27th Annual Alberta Pharmacy Technician Conference

September 15-16, 2017
Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort
300 East Lapotac Blvd.
Enoch, Alberta
About the Conference

The Alberta Pharmacy Technician Conference began in 1990 as a small learning seminar planned by a hospital pharmacy technician team. Since that time, the event has grown to one of the premier continuing education and networking events for pharmacy technicians from all practice settings in Canada.

This year the theme is “Unmask Your Potential!” and the objectives are to:

- Respond to opportunities that exist to expand professional practice by presenting sessions on innovative roles, practices, and programs.
- Provide registrants with knowledge-based and interactive learning opportunities that inform and motivate.
- Provide registrants with networking and sharing opportunities through the exhibition, interactive and social sessions.
- Support the personal and professional development of pharmacy technicians.

Available CEUs

This conference is being assessed by the Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP) for continuing education units (CEU) for both Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacists.

Get Connected

Expand your network for the 27th Annual Alberta Pharmacy Technician Conference by connecting to PTSA on Facebook and Twitter.

Special Thanks

This conference would not have been possible without the efforts of the planning committee:

Laura Miskimins (Conference Co-Chair)  Ryan Mapa (Conference Co-Chair)
Anelise Owergoor                      Angie Huynh
Cindy Thai                            Lana Chirkoff
Megan Johnson                         Pearl David
Peggy Pischke                         Roxine Yong
Shana Brigs                           
Don Ridley (Conference Manager)       Jennifer Bean (Conference Manager)
Program Information

Friday, September 15th
Speaker biographies can be found on pages 13-16

9:00-9:45 Registration

9:45-10:00 Opening Remarks

10:00-11:00 Keynote Presentation: When Celebrity Culture and Science Clash
Tim Caulfield, Professor of Health Law & Science Policy

Popular culture is filled with health myths, pseudoscientific noise and dangerous conspiracy theories. In this fun and provocative presentation, Professor Caulfield will debunk some of the most pernicious falsehoods and explore the cultural forces driving the rise and spread of health misinformation, including celebrity culture, social media and cognitive biases.

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-12:15 Concurrent Sessions - Choose One

Option 1: The “Paw-fect” Prescription
Shana Briggs, RPhT

This session is about what role pharmacy technicians and pharmacies play in vet medicine. We all may have animals, know someone who has them or have been around them at some point. But do we know what happens when they get sick? What steps need to be taken to be sure they receive the correct dosages and dosage forms from our pharmacies just like humans? This session will talk about how our role fits into the scope of veterinary medicine.

Or
Option 2: Review of NAPRA’s Draft Model Standards for Compounding Non-Sterile Compounds
Dale Cooney, ACP

This presentation will review the content of NAPRA’s Draft Model Standards for Compounding Non-Sterile Preparations and compare the requirements to the current requirements for compounding non-sterile products in Alberta. The process used to develop the draft standards and the process used by the Alberta College of Pharmacists for adoption in Alberta will be described. The most up to date information available regarding the status of the draft standards and the plans for implementation in Alberta will be shared.

12:15-2:00 Lunch, Vendor Exhibit, and Poster Contest

We will be offering our vendor exhibit earlier in the day this year which will provide conference delegates with the opportunity to explore and compare an array of products and services available from industry suppliers. While enjoying your lunch, please take time to meet and speak with our generous sponsors without whom the conference would not be possible.

Galenova  ARxIUM  Omega Laboratories
McKesson  Boehringer Ingleheim  Robertson College
Pharmacy Technician Society of Alberta  ESBE Scientific
Teva  Healthpro  Apotex
Healthmark Ltd  Teligent  Fresenius Kabi
Sterimax  Health Sciences Association of Alberta

Please note: Either a full conference or Friday-only registration is required in order to be eligible to attend the vendor exhibit and lunch.

Poster contest participants will also be sharing their posters during the lunch/vendor exhibit; please visit the presenters and learn about their work environment and see their poster. For more information, please see “2017 E-Poster Contest” on page 9.
2:00-3:00 Cocaine 101
Dean Boyer

Enhance your understanding of substance abuse by hearing the story of cocaine from plant to user. You will have the opportunity to discover how crack cocaine is made, and why your patients may find it so attractive and addictive. Dean will shed light into the life of an addict by informing you about the local drug trafficking scenes including gang activity, the costs associated with illicit drugs and the jargon patients will use to refer to their drug of choice. Learners will come away with the tools to foster a stigma free relationship with patients as well as a greater understanding of the many factors contributing to our current opioid crisis.

3:15 - 4:15 Biosimilars – Place in Patient care
Dr. Michele S. Guirguis, BSc. Zoo, BSc. Pharm, Ph.D.

This presentation will allow the audience to understand current regulations around approval of Biosimilars, controversy over place in therapy and their role in healthcare sustainability.

6:00-7:00 Dinner and Award Ceremony

All conference delegates are invited to a delicious buffet meal for supper on Friday night, followed by an awards ceremony.

7:00-10:00 Dueling Pianos and Silent Auction

Step out of the ordinary and leave your inhibitions at the door! The Dueling Pianos guarantees a high energy ‘sing-out-loud’ kind of event. Nowhere else can you clap, sing, and dance along to YOUR requested songs played live by world class entertainers. With crowd participation fueling this exciting show, no two events are ever the same. Everything from oldies to the newest hits… It’s 100% Request and ALL UP TO YOU!

Also at this time we will have our annual silent auction; delegates are encouraged to place their bids and compete for some SUPER items. All winning items must be paid for at the end of the auction. Cash only will be accepted for payment.
Saturday, September 16th
Speaker biographies can be found on pages 13-16

7:30-8:30 Registration and Breakfast

8:30-9:30 Improving the Experience for Sexual & Gender Minority (LGBTQ) People
Marni Panas, BHAdm

We will explore how to better work with, support and advocate for patients, family, friends and colleagues who identify as sexual or gender diverse (LGBTQ). Participants will hear personal experiences and stories, learn terminology, and discuss what we can do to improve the experience for this often marginalized and vulnerable population.

9:45-10:45 Concurrent Sessions – Choose One

Option 1: To Reg Tech or Not?....That’s a Silly Question
Melissa Salacki, RPhT
Carmen Shewchuk, RPhT
Brad Willsey, RPh

We will describe our journey to utilizing our regulated pharmacy technicians to their full scope of practice. Our journey will include the history of pharmacy technician regulation and how we maneuvered through it using the bridging program, our implementation of the scope and role into our practice setting, and the numerous benefits we’ve accrued from embracing the opportunity for not only the pharmacy team but also our patients. So, to Reg Tech or Not? That’s a silly question…

Or

Option 2: NAPRA “Y”? A History of Events Leading to the Development of National Standards
Jason Pepper, RPh, BSc. Pharm.

In this session, a history of significant adverse events related to sterile compounding will be linked to specific sections of the NAPRA sterile compounding guidelines. The ultimate goal is to connect patient safety to the work being done by Pharmacy Technicians.

10:45-11:10 Refreshment Break & Hotel Checkout
11:15-12:15 What You Should Know About Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada.
Pat Mayo, BSc(Pharm), PhD, MTS

Canadian legislation was passed in June 2016 that allows dying patients, who are suffering intolerably from a serious medical condition, a choice of a medically-assisted death. Bill C-14 defines the conditions and limitations for MAID in Canada, which allows physicians and nurse practitioners to provide this service with the assistance of pharmacists and "other" staff deemed to include pharmacy technicians. It is essential that all pharmacy staff understand their role and limitations under the current legislation. The need to respect patient autonomy will be reviewed along with the individual right for objection and the ongoing need for palliative care.

12:15-1:45 Lunch and PTSA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Pharmacy Technician Society of Alberta provides an opportunity for PTSA members to come together and discuss the maintenance of the Society and the issues affecting pharmacy technicians. All conference delegates are invited to attend the lunch; members are encouraged to participate in the AGM.

2:00-3:00 Nurturing the Profession: Fair Evaluation of the Pharmacy Technician Student
Jennifer Skrapits RPhT
Terri Schubert RPhT, B.Ed., CACE

An experiential learning rotation is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills experience, and judgement for fulfilling the learning requirements as outlined by an educational institution. Students are evaluated during their learning rotation, which also equates to Level 1 of their Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP) Structured Practical Training Program (SPT), a competency based training period. In this session participants will review pre-entry to practice and entry to practice requirements, how to provide a fair hospital learning rotation evaluation based on the skills students are equipped with and how these skills can be evaluated no matter the practice setting.

3:00-3:15 Refreshment Break
3:15-4:15 Pier Health Resource Centre: Expanding Scope of Practice to Stabilize Homeless Population
Bobby Milroy, Director of Pier Health Resource Centre, Robin's Pharmacy and Wellness Centre

Pier Health Resource Centre is the first private pharmacy clinic that offers a multi-disciplinary approach to pharmacy care.

Our registered technicians lead the operation and are provided a separate dispensing area so that pharmacists can engage in a purely clinical role with the homeless/at-risk population.

For our patients with co-occurring infections, psychosis and addiction, personal connection is the key to better outcomes.

Our concept design allows our technicians to operate at the highest scope of their license. Consequently, we have transformed the culture of pharmacy in the Downtown Eastside from a financial model to a clinical outcome focus.

4:30 Closing Remarks
What’s New in 2017

We are going Green!

The 27th annual conference planning committee is pleased to announce that we will be offering presentation slides ahead of time. All conference registrants will receive an email with a link to the PTSA website where presentations will be posted prior to the conference. Please note this link will be emailed out to registrants closer to the conference.

Delegates can print the presentations off ahead of time or download them to their favorite electronic device for use during the conference. Please note paper copies will not be provided at the conference.

2017 E-Poster Contest

Fresenius Kabi is proudly sponsoring our poster contest this year, and keeping with going green we will be changing our format from the more traditional paper poster to an electronic poster format. Grand prize will be $500 cash for the winner; more details and sample e-poster can be found here: Unmask Your Potential: E-Poster Contest. The winner of the poster contest will be announced during the Friday night dinner and award ceremony.

What to do when the conference ends?

Just 6.5 km from the hotel, is nearby West Edmonton Mall, open 10 AM-9PM Monday to Saturday, and 11 AM to 6 PM on Sunday, and features more than 800 stores, and services including 9 world-class attractions, two hotels, over 100 dining venues, the widest variety of one-of-a-kind retailers, and entertainment for all ages.

The TELUS World of Science offers fascinating exhibits for the family as well and is currently featuring “The Science behind Pixar”; viewers will gain an understanding of how their well-loved films were created.

For guests who like history, Fort Edmonton Park, Canada’s largest living museum, is an attraction on the must-see list.

Just a little further out is the Muttart Conservatory and Edmonton River Valley. Cars are available from the hotel’s on-site Thrifty Car Rental desk.
Fees and Registration Information

Registration will open online soon and will remain available until August 31, 2017.

We are pleased to offer multiple registration options:

Full conference Registration Includes:
- Friday Educational Sessions
- Friday Lunch and Vendor Exhibit
- Friday Networking Dinner and Entertainment
- Saturday Educational Sessions
- Saturday Breakfast and Lunch

Friday Only Registration includes
- Friday Educational Sessions
- Friday lunch and Vendor Exhibit
- Friday Networking Dinner and Entertainment

Saturday only Registration includes
- Friday Networking Dinner and Entertainment
- Saturday Educational Sessions
- Saturday Breakfast and Lunch

Please note registration fees include 5% GST (PTSA GST# 81296 4351 RT0001)

PTSA Member (PTSA membership number required)
- Two Day rate: $300 ($285.71 + GST)
- One Day rate: $225 ($214.29 + GST)

Non Member
- Two day rate: $400 ($380.95 + GST)
- One Day rate: $275 ($261.90 + GST)

Student* (School ID cards must be presented at the registration table).
- Two day rate:$200 ($190.48 + GST)
- One day rate:$150 ($142.86 + GST)

* Must be a student completing a formal pharmacy technician, pharmacy assistant, or pharmacist program at the time of registration. Registrants enrolled in pharmacy technician bridging program do not qualify for the Student registration fees.
** Student ID number required **
Payment Options

All payment details are outlined on the PTSA website. After registering online, payment can be made via PayPal. Please refer to online instructions for paying with a credit card without a PayPal account. Registration is not considered complete until payment is received. Receipts for registration payment will be issued by email after payment is received.

Early Bird Registration

All registrations completed (including payment) before 11:59pm (MST) on July 31, 2017 will be entered in an early bird draw and are eligible to win one (1) night’s stay at the Edmonton Marriott at River Cree.

To be eligible for the early bird draw, you must register for at least a one (1) day conference registration.

The draw for the early bird prize will occur on Friday, September 15, 2017 during the Friday dinner and awards ceremony.

Cancellation Policy

Notification of request to cancel registration must be received in writing via email to Jennifer Bean (ptsa2017conference@gmail.com) on or before August 31, 2017, 11:59pm (MST) and is subject to a processing fee of $100.00. There will be no refunds of registration fees for cancellations received after August 31, 2017.

Accommodations

Registrants are responsible for arranging their own accommodations. Please contact the Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort (300 East Lapotac Blvd, Enoch, Alberta, T7X 3Y3) to book your room. Please follow this link for PTSA booking to ensure you receive the conference rate of $159/night.

When booking by phone, please call 1-800-960-4913, and remember to quote the PTSA conference to receive the special conference rate.

Room rates will be guaranteed until September 5, 2017 or until all rooms are booked, whichever comes first.
Parking

Onsite parking is available at no charge in the hotel parking lot

West Jet Airlines

WestJet is offering a 10% discount off Econo and 15% off Plus fares* by utilizing the promo code ZUM3TA9 when booking online at https://www.westjet.com/en-ca/index
The discount is valid for flights (within Canada) travelling between September 8 to 23, 2017 into or out of Edmonton, Alberta. For assistance or additional information, please contact WestJet at 1-888-496-7853. If booking with a travel agent, be sure to quote: YYC03
*Some restrictions may apply, please contact WestJet with further questions.

Conference Photography

There may be photographs, video, and/or audio recorded at the 27th Annual Alberta Pharmacy Technician Conference.

Registration Inquiries

Please email questions to Jennifer Bean at ptsa2017conference@gmail.com
Keynote Speaker Biography

Timothy Caulfield
Professor of Health Law & Science Policy | Author of Is Gwyneth Paltrow Wrong About Everything?

Professor Timothy Caulfield is an unrivalled communicator who debunks myths and assumptions about innovation in the health sector—from research on stem cells to diets to alternative medicine — for the benefit of the public and decision-makers.

Professor Caulfield is a Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy and a Professor in the Faculty of Law and the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta. He has been the Research Director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta since 1993.

Over the past several years, he has been involved in a variety of interdisciplinary research endeavors that have allowed him to publish over 300 articles and book chapters. He is a Fellow of the Trudeau Foundation and the Principal Investigator for a number of large interdisciplinary projects that explore the ethical, legal and health policy issues associated with a range of topics, including stem cell research, genetics, patient safety, the prevention of chronic disease, obesity policy, the commercialization of research, complementary and alternative medicine, and access to health care.

Professor Caulfield is and has been involved with a number of national and international policy and research ethics committees, including the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee; Genome Canada’s Science Advisory Committee; the Ethics and Public Policy Committee for International Society for Stem Cell Research; and the Federal Panel on Research Ethics. He has won numerous academic awards and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

He writes frequently for the popular press on a range of health and science policy issues and is the author of The Cure for Everything: Untangling the Twisted Messages about Health, Fitness and Happiness (Penguin, 2012) and his most recent book, Is Gwyneth Paltrow Wrong About Everything?: When Celebrity Culture and Science Clash (Penguin, 2015).

Speaker Biographies

Dean Boyer
Dean is a retired Edmonton Police officer with extensive experience working as an undercover drug officer as well as having spent his final years in the Gang Unit. Dean was a court recognized expert for Cocaine Possession and Trafficking, Mode of Operation of Fortified and Other Drug Houses, and “Dial a Dopers”.

Shana Briggs
Shana took the Pharmacy Technician program at Eastern College in New Brunswick back in 2007/2008 and from there had worked at a community pharmacy for 5 years before moving to Alberta. Shana completed the pharmacy technician bridging courses and PEBC exams once living in Edmonton and has been working as a compounding pharmacy technician for the past 4 years. From day to day Shana compounds both sterile and non-sterile preparations for both human and animal patients.

Dale Cooney
Dale Cooney has a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Saskatchewan. In addition he earned a Master’s in Business Administration from Athabasca University and a Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching from Royal Roads University.

Dale has been the Deputy Registrar of the Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP) since 2004. Some of his key responsibilities have included development of Standards of Practice in for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and leading the development and implementation of policies and standards to regulate Pharmacy Technicians in Alberta. Dale represents ACP on several provincial and national committees.

Dr. Micheal S. Guirguis
Dr Michael Guirguis’ professional career started with Abbott Labs as a clinical Pharmacokineticist, later joining Covance Labs (a contract research organization) to provide pharmacokinetics consulting. Upon his return to Canada, he joined Alberta Blue Cross providing scientific support to the Alberta government’s Expert Committee. Currently, he is a Drug Stewardship Pharmacist at AHS, engaging stakeholders on drug stewardship. In addition, he is an online instructor with the University of Liverpool in the area of drug and device development.

On a personal note, he enjoys the farmers market with my family on weekends, and grabbing a nice coffee from his favorite coffee shop

Pat Mayo
Patrick Mayo is a pharmacy clinical practice leader with Alberta Health Services working in palliative care. He holds a BSc in pharmacy, a PhD specializing in clinical pharmacology, a Masters in Theological Studies and is a member of the Clinical Ethics Committee for the University of Alberta Hospital. Medical assistance in dying (MAID) represents one aspect of end of life care legalized in Canada with the passage of Bill C-14. Pat has participated in working groups of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Alberta College of Pharmacists, and Alberta Health Services to help develop policy guiding MAID in Alberta.
Bobby Milroy

Bobby Milroy is a former national team athlete, businessman and spokesperson, currently living in Vancouver, Canada.

Raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Bobby graduated from Strathcona Composite High School in 1996. He was immediately drafted onto the Canadian national badminton team and relocated to Calgary, where he attended University and travelled internationally on the Canadian Badminton Team. In 2000 he relocated to Copenhagen, Denmark to pursue an international badminton career, where he soon became elected as the President of the World Badminton Players Federation.

After nearly a decade-long career, Bobby relocated to Vancouver BC to focus full time on business interests and raising a family with Olympian and fellow national team member Anna Rice.

Bobby's family has a history of pharmacy operations based in Alberta, Canada and Bobby has served on the Board of Directors in strategic capacity since 1996.

Bobby has an MBA in Healthcare from the Sauder School of business. He is the founder of the Pier Health Resource Centre, a downtown Eastside clinical pharmacy and research center, operating in partnership with St. Paul's hospital and the University of British Columbia. He recently acquired a second location, Robin's Pharmacy, and he has been recognized in provincial and national publication for his unique approach to pharmacy operations.

Bobby currently lives in East Vancouver and has two young children Robby and Noa. He is married to Anna Rice and maintains an active physical and caffeinated lifestyle.

Marni Panas

Marni Panas is a Senior Advisor Diversity and Inclusion for Alberta Health Services with a focus on creating safe and welcoming and inclusive environments for staff, Physicians, patients, families, and volunteers. She has been invited to share her experiences and expertise in community engagement, Patient & Family Centered Care, bereavement, and inclusive health and cultural safety for LGBTQ patients and their families locally, nationally and internationally. Marni is also a transgender woman who has been very transparent throughout her journey in hopes of fostering acceptance through education and respectful dialogue.

Jason Pepper

Jason has been a practicing pharmacist since 2004. In this time he has accumulated experience in community practice including a focus in travel medicine and in hospital practice with a clinical role at the Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH). Since 2014 Jason has been a manager at the RAH. One of his primary responsibilities is leading improvement in the sterile compounding room through enhanced compliance with the NAPRA standards.
Melissa Salacki
Melissa graduated from the pharmacy technician program at Red Deer College in 2007. She became regulated in 2013 and has worked in a variety of community pharmacy practice settings. Melissa joined Shamrock Pharmacy West (Pharmacare #7) in 2011.

Terri Schubert
Terri Schubert is a Pharmacy Technical Practice Leader (TPL) with Alberta Health Services. She has been working in the field for almost 30 years. In addition to having completed a Pharmacy Technician program, Terri went on to obtain her Bachelors in Education, and most recently, a certificate in Adult and Continuing Education. She has experience in front line pharmacy, at both large urban and rural sites. In addition, Terri has experience in operations management, policy development, and currently, as a TPL working with both Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Assistants.

Carmen Shewchuk
Carmen graduated from the pharmacy technician program at Red Deer College in 2006. She became regulated through the bridging program in 2012 and has worked in a variety of community pharmacy environments prior to joining Shamrock Pharmacy West (Pharmacare #7) in 2012.

Jennifer Skrapits
Jennifer Skrapits began her career as a Pharmacy Technician in 1993 and since then has worked in both community and hospital pharmacy. As a front line technician with Alberta Health Services, Jennifer was very involved in training and precepting. In 2005 she took on the role of Pharmacy Operations Manager at the Foothills Medical Centre and continued in this capacity until 2010. Currently as a Technical Practice Leader for Pharmacy Services, she enjoys the many opportunities this role brings to standardize and advance practice for pharmacy assistants and technicians within Alberta Health Services and to develop positive experiential learning experiences for Pharmacy Technician students.

Brad Wilsey
Brad graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Alberta in 1991, and obtained his MBA in 2001 from Queen’s University. His career has been divided between hospital and community practice and has also included some teaching in the Faculty of Pharmacy, consulting work, and participation on the Alberta College of Pharmacists Council, including numerous provincial and national committees. He is one of the founders of Shamrock Pharmacy West (Pharmacare #7)
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