



Annual Report

2019–2020



Our Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

To be a distinguished leader in pharmacy education, practice, and research to improve people's health and well-being.

Mission

To foster excellence in pharmacy education, practice and research in partnership with the broader community, preparing graduates to be leaders, innovators and inter-professional collaborators.

Values



Excellence: We encourage and promote excellence through innovation and creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving.



Integrity: We are honest and ethical in all our interactions, maintaining the highest ethical/moral standards in teaching and learning, research, and public engagement.



Collaboration: We engage in respectful collaborations that promote success in education, research, practice, and public engagement.



Accountability: We accept responsibility for achieving common goals and objectives.



Leadership: We embrace and foster leadership in education, practice, and research, engaging with others to contribute to knowledge and skills that improve people's health and well-being.



Sustainability: We act in a manner that is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable in administration, academic, and research programs.

Strategic Directions

Teaching
and
Learning

Research

Public
Engagement

Enabling
Success

Message from the Dean

Dr. Shawn Bugden

I think we can all agree that Sept. 2019 started off with lots of potential. We welcomed new students, celebrated achievement at our annual Scholarships and Awards Ceremony, celebrated research at our Pharmacy Research Day, held our White Coat Ceremony, and then... then we were felled by that giant snow blizzard later dubbed "Snowmageddon."

It was a storm of such scale that it closed down the city and the university for a week.

At the time it seemed like that the biggest challenge we'd face in 2020. Until COVID-19, the first pandemic in 100 years, shut everything down. This time the closure was global in scale.

I am immensely proud of the efforts of the faculty, staff, and preceptors who transitioned to remote learning and ensured students were able to continue their courses and complete their programs. And I'm proud of how our students have persevered.



Of course I look forward to the development and roll out of vaccines so we can return to on-campus learning sometime in the near future. Nothing can take the place of face-to-face learning.

The silver lining in 2020 is the growing recognition among the general public that pharmacists have an essential role in keeping us safe and healthy. They were among the first to open in the wake of that massive snowfall. They kept doors pharmacy doors open when COVID-19 public health orders forced businesses and services to close. Many of these healthcare heroes are School of Pharmacy alumni who do us proud!

And despite a tumultuous year with plenty of challenges, perhaps because of them, we continued to make strides under our four strategic directions: **Teaching and Learning**, **Research**, **Public Engagement** and **Enabling Success**.

Our Working Professionals PharmD program is earning acclaim and awards for innovation and design. Our research program is thriving, with a 45 per cent grant success rate over the past five years. Sponsored research funding has continued to climb over the past decade.

We are also proud of our strong community presence, through our Medication Therapy Services (MTS) Clinic, the SaferMedsNL campaigns which is a partnership effort involving many health care organizations, and our students' public education efforts during Pharmacy Awareness Month (PAM). Our faculty members are sought out by local and national media for comment on a wide range health issues.

We continue to persevere, in spite of the challenges. Because what would life be without challenges?

Teaching and Learning

Scholarships & Awards

Our annual Scholarships and Awards Ceremony every fall highlights achievement, perseverance and generosity.

Have a look at highlights from our 2019 ceremony here.



The Class of 2024!



The 2019 Alumni Achievement Award, presented by Dr. Budgen, to Dr. Lisa Bishop, Class of 1995.



Our Preceptors of the Year award recipients were Janice Audeau (Community Pharmacy), and Jonathan Edwards (Hospital Pharmacy), pictured here with Wanda Spurrell, coordinator of our Practice Experience Program.

Teaching and Learning



Our annual White Coat Ceremony was nearly a white-out! We managed to welcome first-year pharmacy students to the profession, [present an honorary white coat to a celebrated former dean](#), and hand out several scholarships on the eve of what was to be called, Snowmageddon. It made the night all the more memorable. You can view some of the photos [here](#).



DECEMBER 2019

ISSUE 1

PHARM CIRCLE

Connecting stories from Memorial's PharmD for Working Professionals Program

In This Issue:

Welcome from the Dean

About the Program

Instructor Spotlight: Dr. Tiffany Lee

Student Spotlights: Kathleen King Jonathan Smith

Happy Happenings

Contact

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Welcome from the Dean

Dr. Shawn Bugden

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Pharm Circle: Connecting Stories from Memorial's PharmD for Working Professionals Program*. Coming from "the rock", Memorial University of Newfoundland's School of Pharmacy is proud to offer Atlantic Canada's first PharmD program for Working Professionals to pharmacists who are licensed to practice in Canada. The program is designed to build on the foundational pharmacy skills and take students to new places in their career.

Inside this issue, you will learn more about the program. You'll be introduced to our powerhouse, Dr. Lee, a key faculty member who has been instrumental in launching our PharmD program. In the Student Spotlight section, we are profiling two pharmacists, Kathleen King and Jonathan Smith, who have had unique and interesting career trajectories, leading them to Memorial. We are proud of our students and are eager to share some of their accomplishments both inside and outside the classroom.

Pharmacy may be a small world but more communication and connections are always better. This newsletter aims to connect our current students and showcase the program.

We hope you enjoy learning a little more about what we have to offer. We have so much to share, and so much to celebrate.



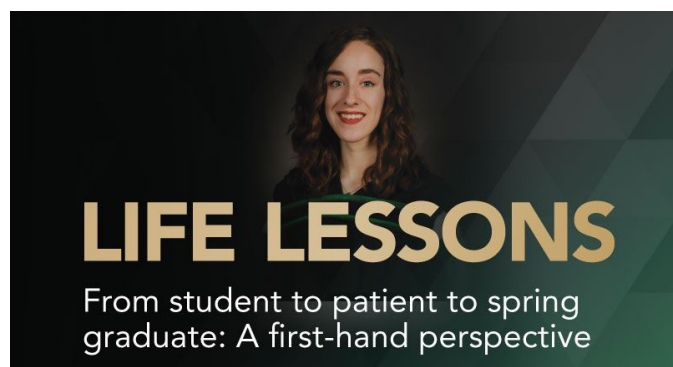
The folks in charge of our Working Professionals PharmD program created the [Pharm Circle newsletter](#) to promote the program and help to build a sense of community among students, helping them connect with each other and with their instructors.

Well done! MUN Pharmacy students always shine at Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) special events like Professional Development Week, the national conference for pharmacy students and interns. The PDW in Montreal in early 2020 was no exception, with MUN Pharmacy taking second place nationally in the Award of Professionalism for Pharmacy Awareness Month (PAM) 2019. The award is given to the top three most impactful PAM event portfolios across the country. And to everyone's delight, [MUN Pharmacy student Mahima Mishra was named Canada's Next Top Pharmacist](#).

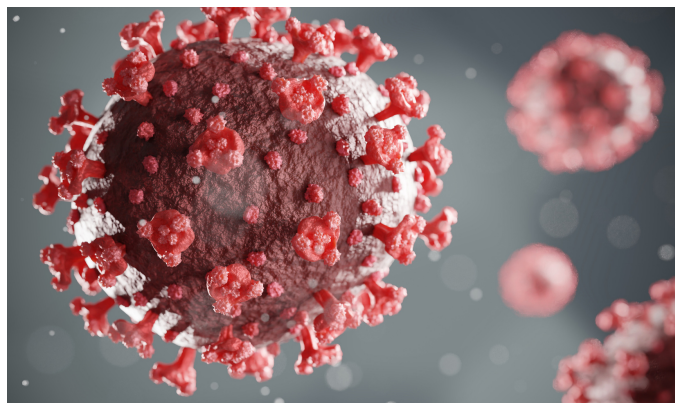
Teaching and Learning



Dr. Beverly Fitzpatrick [writes about](#) how showcasing the puzzling creations for two senior's home residents promotes collaboration and helps students learn about advocacy.



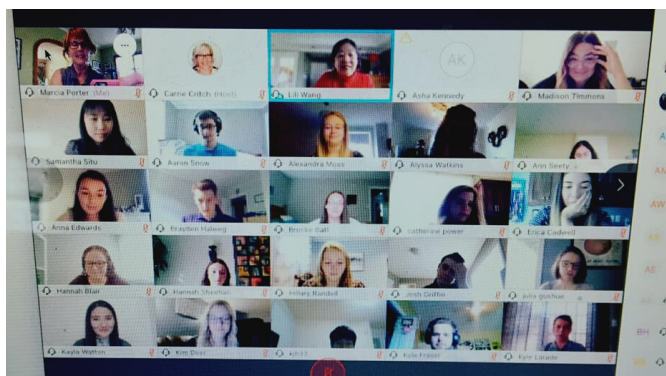
2020 BSc Pharmacy graduate Kristen Walsh defines the meaning of resilience and determination in the face of life challenges, [writing about](#) dealing with the diagnosis of a chronic health condition as a MUN Pharmacy student.



Reacting to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Memorial University [suspends classes, moves instruction online.](#)



Teamwork in our Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) for Working Professionals program has award-winning results, for the second consecutive year earning a 2020 Award of Merit from the Canadian Network for Innovation in Education! Eastern Health pharmacist and WPPD student Erin Beresford was surprised that her online course could be interactive, engaging and interesting! [Read more here.](#)

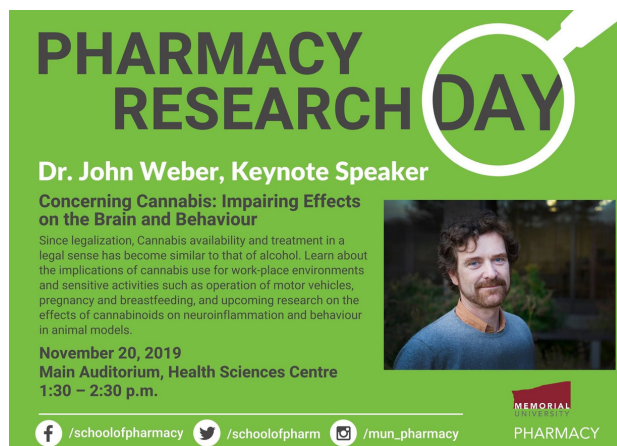


We welcomed the Class of 2025 in a virtual orientation for new MUN Pharmacy students. It was kind of like being on the Brady Bunch! Welcome Class of 2025! We wish you all the best as you begin this new journey. We're in your corner, rooting for your success! [See more photos.](#)

Research



Dr. Shawn Bugden and student Michael Coombs



Dr. John Weber, Keynote Speaker

Our annual Pharmacy Research Day in late Nov. 2019 featured undergraduate and graduate poster competitions and a keynote address from MUN Pharmacy Professor, Dr. John Weber.



Dr. Jennifer Donnan



Dr. Lisa Bishop

Drs. Jennifer Donnan and Lisa Bishop received funding from the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) for their project, [Partnerships for Cannabis Policy Evaluation](#). They began asking questions like, "what factors influence how you buy cannabis?", and not only received a lot of interest from the general public, they were approached by local and national media.

[Here is](#) an interview that Dr. Donnan did with Peter Jackson of The Telegram.

You can also hear them in conversation with Ramona Dearing on [CBC Radio's Crosstalk!](#)

HIV testing at your local pharmacy? A study of pharmacist-testing for HIV in Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta by Dr. Debbie Kelly and her research team, including MUN Pharmacy researchers Dr. Jason Kielly, and Dr. Hai Nguyen, found high levels of satisfaction and support for access to pharmacy-based HIV-testing among participants, from both pharmacists and clients.

Expanding access to HIV testing through Canadian community pharmacies: findings from the APPROACH study, [was published](#) this past spring in the UK-based open access journal BMC Public Health.

Study findings are the basis for a larger CIHR-funded study to expand the pharmacist-testing model to include HIV, hep C and syphilis in NL, NS and AB.



Dr. Debbie Kelly

Research



Dr. Hai Nguyen

Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Health Policy Evaluation and School of Pharmacy associate professor Dr. Hai Nguyen, along with co-authors, Associate Professor Lisa Bishop and PhD student Shweta Mital published a blog about choosing the right minimum age for cannabis use in the UK-based online BMC Public Health journal that has become the most-viewed blog of all time across all BMC sites.

Their piece has garnered attention from news organizations and publications world-wide, including from Healthline, an online US-based site for medical information and health advice.



Dr. Meshari Alwashmi

Dr. Meshari Alwashmi received his PhD in Pharmacy this past spring, 2020. He predicts bright future for digital health, and says. "I want to have an opportunity to do work that could impact people's lives on a global scale."

[Read more about Dr. Alwashmi here.](#)



Dr. Stephanie Young and grad student Jenna Hache

Back in April, the CSHP-NL Branch sent kudos out to graduate student Jenna Haché and MUN Pharmacy's Dr. Stephanie Young. Ms. Hache's residency research project entitled "Assessment of a Pharmacist-Led Direct Oral Anticoagulant Monitoring Clinic" was accepted for publication in the Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy!

This is a first for the residency program at Eastern Health!

MUN School of Pharmacy RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

2019-20

In spite of a rough year for everyone, we've been doing pretty well with research funding and opportunities in the School of Pharmacy. In fact, the majority of grants applied for during the past six months were successful.

Governments, federally and provincially, are showing commitment to research, and our researchers are working hard to finish up their publications!

Have a look at our 2019-2020 research snapshot on the next page. It was put together by Kristine Day, our grants facilitation officer. Thanks Kristine!

MUN School of Pharmacy RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

2019-20

Did you know?

The School of Pharmacy has **26** faculty, **23** staff, **16** graduate (MSc & PhD) students, and **161** undergraduate students (2 BSc & 159 PharmD).



There are also **89** students enrolled in the **Working Professional Program**.



Our 3 research focus areas are:
HEALTH OUTCOMES
DRUG DISCOVERY & DELIVERY
TEACHING & LEARNING

Our average grant success rate over the last 5 years is

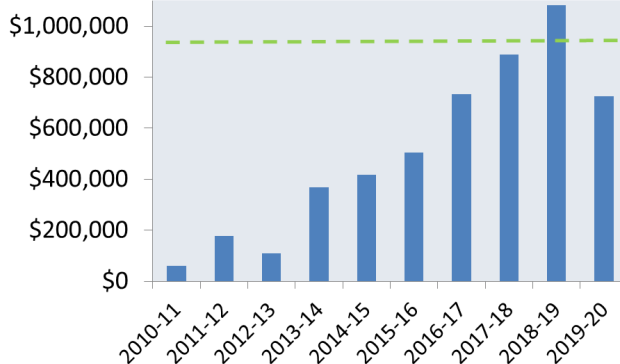
45%



Research Output



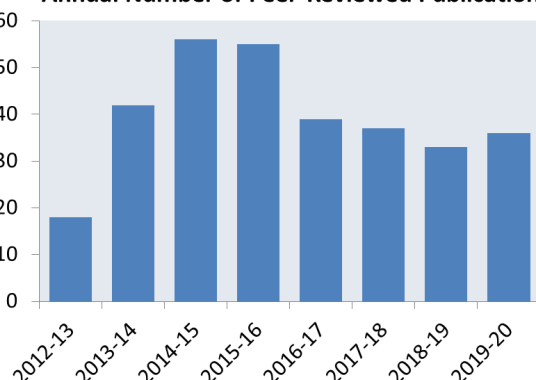
**Sponsored Research Projects
Annual Funding Disbursements
(cash & in kind)**



The School of Pharmacy saw a significant increase in sponsored research funding over the last decade, crossing the **\$1 Million** mark in 2018-19.



Annual Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications



Over the last 5 years, our researchers have published an average of **40** peer-reviewed papers annually.



To find out more info, visit <https://www.mun.ca/pharmacy/research/> or contact: Kristine Day, Grants Facilitation Officer



Public Engagement



Dr. Linda Hensman

Former School of Pharmacy dean, Dr. Linda Hensman, has been hailed as a trailblazer in redefining the scope of hospital pharmacy practice in Newfoundland and Labrador. She was named Honorary White Coat recipient [during our annual ceremony](#).

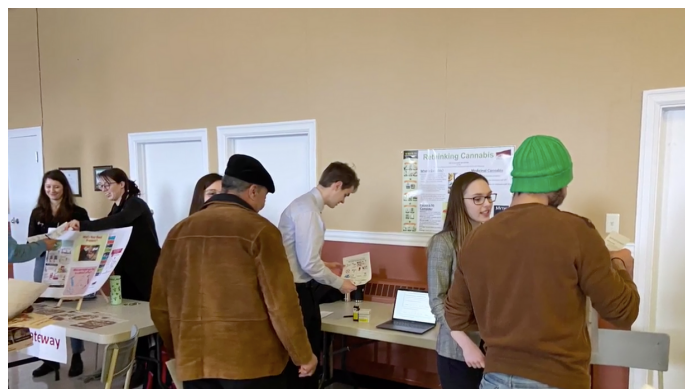


Before COVID-19 precautions closed down the university, and forced a near global shutdown, MUN Pharmacy students managed to hold a few activities, like the Public Pill Drop. Timed to coincide every year during the month-long PAM campaign, it's always a great opportunity for members of the general public to dispose of expired/unused medications.



Rita Huang, Maria Josey, Melissa Kieley, Sandi Schuhmacher, Lexi Symonds and Meaghan Wilson

They are passionate, powerful and proud of their chosen profession, and during Pharmacists Awareness Month they [were on a mission](#) to let you know that pharmacists do so much more than hand out medications!



In the early days of PAM, pharmacy students mounted a health fair for refugees and new Canadians. The event was well-received and well-attended, with timely and topical information displays.

Public Engagement



Dr. Leslie Phillips

"Happy quitting folks." MUN Pharmacy's own smoking cessation guru, Dr. Leslie Phillips. Like so many of our pharmacist friends and colleagues, has gone above and beyond to support her clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. She even took to YouTube. [See for yourself!](#)



The folks at SaferMedsNL were set to launch their new campaign aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of sleeping pills when COVID-19 disrupted their plans. So they moved their promotions online, and [created a catchy kick-off video.](#)

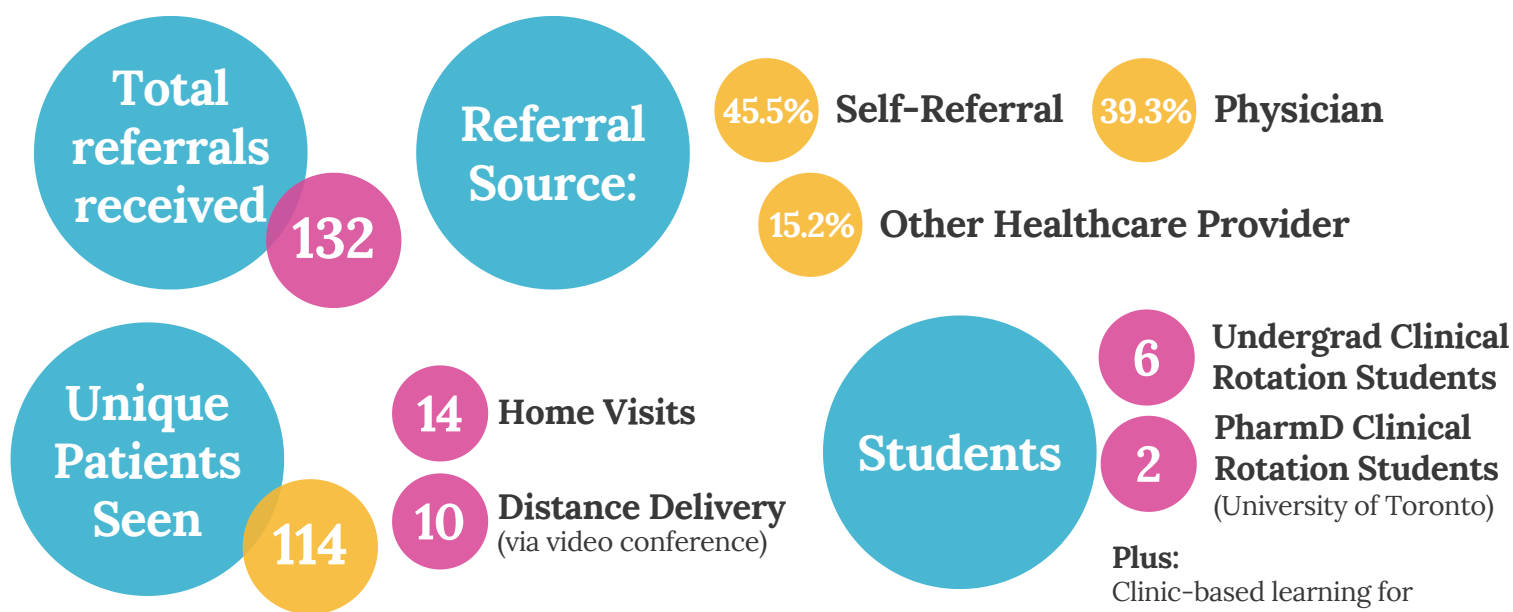


**MEDICATION
THERAPY
SERVICES CLINIC**
School of Pharmacy

MTSC by the numbers:

The Medication Therapy Services Clinic, or MTS Clinic, is the province's only "pharmacist-clinic" which is run by the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University.

Though we were forced to close during the initial months of the COVID-19 crisis, the MTS Clinic reopened for virtual appointments in July.





PHARMACY

For more photos and updates throughout the year,
be sure to follow us on
Facebook at @schoolofpharmacy and
Instagram at @mun_pharmacy!