

PHARM CIRCLE

Connecting stories from Memorial's PharmD for Working Professionals program

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Advance your practice,
Lead your profession

*Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
for Working Professionals*

From the Dean's Desk

Despite a rather tumultuous year, the School of Pharmacy is grateful for its faculty, staff and students who have faced the challenges of working within a pandemic head on.

Since our last publication in June, we welcomed our third cohort of students in the Working Professionals program. We also proudly celebrate our first student to complete the program; Danielle Burns finished up this December (fall 2020 semester) and will be the very first recipient of a PharmD degree at Memorial University.



Dr. Shawn Bugden receives the flu shot from Jeremy MacDonald, a pharmacist with the MTS Clinic and a second-year student in the PharmD for Working Professionals program.

Our third issue continues to profile key members of our growing “pharmily,” including Keith Bailey who teaches a leadership and management course in the program (which spurred a creative and timely project noted in our Happy Happenings sections). As course development winds down, we share a story about an award-winning collaboration between the School of Pharmacy and Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL)—a collaboration that built and designed the program’s 11 online and interactive courses. In the Student Spotlight section, we profile three students who are doing amazing work inside and outside the classroom and we continue to share some good news in the Happy Happenings section.

We hope you enjoy reading about the program as much as we enjoy sharing stories about our “pharmily” here at Memorial’s School of Pharmacy.

We wish you an enjoyable holiday season, and while 2020 started out like a lion, let’s hope it ends like a lamb.

We have a diverse group of faculty, external content authors, and instructional designers who work together to make this program a success. We will share their profiles in every issue. Keep an eye out to learn more about our growing pharmily!

Instructor Spotlight

Mr. Keith Bailey



Keith Bailey has been a pharmacist for twenty-four years. He graduated from Memorial University in 1996 with a BSc in Pharmacy and in 2007 with a Master in Business Administration. Keith has practiced in a variety of community pharmacy settings throughout his career. He has worked at an independent pharmacy, Walmart, and Shoppers Drug Mart regional operations. He currently owns two Shoppers Drug Mart locations in metro St. John's and is focused on being a true wellness hub in the community with expanded services that includes travel health, certified diabetes education, A1C testing, vaccination programs, and cholesterol screening.

He is dedicated to his profession and has volunteered to serve in various roles throughout the span of his career so far. He was the former Chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board (NLPB), President of the Pharmacists Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL), and has served on the Board of the Canadian Pharmacists Association. He currently serves on the Newfoundland and Labrador Interchangeable Formulary Committee, is Chair of PANL's Public and Professional Relations Committee, and is a current member of the NLPB.

Always committed to Memorial University, Keith has taught in the area of pharmacy leadership and management for 13 years and teaches courses in both the Entry-to-Practice and the Working Professionals PharmD programs. In fact, he has been heavily involved in the development and delivery of PHAR 4902 (Pharmacy Management and Leadership) – a course that explores the principles of change management and leadership in pharmacy practice within the Working Professionals program. He uses a variety of teaching tools to impart knowledge and skills relating to strengths-based practice, financial management, quality improvement, marketing, human resource management, and technology. He says, "Interacting with students, learning from one another and sharing best practices is the most rewarding part of my career."

In his spare time, Keith enjoys spending time outdoors either hunting, fishing, or visiting towns and communities around the province of Newfoundland & Labrador. He owns a cabin in Indian Bay (which is home of the big trout) and hails from the picturesque community of Twillingate—a place well known for its icebergs, whales, and hospitality. He makes sure to return there at least once a year.

Keith is the proud father of two young men (Simon and Isaac) and lives in the east end of St. John's with his spouse, Stacey, who is a registered nurse. He proudly shares that in his family, "healthcare is our home, our work and our blood!"

The School of Pharmacy is extremely grateful for Keith's dedication to the pharmacy profession. He is a valued member of the PharmD for Working Professional's pharmily and students get to experience his enthusiasm for pharmacy education in their very first semester in the program.

Partnership Celebrates Eclectic Mix of

Skills, Talent and Creativity

This is a swan song of sorts, though no one is sailing into the sunset.

Teams from Memorial University's School of Pharmacy and the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) have worked flat out since 2017, creating the school's online, award-winning PharmD for Working Professionals program (WPP).

Over the past three years they've built 11 brand new online courses aimed at providing advanced-level education to help students practice in an increasingly complex health-care environment. The 11th and final one has just been completed.

"It feels really good. I think there's a big sense of relief now that we're done," says Lisa St. Croix, a senior instructional designer at CITL who's worked closely with the School of Pharmacy's Dr. Tiffany Lee in a partnership that brought together an eclectic mix of skills and talent.

"In the beginning no one realized the magnitude of it," says Ms. St. Croix who headed up a team of project designers and multi-media specialists. "As we began developing the courses we realized how big they were, and that they were really complex."

"We all had a lot to juggle", agrees Dr. Lee. "We're a small faculty and had three programs going on simultaneously while we developed the program -- a BSc in Pharmacy that graduated its final class this past spring 2020, a new Entry-to-Practice PharmD and the Working Professionals program."

The schedule and to-do lists were intense, and between semesters there was little time for resting on their laurels; as one course was completed, another one, or two, would begin.

So after all that hard work, what do the teams have to show for their success (besides a brand new, innovative program, a sense of accomplishment, and some new friendships)?

They've got some awards, big awards!

The partnership has received two national awards from the [Canadian Network for Innovation in Education \(CNIE\)](#) and one award from the [International E-Learning Association \(IELA\)](#).

In 2019 the program received a CNIE Award of Merit for excellence and innovation in the integration of technology in higher education in PHAR 4901 (Essentials of Pharmacy Practice) for a series of animations created to demystify complex, foundational pharmaco-kinetic concepts using video animations and analogies. [Sushi lessons](#) was the brainchild of Dr. Noriko Daneshdaleb and earned praise for its creative and innovative way of teaching complex material.

This same series of animations was recognized in 2019 as a runner-up in the Academic E-Learning division by the IELA.

The program was singled out again in 2020 and received a CNIE Award of Merit for the excellence and innovation in instructional design, this time for course PHAR 5901 (Pharmaceutical Care I) for for [Active Engagement and Authentic Case-Based Learning Using an Integrated Backward Design for Course Development](#).

"We've done so much work, it was a really nice feeling to win, and a really good incentive to keep at it," says Ms. St. Croix, who joined CITL 12 years ago after making a sharp change in her career trajectory as a nurse. "It was rewarding to know that everyone's hard work had been acknowledged at a national level".

Partnership Celebrates Eclectic Mix ... (continued)

She said, “It’s harder now to win an award than it used to be. There’s more competition. It takes something really unique and substantial to win.”

What’s the secret to their success? Ms. St. Croix says there’s no secret; just plenty of determination, really hard work, and an abundance of great ideas from both teams.

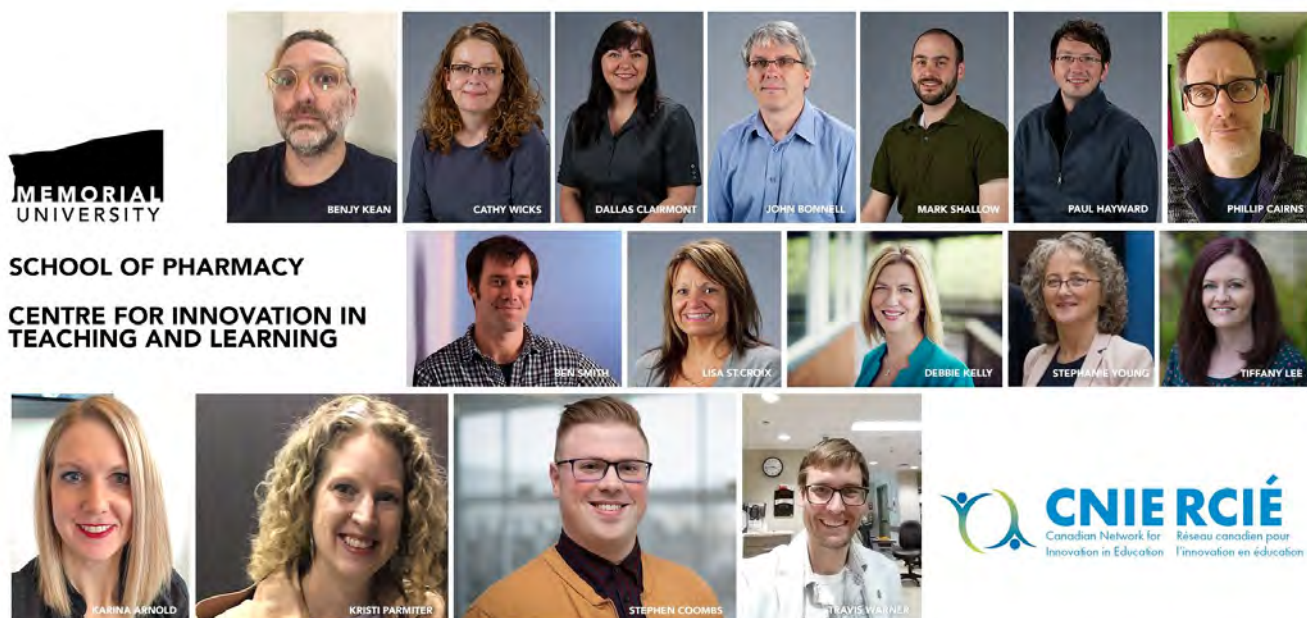
But her own background in healthcare, having worked for many years in nursing, including several in medicine and coronary intensive care, has been an asset for the CITL team as they translated the course material and vision of Pharmacy educators.

“I really enjoyed watching very creative ideas come to life with use of interactive media and multimedia objects, such as animations, videos, interactive case studies and

questions, and interactive drag-and-drops and matching games,” says Ms. St. Croix, looking back on the past three years. “There has been so much work done. It’s been an excellent partnership.”

“While students aren’t in a typical classroom setting, they do form strong connections and get to experience innovative, engaging and interactive online courses—courses that have been brought to life by a collaboration of two very dedicated, dynamic and hard-working teams, says Dr. Lee. “It’s a partnership worth celebrating as course development comes to an end.”

Marcia Porter is a communications advisor with the School of Pharmacy and Faculty of Nursing at Memorial University



Pharmacy 5901 2020 CNIE Merit Award

Photo Credit/Source: Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL)

This collage of photos represents faculty from the School of Pharmacy and project designers and multi-media specialists from CITL who created the content, design and animations for PHAR 5901.

Students in the Spotlight

2018 Cohort

Danielle Burns



Danielle Burns hails from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, but currently resides in Halifax. She will be the very first student to receive a PharmD at Memorial University. She completed the program in seven semesters, marking 11.5 years of post-secondary education in total.

From an early age, Danielle's parents (both teachers) instilled in her the importance of a good education. She received a BSc in Biology (Honors) from Mount Allison University, completed a year of genetics research at Dalhousie University, and graduated from the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy in 2009. She worked for seven years in community pharmacy before moving to the IWK Regional Poison Centre in 2016, where she still works today.

Her decision to pursue a PharmD was not an easy one. Danielle is married with two small daughters and a white puff-ball dog. Her family leads a very busy life. But a coworker once said to her: if you need something done, give it to a busy person. And these words certainly rang true for her as she began her PharmD journey in September 2018.

For Danielle, the PharmD offered her the opportunity to improve upon her pharmacy skill set while still working at the Poison Centre, and is helping her be more competitive for future career advancements. She felt the PharmD program at Memorial University, in particular, was the most accessible for her. As a working mother, she liked that it allowed many projects to be carried out in her work place and that the

We like to celebrate our students and let our readers know a little more about the people in our neighbourhood. We will share student profiles in every issue.

clinical rotations were a reasonable duration that could be completed in the city and practice setting of her choice.

In fact, it was during these clinical rotations that Danielle gained the most benefit from the program. She completed rotations in both the ICU and Emergency Departments and says, "I have gained invaluable skills and experience that will allow me to practice at a much higher level at the Poison Centre."

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, her cohort only met in person for one weekend at the start of the program. But she says the bonds and friendships formed between her classmates will be life lasting. The class shared successes and struggles, births of family members, and great losses of others. Every class member is a different person now than they were at the beginning of the program and the virtual connections felt anything but virtual.

In addition to the friendships, Danielle will leave the program with greater confidence in managing complex patients, a greater empathy for patients and workers in the healthcare system, and an enhanced ability to continue her role as a specialist in poison information.

With her parchment (so-to-be) in hand, she has no plans to rest just yet. She will be writing the Certified Specialist in Poison Information Exam in May 2021, is crossing her fingers for the return of highland dancing competitions, and is looking forward to more family adventures (like those in her photos below).

Congratulations to Danielle. Her commitment to the profession and to lifelong learning is inspiring.



2019 Cohort

Melanie Hemple



Melanie Hemple's pharmacy journey is just as winding as her life journey. She was born in Nairobi, Kenya and grew up in Tanzania (East Africa) and Goa (India). In 1974, when she was 11, she immigrated to Canada and grew up in the small, remote town of

Kitimat in beautiful Northern British Columbia.

Melanie graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1986 and completed a pediatric residency at BC Children's Hospital. Two years later, she moved to St. Paul's Hospital in the heart of downtown Vancouver. During the center of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the late 1980s, Melanie worked in the HIV clinic monitoring patients on what was then the first and only drug available to treat this disease—Zidovudine.

Melanie was inspired by colleagues with expanded pharmacy skills to pursue a PharmD program in the early 1990s. She received a scholarship to attend the Ohio State University's School of Pharmacy. This experience was academically, socially, and personally rewarding, but life had other plans for her. Instead of completing a "PharmD", Melanie became "Mrs. D." and, in 1992, moved with her new husband to a town situated on the Rhine River in Bonn, Germany.

While in Germany, her pharmacy career was on pause while acclimatizing to a new country and language. In 1993, Melanie took the German licensing exam and began working in the "Apotheke". In her first job in the small town of Roisdorf, she encountered some

skepticism from the locals. It took time, but she was finally gifted with their trust and life-long friendship.

Amidst the hysteria of the Y2K bug in 2000, Melanie and her family (including sons Eric and Colin) moved back to Canada. In an effort to re-license in Ontario, she worked at Credit Valley Hospital and WalMart in Mississauga. Then in 2004, with a third son (Joel) in tow, Melanie's family moved back to Germany where she had to get re-licensed once again. In 2016, they moved back to Canada and she returned to her old stomping grounds in British Columbia covering areas such as HIV (women and children), pregnancy/addictions, and orthopedics.

It was this move and her observation of pharmacy's evolving profession that inspired Melanie to consider fulfilling her two dreams: completing a PharmD and visiting Newfoundland. When she discovered Memorial University offered a PharmD program, she realized she could kill two birds with one stone (figuratively speaking, of course). And this time she did not have to get re-licensed.

When she began the program in fall 2019, she fell in love with the kindness and generosity of Newfoundlanders (classmates included), the province's history, and the charming beauty of St. John's -- which she had the opportunity to explore in September 2019 when she visited campus for the three-day PHAR 4900 Clinical Skills I course.

The program has lived up to all her expectations. The course material is comprehensive and well delivered by expert faculty, and the collaborative components have enhanced her learning experience. The program has given Melanie the opportunity to catch up on the many changes occurring in the profession. Now in her second year, her learning is already having a positive impact on patient care.

Melanie's passion for life and for the pharmacy profession is contagious. The journey that led her to Memorial University has been an incredible one and, no doubt, will continue to be just as incredible when she completes her degree.

2020 Cohort

Natasha Farrell



A native of the Codroy Valley on the west coast of the island portion of Newfoundland and Labrador, Natasha Farrell graduated from Memorial University's School of Pharmacy in 1996. For the first five years of her career, she worked in retail pharmacy in several communities in the

province, including Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Clarenville, and Bishop's Falls. Then in 2001 she began her hospital pharmacy career at Central Health in Grand Falls-Windsor.

Central Health created an oncology pharmacist position in 2009, and Natasha was tasked with developing and implementing the oncology pharmacy program. It was a very humbling and rewarding experience for her, and remains one of the accomplishments she is most proud of in her 24 years as a pharmacist so far. Natasha has worked primarily as an oncology pharmacist since the program was implemented, and she still enjoys it immensely. She says she learns from her patients on a daily basis.

Since the Doctor of Pharmacy for Working Professionals program began at Memorial in 2018, Natasha has been interested in what the program offers and, before applying, considered whether or not it would be feasible while balancing her busy work and family life. In 2020, Natasha felt the program's flexibility would be manageable for her, so she applied and subsequently began the program in September 2020, opting to follow the three-year completion map.

She has learned a lot in her first semester, even though she finds this new way of (online) learning a challenge particularly as she has been away from school for over twenty years. She is thankful for the support of her instructors and for the feedback from her classmates through weekly discussion posts – both of which are helping her rediscover her love for learning and establishing a study routine that works for her. Although she has not met her classmates in person yet (due to the pandemic), she looks forward to meeting everyone before she completes the program.

Aside from being a pharmacist and a student, Natasha is also a dance and hockey mom who enjoys the outdoors and all the winter activities she gets to experience as a resident of central Newfoundland. She is married with one daughter and has a cat, name Oreo.

With one semester now under her belt, she is learning to juggle her personal, professional, and academic responsibilities like a pro.

Important Dates

For future applicants

Next application
deadline date
February 1, 2021

For current students

PHAR 4900 Clinical Skills I
Offered: September 2021 (dates to be determined)

PHAR 6900 Clinical Skills II
Offered remotely: **May 2021**

Happy Happenings



CONGRATULATIONS!

Year 2 student, Vanessa Bennett, accepted a permanent position in the Thrombosis Clinic with Eastern Health in St. John's. She is responsible for outpatient management and follow-up of anticoagulation therapy for venous thromboembolism



GREAT JOB!

Michael Hatt, a first year student, bought an ambulance and converted it into a mobile flu shot clinic in order to help vaccinate people living in rural Nova Scotia. His innovative idea was spurred by a course project in PHAR 4902 (Pharmacy Management & Leadership)



WELL DONE!

Danielle Burns (a student in Year 3) completed all program requirements in Fall 2020 and will be the very first student to receive a PharmD degree at Memorial Univeristy.



WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

First year student Robyn O'Rielly and her husband Andrew Hussey welcomed their baby boy on August 28, 2020. His name is Owen Randell O'Rielly-Hussey!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Heesa Zainulabideen, a student in Year 2, celebrates his birthday on December 30

STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY COMMITTEES (2020-2022)

Recruitment

Vanessa Bennett

Undergraduate Student Admissions

Bradley Adams

Academic Council

Jonathan Stevens

Professional Suitability

Jeremy MacDonald

Undergraduate Studies

Garrett Wells