

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

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Communications

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Save the date

On **Saturday, April 22, 2017** join us for CSHP NS-Branch's **Annual General Meeting**, **Education Day**, and **Awards Celebration**. The morning will begin with ED/AGM in the Weather Watch Room (Dickson Building, VG Hospital) then move to The Lower Deck that evening to celebrate the Awards Ceremony. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

PHARMACY AWARENESS MONTH

Every March we celebrate **Pharmacy Awareness Month (PAM)** to help inform Canadians about the ever-growing role of pharmacists in healthcare. During this exciting time for the profession, our goal is to boost the widely expanding scope of practice and new healthcare services that pharmacists can now provide -- particularly in hospital pharmacy! During PAM we take time to recognize the great strides the profession has made and help promote our role to other healthcare professionals and patients in hospital.

The theme of CSHP's PAM 2017 is "**Your Hospital Pharmacy Team: Your Trusted Medication Experts**". To help start the conversation about the integral role of hospital pharmacists, CSHP-NS Branch is hosting its second annual **social media contest!** What is your patient success story? How has practice changed since your career began? Do you have a mentor who you cannot thank enough? Tell us about them by tweeting **#PAM2017** to **@CSHPNS**. Compete for a chance to win our 1st and 2nd place prizes: the two users who tweet us most during PAM will receive a **\$75 or \$50 gift card!**

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

Every year the CSHP NS Branch provides support for one of its members to attend a [clinical practice experience program](#) with a mentor in a therapeutic, research, or administrative area of their choice. Successful applicants spend two weeks working under the supervision of or in collaboration with mentors, who are experts in their respective areas. A grant valued up to \$2,000 is available to help fund applicants in attending their mentor's host institution. Upon completion of the program, applicants are required to write a short final report and share their experience with other NS Branch members in a formal presentation.

[Jennifer Turple](#) from the IWK was the successful candidate for the 2016 clinical experience program. Applications for 2017 are due [April 28, 2017](#). To apply or if you have any questions please contact the co-chairs of the Membership Committee, [Andrea Meade](#) (andrea.meade@nshealth.ca) and [Michelle ten Brinke](#) (michelle.tenbrinke@nshealth.ca).



Dr. Melanie MacInnis
Photo courtesy of
www.nspharmacists.ca



HOSPITAL PHARMACIST PROFILE:

DR. MELANIE MACINNIS

Meet [Dr. Melanie MacInnis](#), a clinical pharmacist who joined the IWK team in September 2013 as a clinical coordinator and chief of pharmacy practice.

On January 23, 2017, NSCP approved the first practice setting application for a formal [Collaborative Practice Agreement \(CPA\)](#) between the IWK and three pharmacists: Dr. MacInnis, [Dr. Kathryn Slayter](#), and [Ms. Jennifer Turple](#). Under this newly approved practice setting these pharmacists can write for schedule I drugs and have the prescriptions be recognized and filled appropriately at community pharmacies.

A landmark CPA like this did not happen overnight. Dr. MacInnis began working in the IWK ED 2 years ago during a shortage of physicians. To ease part of physicians' workload she offered to manage follow-up antimicrobial lab tests, including prescribing. She continues this practice today in all patients except neonates or those requiring blood culture (septic) or synovial fluid and lumbar punctures.

Dr. MacInnis' role as a hospital pharmacist of course extends beyond writing prescriptions. She tells of a recent patient success story wherein she called the parents of a young boy whose laboratory results had come back positive for influenza A. She informed them that the whole family should receive the annual flu vaccine -- welcome advice that they had not previously received.

Dr. MacInnis is originally from Cape Breton. She holds a BSc (Pharm) from Dalhousie University and a PharmD from the University of Florida.