

# PHARM CIRCLE

*Connecting stories from Memorial's PharmD for Working Professionals Program*

## 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.

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.

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.

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.



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#### Contact

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## About the Program

With the transition to an entry-to-practice PharmD degree in Canada, Memorial University's School of Pharmacy developed a PharmD program specifically for licensed pharmacists in Canada who wish to attain the new credential. This part-time program is specifically designed for practicing pharmacists who wish to remain employed while pursuing their degree. With a combination of online courses, clinical skills courses, and experiential learning, the learning environment offers an effective blend of theory and practice and supports a patient-centered course of study.

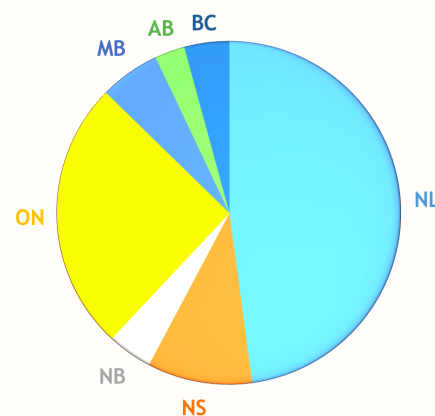
Students complete 15 courses in total and the majority of the program is completed online. The school partnered with the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) – a leader in online learning – at Memorial University to deliver 11 online courses. Additionally, there are two short visits to campus and two 6-week advanced pharmacy practice experiences.

Our courses are developed and delivered by faculty and pharmacists who have content expertise in various pharmacotherapeutic and related fields.

They work in academia, administration, community, and hospital settings across the country, bringing a wealth of knowledge to the online classroom.

The program opened its doors for the first time in September 2018, welcoming 36 students. This year, an additional 34 students began their PharmD journey. Our students live and work all over the country. This chart provides a visual representation of where our students resided upon entry to the program.

### Province of Residency



We are excited to have begun this journey and for the opportunity to be a part of helping pharmacists across the country advance their practice and lead their profession. ●

# Instructor Spotlight

Dr. Tiffany Lee



Dr. Tiffany Lee is a Pharmacist and Assistant Professor at Memorial University School of Pharmacy. She is a dedicated teacher and advocate for students and has been a three-time recipient of the School's Teaching Excellence Award. In her ten years at the School of Pharmacy, she has coordinated and instructed in Pharmacy Practice and Skills, Pharmacotherapy, and Toxicology.

Dr. Lee has worked as a pharmacist in various settings, including hospital, community, and primary care. She recently joined the team of clinical pharmacists at Eastern Health's Adult Outpatient Thrombosis Service and is excited to provide point-of-care testing and anticoagulation management for patients taking warfarin. Dr. Lee is also an active volunteer within the profession, and is currently the Zone 1 representative and executive member for the Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Her inclination for helping others and solving problems led her to a career in pharmacy. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Memorial University in 2007 and a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Colorado in 2014. But her commitment to learning did not end there.

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

She is currently a part-time student in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University, completing graduate studies in applied health services research.

In 2017, she became the developmental lead for the PharmD for Working Professionals program. She has been—and continues to be—instrumental in developing this program and advocating for student success. She works closely with the program coordinator, content authors, and the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning to help make the program the best it can be. As a student herself, she is sympathetic to the challenges of juggling work and school. She is always looking for ways to allow students to exercise their creativity and challenge the status quo by developing meaningful learning activities in a supportive learning environment. Her role in the program extends beyond the areas of development and delivery to that of an advisor for students, a mentor for content developers, and a tireless ambassador for the program.

Dr. Lee and her husband are parents to a six-year-old little girl named Grace. They also share their home with two adoring dogs and one sweet but grumpy-looking cat.

Though she wears many hats in life, she wears them all with grace and humility—she is like a “Jill-of-all-trades” and is the golden thread of the PharmD for Working Professionals, weaving together the courses, the students, and the program. ●

# Student

# Spotlight

2018 Cohort

Kathleen King



Kathleen King's decision to enroll in the PharmD for Working Professionals program in Sept. 2018 came after 42 years as a pharmacist at Shoppers Drug Mart in Stephenville, NL.

In her senior year of high school, Kathleen decided to pursue a pharmacy career. She was, however, initially

dissuaded, being advised that it was difficult to be accepted into the program, that mostly males applied and were accepted, and that there were very few female pharmacists in Newfoundland.

But Kathleen was more determined than ever. It was her life-long dream, and, undaunted, she forged ahead and applied for the program at the former College of Trades and Technology (the only post-secondary institution that offered the pharmacy program in Newfoundland at the time). She was accepted and was one of five females in a class of 25. Three years later, in 1976, she graduated as a Pharmaceutical Chemist and was the first female pharmacist not only in her hometown of Stephenville, but also in the Bay St. George area of Western Newfoundland.

There have been many changes over the past four decades since Kathleen graduated from pharmacy and started her career.

The main equipment in the pharmacy consisted of a typewriter, counting tray, roll of labels, and a number stamp. There were no computers containing patient profiles, their allergies, or patient insurance information. There was no ability to cross-reference

*We like to celebrate our students and let our readers know a little more about the people in our neighbourhood. We'll be sharing student profiles in every issue. We'd love to hear your story, so please keep in touch!*

patient drug interactions, no pharmacy network with the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information, and few female pharmacists.

Today there are computers, scanners, digital networks, and an expanded scope of practice which includes vaccinations, writing and extending prescriptions, compliance packaging, and opioid agonist maintenance treatment programs. There has also been a large increase in the number of female pharmacists - something Kathleen is so pleased to see.

Kathleen is not only dedicated to increasing her knowledge base and skills for her own professional development, but she also mentors the next generation of pharmacists. She has been a preceptor to many pharmacy students over the years and was awarded the School of Pharmacy's Preceptor of the Year Award in 2018.

Kathleen's experience with Memorial's PharmD program has been rewarding, positive and beneficial. She considers the PharmD program a step in the right direction to enhancing her ability to participate in continuing education at a higher level. "The teaching staff are supportive, professional, flexible, and experts in their fields," she said. "The program provides me with an additional lens and valuable insight when consulting with my peers in the medical and pharmaceutical fields and in the lives and health of her patients." Now in her second year, Kathleen knows that she has made the right decision enrolling in the program.

"I have noticed the benefits within my day-to-day life as a pharmacist," she added, "It provides me with a wealth of information from a diverse group of pharmacists from different backgrounds and different areas of practice/expertise. Plus there is a wide range of subjects covered within the program. While not everyone will have the same career path in pharmacy, this program enables pharmacists to diversify their practice, and exposes them to more options and opportunities to advance their professional career." ●



# Student Spotlight

2019 Cohort

Jonathan Smith



A Nova Scotia native who graduated from Dalhousie University in 2001, Jonathan was a member of the first problem-based learning cohort at Dalhousie and graduated when the first year OSCE's were required for licensure.

Changing times set him up for a pharmacy career that was ever-evolving. He start-

-ed with Shopper's Drug Mart in Ontario as a staff pharmacist and quickly became an associate/owner of a 24-hour location. It was a hectic but enjoyable experience where he learned a great deal about finance, leadership, and human resources. But he still wanted to experience other opportunities.

In 2008 he began the process of qualifying for the pharmacist licensure in the United States. After passing the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Exam with a job offer in hand, he landed in sunny California as a pharmacy intern. Six months later he passed the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam and California Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam and began his career as a pharmacist south of the border. He began as a pharmacist for Walgreens in Oakland before eventually becoming pharmacy manager at their flagship clinic at University of California in San Francisco. This was a unique, hybrid pharmacist position where he worked as a retail pharmacist, a hospital pharmacist, and also taught pharmacy students at a specialty pharmacy with pharmacists who focused on transplant, HIV/infectious disease, oncology, and pediatrics.

It was this position that allowed Jon to accumulate enough experience to obtain the HIV Specialist (AAHIVS) credential. He also became board certified in geriatrics since he was predominantly dealing with an aging HIV population. His final position in California was a clinic manager in the Castro District of San Francisco. This was an HIV/Hepatitis C consultant position that involved social issues, activism, and community involvement.

Currently, he is a clinical consultant and pharmacist at Hamilton Wentworth Detention Centre in Ontario. His focus here is substance abuse treatment, harm reduction, primary care, and infectious disease.

Jon considered PharmD studies for several years. He looked at three other programs but chose Memorial University because it offered a greater degree of flexibility and options that would allow school to fit with his current position. It also helped that his partner is a Memorial graduate and told him to go for it.

So far, he calls his experience in the program amazing. "We have a great group of pharmacists who have so many different career paths and have worked all over Canada and the world. This brings viewpoints that might not come up in a traditional setting," he said.

On a more personal note, some of Jon's favorite things include: the color blue; pizza (but toutons are a close second); Santorini (one of the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea), the song "Circles" by Post Malone, and trying to do Crossfit training like a 25-year-old.

He fell in love with St. John's when he did the PHAR 4900 course this past September, so who knows what that might mean for the future. ●

# Happy Happenings



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Lindsay Manning (a student in Year 2) and her husband Gerard welcomed their baby boy to the world on July 10.

His name is Declan Patrick Manning.



## WELL DONE!

David Lee, a student in Year 2, passed the International Society of Travel Medicine exam in June 2019, earning his Certificate in Travel Health.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

First year student, Melanie Hempel, and her husband, Michael, recently celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary. Taking a little time away from her PharmD studies, she celebrated in Whistler, BC, and hiked the beautiful Garibaldi Mountains.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS

**AWARD OF MERIT IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INNOVATION IN EDUCATION (CNIE)**

Category: Excellence and Innovation in the Integration of Technology

**RUNNER-UP IN E-LEARNING INTERNATIONAL E-LEARNING AWARD**

Category: Academic Division

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**PHAR 6900 - CLINICAL SKILLS II  
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS  
MAY 8-10, 2020**

## STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY COMMITTEES (2018-2020)

Recruitment Committee	Maggie Cole
Undergraduate Student Admissions Committee	Josh Lane
Academic Council Committee	Stephanie Dove
Undergraduate Studies Committee	Stephanie Delaney

**NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE:  
FEBRUARY 1, 2020**