ideas that fosters growth in the profession and makes us all better pharmacists and better business people.

Hot topics of conversation included the appointment-based model (ABM) for medication synchronization (med sync). The ABM is gaining a lot of traction, as it seems to be the first model for improving med sync that is showing promising results. This model has been shown to improve patient adherence by reducing the frequency and number of visits to the pharmacy and making the patient more accountable for managing their medication regimen.

Pharmacies that have implemented a med sync have seen immediate and significant benefits including increased operational efficiencies, more thorough therapeutic checks, improved relationships with patients and physicians, more meaningful patient contact and reduced prescription paperwork.

Other areas of discussion included medical marijuana and the potential role for pharmacists in dispensing it, or at least counselling patients about its use alongside other medications.

As could be expected, there is always some chatter about pharmacy audits, third party payers and PharmaCare. More specifically, preferred provider networks seemed to be at the top of mind for many pharmacists. This topic is a bit baffling to me, as a number of pharmacy owners have somewhat hypocritical views on PPNs. On the one hand, they say that PPNs are unfair

“There are lots of amazing pharmacists here in B.C. who have ideas and opinions that can lead us into the future.”

and limit patient choice while on the other hand many of those same pharmacy owners belong to at least one PPN. What many pharmacists don't recognize is that many PPNs are “open” networks, meaning that they can join the PPN if they are willing to meet the criteria.

Of course, no conference networking would be complete without some conversations about scope of practice. This topic has a definite generational gap in opinions. Generally, older pharmacists do not seem to be as interested in expanding scope as the younger generations. The problem I see in expanding scope is that we are not doing a very good job of making use of the scope we already have available to us. For example, the number of prescription adaptations, while having increased recently due to the changes to the RDP, is still dismally low.

So where do we go from here? Do we really know what we want as a profession? Some pharmacists are more sure about what they expect from the future of the profession than others. The one thing that I know for sure is that there are lots of amazing pharmacists here in B.C. who have ideas and opinions that can lead us into the future with confidence to serve our patients well.

Pharmacies now offering myDNA testing kits to B.C. patients

By Angie Gaddy

After a partial knee replacement surgery eight years ago, Eveline de la Giroday had tried all sorts of anti-inflammatory medication hoping for pain relief.

The once active Vancouver resident – an enthusiast for baseball, downhill skiing, hang gliding and heli skiing before her surgery – had tried diclofenac, Tylenol 3, ibuprofen, naproxen and more.

“They were so harsh on my stomach,” she says. It was trial and error as she searched for medications that would relieve her pain, and she wasn’t sure if many actually worked for her. “I’ve tried the gamut. I’m not willing to put that many drugs in my system.”

So when de la Giroday heard from her community pharmacist about a DNA test that could let her know which drugs would work for her and in what dosage, she jumped at the chance. On June 5, de la Giroday became the first Canadian patient to purchase a myDNA test from her community pharmacist.

“I’m hoping I’ll find out a little more on what works for me,” says de la Giroday, who stopped all medication to get a baseline of what pain medications she needs.

Earlier this year, the BC Pharmacy Association and myDNA launched RxOme Pharmacogenomics Canada, a joint venture between the two companies to make a commercial pharmacogenomic (PGx) program available to Canadian pharmacies.

The myDNA program enables pharmacists to offer patients a self-administered PGx test that will provide more insight into their genetic makeup and how it impacts drug metabolism. Test interpretations done by myDNA are returned to the pharmacists in the form of a personalized patient report, which the pharmacist will review with the

patient. If any drug-related problems are identified the pharmacist will work with the patient and physician to find a solution. In June, 15 community pharmacies across B.C. were already selling the test and more pharmacies continue to come on board.

“When I saw it come through, I said I need to get on board with this,” says pharmacist Nelli Jakac, who owns the Cambie Pharmasave and was the first pharmacy to launch the service in June. She approached patients like de la Giroday who had complex medication issues and might benefit from the service.

When Jakac tells patients about the service – \$199 for a single myDNA medication report test kit and \$269 for a multi-medication report test kit – many have to be educated on how this service is different than other DNA tests that might predict for cancers or tell them their ancestry.

Once they understand this can help them with their medications, she says it’s a no-brainer.

“They’re excited,” Jakac says. “They say, ‘Why am I putting something in my body if I’m not getting any therapeutic effect and I’m only getting the bad side effects?’ ”

Pharmacists who sign up for the program go through standardized training to deliver all aspects of the program and many are focused on helping patients who are on



Cambie Pharmasave pharmacist Nelli Jakac (left) sold B.C.'s first myDNA test kit to patient Eveline de la Giroday on June 5.

multiple medications that can be impacted by genetics. These include drugs for mental health, cardiovascular health, pain and reflux. All of which come with potential side effects.

Pharmacists, says Jakac, are the natural leaders in offering this service, which is the way of the future. As the medication experts, pharmacists know how to manage recommendations arising out of the myDNA reports, something that patients or prescribers haven’t been trained to do.

“We have to get with the times,” Jakac says. “I can see that with the way technology evolves, in five years the patient will be made to do these tests first. Then they’ll go to the doctor with these results before they’re prescribed anything.”

She encourages her pharmacist peers to take up the service.

“Pharmacists have to start doing things,” she says. “Pharmacy isn’t the way it used to be. You’ve got to be a little innovative and think outside of the box.”



Toxic plant encounters in the great outdoors

By Dorothy Li, B.Sc. (Pharm.), CSPI

Reviewed by Daniel Ovakim, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Spending time outside and with nature benefits us mentally and physically. While outdoors, whether hiking, biking, playing or gardening, contact with certain plants may result in skin reactions, called phyto dermatitis. This review covers the more common toxic plant encounters in B.C. for which pharmacists may be called upon for advice.

Handling or brushing against **stinging nettle** (*Urtica dioica* and *Urtica gracilis*) causes tiny 'stinging' hairs (trichomes) to break at their tip, exposing needle-like points. The points penetrate the skin causing mechanical irritation and release chemicals including histamine, acetylcholine and serotonin. Immediate intense burning and stinging ensues. This may be followed in minutes to hours by urticarial rash, pruritus, vesicles, numbness and/or tingling. It is not surprising that the term 'urticaria' comes from the genus name *Urtica*. Initial decontamination and symptomatic and supportive treatment may be found in Tables 1 and 2. Most symptoms subside within 1 to 2 hours (36 hours for sensitive individuals).

Poison ivy and **poison oak** contain a highly allergenic oleoresin called urushiol found in most plant parts. Allergic contact dermatitis follows direct contact with the injured plant or indirect contact with urushiol on hands, clothing, shoes, tools and pets or particulate matter from burning plants landing on the skin. Up to 50 to 70% of adults may become sensitized following exposure.

Symptoms are delayed 6-72 hours (up to three weeks) and include intense pruritus, swelling, streaks of erythema, papules or vesicles; commonly on the hands, arms, legs and face. Vesicles may rupture leaving a crust. In severe cases bullae develop. Vesicular fluid contains no urushiol and, therefore, is not responsible for spreading symptoms. See Tables 1 and 2 for initial decontamination and treatment. Medium to high potency topical corticosteroids for two weeks are most effective. Lower potency corticosteroids are recommended for facial and anogenital regions. Severe symptoms or symptoms involving > 10-20% body surface area require systemic (oral) corticosteroids. For adults, prednisone 40 mg daily x five days then tapered over the next 10 days is the recommended treatment. Short courses (e.g. five days) of corticosteroids are associated with rebound dermatitis, thus patients should be counseled on the importance of completing the full course of treatment.

Complications include transient hyperpigmentation, secondary bacterial infections and rarely erythema multiforme. Black glossy macules, called black spot poison ivy, develop rarely when urushiol on the skin oxidizes and turns black. Lesions peel away in days to weeks without scarring. Cross-reactivity may occur with cashew nut shell, mango skin, ginkgo fruit and other plants.

Skin contact with certain chemicals in plants followed by sun exposure results in skin eruptions called phytophotodermatitis. In B.C., plants containing photosensitizers include the **giant hogweed** and **cow parsnip**. All parts of the plant exude a sap containing photosensitizing psoralens. Psoralens readily penetrate the epidermis, but require activation by long wave ultraviolet light before binding to DNA and causing cellular damage. All those exposed through touching or brushing against the plant or through indirect contact (e.g. pets, other objects) and then exposed to sunlight may develop the reaction. Prolonged exposure to sunlight and moist conditions may worsen the reaction.

Within 24-48 hours a burning, erythematous and edematous rash in a linear, crossing or bizarre pattern may develop. The next 24-48 hours may see progression to painful blistering, partial or full thickness burns. Pruritus is uncommon. Complications include infection, hyperpigmentation and photosensitivity lasting months to years.

Decontamination and treatment is similar to poison ivy and poison oak, though sun exposure should be avoided for 2-3 days (see Tables 1 and 2). Topical antiseptics are recommended for blistered areas to prevent infection. Topical or oral corticosteroids may be indicated. Severe cases may require analgesics, wound debridement, burn dressings and skin grafting. Topical hydroquinone cream has been used for hyperpigmentation.

Plants of the genus **Euphorbia** include houseplants, garden perennials and common weeds. Skin contact with the highly irritant milky sap (latex) found in the stems, leaves and fruits has resulted in pruritus, painful erythema, vesicles, bullae, hyperpigmentation and, in severe cases, burns. Symptoms may begin immediately and slowly progress, or be delayed for up to 24 hours. Eye exposure commonly occurs in gardeners from sap spraying in the eye or touching/rubbing the eye with contaminated fingers. Symptoms include immediate irritation and burning, pain, lacrimation, photophobia,

Table 1: Decontamination following dermal exposure to toxic plants

General	Plant specific
<p>Immediate gentle washing of skin with soap and cool water (avoid rubbing or scratching).</p> <p>Wash hands well and under fingernails.</p> <p>Remove exposed clothing.</p> <p>Wash exposed fomites (clothing, shoes, tools, pets) with soap and water.</p>	<p>Stinging nettle: remove irritant hairs from skin via adhesive tape.</p> <p>Poison ivy and oak: washing most effective within 10 minutes; beneficial up to 2 hours; always decontaminate regardless of the time.</p> <p>Giant hogweed: avoid swimming and exposure to the sun for 2-3 days, thereafter use sunblock with high SPF.</p> <p>Urushiol may remain active on fomites for many years.</p>

blepharospasm and conjunctivitis. Effects may worsen over the first two days leading to keratitis, uveitis, corneal ulceration, increased intraocular pressure, temporary changes in vision and rare cases of permanent blindness though many of these cases involved secondary bacterial infection. Early treatment with adequate flushing of the eye, an ophthalmic exam and topical cycloplegics, corticosteroids and/or antibiotics usually results in resolution within 4-14 days.

Prevention of phytodermatitis includes learning to recognize plants, avoiding them and wearing protective clothing (vinyl gloves for poison

Table 2: Symptomatic and Supportive treatment for phytodermatitis

Pruritus and/or inflammation
Cool water or medicated soaks or baths (Burow's solution, colloidal oatmeal)
Cooled calamine lotion
Topical corticosteroids
Oral antihistamines
(Topical antihistamines are NOT recommended)

Weepy vesicles or bullae
Dressings of water, normal saline or Burow's solution

Pain
Analgesics

ivy and poison oak) if contact is necessary. Giant hogweed is considered an invasive plant by the Invasive Species Council of BC. Removal by professionals is recommended. For those handling Euphorbia plants, eye protection is recommended as well as proper hand washing to prevent finger to eye exposure.

For more information on toxic plant exposures call the Poison Control Centre at 604-682-5050 or 1-800-567-8911.

References available upon request at info@bcpharmacy.ca.

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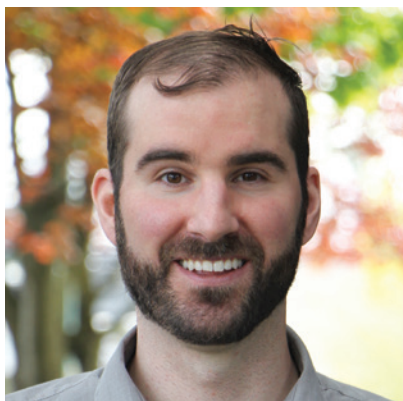
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Adapting Prescriptions: Addressing perceived barriers to allow for more creative and effective patient care

By Greg Becotte

While pharmacists have had the ability to adapt prescriptions in B.C. since 2008, PharmaCare statistics show us that the vast majority of adaptations are for renewals, with only a small percentage attributed to dose changes, formulation changes or therapeutic substitutions (see sidebar for full statistics). Similarly themed, medication reviews are most often identified as MR-S (standard), as opposed to the additional billing eligibility of MR-PC (pharmacist consult).

These statistics are perplexing to me, as I have completed countless medication reviews and adapted hundreds of prescriptions of all varieties, and yet can count on one hand how many of these reviews have not been eligible for the additional billing of an MR-PC. In my experience, it is incredibly rare to not find a drug therapy problem (DTP) that needs to be solved for my patients, which makes me question why would pharmacists not make use of these extra billable services? Over the last few years, I have spoken to many pharmacists who have self-identified barriers about adapting prescriptions. While I won't review all the barriers here, I would like to call attention to the following statement listed several

times in the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia "Orientation Guide to Medication Management (Adapting a Prescription)." The following blurb appears as a limitation on pharmacist practice for changing a dose or regimen of cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, seizures, psychiatric conditions, and therapeutic substitutions:

"Unless in practice settings such as hospital, long-term care facilities,

prescriptions, beyond simple renewals for medications other than those used in psychiatry. Pharmacists have expressed concerns about lacking the credentials of other practitioners across Canada, such as prescribing pharmacists in Alberta, primary care pharmacists in Ontario or those with a PharmD, for example. The reality is that the College has not identified any separate tiers of pharmacists. There are no prescribing pharmacists in B.C., and we do not

"It's also important to note the College states that you need to satisfy describing collaborative relationships or explain appropriate protocols within the multi-disciplinary environment. You don't need both."

or multi-disciplinary environments where collaborative relationships or appropriate protocols are established..."

Many pharmacists believe that this statement limits their ability to adapt

have many publicly funded primary care pharmacists working directly in physicians' offices. Our College also has not defined any of the terms used in that statement. Where does that leave pharmacists?

Following a two-year stint in B.C.'s Interior, where physicians were in short supply, I looked at that statement in the orientation guide and used it as an opportunity to widen my practice – and I think you can, too. Let's break down the statement.

"Unless in practice settings such as hospital..." There are many pharmacists who work on the community or outreach side of things attached to or directly within hospitals.

"...long-term care facilities..." In my practice, we serviced two small group homes that were classified as Plan B facilities.

"...multi-disciplinary environments..." I spent a few hours a week seeing patients at a First Nations Health Centre. I had a close, collaborative relationship with their registered nurses, program director and main physician.

"...where collaborative relationships..." This term is meant to describe multi-disciplinary environments consisting of more than one pharmacist and one physician. In addition to the First Nations Health Centre, a nearby office of four local physicians had maxed out their rosters and patients had a two-week wait to see their doctor. They also had a nurse and diabetes educator on staff. I met with them several times to establish a working understanding of how adapting prescriptions could lessen their paperwork burden.

"...appropriate protocols..." This is a vague statement and at first I was not sure what to make of it. At the time, I was finishing my PharmD from the University of Waterloo. All our staff pharmacists had completed CPhA's ADAPT course and a Laboratory Monitoring course. Together as a team, our pharmacists individually had continuing education credits in COPD, asthma, anticoagulation and diabetes. Based on this, we stipulated that all

pharmacists adapting prescriptions would have similar advanced training in order to work collaboratively with the nearby physicians and RNs.

It's also important to note the College states that you need to satisfy describing collaborative relationships or explain appropriate protocols within the multi-disciplinary environment. You don't need both.

I came up with agreements between the local physicians, the divisions of family practice representative, the staff and caretakers at our Plan B facilities, the nurses at the First Nations Health Centre and our staff pharmacists to add all this information to our Policy and Procedure Manual. Just like that, we had documented information proving that we were qualified and ready to adapt prescriptions within our scope of practice without limitations holding us back.

Can you do the same thing? Yes! It just takes some creativity. There are many different types of pharmacy practices in B.C. Do you work in a specialized compounding lab? Do you collaborate with a nurse practitioner? Do you service a long-term care home? Do you offer specialized immunization clinics? Do you have a certified diabetes or asthma educator on your team? If you can't think of anything that would qualify in your practice, start reaching out to your local health organizations. You'll be surprised who wants to work with you. Develop your own protocols and keep them updated in your Policy and Procedure Manual.

Greg Becotte is a Pharmacy Practice Support coordinator with the BC Pharmacy Association. For further support, information and guidance on adapting prescriptions, contact him at greg.becotte@bcpharmacy.ca.

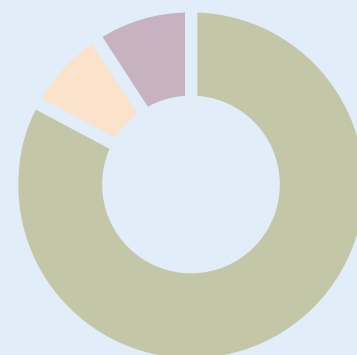
References available upon request at info@bcpharmacy.ca.

PharmaCare Statistics in B.C.

Periodically, PharmaCare releases statistics on professional pharmacist activities in its newsletter. The most recent statistics from 2015/16 were shared in October 2016.

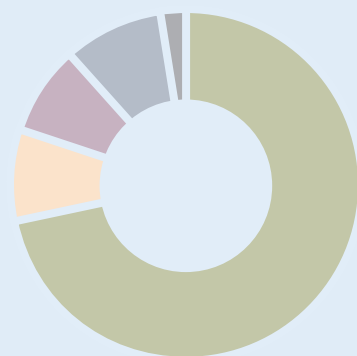
Medication Reviews in B.C.

- 82.3% MR-S (Standard)
- 8.7% MR-PC (Pharmacist Consult)
- 9% MR-F (Follow Up)



Adapting Prescriptions in B.C.:

- 72% for renewals (NL)
- 7.3% for dose changes (NI)
- 8.5% for formulation changes (NJ)
- 9% for changing directions (NK)
- 2.5% for therapeutic substitutions (NM)



Pharmacists honoured for exceptional care

By Angela Poon

Seven pharmacists and two UBC pharmacy students were recognized by the BCPhA for their commitment to elevating the pharmacy profession, enhancing patient care and positively impacting their communities at the 2017 Excellence in BC Pharmacy Awards Gala on May 26. The awards celebrate pharmacists who have made remarkable contributions to their profession.

Learn more about this year's winners at bcpharmacy.ca/awards.



Parm Johal

Winner of the Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia Award

Parm Johal has shaped his life around the wise words of his father, spoken when Parm was just a young boy and new immigrant to Canada.

"Things were challenging as newcomers," says Johal, who emigrated with his family from India to small-town Squamish. "I remember him sitting down and saying, 'This is your new country. Make sure you respect it, become a good citizen and give back to your new community.'"

Taking those words to heart many years ago, Johal has dedicated his life to serving his family, his community and his patients.



Parm Johal, owner of Port Coquitlam's Wilson Pharmacy, is being honoured for his community involvement as recipient of the Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia Award.

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"I always wanted to be in a field where I can connect with other people and make a difference in the lives of others," Johal says. "Pharmacy is an integral part of the community. We are often the first and perhaps the most trusted point of contact for people facing adversity and health challenges."

While Johal spent the majority of his childhood in Richmond, the draw of small town life for the budding pharmacy professional pulled him and his family back to Squamish in the 1980s where he opened his first independent pharmacy and immersed himself into community life.

"Community service has been the hallmark of Parm's storied pharmacy career," says Derek Dyck, Johal's long-term friend and business associate.

In addition to becoming an integral member of the primary care team for Squamish residents, Johal committed himself to community service, volunteering for a wide variety of initiatives from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Squamish and the Squamish Recreation Commission to the Squamish Credit Union and the Chamber of Commerce. A passionate tennis aficionado, he also spearheaded the sleepy mountain town's very first tennis club.

While the active pharmacist and business owner was genuinely interested in the many associations he took part in, a more important motivator for him was all about making meaningful connections.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy," says Johal. "When you volunteer, you vote everyday about the type of community you want to live in."

After putting his whole heart into the Squamish community, a new and exciting business opportunity brought him and his family, including three growing boys, to Port Coquitlam in 2001, where he took over as owner of independent shop Wilson Pharmacy.

Responding to the unique needs of the Tri-Cities community, Johal soon became one of the area's biggest supporters of both mental health and senior care services, partnering with such organizations as New View Society, Coast Mental Health, and R.J. Kent (a residential community for seniors), to mention a few. In addition to providing personalized pharmaceutical services in store, Johal has been known to visit nearby senior patients within minutes of distress, make hospital visits, meet with family members of those fallen ill, open the pharmacy after hours and even make home deliveries of not just medications but also food and other necessities, if needed.

"I am constantly showered with compliments, from the senior residents, on the service provided by Wilson Pharmacy and how their lives are made so much easier by having a pharmacy that responds to their needs and concerns in a timely manner and with care and compassion," says Marg Gordon, R.J. Kent's general manager.

Nearby physician Dr. Stephen Barron echoes Gordon's sentiments when it comes to his elderly patients, noting that since taking over Wilson Pharmacy, Johal has worked tirelessly to address the needs of his neighbourhood's large population of seniors, introducing medication compounding, blister packaging, patient counselling, medication reviews and home delivery.

Johal has a strong sense of duty and commitment to the community, notes Dr. Barron. "Parm is particularly respectful to my housebound frail, elderly patients and frequently personally delivers medication to them on short notice or after hours."

"Pharmacy is an integral part of the community. We are often the first and perhaps the most trusted point of contact for people facing adversity and health challenges."

As a father to now four sons, Johal is humbled by the fact that he has had the opportunity to not only live by his own father's words, but instill these life values into his own children, two of which have followed in his professional footsteps. His eldest son and BCPhA's 2016 New Practitioner Award winner, Ajit Johal, has enhanced and expanded clinical services as an integral business partner at Wilson Pharmacy. His third son, Aman, has just completed his second year of pharmacy at UBC.

"There are people that leave footprints on our lives, and hopefully I've left a really positive footprint on their lives," Johal notes.

With his best years in the business still ahead of him, Johal looks towards the future with hope and passion.

"As we continue to challenge new frontiers in remunerations and expand our scope of practice and continue to enhance the collaborative model in working with other members of the health-care team, we as pharmacists will continue to play a prominent role in not just providing pharmaceutical and health-care services, but also in controlling the costs of health-care."

Chris Pasin

Winner of the Ben Gant Innovative Practice Award

As the overuse and abuse of opioids continues to sweep across B.C., South Okanagan pharmacist and business owner Chris Pasin is working diligently in his pocket of the province to prevent and reverse the devastating effects of this health-care epidemic.

As co-owner of several pharmacies based in Oliver, Penticton and West Kelowna with business partner Greg Wheeler, Pasin has witnessed firsthand the increasing use of pain meds, often leading patients down a dark path to addiction and abuse.

"I would ask a lot of people how they got down this road and it was pain management," notes Pasin. "I could see that there was an issue. We had an over-prescribing problem in the South Okanagan."

But it wasn't until he was travelling cross-country to a pharmacy conference, and he got a frantic call from his staff member that a Canadian narcotics inspector was onsite to conduct a surprise inspection that he realized the issue was even more widespread in his community than he initially understood.

"That was a big trigger that something was going on in our area," he notes.

So when he was hand-selected to serve as the sole pharmacist representative for the South Okanagan's pain management module of the physician-led Practice Support Program (PSP), he saw his involvement as an opportunity to hopefully have a positive impact on the overall care for chronic pain management and the use and abuse of narcotics.

"It was his years of excellent care, concern about and commitment to this issue well before it was common news that positioned him to be a pharmacist sought after by physicians to support them with their education on the topic," says Pasin's business partner and fellow pharmacist Greg Wheeler.

Offering expertise and education on the optimal use of chronic pain medications to different groups of physicians across the Okanagan over the last several years, Pasin has dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours towards the health-care cause close to his heart.

He has also provided insight into developing effective communication and care strategies for chronic pain patients with



Chris Pasin, co-owner of several pharmacies in the South Okanagan area, is lauded for his innovative leadership in combating B.C.'s current opioid crisis.

other supporting professionals, including physiotherapists, mental health workers and the RCMP. Most recently, he was invited

by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC to present and participate in its Methadone 101 workshop, an introductory course in the use of methadone for the treatment of opioid dependence.

"We've always got to remember that when we affect the patient standing in front of us, Joe's wife, Joe's kids, Joe's parents are affected. It's not just Joe you're dealing with," Pasin says. "Chronic pain has a huge impact with relationships and households. It starts with a bad knee, which leads to unemployment, depression, more drugs, marital issues. It is amazing the cascade effect. If our role helps reverse the cascade, we've done an awesome job."

With his role on the PSP coming to an end, Pasin has expanded his patient care outreach in an innovative, new program he hopes to use as inspiration within the broader pharmacy community.

Partnering with his local family physician (and former South Okanagan General Hospital Chief of Staff) Dr. Peter Entwistle, Pasin provides regular in-clinic medication consultations and reviews, offering patients a comprehensive and collaborative approach to their health care.

"The model that he has helped develop promises to provide a sustainable and patient-focused practical and equitable model of care to patients," says Entwistle.

Not just interested in growing his business, Pasin hopes to leverage his unique position into gathering evidence-based data to support the further expansion of pharmacists' scope as integral and well-respected members of primary care teams.

“It’s a huge move forward in the profession,” says Pasin, who has been pushing to expand the pharmacist’s patient care role since entering the field in the early 1990s. “We do med reviews in the store as well, but when you do it in a doctor’s office, then it has some real credibility.”

“Chris has effectively integrated pharmacists into the patient’s circle of care by providing pharmaceutical care at key touch-points in their medical assessment process,” adds Wheeler. “He is demonstrating the importance of community pharmacist input and participation on primary care teams and decision-making committees.”

Lindsay Kufta

Winner of the New Practitioner Award

Lindsay Kufta’s budding pharmacy career hasn’t necessarily followed a typical trajectory, but the eager pharmacist is quite content to enjoy the journey.

As an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Kufta started out studying chemistry, a field she thoroughly enjoyed, yet left her questioning her future career options.

“I gave thought to what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and I realized pharmacy would be a good fit for me,” she says.

The very next day she conducted a serendipitous online search, landing on UBC’s pharmacy website on the last day of the late registration deadline for the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT). As the Vancouver site was already full, the former North Shore resident bundled up to head to Kamloops in the middle of the winter where, she says, “everything fell into place.”

After an engaging and thought-provoking four years in the pharmacy program, Kufta was determined to keep an open mind when it came to her newfound job search in 2012. So much so that she ultimately found herself in the unique position of convincing her soon-to-be boss that, yes, she did indeed want to pack up her city life to move to the quiet town of Hope to serve as pharmacist at the local Pharmasave.

“It was beautiful up here and I had never lived in a small town,” she says. “I thought I would give it a try.”

The conscientious young pharmacist set out to live small town life to its fullest, warmly engaging in her community, expanding

As Pasin strives to grow this in-clinic, collaborative assessment model, the father of a first-year university student and avid outdoorsman offers a key, and honest, piece of advice for new pharmacy grads starting out.

“It can be a long and boring profession,” Pasin admits. “You’ve got to make something out of it. You’ve got to really find that niche that you enjoy and tap into and make the most of it. That’s really where the job satisfaction is.”



Former Hope Pharmasave pharmacist Lindsay Kufta is credited with making a lifesaving impact in caring for some of the small community’s most vulnerable population.

clinical services to meet the needs of her patients, volunteering with the local fire department and exploring the many picturesque hiking trails in the surrounding mountains.

Thrilled to put her education into practice, Kufta assumed the management of the pharmacy’s vaccination program, expanding it to include travel, HPV and shingles vaccinations, in addition to the traditional offering of annual flu shots.

Through her earnest promotion, Kufta grew the small town’s vaccination program into one of the most successful programs within the B.C. group of Pharmasave stores.

“I was new, I was eager and I wanted to keep busy,” Kufta says simply. “I was just persistent and then all of a sudden we were doing so many vaccines every single day we became one of the leaders in our group of stores.”

Over time, as she grew more familiar with the Hope community and some of its challenges for those patients dealing with drug addiction, Kufta focused her energy into finding meaningful solutions for those in need, including the dispensing of safe injection kits

throughout Hope. Consisting of clean needles and injection supplies, the kits are supplied by local non-profit Positive Living and are designed to prevent the spread of disease in the community.

Through this initiative, Kufta began actively engaging with a number of local residents struggling to seek treatment, due to a lack of available localized services.

"For the people in that type of lifestyle, a lot of things can be barriers and trying to find transportation for a 45-minute commute to Chilliwack was almost impossible," says Kufta. "If you add that to all of their other struggles, it was not something that many of them could get over."

In seeking a way to offer a practical solution to this community-wide problem, Kufta reached out to a clinic in Surrey willing to work with the Hope pharmacy to offer a telehealth program, allowing patients to receive much of their treatment from within their own town. And she continued to battle barriers to seek optimal health for her patients, arranging rides through volunteer program CARE Transit for required in-person appointments as well as offering in-pharmacy urine screening when the local lab would not provide the service for methadone patients.

"In this initiative, Lindsay made a point of engaging with a clientele that was not used to being actively interacted with, and the results were startling," says Linda Gutenberg, director

of pharmacy for Forewest Holdings Inc., Pharmasave's parent company. "Lindsay's unique approach has resulted in an almost three-fold increase in the number of people participating in harm reduction strategies and successfully staying off illicit drugs."

For Kufta, while the addiction program has certainly been her biggest achievement in her five years at the pharmacy, it's also been the most natural.

"I know I've heard in some treatment settings, a lot of patients feel like they're second class citizens," says Kufta. "But here, we chat to them every day, we're very open with them."

It's these interactions Kufta will treasure the most, as she moves onto the next phase of her career this summer, pursuing a pharmacy practice residency through the Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services Pharmacy Practice Residency Program.

Following an unsuccessful application to the program as a brand new pharmacy grad in 2012, getting accepted into the prestigious program now is all the more meaningful for Kufta, as she closes her career's first chapter of an incredibly rewarding five years in community pharmacy.

"I'm really honoured to be receiving this award," Kufta says. "To me, I've found the work rewarding on its own, and it's nice to see other people are recognizing it as well."

Miguel Lopez-Dee

Winner of the Voice of Pharmacy Award

While pharmacist and business owner Miguel Lopez-Dee has built an enviable resume as a leader and activist in his industry over the last several decades of practice, he is adamant that speaking out on behalf of the profession starts within the pharmacy.

"One of the first steps for demonstrating our value is to make people aware of it," says Lopez-Dee, of connecting with patients on their pharmaceutical care. "When you have done something that is significant, tell them about it."

A passionate advocate for an expanded scope of practice for pharmacists within our health-care system, Lopez-Dee has been building on this simple,

Miguel Lopez-Dee, co-owner and pharmacist at Pharmasave Greystone Village in Burnaby, has spent more than a decade impacting Canada's pharmacy industry through national board membership and stakeholder outreach.



yet impactful, habit since his graduation from pharmacy at the University of British Columbia.

After several years of practice as a pharmacist and pharmacy manager, where he grew his skills and confidence in the profession, he stepped into the corporate world as the national manager for clinical programs with Pharmasave National. Here, he travelled the country, developing patient care tools and mentoring fellow pharmacists and their staff.

It was also during this time that Lopez-Dee first campaigned to represent B.C. on the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) board of directors, serving for a total of seven years, including two terms as vice-president. A self-professed “restless individual,” Lopez-Dee was looking for a new challenge and avenue to support his beloved pharmacy profession beyond his day job.

“After the first year, I was so hooked on the concept of participating in a board, simply because you are the stewards for the organization, you lead the vision, you set the direction,” he says. “You’re doing it with likeminded individuals and you’re all working towards the same goal.”

As a national board member, Lopez-Dee was instrumental in supporting and revolutionizing several key industry institutions, chairing a task force to reinvigorate the economic viability of the century-old national pharmacy publication, *Canadian Pharmacists’ Journal*, as well as guiding the transformation of CPhA’s governance model in order to strengthen the relationship between the provincial and national advocacy associations.

“Miguel has been an active member of our profession, identifying gaps in both patient care and policy to move our profession forward,” says Pharmasave pharmacy specialist Christine Antler. “He is active as a voice for the profession to a wide variety of audiences including government officials, community groups, other health-care providers and pharmacists.”

A recognized leader and expert in his field, Lopez-Dee has been invited to represent the profession in a wide range of initiatives, roundtable discussions, seminars, modules and frameworks.

During his tenure on the CPhA board, Lopez-Dee was an invited member of the Blueprint for Pharmacy Steering Committee, a long-term, multi-stakeholder strategy designed to better align pharmacy practice with the health-care needs of Canadians, as well as the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association roundtable on the topic of death and dying. He has also advocated for the role of community pharmacy with all levels of government, and as a participant in a provincial roundtable on PharmaCare.

“Pharmacists have to find a way to connect with policy makers,” notes Lopez-Dee. “We have to be the ones knocking on their door, identifying what the issues are. We must become part of the solution for the bigger problems that burden our health-care system.”

While Lopez-Dee has spent over a decade breaking down barriers and building vital connections within a vast network of health-care stakeholders, he insists it’s up to every pharmacist to advocate for their own role to local community groups and representatives. It starts with patients, special interest groups, health fairs and community publications, he says.

“Try to find a way to be comfortable with being uncomfortable to communicate and articulate a message that will resonate with your audience,” he says in support of the young practitioner. “It takes practice.”

In 2013, Lopez-Dee took a step back from his national commitments to pursue a long-held personal and professional

“We have to be the ones knocking on their door, identifying what the issues are. We must become part of the solution.”

dream to own his own pharmacy and opened a Pharmasave Health Centre in Burnaby’s Greystone Village Shopping Plaza. Tucked away from the commercial hub of the city’s urban centre, Lopez-Dee has built a small but thriving business with a friendly, neighbourhood vibe and loyal clientele.

“I very quickly became comfortable with Miguel as he was always so cheerful, approachable as well as very knowledgeable about conditions as well as medication,” says Sarah Keenan, a customer and spouse to a husband suffering from chronic health issues. “We were treated like we mattered, that we were not just a number and that we would never have to worry.”

Recipient of *Pharmacy Practice*’s Rookie of the Year award in 2014, Lopez-Dee has thoroughly enjoyed his career’s newest challenge, which has not only returned him to the role of community pharmacist, but has also allowed him to spend more time and be more involved with his growing children. Not content to settle down for too long, however, Lopez-Dee has taken on another role this past May, as a member of the board of directors for Pharmasave Pacific.

“He makes his best effort every day to demonstrate to those he encounters the very best of what our profession has to offer,” says Antler.

Mark Kunzli

Winner of the Murray Dykeman Mentorship Award

Mark Kunzli is not your traditional pharmacist. He doesn't hold a single, permanent position and has spent as much time in academic research and project management as he has in clinical care.

But for dozens of pharmacy students and new practitioners, his candor and strong work ethic is their inspiration to fight through adversity and continue striving for excellence.

"It's just nuts that people think of me as a mentor," says Kunzli, who is quick to credit his own mentors for the role they played in his career. "I often think if I can do it, anybody can do it. I don't forget what it was like to be a student. I didn't think I would ever get through pharmacy school. I know all too well how challenging it can feel as a student, not only academically but also personally."

Kunzli initially stumbled into the field, applying for the program on a recommendation from a friend. While he faced challenges throughout pharmacy school, the undergrad threw himself wholeheartedly into pharmacy social life, as a member of pharmacy fraternity Kappa Psi and highly decorated Skits Night performer - his self-professed "claim to fame."

After graduation, he managed a pharmacy in Campbell River before calling upon his large social and professional network to pursue relief work throughout the province as he re-examined his career goals.

After attending an alumni event in 2009, he reconnected with pharmacy professor and researcher Dr. Ron Reid, who was pursuing the feasibility of utilizing pharmacogenomics within community pharmacy.

"I saw his vision and I wanted to be involved," says Kunzli, who jumped on the opportunity to explore the field of study as an Executive MBA in Healthcare student at the UBC Sauder School of Business.

"His coursework during his MBA was devoted to implementing pharmacogenomics in clinical pharmacy practice, not because it was his job but because it was his passion," says Reid. Kunzli worked with Reid, the UBC Sequencing Centre and the BC Pharmacy Association staff on the research project "Genomics



Pharmacist, academic researcher and project manager Mark Kunzli is recognized by many of his peers, colleagues and future pharmacy leaders as an influential leader and mentor.

for Precision Drug Therapy in Community Pharmacy." It was funded by the Association and Genome BC.

The project's first phase involved 33 community pharmacists who volunteered to gather data from 200 patients across B.C. to test if community pharmacists could be the health-care provider for patients to access pharmacogenomic testing, no matter where they lived. It was an overwhelming success.

"He is a vocal advocate for the profession and consistently challenges the status quo to find novel approaches to clinical practice that will benefit both pharmacists and the society we practice within," says Victoria pharmacist Andrea Silver.

Throughout his work within the UBC faculty, Kunzli continuously offered his skills, experience and perspective to a wide range of colleagues, students and fellow researchers, as a mentor with the Sauder School of Business' Aboriginal Management Program, a founding member of the Vancouver Graduate Chapter of Kappa Psi, a volunteer recruiter on behalf of the pharmacy program at UBC and annual judge at Skits Night, among many other opportunities.

"He is always approachable, kind, and genuinely takes the time to talk to anyone that needs him," says third year pharmacy student, and fellow BCPhA award winner Jerry Mejia.

While Kunzli may not consider a lot of what he does as mentorship, attributing much of his contact to social media, texting and faculty events, the vast number of support letters within his award nomination package stating his willingness to go

out of his way to help, shape and mold his peers says otherwise.

"He gives so much of himself while asking for little in return in order to drive the practice of pharmacy further, encouraging students like myself to put forth the same amount of passion throughout our future careers," adds 2016 pharmacy grad Jason Chan.

A recognized innovative leader in advancing the pharmacy profession and enhancing the public perception of pharmacists, Kunzli has most recently been lauded for the co-creation and coordination of the award-winning Innovation to Application Conference, which brings together a comprehensive network of practitioners, researchers and stakeholders to help bridge the gap between research and practice.

"My career has benefitted so much from the connections I've made. [Innovation to Application] is a way to make that happen on a broader scale," Kunzli says. "You can have all of these great ideas, but if you don't have the practitioners engaged, it will be a difficult time to get it going."

Having recently stepped away as project manager of the pharmacogenomics study, Kunzli continues to work as a research associate and project manager on several ongoing studies within UBC, as well as a relief pharmacist.

"My underlying premise, in all of these projects, is I want to show what a pharmacist can do," notes Kunzli. "I give the perspective of a pharmacist. I think it helps make our profession look better, that to me is why I do all of these things."

Bojana Dzombeta

Winner of the Patient Care Award

When Shoppers Drug Mart Associate Owner Bojana Dzombeta first emigrated from former Yugoslavia at 17 years old, she had dreams of following in the illustrious footsteps of her extended family members, many of whom served as physicians and other health-care professionals in her home country.

But landing in Vancouver as a teenager with no English, Dzombeta was concerned her language abilities would hold her back so she convinced herself to pursue a different path.

"Because of my English, I explored the option of doing computer science, which I hated," says Dzombeta, laughing.

The outgoing, driven and caring professional needed a career in which she could interact with and positively impact other people. So, she returned to her family's roots in health care, pursuing health sciences while also overcoming her language barrier.

"I had some challenging days where I just didn't feel like I had energy to do all of this," says Dzombeta. "But my parents always pushed my brother and I to finish university and get good jobs. It was a must in my family."

Feeling confident in her redirected studies, Dzombeta's master plan was to earn her pharmacy degree followed by a medical education, but after graduation she surprised herself with a desire to explore the profession before committing to medicine.

A certified diabetes educator, Bojana Dzombeta is an integral member of a collaborative team of health-care professionals striving to provide improved health outcomes for diabetes patients in Burnaby.



Coming on board as a pharmacist with Shoppers Drug Mart in 2001, Dzombeta moved up to associate owner in just several years as well as earning her Canadian Diabetes Educator (CDE) designation, thriving as a sought after specialized pharmacist.

"You really want to be the best at what you do," Dzombeta says, crediting her parents with instilling a strong work ethic in both her and her brother, also a pharmacist/owner on the North Shore. "This designation provided another challenge, more contact with patients one-on-one and a collaborative professional environment with other health-care professionals."

In 2008, Dzombeta had the opportunity to relocate to a fast-paced Burnaby Shoppers, in a very competitive neighbourhood across from Metropolis at Metrotown, B.C.'s largest shopping centre.

"I had to really stand out and differentiate myself," says Dzombeta, who worked tirelessly to network with health-care professionals in nearby physicians' offices, as well as Burnaby Hospital, and, above all, provide exceptional patient care.

"Bojana has a way of creating a calm environment where she helps our patients to overcome any fears they may have and answer any concerns they bring up," says Dr. Mirjana Pavlic, a Burnaby-based endocrinologist. "She even accompanies patients to their appointments with myself which shows her devotion to a successful outcome for her patients."

Finding her niche and passion in diabetes education, Dzombeta is thrilled to be in a position that allows her to provide critical care for patients in need, as well as serve as a trusted member of many patients' collaborative health-care team, accompanying patients to appointments, tailoring diet plans to many different ethnic backgrounds and food preferences, and personally monitoring daily blood glucose levels for up to 10 patients at a time.

"She is the most kind, caring and compassionate person I have ever known," says Randy Drew, a 64-year-old patient recently diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. Dzombeta spent more than two weeks personally texting Drew daily with guidance on insulin

dosage, testing and food choices until he wrapped his head around the disease.

"She worked tirelessly from morning until night to help me. I literally owe her my life."

Working more than 60 hours a week running the pharmacy and the business, in addition to home deliveries, physician appointments and ongoing communication through text, phone and email, Dzombeta has dedicated her life to helping patients manage their illness.

"Bojana is a hard working individual that has always put her patients first," says Erin Turnbull, head pharmacy assistant. "She goes above and beyond when caring for her patients. She saves lives on a daily basis and is the epitome of what it means to be a pharmacist."

Dzombeta feels proud of her achievements and her ability to make a direct impact on the lives of so many patients in need.

"To me, it's all about patient outcomes," she says. "You want to keep that relationship alive, you want to cherish your patients. It's you who is ultimately telling them what to do, educating on their lifestyle. Their health is in my hands and I don't give up until I achieve the results we're working towards."

Marshall Moleschi

Winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award

While many 15-year-olds pursue part-time jobs for extra cash and work experience, not many would say their juvenile weekend gig parlayed into a fulfilling, lifetime career lauded by a national collective of colleagues, government officials and health-care professionals alike.

Marshall Moleschi was fortunate enough to be one of those few. Looking for a part-time job in his hometown of Langley, the retired pharmacist, health administrator and registrar became a stock boy at one of the two pharmacies operating in the Fraser Valley suburb in the late 1960s.

Watching owner Jock McKinnon – one of the very first graduates of UBC's pharmacy degree program – interact with patients was



Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Marshall Moleschi has spent 50 years enhancing Canada's pharmacy industry as a pharmacy director, health administrator and registrar at various health organizations across B.C. and in Ontario.

so inspiring to the impressionable teen that Moleschi made the firm decision to follow in his mentor's footsteps.

"He had such respect with his patients," Moleschi fondly recalls of his first boss.

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Aided by a local pharmacy scholarship - which he only later found out was jointly funded especially for him by McKinnon and his competitor - Moleschi graduated from UBC in 1974, with a pharmacy degree and a quest for adventure.

His burgeoning career took him from Kitimat to Prince Rupert to Salmon Arm, where he was involved from the ground up in B.C.'s first pharmacy co-op before pursuing a clinical opportunity as pharmacy manager at Shuswap Lake General Hospital, pioneering a number of innovative pharmacy initiatives, including drug interaction alerts, specialized hospital software and distance pharmacy services for 11 health-care facilities spread out across 500 kilometers and three mountain ranges.

With a strong desire to influence the enhancement of overall patient care, Moleschi completed a Masters of Health Administration degree and spent more than a decade in senior leadership roles enacting positive change for the improvement of health outcomes, including as chief operating officer for the North Okanagan Health Region, an executive with the Health Association of BC and as director of pharmacy for both the East Kootenay Health Region and Northern Health.

"Marshall is a very courageous person," says Randy Konrad, president of the BC Pharmacy Association. "He was willing to step outside of his comfort zone to take on positions and tasks that he knew would not be easy."

Throughout this time frame, Moleschi was actively engaged with the advocacy and regulatory bodies guiding the pharmacy profession forward, spearheading the introduction of PharmaNet as a member of the former Council of the College of Pharmacists of BC and later collaborating on the first-ever pharmacist prescribing authority in Canada for emergency contraception, as president of the BCPhA.

While many would give pause over the number of hours involved in voluntary professional leadership roles, Moleschi was dutifully committed: "I wanted to be involved in my profession, and I saw a need for pharmacists to practice to the fullness of our knowledge, skills and ability."

In 2005, Moleschi entered into a new phase of his already illustrious career, accepting the influential role of registrar of the College of Pharmacists of BC, at the precipice of a critical time of change for the pharmacy industry, its professionals and most importantly, for its patients.

During his six-year tenure, the College introduced prescription renewals and adaptations, injections certification, and for which Moleschi himself is most proud, the regulation of pharmacy technicians.

"Marshall is a pioneer in all of his accomplishments," says Bal Dhillon, director of the Pharmacy Technician Society of BC. "When obstacles were put in front of him, he was able to make it work. He wasn't just a figurehead at the College, he was active in making changes to ensure public safety."

"Marshall's top qualities are the ability to envision on a big-picture level innovative outcomes for the pharmacy profession and its members, while ensuring the needs of the public are prioritized and achievable," adds Linda Lytle, Moleschi's predecessor as College registrar.

Not one to dwell in his ivory tower, Moleschi was an active and engaged member in the greater health-care community, building relationships, gaining understanding and unifying competing interests.

"Marshall put himself out there as the face of the College," says Konrad. "People will always better support a person than an institution. Marshall made a point of developing those

"I wanted to be involved in my profession, and I saw a need for pharmacists to practice to the fullness of our knowledge, skills and ability."

relationships with the pharmacists of B.C. so that the regulator was seen as a person rather than an institution."

For Moleschi, it was always about improved health outcomes for patients: "As pharmacy increased its scope of practice, we helped government and other areas of health care to look at changes from a perspective to focus on patients and how can we have wins for all of the stakeholders involved."

Following his immense achievements in B.C., Moleschi was recruited as registrar of the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Motivated by the prospect of enabling a critical mass of forward-thinking pharmacy professionals across Canada, Moleschi spent the last five years of his career in Ontario, before retiring to the Okanagan with partner Karen Wolfe in 2016.

An avid outdoorsman, golfer and family man, Moleschi is thoroughly enjoying his retirement after dedicating 50 years of his life to the profession.

"It feels really good to have done the best you could and then pass on the torch to the next generation," says Moleschi. "I feel good that the profession will be functioning really well, especially with Canada's aging population. The pharmacists of today and tomorrow are well set up to make a difference. It's a thinking profession even more than a doing profession, and that's really good for the people of British Columbia."

Jerold Chu and Jerry Mejia

Winners of the Apotex Inc. Future
British Columbia Leader Award

In just three years as students in the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Jerold Chu and Jerry Mejia have made an indelible impact on the lives of their peers as well as their future careers, as active volunteers and vocal advocates on behalf of the pharmacy profession.

Initially drawn to the field of microbiology, Chu's mother convinced him pharmacy was a more practical path for pursuing science education. With little knowledge of the profession, Chu volunteered at a local pharmacy in his hometown of Ladner before entering the degree program. With a fresh outlook on the industry, Chu was committed to not just the idea of pharmacy as a career, but to actively advocate for a better understanding of the profession overall.

"One thing that really interests me is advocacy," says Chu, in thinking of his future career goals. "To communicate well with other stakeholders the impact we can make on the health-care system."

Chu decided early on that in the limited time he had as a pharmacy student, he wanted to enrich his experience on campus and participate in positive change. In his second year, he ran for the role of junior representative with the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) and has spent his past year as senior representative, playing an integral role in organizing such on-campus events as Pharmacist Awareness Month, first year orientation, a career fair titled "Career Avenues in Pharmacy," and a dog de-stressing session for students and faculty, among many others.

Jerold Chu is the co-founder of Pharmacy Student Advocates, a UBC pharmacy initiative looking to increase awareness of a pharmacist's role in health care.

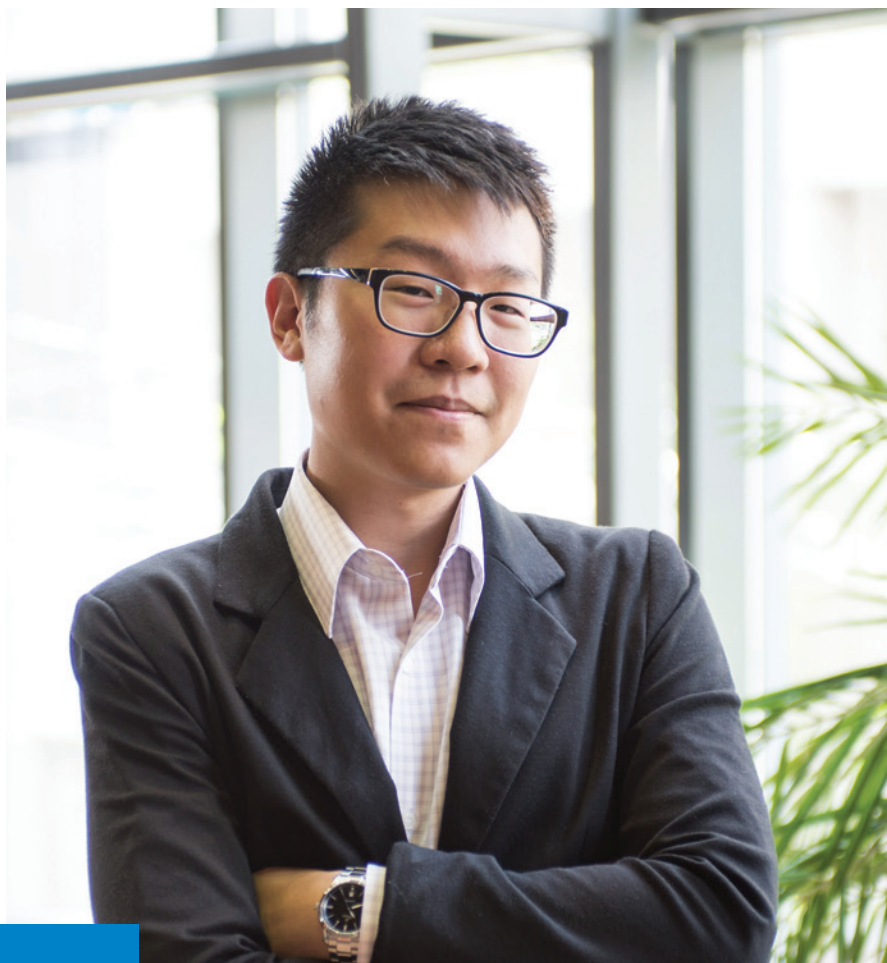
"As students we feel we have a role to play in showing other groups how pharmacy can benefit overall health care."

Also in this past year, Chu became co-founder of a new club called Pharmacy Student Advocates, in response to feedback received from several stakeholder groups on the College of Pharmacists of BC's Certified Pharmacist Prescriber Draft Framework.

"We were really shocked by this and wondered why are people against pharmacists prescribing?" asks Chu. "As students we feel

we have a role to play in showing other groups how pharmacy can benefit overall health care."

As he enters his fourth, and final, year this fall, Chu hopes to expand his new advocacy network, adding supporters and



extending its reach to a greater number of students as they head into community settings on practicum rotations.

"We want to engage students to build better relationships and show off more of their clinical skills."

For Jerry Mejia, also a third year pharmacy student, pharmacy represents his second round of post-secondary education. With a degree in biological psychology already under his belt, he desired to find a career path that was a better fit for his outgoing, social personality.

"I honed in on the fact that I liked interacting with people," he says. "Pharmacy kind of presented itself as the right choice. I've been enjoying it from day one."

With little student life to speak of in his first degree, Mejia was determined to have a different experience within the pharmacy program. Fellow students encouraged him to pursue extracurricular activities to better enjoy the program and its community of committed and supportive faculty and students.

"Everyone is there for you, encouraging each other," says Mejia.

"That's my favourite part of our program; not only does that allow you to be comfortable with what you bring into the program but it encourages you to explore new things."

As a first year, Mejia dove into student elections, campaigning for and winning a spot as co-vice president social affairs for the Pharmacy Undergraduate Society (PhUS), followed by the role of VP external affairs in his second year, in which he capitalized on his skills in event planning. He also served as director of marketing and webmaster for pharmacy fraternity, Kappa Psi, a student ambassador with the BC Pharmacy Association and as community outreach coordinator for the 2017 Pharmacy Awareness Month, where he planned outreach talks to senior homes, community centres and the UBC community.

In the coming year, he will focus on interprofessional advocacy and awareness as the elected VP of professional affairs with



Jerry Mejia has served as a student leader and pharmacy advocate since his first year as a pharmacy student at the University of British Columbia.

"Pharmacy kind of presented itself as the right choice. I've been enjoying it from day one."

CAPSI, before making the highly anticipated move to professional pharmacist in 2018, with an abundance of related experience.

"A lot of these positions require a lot of organization, being able to think of logistics and applying that to pharmacy is going to be very helpful," says Mejia. "Skill development is a progression. One opportunity can lead to the next, having that realization will help me thrive as a person and professionally."

Regardless of his outcome, Mejia is thrilled to have given back to the profession and program that has shaped his future career path.

"What I do is a reflection of what others have done for me and for that I'm very, very grateful."

Robinson and Shaw elected

We are pleased to welcome Annette Robinson and Keith Shaw to the BCPhA Board of Directors, both of whom were elected April 15, 2017 and will serve three-year terms from Sept. 1, 2017 to Aug. 31, 2020.

The Tablet spoke with Robinson and Shaw to provide readers with further background on our two newest Board members.



Annette Robinson

Pharmacy Specialist at Pharmasave Drugs

Annette Robinson graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1984 and has spent the majority of her career as a pharmacy manager in Chilliwack. She is currently Pharmacy Specialist with the Pacific team at Pharmasave Drugs and involved in a number of initiatives, such as the BCPhA Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and vaccine working groups. She is also a current member of the Discipline Committee with the College of Pharmacists of BC.

Why did you want to be on the BCPhA Board?

I have been a pharmacist for over 30 years and been involved in many volunteer activities and felt it was time that I gave back to the profession that has been so great to me. I would like to be a strong and understanding voice for our profession.

What should the BCPhA's top priorities be over the next three years?

We need to continue to demonstrate to patients and stakeholders the true value that pharmacists bring to the health-care system. Our priorities should include advocacy on behalf of the pharmacists of B.C. to move forward with many initiatives such as pharmacogenomics, pharmacist prescribing and clinical services.

What are the most common issues affecting pharmacists today?

There have been so many changes for pharmacists and some of the issues that we see today are: decreased dispensing revenue, fear of government and third party audit recoveries, reduced staffing with increased workload and staying current with regulatory changes.

What is your greatest achievement?

I would say my family. I have been married to Bob for 32 years and we have two daughters, Samantha and Julie. They are truly the reason I do what I do.

What are your future goals?

As I enjoy my current position as Pharmacy Specialist for Pharmasave Pacific, I would like to continue working with the regional team to grow in my role and support the Pharmasave pharmacies of B.C.

Which talent would you most like to have?

My Scottish grandfather played the bagpipes and I have always wanted to be able to play them like he did.

What is your most treasured possession?

Besides my family, I would have to say that I treasure my Quarter Horse gelding, Memphis.

He is quite a character and I enjoy the time that I get to spend riding, showing and taking care of him. He is a true stress reliever.



Keith Shaw

Regional Pharmacy Manager at Sobeys

Keith Shaw has been a leader in the pharmacy industry for the past decade, starting as an Associate with Shoppers Drug Mart to his current position as Regional Pharmacy Manager with Sobeys, where he oversees 20 Safeway and Thrifty Foods pharmacies across B.C. He holds both a doctor of pharmacy degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., as well as an Executive MBA from Simon Fraser University.

Why did you want to be on the BCPhA Board?

I admire the pharmacy leaders I've come into contact with at BCPhA. I also respect and value the work BCPhA does on

behalf of the profession. I look forward to contributing to the organization and profession I have benefitted from so much in years past.

What should the BCPhA's top priorities be over the next three years?

I believe priorities need to balance helping pharmacists and operators with change, and being able to influence the change itself. BCPhA needs to clarify the pharmacists' value for stakeholders in an increasingly noisy and distracted market. Listening to and remaining connected to membership will ensure that the BCPhA hears those quiet signals of change and will be ready to focus new energy on opportunity.

What are the most common issues affecting pharmacists today?

Pharmacists today are most commonly affected by increased complexity in their work. New requirements of preferred

networks, insurance, regulation and practice have many pharmacists struggling for clarity in their day-to-day practice. Trying to focus on patients and care while rules and guidelines are shifting can cause a well-meaning pharmacist an audit headache, missed opportunity or simply lost sleep.

What is your greatest achievement?

I would consider a great achievement of mine is building a career of continual challenge that includes a great network of engaging friends and colleagues all while respecting family time and participating in volunteer work and charity.

What are your future goals?

I am a voracious learner and enjoy building my capacity to serve the people around me and make their lives just a bit better. So my new goal is to jump into my new Board responsibilities and challenge myself to use my MBA and industry experience to

fulfill the membership's expectations and get things done. A personal goal of mine is to take my niece and nephew, newly emigrated from England, on their first B.C. camping and fishing trip.

Which talent would you most like to have?

I know that capability comes with persistent hard work; that talent is only discovered and leveraged through practice. Reality aside, if I could magically become a talented golfer, that would be fantastic.

What is your most treasured possession?

I have things I enjoy but only for the experience that they offer or enable. I treasure the tent trailer that my wife Tanja and I bought when our son Jacob was a baby. I moved from Ontario dreaming of an outdoor life in B.C. and this camper has taken us on many trips and all have created treasured memories for me to look back on.

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GARDASIL®9 is indicated in girls and women 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of: anal cancer caused by HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58; anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN) grades 1, 2 and 3 caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58.

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Consult the Product Monograph at http://www.merck.ca/assets/en/pdf/products/GARDASIL_9-PM_E.pdf for contraindications, warnings, precautions, adverse reactions, interactions, dosing and conditions of clinical use. The product monograph is also available by calling us at 1-800-567-2594 or 514-428-8600 or by email at medinfoCanada@merck.com.

Reference: 1. Data on file, Merck Canada Inc.: Product Monograph - GARDASIL®9, July 30, 2015.



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[Human Papillomavirus
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Pneumococcal immunization in the elderly and immunocompromised



*By Alan Low, BSc.(Pharm.), Pharm. D., RPh, ACPR, FCSHP, CCD
Clinical Associate Professor
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UBC*

Despite the positive results from studies and demonstrated benefit of immunization against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (Sp), people who are at high risk of pneumococcal infection, such as those who are 65 years and older and immunocompromised adults, remain largely unvaccinated. Vaccination rate for pneumococcal infection in 2012 in Canada for people 65 years and older was estimated at 38% when the national target was set at 80% in 2010 by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Even more alarming is the lower rate of vaccination for people with Chronic Medical Conditions (CMC) aged 18-64 years which was estimated at 19%, again with the backdrop of a national target set at 80% vaccination rate for this group.

The bacteria Sp can cause serious and sometimes life-threatening infections such as meningitis, pneumonia and septicemia. Pneumococcal disease is frequent in infancy and the elderly, and the low rate of disease in children is largely because of the routine childhood immunization programs in B.C. and Canada. Pneumococcal disease continues to be a significant problem in the elderly and immunocompromised individuals. One of the main natural reservoirs of Sp is the nasopharynx of humans. Since bacterial transmission can occur easily through respiratory droplets to others, immunity and protection against invasive pneumococcal disease is important and easily attainable through vaccination. Pneumococcal infection can be spread by coughing, sneezing or through saliva with the sharing of drinks and food. Invasive pneumococcal disease may occur when the bacteria spreads to the sinuses, middle ear, or lungs and then may also enter the blood stream, without the immune response required to prevent the infection.

In B.C., the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) 7 has been used since 2003 in infant and childhood vaccination

programs and has been replaced by PCV 13 in 2010. The PCV 13 (Pneumovax 13) vaccine protects against 13 serotypes of Sp (13-valent) and is available as a sterile suspension containing an adjuvant (added to increase the body's immune response to the vaccine). This preparation has differences to the more commonly known pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine 23 (PPSV 23), which has been administered to adults, known as Pneumovax 23. The PPSV 23, as the name implies, is aimed at preventing pneumococcal disease from 23 Sp serotypes and is formulated with polysaccharide antigens. The PCV 13 vaccine also contains polysaccharide antigens, and in addition these antigens are covalently linked to a carrier protein, hence the term "conjugated." Furthermore, it has been reported that polysaccharide vaccines elicit a T cell-independent immune response, and conjugated vaccines elicit a T cell-dependent immune response. This difference offers an advantage for PCV 13 in that it induces immune memory and also reduces colonization of Sp in the nasopharynx. This would indicate that PCV 13 would produce a stronger immune response upon exposure to the bacterium and the duration of immunity would also last longer. With the reduction in colonization in the nasopharynx, the implication is that it may help provide herd immunity or indirect immunity, potentially protecting those individuals who have not been vaccinated. Moreover, children less than two years of age generally respond poorly to polysaccharide antigens in vaccines, but respond well to polysaccharide antigens conjugated to a carrier protein. This is the reason PCV 7 and now PCV 13 is part of the infant and childhood vaccinations programs across Canada.

In Canada, PCV 7 was first introduced in 2001 followed by PCV 13 in 2010 and guidelines for the administration of this vaccine and others are produced by the National Advisory Committee on

Immunization (NACI). NACI is a national expert advisory committee reporting to the Federal Assistant Deputy Minister of Infectious Disease Prevention and Control and makes recommendations for the use of vaccines in humans in Canada.

The CAPiTA trial was a study with about 85,000 adults aged 65 and older who were immunocompetent and did not receive prior pneumococcal vaccine. The subjects were randomized to PCV 13 or placebo administered intramuscularly. In four years of follow up, there was a 46% relative reduction in the first episode of vaccine-type pneumococcal community acquired pneumonia and 45% relative reduction of vaccine-type nonbacteremic and non-invasive pneumococcal pneumonia. With respect to vaccine-type invasive pneumococcal disease, a 75% reduction was reported. There were not enough occurrences of death for an analysis of mortality.

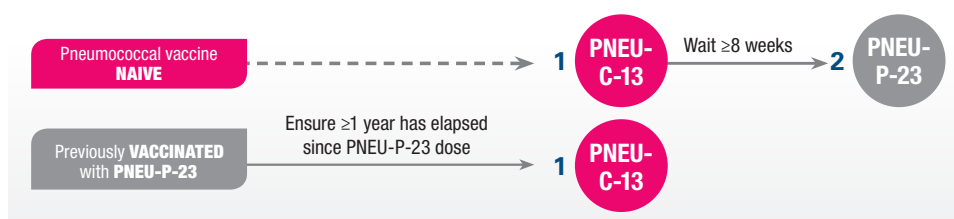
Pharmacists can play an important role in reducing the risk of pneumococcal infections which can lead to severe complications and death by routinely assessing patients who are at high risk and offering to immunize those at risk. These high risk individuals are adults who have CMC, who are immunocompromised or aged 65 years and older (See Table 1). These patients should be offered the option for pneumococcal vaccination and, as appropriate, a discussion which includes the risks and benefits of being vaccinated. With respect to payment and coverage, PPSV 23 is part of the publicly funded vaccine program and although PCV 13 is publicly funded for infants and children, it is not part of the publicly funded adult vaccines in B.C. Many private health plans provide reimbursement for PCV 13 vaccine at some level, sometimes reimbursing for pharmacist initiated vaccinations without requiring a physician's prescription. This may vary by health benefit plan and carrier.

For patients who are naïve to any type of pneumococcal vaccine, NACI recommends administration of PCV 13 first and then after eight weeks or longer, the administration of PPSV 23. For people who have received PPSV 23 vaccine in the past, health-care professionals should ensure that one year or more has passed before administering PCV 13 (See Figure 1).

Table 1: NACI recommendations for pneumococcal vaccine in 18 years and older who are immunocompromised and 65 years and older.

<p>NACI recommendations for Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) patients. Dosing: HSCT recipients should receive a primary series of 3 doses of PNEU-C-13 starting 3-9 months after transplant, after discussion with transplant specialists. The primary series (3 doses) should be administered at least 4 weeks apart, followed by a booster dose of PNEU-P-23 12 to 18 months post transplant (6 to 12 months after the last dose of PNEU-C-13).</p>	<p>Recommend the use of PNEU-C-13 for HSCT recipients given the improved immunogenicity of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines compared to PNEU-P-23 in HSCT recipients. (NACI recommendation A)</p>
<p>NACI recommendations for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-positive patients. Dosing: HIV-positive subjects should receive one dose of PNEU-C-13 followed 8 weeks later by one dose of PNEU-P-23.</p>	<p>Recommend the use of PNEU-C-13 for HIV-positive patients given the improved efficacy and effectiveness of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PNEU-C-7) in HIV-positive subjects. There is currently no evidence that a PNEU-C-13 booster dose adds any benefit (NACI recommendation A)</p>
<p>Monoarticular/oligoarticular arthritis (brief attacks) NACI recommendation for patients with immunocompromising conditions. Dosing: These immunocompromised patients should receive one dose of PNEU-C-13 followed 8 weeks later by one dose of PNEU-P-23.</p>	<p>Recommend the use of PNEU-C-13 for subjects with other immunocompromising conditions including: Asplenia (anatomical or functional) Sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies Congenital immunodeficiencies involving any part of the immune system, including B-lymphocyte (humoral) immunity, T-lymphocyte (cell) mediated immunity, complement system (properdin, or factor D deficiencies), or phagocytic functions Immunosuppressive therapy including use of long term corticosteroids, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, post-organ-transplant therapy, biologic and non-biologic immunosuppressive therapies for rheumatologic and other inflammatory diseases. Malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma Solid organ or islet cell transplant (candidate or recipient). There is currently no evidence that a PNEU-C-13 booster dose adds any benefit. (NACI recommendation B)</p>
<p>NACI recommendation for patients aged 65 years and older. Dosing: the use of PNEU-C-13 vaccine followed by PNEU-P-23, for the prevention of CAP and IPD caused by the 13 pneumococcal serotypes included in the conjugate vaccine</p>	<p>recommend in immunocompetent adults aged 65 years and older not previously immunized against pneumococcal disease. (NACI Recommendation Grade A).</p>

Figure 1: Immunization Schedule recommended by NACI (6-7)



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ARE YOU MAXIMIZING THE VALUE OF YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS?

Pharmacy members can place free career opportunities listings in this section and on the BCPhA website. We have the best pharmacy job board in B.C.! For the full listings of pharmacy technician and assistant positions visit the Pharmacy Technician Society of BC website at ptsbc.ca

Pharmacist members looking for new career opportunities can post their resumes for free on the Hire-a-Pharmacist page. To learn more, visit the recruitment section of bcpharmacy.ca

ABBOTSFORD

Pharmacist - full-time, part-time

Our pharmacy team is looking to expand and is in need of a pharmacist that can contribute to our growing pharmacy base in both Abbotsford and Surrey. If you are looking for a rewarding opportunity to work in a great environment, please contact me to set up an interview. Please send resume to ajreet@gmail.com, fax 604.855.8836 or call 604.855.8882.

Pharmacist - full-time, part-time, relief

Our pharmacy is looking for a motivated pharmacist to join us. Availability to work weekends is a must. No evening shifts required. Please send resume to rdinglasan80@gmail.com, fax 604.852.3601 or call 778.549.1283.

Pharmacist - full-time

Full-time pharmacist position available with Safeway in the Fraser Valley. Please apply online at www.sobeyscareers.com.

Pharmacist - part-time

Garden Park Pharmacy in Abbotsford. We are a long-established, friendly community pharmacy seeking a pharmacy manager, pharmacist and pharmacy assistants to join our company. Abbotsford is about a 45-minute drive from Vancouver. We offer competitive wages. No Sunday, Saturday, statutory holidays or evenings. All experience levels and new graduates are welcome. Please send resumes to alanchoi5588@yahoo.com, fax 604.746.2825 or call 604.859.3300.

Pharmacist - relief

Our pharmacy is looking for a pharmacist for a 1-year contract, 4 days/week to cover a maternity leave, starting Sept. 1, 2017. We are a busy pharmacy located in a medical building. Shifts are Monday-Friday, no evenings and 1 in 4 Saturdays. Wages and benefits are competitive. Candidates should work well with colleagues, other health professionals and be patient centered. Please send resume to Gordon Rowe, Manager at mtdrugs@telus.net, fax 604.859.7651 or call 604.859.7651.

BOWEN ISLAND

Pharmacist - full-time

Bring your children (or grandchildren) to one of the safest, most hospitable and scenic places

this side of paradise. Practice in a congenial and supportive patient-oriented environment an hour from downtown Vancouver. Hours and benefits negotiable. Please send resume to cates@medicinecentre.com.

BURNABY

Pharmacist - full-time

We are searching for a pharmacist with experience in residential care/nursing home. The Overwaita Food Group (OFG) is one of Western Canada's leading retailers in food and pharmacy solutions. We are committed to providing a fun and respectful work environment and to empowering our team members in professional growth. We are supported by the organization's core values in service, people, integrity, fun and innovation. Join the OFG and reward yourself with an exciting career. Please send resumes to ming_chang@owfg.com.

CASTLEGAR/NELSON

Pharmacist - part-time

Part-time pharmacist position available with Safeway located in Castlegar/Nelson. Please apply online at www.sobeyscareers.com.

CHILLIWACK

Pharmacist - part-time

Advance your pharmacy career with Overwaita Food Group. With over 120 pharmacies in BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, under the following banners: Save On Foods, PriceSmart Foods, Urban Fare and Overwaita Pharmacy. Our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality patient-centered care. We provide a very professional pharmacy practice environment and are committed to: challenging & growing our staff, caring for people, healthy living for our shoppers and patients, innovation and investing in our future. Join the Overwaita Food Group and make your career prescription complete! Sorry, but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Please send resume to Livia Chan, Regional Manager, Pharmacy Operations at Livia_chan@saveonfoods.com.

COQUITLAM

Pharmacist - part-time

Looking for a part-time pharmacist Sat 9am-3pm, with an option to increase. Patient-oriented pharmacy, no methadone. WinRx experience is a great plus. Please send resume to Moe, Owner at moe_rx@hotmail.com or call 604.468.4711.

Pharmacist - relief

Looking for a relief pharmacist well capable in WinRx. NO METHADONE. Weekdays Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, 2 assistants, compensation based on experience. The dates we are looking for is either: July 6-21 and August 3-18. Feel free to email me your resume and which dates you are able to fill. Please send resume to Moe, Pharmacist at moe_rx@hotmail.com, fax 604.468.4707 or call 604.468.4711.

CRANBROOK

Pharmacist - full-time

Full-time pharmacist position available at Safeway Cranbrook. Please apply online at www.sobeyscareers.com.

Pharmacist - full-time, part-time

Cranbrook IDA Pharmacy, is the outpatient pharmacy for the East Kootenay Regional Hospital in Cranbrook BC. We are currently seeking to fill a part-time/full-time staff pharmacist position. Our pharmacy specializes in long-term care, BC Renal program, mental health, addiction services, immunization, sterile compounding, pain and wound care and hormone consulting. Please send us your resume if you are interested in joining a professional pharmacy that provides exceptional patient care. Please send resume to cranbrookida@gmail.com, fax 250.420.4135 or call 250.420.4133.

CRESTON

Pharmacist - full-time

Overwaita Food Group, one of Western Canada's leading food and consumer-goods retailer, operates more than 120 pharmacies in BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan under the following banners: Save on Foods, PriceSmart Foods, Urban Fare and Overwaita Pharmacy. We provide a professional pharmacy practice environment and committed to: challenging & growing our staff, caring for people, healthy living for our shoppers and patients, innovation and investing in our future. Join the Overwaita Food Group, make your career complete! We have a maternity leave position available for 40 hrs/wk. Previous experience would be an asset. Salary starting rate negotiable. We provide signing bonus, competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package, subject to eligibility requirements. Please send resume to livia_chan@owfg.com.

DELTA

Pharmacist - full-time

We are looking for full-time pharmacists for our Lower Mainland pharmacies. Experience with WinRx/Kroll and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc.) are necessary. The successful applicant is required to have at least one year of experience working in a community pharmacy and to be injection certified. Pharmacists must also have a good working knowledge of Pharmacare and third party billing policies, medication reviews, and experience with blister packing. Pharmacists must be strong communicators, clinically oriented, and willing to further their pharmacy practice and patient-centered care. Wages start at \$37/hour. Full medical and dental benefits are provided after a trial period of three months. Please send resume to careers@wescanapharmacy.com.

Pharmacist - part-time

A growing independent new pharmacy specializing in patient-centered care. We do dispense methadone but are not your typical methadone pharmacy. Known for our outstandingly efficient operations and loyal patient population, we have created a great environment to work and thrive. Seeking a pharmacist who is highly motivated, with a strong work ethic, strong customer service skills, good communication & leadership skills, ability to work as a member of a dynamic & energetic team, and most importantly willingness to actively participate in patients' health-care outcomes. Position is a permanent part-time leading to full-time. We offer stability, competitive pay structure and a great benefits package. We pride ourselves on our dedication to our employees and interest in long-

term relationships. Please send resume to careers@wescanapharmacy.com.

FORT ST. JOHN

Pharmacist - full-time

Shoppers Drug Mart #274 in Fort St. John, B.C. is looking for a new full-time pharmacist to join our growing team. We specialize in adaptations, medication reviews, vaccinations and travel consults, strep testing and work closely with local physicians. Candidate must be able to work well in a busy environment and be a team player. Prior work experience with Shoppers is preferred and individual must be up to date with injection certification and methadone dispensing certification. Competitive wage and benefits package will be offered. If interested or have any questions please contact me at 250.793.8413. Please send resumes to Irvin, Associate/Owner at asdm274@shoppersdrugmart.ca, fax 250.787.0862 or call 250.785.6155.

Pharmacist - full-time

Full-time pharmacist position available at Safeway located in Fort St. John. Please apply online at www.sobeyscareers.com.

HOPE

Pharmacist - full-time

Pharmasave in Hope is looking for a full-time staff pharmacist to join our pharmacy team. This position will be a challenging and rewarding position for a pharmacist or a new graduate to enter practice. We are always looking for innovative ways to embrace

new practice models, and are actively participating in pharmacy genomics, medication review services, injection services, and an ideal protein weight loss clinic. Our pharmacy team includes pharmacy assistants as well as regulated technicians, and pharmacists with a wide variety of knowledge and experiences that you will be able to draw upon to enhance your pharmacy practice. Please send resume to lgutenberg@forewest.ca.

KAMLOOPS

Pharmacist - full-time, part-time

Manshadi Pharmacy is looking to hire a full-time and part-time motivated pharmacist to work in a well-established independent retail pharmacy. Experience working in a busy pharmacy is a requirement. We specialize in diabetic care, compounding and home health care products. Great team that supports our pharmacist. We prefer a long-term commitment. Kamloops is a great place to be. We are close to two ski hills, Sun Peaks and Harper Mountain, and dozens of nearby lakes. Good community to raise a family with all needed amenities. Thank-you for your interest but only qualified applicants will be contacted. New grads are welcome to apply. Please send resume to Missagh Manshadi, Pharmacist/owner at missagh@manshadipharmacy.com, online at www.manshadipharmacy.com, fax 1.250.434.2527 or call 1.250.574.0111.

Pharmacist - part-time

Looking for part-time pharmacist in Kamloops (6-month contract). Job Requirements: Insured and

currently licensed with the College of Pharmacists of BC (Part A), in good standing; Proven relationship management and interpersonal skills to allow to develop strong partnerships with clients; A history of being a continuous learner where the skills and knowledge have been developed to be a respected pharmacy professional; Excellent presentation and communication skills, both verbal and written; Effective organization, planning, and time management skills. Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

KASLO

Pharmacist - full-time

We are a small owner operated company with 2 pharmacies located in 2 neighbouring villages in the Kootenays of B.C. We have an opportunity available for a pharmacy professional who would welcome a hands-on practice serving a close community of clients in a stunningly beautiful location. Our ideal candidate is a personable, team player who enjoys connecting with clients, members of the community and working with other staff personnel while bringing the highest of standards to his or her pharmacy practice. We offer competitive wages and benefits, plus we will assist in arranging for local accommodation. Healthy lifestyle options abound in our villages offering an array of year round mountain and water sport activities. Please send resume to wardctaylor@gmail.com.

A PROGRESSIVE PARTNERSHIP

Insurance that stands with you.

Wynward's Pharmacists Malpractice policy is the result of working side-by-side with The British Columbia Pharmacy Association and Adams Cambie Insurance Services Ltd. to provide the comprehensive and responsive coverage pharmacists expect from their insurance.

wynward.com


Wynward Insurance Group
Est. 1920

KELOWNA

Pharmacist - full-time

Qualifications: Must be licensed and in good standing with the College of Pharmacists of BC, expected to adhere to the Standards of Practice with the College of Pharmacists of BC; Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy or equivalent degree; Successful completion of Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada examinations; Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP) preferred; Minimum 1-year Pharmacist experience; Experience in a Long Term Care pharmacy environment is an asset; Highly proficient with Windows XP applications: Word and PowerPoint; and proficient with Excel; Required to travel provincially. Please cite Job Posting #991823 and submit your resume and cover letter in confidence. Please send resume to recruitment@medicalpharmacies.com.

KEREMEOS

Pharmacist - full-time

Forewest Holdings is currently looking for an experienced pharmacist to work in Keremeos, B.C. to join our rapidly expanding company starting as soon as possible. Forewest Holdings has 37 Pharmasave locations in B.C. and Alberta. We are interested in hiring a pharmacist who is committed to clinical pharmacy practice in the community setting and possesses an entrepreneurial spirit. Pharmacists interested in developing their skills to grow a pharmacy business in an independent environment with a great work life balance are encouraged to apply. Please send resume to Todd Gehring, Pharmacy Operations Coordinator at tgehring@forewest.ca.

KIMBERLEY

Pharmacist - full-time

Position starts July 31st. Please send resume to Michelle Gray, Owner/Operator at accounting@grayspharmacy.ca, online at www.remedys.ca, fax 250.427.0039 or call 250.427.0038.

KITIMAT

Pharmacist - part-time

Advance your pharmacy career with Overwaita Food Group. With over 120 pharmacies in BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, under the following banners: Save On Foods, PriceSmart Foods, Urban Fare and Overwaita Pharmacy. Our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality patient-centered care. We provide a very professional pharmacy practice environment and are committed to: challenging & growing our staff, caring for people, healthy living for our shoppers and patients, innovation and investing in our future. Join the Overwaita Food Group and make your career prescription complete! Please send resume to Raymond Jay, B.Sc. (Pharm), Regional Manager at raymond_jay@owfg.com.

LANGLEY

Pharmacist - part-time

Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, Langley is looking for part-time pharmacist 19-28 hours per week. Willing to work 3-4 days per week, which includes Saturday and Sunday. Please send resume to ms0361@store.medicineshoppe.ca, fax 604.510.3141 or call 604.510.3140.

Pharmacist - part-time

Busy independent community pharmacy looking for part-time pharmacist. The position is 2-4 days per week including Saturdays. Shifts range from 6 - 9 hours with no evening, Sunday or holiday shifts. We offer competitive wages and benefits. New grads

welcome. Forward resume by email. Please send resume to valleyevergreenpharmacy@outlook.com.

Pharmacist - full-time

We are looking for a full-time pharmacist (30-36 hours per week) in Langley. Pharmacist must know how to use Kroll system and be able to do injections and clinical services. Please send resume to pharmacycareltd@gmail.com.

MERRITT

Pharmacist - full-time

Looking for full-time pharmacist (1-year contract). Job Requirements: Insured and currently licensed with the College of Pharmacists of BC (Part A), in good standing; Proven relationship management and interpersonal skills to allow to develop strong partnerships with clients; A history of being a continuous learner where the skills and knowledge have been developed to be a respected pharmacy professional; Excellent presentation and communication skills, both verbal and written; Effective organization, planning, and time management skills. Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

NANAIMO

Pharmacist - part-time

CareRx is looking for a part-time pharmacist to help us in our busy LTC pharmacy in Nanaimo on a regular basis. Required qualifications: Licensed to practice as a pharmacist in BC, superior interpersonal skills, strong verbal and written English communication skills, commitment to providing exceptional customer service and computer proficiency. Desired qualifications: Exposure to Kroll computer software, efficient time management abilities, effective organization and planning skills and experience with clinical services to long-term care facilities. Please send resume to kevin.liew@carerx.ca or online at www.carerx.ca.

Pharmacist - full-time, part-time

Pharmacist required, full or part time. Excellent wage, benefits, and bonuses. Great work environment. Please send resumes to phr01525@loblaw.ca or call 250.390.5730.

Pharmacist - full-time, relief

Demonstrate strong sales ability, leadership, energy, passion and communication skills as we strive to be recognized as the Canadian leader in pharmacy health care. Consult with patients to maximize Rx and OTC sales. Provide professional advice and applicable dialogue with patients on prescription and OTC products. Must provide excellent customer service. Be aware of any in-store events and support these events within the store. Supervise pharmacy technicians. Ensure company standard operating procedures, policies, professional standards and applicable laws and regulations are followed. Implement proper pricing and receiving procedures to minimize shrinkage. Maintain the dispensary inventory level within the prescribed guidelines through accurate perpetual inventory records. Please send resume to DBilson@rexall.ca.

NEW WESTMINSTER

Pharmacist - full-time

Are you looking for a long-term, rewarding career as a pharmacist? We are a fast growing community pharmacy group that has owned and operated independent pharmacies for nearly 20 years in the Lower Mainland. We offer a rewarding work environment and we are looking for a full-time pharmacist to join our New Westminister location who will deliver outstanding customer service

to our patients. Please apply online at hr@globalhealthmanagement.ca or fax 604.777.9132.

NORTH VANCOUVER

Pharmacist - full-time, part-time

Pharmacist wanted for independent full-service community pharmacy in North Vancouver. Prerequisites: registered full pharmacist in 'good-standing' in BC-trained in PPP-66-authorized to administer injections; fluent english language skills [farsi language skills preferred]. Details: weekdays: 09:00 - 18:00 & weekends: 09:00 - 15:00 part & full-time schedules available; experienced support staff & management. Benefits: paid annual vacations; employment contract guaranteed; compensation between \$40-45 per/hr. Please send resume to wlmcparmacy@gmail.com.

PARKSVILLE

Pharmacist - full-time

Overwaita Food Group, one of Western Canada's leading food and consumer-goods retailer, operates more than 120 pharmacies across BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, under the following banners: Save On Foods, PriceSmart Foods, Urban Fare and Overwaita Pharmacy. We provide a very professional pharmacy practice environment and are committed to: challenging & growing our staff, caring for people, healthy living for our shoppers and patients, innovation and investing in our future. Join the Overwaita Food Group and make your career prescription complete! Please send resume to Sammy Lee, B.Sc. (Pharm), R.Ph., Regional Manager, Pharmacy Operations at sammy_lee@owfg.com.

PORT COQUITLAM

Pharmacist - part-time

As a long-standing member of the Port Coquitlam community, Wilson Pharmacy is dedicated to building strong relationships and improving livelihoods within and beyond the Tri-Cities region. We offer a rewarding professional work environment dedicated to providing patient-centered care and impactful community services, and we are looking for a pharmacist to join our team. The position will be part-time to start, with eventual transition to full-time based on business needs. Please send resume to rick.jc.wu@gmail.com.

PRINCE GEORGE

Pharmacist - full-time

Looking for full-time pharmacist. Job Requirements: Insured and currently licensed with the College of Pharmacists of BC (Part A), in good standing; Proven relationship management and interpersonal skills to allow to develop strong partnerships with clients; A history of being a continuous learner where the skills and knowledge have been developed to be a respected pharmacy professional; Excellent presentation and communication skills, both verbal and written; Effective organization, planning, and time management skills. Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

PRINCE RUPERT

Pharmacist - full-time

Full-time pharmacist position available at our Safeway located in Prince Rupert, B.C. Please go to www.sobeyscareers.com to submit your resume.

QUESNEL

Pharmacist - full-time

Looking for full-time pharmacist. Job Requirements: Insured and currently licensed with the College of

Pharmacists of BC (Part A), in good standing; Proven relationship management and interpersonal skills to allow to develop strong partnerships with clients; A history of being a continuous learner where the skills and knowledge have been developed to be a respected pharmacy professional; Excellent presentation and communication skills, both verbal and written; Effective organization, planning, and time management skills. Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

SALT SPRING ISLAND

Pharmacist - full-time

If you dream about living in one of the most vibrant and beautiful Gulf Island communities in British Columbia while still maintaining an interesting and rewarding career, then you should consider joining our team of experienced and dedicated professionals. We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package and the opportunity for a truly great lifestyle. Our standards are high and we aim to offer our customers the best service and pharmacy counseling available. Come and find out why The New York Times calls Salt Spring Island one of the "gems" of the Pacific Northwest. Please send resume to gary@saltspringpharmasave.com, fax 250.537.2802 or call 250.537.5534.

SURREY

Pharmacy manager - full-time

We are looking to hire a full time pharmacy manager for our Panorama location. Wage will be competitive based on the individual. Operating hours are Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, and Sat 10-2pm. Closed Sundays and holidays. Software knowledge of WinRX is an added bonus, but not a must. Please send resume to ajbassi@pharmacy.ca, fax 604.855.8836 or call 604.765.4951.

Pharmacist - full-time

We are looking to hire a full time pharmacy manager for our Panorama location. Wage will be competitive based on the individual. Operating hours are Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, and Sat 10-2pm. Closed Sundays and holidays. Software knowledge of WinRX is an added bonus, but not a must. Please send resume to ajbassi@pharmacy.ca, fax 604.855.8836 or call 604.765.4951.

Pharmacist - full-time

As a growing company, we are seeking pharmacists to join our pharmacy team. Wellness Pharmacy is an independently-owned, community-based pharmacy that provide patient-centered practices. We enjoy excellent relations with area physicians and other health-care providers to ensure the best possible care for our patients. We take personal pride in counseling our patients and empowering them with tools they need to manage their own health. We offer the autonomy of an independent pharmacy with the stability, competitive wage, and benefits package of the large chain stores, without the micromanaging and corporate layers. We pride ourselves on our dedication to our employees and interest in long-term relationships. Contact us to learn more about our opportunities and what we can offer you. Please send resume to hr@nazwellness.com or fax 604.608.3230.

Pharmacist - part-time

We are hiring a part-time pharmacist to work 15-20 hours per week. Hourly wage would be \$38-40 depending on skills and experience. Ideal candidate should have: experience with kroll; ability to work in a fast-paced environment; knowledge of PharmaCare and third party billing; must be in a good standing with College of Pharmacists

of B.C. Interested candidates please apply with resume and/or cover letter. Please send resume to info@coastalcarepharmacy.ca, online at www.coastalcarepharmacy.ca or call 604.588.0484.

Pharmacist - part-time

Part-time pharmacist position with new independent Pharmacy in Surrey - 2 to 3 shifts a week. Need to be able to work independently. Must be proficient in both Kroll as well as Pharmaclik. Preference given to pharmacists that are injection certified, have completed the methadone training, and are able to conduct professional services such as medication reviews, adaptations and refusal to fills. New grads are welcome - great learning opportunity! Position to start immediately. Please send resume to vivacarerx@gmail.com or fax 778.293.2274.

TOFINO

Pharmacist - full-time

Please email resume or contact George directly for more information on job description. Please send resume to pdmi134@gmail.com or call 250.725.8605.

VANCOUVER

Pharmacist - full-time

Save-On-Foods is in search of a motivated and enthusiastic pharmacy intern to join our team. If you are a pharmacy student seeking to obtain essential experience in retail pharmacy, come join us, advance your knowledge and gain leverage that you can use in your future career. We have a position available for you in our Vancouver location. With over 120 pharmacies across BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality, patient-centered care. We offer an attractive compensation package and our extensive benefits package is one of the industry's finest. Please send resume to pharmacyemployment@owfg.com.

Pharmacist - full-time

We are looking for an enthusiastic and friendly pharmacist who enjoys working with people to join our team. The right candidate must have excellent communication skills and must be in good standing with the College of Pharmacists of BC. New graduates are encouraged to apply! We will train the right candidate. We offer a very competitive compensation package, bonus structure, and many opportunities to grow with the company. Please send resume to kal.rahimi@purepharmacy.com or online at www.purepharmacy.com.

Pharmacist - full-time

As a growing company, we are seeking pharmacists to join our pharmacy team. Wellness Pharmacy is an independently-owned, community-based pharmacy that provides patient-centered practices. We enjoy excellent relations with area physicians and other health-care providers to ensure the best possible care for our patients. We take personal pride in counseling our patients and empowering them with tools they need to manage their own health. We offer the autonomy of an independent pharmacy with the stability, competitive wage, and benefits package of the large chain stores, without the micromanaging and corporate layers. We pride ourselves on our dedication to our employees and interest in long-term relationships. Contact us to learn more about our opportunities and what we can offer you. Please send resume to hr@nazwellness.com or fax 604.608.3230.

Pharmacist - full-time

Shoppers Drug Mart at Wesbrook Village at UBC will be opening and needing a full-time pharmacist. Mandarin-speaking applicants are preferred, but this is not a requirement. We are seeking driven,

customer-oriented personalities. Please send resume to Jennifer Mai, Pharmacy Manager, at jennifermmai@live.ca or call 604.738.3107.

Pharmacist - part-time

We are a growing, independent new pharmacy specializing in patient-centered care. Known for outstanding efficient operations and our loyal patients. We have created a great environment to work and thrive. Looking for a highly motivated pharmacist with a strong work ethic, great customer service skills, good communication and leadership skills. Ability to work as a member of a dynamic team and most importantly willingness to actively participate in patients' health-care outcomes. Position is permanent full-time with flexibility between two pharmacies located in downtown Vancouver. We offer stability, a very competitive pay structure and a great benefits package. We pride ourselves on our dedication to our employees and interest in long-term relationships. Please send resume to drimrantejani@gmail.com.

VANDERHOOF

Pharmacy manager - full-time

Pharmacist qualifications and skills: Bachelor's Degree in pharmacy and current registration as a licensed pharmacist with the College of Pharmacists of BC; Previous experience in a community pharmacy is an asset; Have the confidence to assist our type 2 diabetic and cardiovascular challenged patients, which is the focus of my pharmacy practice, including medication reviews and follow-ups for these patients; Empathy for our patients, confidence in drug therapy decisions and communication with our physicians is essential; Strong social skills and the capability to be a decision-maker; Ability to practice within the patient-focused pharmaceutical care model taught at UBC; Experience with Kroll software is an asset. Please send resume to vanderhoof@medicencentre.com.

VICTORIA

Pharmacist - full-time

Are you looking for an opportunity with an established independent pharmacy chain that is looking to grow and expand its focus on patient care, and clinical specialization. We take patient follow up to a whole new level. We are looking for energetic pharmacists who want to practice their full scope of clinical skills and help us bring top-notch health care to our customers. Heart Pharmacy IDA owned by Naz Rayani are looking for an engaged, clinically oriented and outgoing full-time pharmacist to work at our unique community pharmacies. Please send resume to jobs@victoriapharmacy.com.

Pharmacist - part-time

Save-On-Foods Pharmacy is part of the Overwaitea Food Group family, a Canadian-owned company, which operates more than 120 pharmacies in the four western provinces. We provide a very professional pharmacy practice environment and are committed to: challenging & growing our staff, caring for people, healthy living for our shoppers and patients, innovation and investing in our future. We are looking for a part-time pharmacist (16-24 hrs) in good standing with the College of Pharmacists of BC to work at our Saanich location. Please send resume to Gary Go, Regional Manager, Pharmacy Operations at gary_go@saveonfoods.com or fax 604.882.7896.

Pharmacist - part-time, relief

London Drugs has a part-time opportunity in Victoria. Join a clinical and patient-focused team using the latest robotic dispensing machines plus counseling booths and counseling rooms.

Competitive salary and compensation packages, scheduled meal breaks and opportunities to advance to roles such as travel medicine, long-term care, pharmacy management, CDE, injection pharmacist and patient care pharmacists. Please send resume to Nelson Costa, Pharmacy Operations Manager at ncosta@londondrugs.com, fax 604.448.1075 or call 604.272.7113.

OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS BC

Pharmacist - part-time

Advance your pharmacy career with the Overwaitea Food Group, a Canadian-owned company that operates under multiple banners: Save-On-Foods, Coopers Foods, Overwaitea Foods, PriceSmart Foods, and Urban Fare. With over 120 pharmacies across BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality patient-centered care. We offer an attractive compensation package and our extensive benefits package is one of the industries finest. We have positions available in Kitimat & Creston, Parksville, Prince George, Quesnel, Grand Forks, Fernie, Fort Nelson, Prince Rupert & Campbell River. (**Floater pharmacist positions are also available) New grads are welcome to apply. Please send resumes to pharmacyemployment@owfg.com.

LOWER MAINLAND

Pharmacist - full-time

The clinical pharmacist will provide patient care that optimizes medication therapy, promotes health, wellness, and disease prevention. Collaborates directly with a multi-disciplinary team and patients to ensure the medications prescribed contribute to best possible health outcomes. The clinical pharmacist will participate in a wide range of services including, but not limited to, comprehensive medication reviews, medication reconciliation during transition of care, targeted and adherence monitoring interventions, education initiatives, establishing innovative clinical projects. Conducting clinical studies on various NAZ Wellness initiatives. This is a purely a clinical position within a community pharmacy setting. We offer competitive wages, flexible hours, and comprehensive benefits. Please send resume to hr@nazwellness.com or fax 604.608.3230.

Pharmacist - part-time, relief

London Drugs has a part-time opportunity in the Lower Mainland. Join a clinical and patient-focused team using the latest robotic dispensing machines plus counseling booths and counseling rooms. Competitive salary and compensation packages, scheduled meal breaks and opportunities to advance to roles such as travel medicine, long-term care, pharmacy management, CDE, injection pharmacist and patient care pharmacists. Please send resume to Nelson Costa, Pharmacy Operations Manager, BC at ncosta@londondrugs.com.

OKANAGAN

Pharmacist - relief

Advance your pharmacy career with the Overwaitea Food Group, a Canadian-owned company that operates under multiple banners: Save-On-Foods, Overwaitea Foods, PriceSmart Foods, and Urban Fare. With over 118 pharmacies in over 50 communities across BC and Alberta, and growing into Saskatchewan and Manitoba, our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality, patient-centered care. We offer an attractive compensation package and our extensive benefits

package is one of the industry's finest. We have a relief pharmacist position available for the Okanagan region. New graduates are welcome to apply. Please send resume to sammy_lee@owfg.com.

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Pharmacy manager - full-time

Demonstrate strong sales ability, leadership, energy, passion and communication skills as we strive to be recognized as the Canadian leader in pharmacy health care. Consult with patients to maximize Rx and OTC sales. Provide professional advice and applicable dialogue with patients on prescription and OTC products to provide excellent customer service. Be aware of any in-store events and support these events within the store. Supervise pharmacy technicians. Ensure company standard operating procedures, policies, professional standards and applicable laws and regulations are followed. Implement proper pricing and receiving procedures to minimize shrinkage. Maintain the dispensary inventory level within the prescribed guidelines through accurate perpetual inventory records. Please send resume to dbilson@rexall.ca.

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE BC

ALBERTA (FLOATER)

Pharmacist - full-time

The Overwaitea Food Group (OFG) proudly provides professional, patient-centered care through more than 80 pharmacies across BC and Alberta. We are a leading-edge food and consumer goods retailer known for our belief that well-being is about prevention, not just intervention. And thanks to the breadth and depth of our well-established health related offerings, our pharmacists are in a unique position to counsel clients about nutrition and wellness. At OFG, we're committed to fostering a work environment that encourages personal growth, training and career opportunities and provides continuous learning. We offer an attractive compensation package and our extensive benefits package for full-time pharmacists is one of the industries finest. Learn more about what we have to offer. Please send resume to Denise Nilsen, Regional Manager, Pharmacy Operations at pharmacyemployment@owfg.com.

SASKATCHEWAN

Pharmacist - full-time

Advance your pharmacy career with Save-On-Foods. With over 120 pharmacies across BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality patient-centered care. Our pharmacy team members are made up of hardworking people who thrive in a demanding and changing environment and are deeply committed to their patients. We offer: Friendly, professional and supportive work environments; Flexibility, stability and great compensation packages; Opportunities to develop your leadership skills, expand your scope of practice and advance your career. Pharmacist positions available in: Saskatoon & Yorkton. Please send resume to Denise Nilsen, Regional Manager, Pharmacy Operations at denise_nilsen@owfg.com.

WHITEHORSE, YUKON

Pharmacy manager - full-time

Advance your pharmacy career with the Overwaitea Food Group, a Canadian-owned company that operates under multiple banners: Save-On-Foods, Overwaitea Foods, PriceSmart Foods, and Urban

Fare. With over 120 pharmacies across BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and growing in Yukon, our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality patient-centered care. Our pharmacy team members are made up of hardworking people who thrive in a demanding and changing environment and are deeply committed to their patients. We offer: Friendly, professional and supportive work environments; Flexibility, stability and great compensation packages; Opportunities to develop your leadership skills, expand your scope of practice and advance your career. Please send resume to anna_wong@owfg.com.

Pharmacist - full-time

Advance your pharmacy career with the Overwaitea Food Group, a Canadian-owned company that operates under multiple banners: Save-On-Foods, Overwaitea Foods, PriceSmart Foods, and Urban Fare. With over 120 pharmacies across BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and growing in Yukon, our pharmacy team members share a passion for healthy living and quality patient-centered care. Our pharmacy team members are made up of hardworking people who thrive in a demanding and changing environment and are deeply committed to their patients. We offer: Friendly, professional and supportive work environments; Flexibility, stability and great compensation packages; Opportunities to develop your leadership skills, expand your scope of practice and advance your career. Please send resume to anna_wong@owfg.com.

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS AND ASSISTANTS

For the full listings of pharmacy technician and assistant positions visit the Pharmacy Technician Society of BC website at ptsbc.ca

ALBERTA - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume to Denise Nilsen, Regional Manager, Pharmacy Operations at pharmacyemployment@owfg.com.

BARRIERE - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Regan Ready, Pharmacist/Pharmacy Operations Manager at regan@teamrx.net.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume to gwong2108@yahoo.ca.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant (sterile compounding technician) - full-time - Please send resume to Viv Smy, Pharmacy Manager at vsmy@advancedcare.ca, fax 866.496.8630 or call 604.368.7577.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant (pharmacy caseworker) - full-time - Please send resume to Viv Smy, Pharmacy Manager at vsmy@advancedcare.ca, fax 844.901.2254 or call 604.368.7577.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to pharmburnaby@gmail.com or fax 604.453.0137.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to Paul Cheng, Manager at pcheng@rexall.ca, fax 604.215.2725 or call 604.215.2727.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to pharmacyemployment@owfg.com.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume to steve_lee@owfg.com.

BURNABY - Pharmacy assistant - relief - Please send resume to mccuedrugs@gmail.com.

CLEARWATER - Pharmacy technician - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to ps231@telus.net, fax 250.674.0056 or call 250.674.0059.

COURTENAY - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

DAWSON CREEK - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to clinicph@telus.net.

DEASE LAKE - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Alan Williamson, Owner at ps214@shaw.ca.

DELTA - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to careers@wescanapharmacy.com.

DELTA - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

DELTA - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to ps246rx@dccnet.com.

GOLD RIVER - Pharmacy technician - part-time - Please send resume to Colleen, Owner at collhogg@hotmail.com, fax 250.285.3375 or call 250.285.2275.

HUDSON HOPE - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Alan Williamson, Owner at ps214@shaw.ca.

KAMLOOPS - Pharmacy technician - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to gloves@medicinescentre.com.

KAMLOOPS - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to missagh@manshadipharmacy.com, fax 250.434.2527 or call 250.574.0111.

KELOWNA - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Karl Pister, Pharmacy Manager at Karl.Pister@medicalpharmacies.com.

KIMBERLEY - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to Michelle Gray, Owner/Operator at accounting@grayspharmacy.ca, online at www.remedys.ca, fax 250.427.0039 or call 250.427.0038.

KIMBERLEY - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to Michelle Gray, Owner/Operator at accounting@grayspharmacy.ca, online at www.remedys.ca, fax 250.427.0039 or call 250.427.0038.

LANGLEY - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to Pharmacy Manager at hr.pharmasave007@gmail.com, fax 604.882.0610 or call 604.882.0611.

LOGAN LAKE - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Regan Ready, Pharmacy Operations Manager at regan@teamrx.net.

LOWER MAINLAND - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Nelson Costa, Pharmacy Operations Manager at ncosta@londondrugs.com, fax 604.448.1075 or call 604.272.7113.

MAPLE RIDGE - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to satthari@gmail.com.

MAPLE RIDGE - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume to gwong2108@yahoo.ca.

MAPLE RIDGE - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume online at www.safewaypharmacy.jobs.

MASSET - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Alan Williamson, Owner at ps214@shaw.ca.

MCBRIDE - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Regan Ready, Pharmacist/Pharmacy Operations Manager at regan@teamrx.net.

MIDWAY - Pharmacy technician - part-time - Please send resume to Cris Bennett, Pharmacy manager/owner at boundarypharmacy@gmail.com, fax 250.449.2867 or call 250.449.2866.

NANAIMO - Pharmacy technician - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to Kevin Cox, Pharmacist/manager at phr01525@loblaw.ca, fax 250.390.5732 or call 250.390.5730.

NEW AIYANSH - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Alan Williamson, Owner at ps214@shaw.ca or call 604.926.5331.

NEW WESTMINSTER - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to atang@londondrugs.com or call 604.524.1121.

NORTH VANCOUVER - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to info@northmountpharmacy.ca or call 604.985.8241.

NORTH VANCOUVER - Pharmacy technician - part-time - Please send resume to Pharmacy-rx@hotmail.com.

NORTH VANCOUVER - Pharmacy assistant - part-time, relief - Please send resume to Helen Forsyth, Pharmacy Manager at Helen.forsyth@outlook.com or call 604.904.5535.

PITT MEADOWS/SURREY - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

PORT COQUITLAM - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume to jobrx@pharmasavepoco.com.

PORT COQUITLAM - Pharmacy assistant - full-time, part-time - Please apply online at jobs.shoppersdrugmart.ca.

PORT COQUITLAM - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume to rick.jc.wu@alumni.ubc.ca.

RICHMOND - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to hrmedicarepharmacy@gmail.com.

RICHMOND - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to pharmacyemployment@owfg.com.

SAANICH - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please apply online at www.sobeyscareers.ca.

SALT SPRING ISLAND - Pharmacy technician - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to Jane, Pharmacist/Owner at ssirx@live.com, fax 250.931.8874 or call 250.931.7774.

SICAMOUS - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Regan Ready, Pharmacist/Pharmacy Operations Manager at regan@teamrx.net.

SIDNEY - Pharmacy technician - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to Bob Reddig, pharmacy manager at rx205@forewest.ca, fax 250.656.2235 or call 250.656.1148.

SURREY - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to ajbassi@pharmacy.ca, fax 604.855.8836 or call 604.765.4951.

SURREY - Pharmacy assistant - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to ajbassi@pharmacy.ca, fax 604.855.8836 or call 604.765.4951.

VALEMOUNT - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Regan Ready, Pharmacist/Pharmacy Operations Manager at regan@teamrx.net.

VANCOUVER - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to ms285@pharmacybc.com.

VANCOUVER - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Aashyita Nanda, Specialist, Talent Acquisition at Aashyita.nanda2@loblaw.ca.

VANCOUVER - Pharmacy assistant - full-time - Please send resume to Kal Rahimi, BSc., RPh., Pharmacy Operations Manager at kal.rahimi@outlook.com or online at www.purepharmacy.com.

VANCOUVER - Pharmacy assistant - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to pharmavancouver@outlook.com.

VANCOUVER - Pharmacy technician - part-time - Please send resume to brooke@bixa.ca.

VICTORIA - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to jobs@victoriapharmacy.com.

VICTORIA - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to Shelina Dawood, Pharmacy Manager at w256phm@costco.com or call 250.391.8986.

VICTORIA - Pharmacy assistant - part-time - Please send resume to Shelina Dawood, Pharmacy Manager at w256phm@costco.com or call 250.391.8986.

VICTORIA - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to msc11@shaw.ca or online at www.medicineshoppeonfort.com.

VICTORIA - Pharmacy technician - full-time - Please send resume to info@rxvictoria.com or fax 250.477.6121.

VICTORIA - Pharmacy assistant - full-time, part-time - Please send resume to info@rxvictoria.com or fax 250.477.6121.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Are you thinking of selling your pharmacy? Overwaitea Food Group may be interested. If you would like more information please contact pharmacybuyer1@gmail.com.

Forewest Holdings partners with local pharmacists and currently owns 34 Pharmasave locations. We have been partnering with local pharmacists for more than 30 years. We are currently looking for opportunities to acquire more community pharmacies in B.C. and Alberta. Please contact us if you are ready to sell all or part of your store. Forewest is also always looking for pharmacists who would like to become part owners of a pharmacy. Under the Forewest program you become a shareholder of your store and receive your full pro-rata share of its income in addition to your normal salary. We have several ownership opportunities available at this time. Please contact Don Fraser, CEO and President, at dfraser@forewest.ca or call 604.788.9315.

SURREY - business opportunity

A turn-key built space ideal for a full-service pharmacy and 4-5 physician medical practice. Both spaces are move in ready. As an added bonus, the pharmacy has an established and currently running medical clinic next door with two practicing physicians. Please call 604.726.6333 for more information.

TOFINO - partnership/sale

Tofino Pharmacy is seeking a partnership for gradual, or immediate outright purchase. Very busy 7000 sq. ft. store, with extremely profitable frontstore. Best location in Tofino, long renewable lease with reasonable rent. Call George at 250.725.8605 or email pdm134@gmail.com.

VANCOUVER - business opportunity

Established independent pharmacy in a great location in Vancouver. We are looking for a pharmacist to join our team as the pharmacy manager and become a business partner. For more information, email moe@haoma.ca.



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Unlimited text, picture and video messaging
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3GB for \$60/month
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HOW TO ACCESS THE DEALS

Log into www.bcpharmacy.ca and go to the **Member Benefits - Affinity Rx** section or email andy.shen@bcpharmacy.ca