

THE BC BRANCHLET

VISION 2024–2028:

For all people in Canada to receive the best pharmacy care - when, where and how they need it - across our healthcare systems

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Editor: Tracy Liu, CSHP-BC Communications

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President’s Message



I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful holiday season! As we welcome the new year, I find myself reflecting on how much can change in twelve months.

In 2024, our profession reached **significant milestones**, including the announcement of pharmacist practice standards for prescribing, ordering, and receiving laboratory tests, as well as expanded eligibility for medication adaptation. However, alongside these achievements came **challenges** that reinforced the importance of continued advocacy. One of the most pressing issues remains the new profile-based **Health Science Professionals Bargaining Association (HSPBA) classification system**, which fails to adequately recognize the full scope of responsibilities, training, and expertise of many health authority-employed pharmacists.

As we enter 2025, we, the **BC Branch of the Canadian Society of Healthcare-Systems Pharmacy**, embrace a renewed determination and a fresh identity that more accurately reflects our members' diverse and dynamic roles and practice settings.

We have hit the ground running with robust advocacy efforts, including ongoing discussions with the **Ministry of Health** on pharmacists’ expanded scope of practice and the development of **pharmacy-specific health human resources strategies**. I am also excited to share that, moving forward, one of our **technician members** will join our regular ministry meetings. This inclusion will enable us to better represent and advocate for all pharmacy professionals within our organization.

Additionally, we continue to ensure that the **Ministry** remains fully aware of the challenges posed by the **HSPBA’s reclassification framework** and its potential impact on the initiatives we strive to advance.

To enhance our **advocacy efforts** on this front, we have also taken several additional measures, including **sending letters** to the **president and CEO of HEABC** and **various health authority executives** and **pharmacy executive directors/directors** across BC. For more information about these advocacy initiatives, please visit the [main page of the CSHP BC Branch website](#).

I want to express my gratitude to all members who have **submitted personal letters** and anecdotes detailing the impact of this reclassification on themselves, their colleagues, the profession, and, most importantly, patient care. The CSHP BC Branch is **compiling these submissions** to share with the Health Sciences Association Bargaining Committee as they prepare for negotiations with the Health Employers Association of BC.

Looking ahead, we’re excited to celebrate **Pharmacy Awareness Month (PAM)** this March with the theme “**Pharmacy Helps Sustain**.” This theme highlights our profession's incredible contributions to the sustainability of our healthcare system, environment, and beyond. Our **Advocacy Committee** is organizing various activities, and we encourage everyone to participate.

Lastly, a reminder that CSHP has a lineup of **fantastic educational events** in the coming months! Don’t forget to check the **Programs section** for details on upcoming BC Branch events, including the **Spring Therapeutic Update**.

Thank you for your continued support of the CSHP BC Branch. We look forward to an exciting year ahead, and we encourage you to engage with our community through events, mentorship, volunteering, applying for awards, or joining a Pharmacy Specialty Network.



Best Regards,
Asal Taheri
CSHP BC President 2024-25

The CSHP BC Branch would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the council members who have completed their terms. Please join us in recognizing the following outgoing council members for their exceptional work!



- Past President. **Winnie Ma**
- Programs Chairperson. **Colin Lee**
- Secretary. **Sarah Masson**
- Fundraising Chair. **Jacqueline Kwok**
- Awards Chair. **Stacey Tkachuk**
- Interior Chapter Co-Chair. **Shaylee Peterson**
- Vancouver Island Chapter Co-Chair. **Kelly George**
- Co-Chief Residents. **Jasmin Kaur Gill & Tanya Dhanoa**
- Senior Student Membership Coordinator. **Jawon (Brina) Kim**
- CAPSI Senior Representative. **Mark Seo**

BC Delegate

Welcome to 2025! Last year the Branch events wrapped up with a successful Annual General Meeting that included the addition of many new faces to Council. I am looking forward to working with our new Branch Council members in this coming year.

The first National council meeting will take place virtually at the end of January. In addition, there are many continuing education events upcoming. CSHP has partnered with the **Canadian Cardiovascular Pharmacists Network** for a one-day virtual symposium “**Canadian Pharmacy Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease Symposium**”. Learn more [here](#). In addition, registration has opened up for the **Banff Seminar** (March 14 – 16) and **PPC** (Ottawa - June 6 – 8, 2025).

CSHP Foundation has a number of opportunities currently accepting applications. You can [apply now](#) for the 2025 **Pharmacy Leadership Academy Scholarship**. The Pharmacy Leadership Academy is a 12-month on-line program offered by ASHP and is an excellent opportunity for those members who are in leadership positions or aspire to be in them.

In addition, the **William McLean Innovation Grant** is open for applications. The grant helps support knowledge translation activities – I was fortunate to receive this grant last year and am excited with the work on patient focused material it has enabled us to create.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Dahr
CSHP-BC Delegate



Programs

Thank you for a fantastic turnout at our last conference of the year, the **Annual General Meeting, and the After Party 2024!** We are truly grateful to our members for joining us on our journey of change and experimentation throughout 2024. Over the past year, the Programs Committee explored new event delivery formats and venue locations to better serve the needs of our members. We've listened to your feedback, and we will **continue offering CS as a fully virtual**, low-cost event, while also hosting in-person events at venues that are accessible and equitable for all. We look forward to another exciting year of events in 2025!

Upcoming Events for 2025

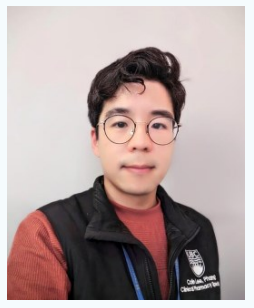
- **Banff Seminar:** March 14 - 16th
- Spring therapeutic update: April 9th (hybrid)
- Clinical Symposium: September TBD (virtual only)
- Annual General Meeting: November 14 & 15 (hybrid)

We **welcome your feedback and ideas** for all our events! If you have suggestions for future topics, speakers, or ways we can improve, please don't hesitate to [email us](#).

We are also always looking for new members to **join the Programs Committee!** Volunteers bring fresh ideas and help us plan and organize upcoming events. For **more information**, please reach out to us at programs@cshp-bc.com.

Thank you for your continued support and participation!

Colin Lee
CSHP-BC Programs Chair 2024



Advocacy Committee

Happy 2025 to all of our BC Branch members and supporters!

We hope that the holiday season gave you all time to connect with your loved ones. The New Year has brought some changes to Advocacy. I am so pleased to announce that **Kseniya Chernushkin** has joined us in the **Advocacy Committee Co-Chair position**. Kseniya has been instrumental in our efforts to have pharmacists' interests recognized during HSA Regional Meetings and at the Bargaining Proposals Conference. I am confident she will bring the same commitment to our profession in all of the ongoing advocacy campaigns.

With the BC government focusing on the elections in the final few months of 2024, many of the **Ministry of Health** endeavours had been put on hold. CSHP BC has continued to meet monthly with their **Pharmacy Division** to discuss the impacts and opportunities around pharmacists as providers for laboratory services. We look forward to resuming that work in the coming weeks.

We have also continued **Bilateral Meetings with the Ministry's Pharmaceutical, Laboratory, and Blood Services Division**. In the December meeting we presented our organizational name change and discussed its significance. We also continued conversations about ongoing challenges in health human resources and future directions for expanding our scope of practice. We were thrilled to have been met with a much more robust response to our continued advocacy around the recent HSA reclassification issue.



HSA BPC Delegates

With that said, I am beyond excited to report that the **HSA Bargaining Proposals Conference (BPC)**, which took place **November 6 to 8**, was an overwhelming success. It was encouraging to learn that pharmacists' concerns with our current contract and classification system were widely shared by almost all other professions. Throughout the 3-day conference, your delegates worked hard to ensure pharmacist issues remained central to the bargaining priorities at the next round of contract negotiations. To that end, delegates managed to vote in **3 pharmacist representatives** to serve on the negotiating committee that will lead negotiations with the employer in 2025: **Jason Tan, Kyle Collins, and Keiran Shoker**. They will join a 4th pharmacist, **Jing-Yi Ng**, who will also sit on the negotiating committee as a member of HSA's Board of Directors.

Continuing our advocacy around reclassification, **Past President Vanessa Paquette** and I also had an opportunity to meet with Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services Executive Director, **Spencer Tuttle**. Spencer was open to hearing our concerns and the meeting was incredibly productive. We will continue to pursue initiatives to raise awareness of the issues brought on by the reclassification through **letters to key members** who represent the Employer including the President of HEABC, the Executive Pharmacy Leadership Team, and the relevant health authority VPs of Human Resources.



HSPBA 2025 Negotiating Committee

With Spring around the corner, the Advocacy Committee has been busy planning the **Pharmacy Appreciation Month 2025 campaign**. This year's theme is **Pharmacy Helps Sustain** with talks and info graphics detailing how Pharmacy professionals help to sustain patient well-being, healthcare partnerships, our antimicrobials, the healthcare system, and of course our environment. We look forward to your participation as **we celebrate YOU** during March 2025!

With all of this being said, **2025 is looking to be a promising year** for Advocacy and for all CSHP BC Branch members!



Michael Kammermayer and Kseniya Chernushkin
CSHP BC Advocacy Co-Chairs



Awards Announcement

I would like to recognize the members of the CSHP BC Branch Awards Committee for taking the time to review and evaluate award submissions. Recognizing our CSHP-BC members with awards would not be possible without all your hard work.

Thank you!

2024 CSHP BC Branch Awards Committee

Aileen Mira	Jason Tan	Sarah Masson
Amanda Sambrielaz	Laura Beresford	Vanessa Paquette
Brittney Mathers	Lori Blain	Victoria Cox
Caitlin Chew	Marianna Leung	Katie Haubrich
Carolyn Bubbar	Matthew Tsang	Melanie Hempel
Colette Raymond	Melissa Lane	

I would like to extend a special and especially big thank you to Stacey Tkachuk, the outgoing Awards Chairperson. Your dedication and leadership have been greatly appreciated by the Awards Committee.

UPCOMING AWARDS

Recruitment Awards

Established in 2012 by Mr. Mits Miyata, who believes that the strength of our organization is in our numbers, the purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding membership recruitment efforts by members. There will be two categories for this award:

Category 1: Most Outstanding Recruiter of Active Members (excluding students)

Category 2: Most Outstanding Recruiter of Student Supporters

Award recipients will receive a plaque and a cash prize. All other recruiters will have their names entered into a raffle.

Click here for more information, no application is required for this award, **new recruits will be counted up until October 31, 2025: [HERE](#)**

Pharmacy Appreciation Month Awards

The purpose of these awards are to recognize the most impressive Pharmacy Appreciation Month campaigns and four awards are available to recognize individuals and small, medium and large collaborative care teams.

Start planning your PAM activities and consider showcasing your campaign this year by applying for the PAM Award!

Deadline is April 30, 2025.

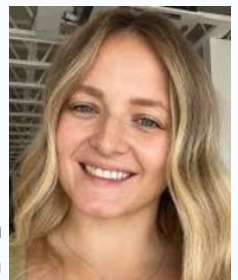
Click here for more information and application form for the Pharmacy Appreciation Month Award: [HERE](#)

Compassionate Membership Grant

This grant is intended to assist CSHP-BC Branch members to continue their involvement with CSHP, even at times of financial hardship. Up to 3 applicants annually may receive this grant to renew their CSHP membership.

Click here for eligibility and application form for the Compassionate Membership Grant: [HERE](#)

Laura Rozka
Awards Chairperson



Awards Announcement

Congratulations to the CSHP BC Branch Award Winners of 2024!

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Continuing Education Travel Grants (Sponsor: Fresenius Kabi Canada Ltd.)	1) Dr. Tim Lau 2) Dr. Oluwatobiloba Obatusin 3) Dr. Vincent Mabasa 4) Dr. Cindy Luo 5) Dr. Dan Martinusen 6) Dr. Craig Roels
Hospital Participation Awards - Small Hospital - Medium Hospital - Large Hospital	Small: G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital Medium: Royal Inland Hospital Large: St. Paul's Hospital
Pharmacy Appreciation Month Awards - Individual - Small Hospital - Medium Hospital - Large Hospital	Individual: Uncontested Small: Vancouver Primary Care Network Medium: JPOCSC Large: St. Paul's Hospital
Maria Machado Memorial Education Program Award	Dr. Tamara Mihic and Dr. Andrea Wan
Future Professional Student Award	Simroop Ladhar
Most Outstanding Recruiter of Active Members	Uncontested
Most Outstanding Recruiter of Student Supporters	Mr. Billy Yu
Publication Award – Original Article	Dr. Natasha Kwan and Dr. Roxane Carr
Publication Award – Review Article	Dr. Jennifer Bolt, Dr. Colleen Inglis, Ms. Reema Abdoulezak
Pharmacy Practice Residency Awards (Sponsor: Pfizer Canada Inc.)	1) Ms. Madison Lai 2) Ms. Lilian Lo 3) Ms. Felisha Teja 4) Ms. Rebecca Chiang 5) Ms. Mackenzie Balzan
Pharmacy Practice (AGM Poster) Award	New Researcher(s): Ms. Meghan MacLaren, Dr. Rosanne Thlakada, Dr. Tim Lau Veteran Researcher(s): Dr. Caitlin Gordon, Ms. Michelle Gnyra, Dr. Erica Wang, Dr. Michael Legal, Mr. Billy Yu
Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists of British Columbia Student Award	1) Mr. Harman Waring 2) Ms. Brina Kim
New Hospital Pharmacy Practitioner Award	Dr. Tracy Liu
Mentorship Award	Ms. Katie Bellefeuille
Meritorious Service Award	Dr. Vincent H. Mabasa
Past President Award	Dr. Vanessa Paquette
CSHP BC Branch Distinguished Service Award	Dr. Sean Spina

Student Mentorship

Happy New Year!

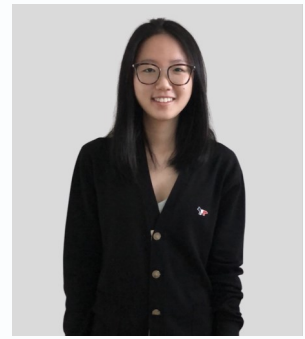
We hope everyone has had a relaxing break and is ready to kick off another semester. It's always exciting to see students back at UBC, and we're looking forward to the months ahead!

This spring, we're bringing back some familiar initiatives to continue supporting students' interest in clinical pharmacy. With **Pharmacy Awareness Month (PAM)** quickly approaching, we're excited to announce some new initiatives focused on engaging the public and showcasing the important role of pharmacists. Stay tuned for more details about these events in the coming weeks!

In addition to PAM, students can look forward to the return of the **Spotlight Series**, where we highlight clinical pharmacists from various practices across BC, as well as the **Student Clinical Symposium and Resident Showcases**. These events offer fantastic opportunities to learn more about hospital pharmacy and connect with pharmacists and residents across the province.

Our **Student Mentorship Program** is also well underway. This year, we've **matched 56 students** with hospital pharmacists from various health authorities and specialties across BC. These pairings provide a valuable opportunity for students to connect with mentors, explore career paths, and gain insights into clinical pharmacy roles. We are incredibly grateful to our mentors for dedicating their time and expertise to supporting our students. If you'd like to **learn more about the program**, feel free to reach out to us at cshpstudentcoordinator@gmail.com

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to **Brina Kim** for her outstanding work as **CSHP-BC Student Membership Coordinator over the past two years**. Her dedication has been invaluable in shaping our initiatives and programs. As Brina enters the final stages of her PharmD journey, we wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors. Thank you for all you've done, Brina!



At the same time, we're delighted to welcome **Amanda Lee** as our **new Junior Student Membership Coordinator**. Amanda is a second-year PharmD student with a strong passion for hospital pharmacy. She's excited to contribute her ideas and experiences to the team, and we're confident she'll bring great energy to the role.

As we head into a busy term, we wish everyone a safe and successful semester. Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming events, and don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions.



Respectfully submitted,
Billy Yu and Amanda Lee
CSHP-BC Student Membership Coordinators

Welcome and Thank You to Our New and Returning 2025 Council Members!

- President. **Asal Taheri**
- Past President. **Vanessa Paquette**
- President Elect. **Hilary Rowe**
- Treasurer. **Kevin Kwok**
- Secretary. **Mahsa Movahedan**
- BC Delegate. **Karen Dahri**
- Programs Chair **Tamara Mihic**
- Membership Chair. **Shirin Malek**
- Communications Officer. **Tracy Liu**
- BC Advocacy Co-Chairs **Michael Kammermayer and Kseniya Chernushkin**
- Fundraising Chair **Trana Hussaini**
- Awards Chairperson. **Laura Rozka**

- Fraser Valley Chapter Chair **Harleen Chohan & Kendra Southwood**
- Northern Chapter Chair. **Katie Bellefeuille**
- Interior Chapter Chair **Melissa Lane & Laura Siemers**
- Vancouver Island Chapter Chair. **Matt Del Nin & Dorothy Lau**
- Co-Chief Residents. **Emma Fedusiak & Marcus Wong**
- Student Membership Coordinator. **Billy Yu & Amanda Lee**
- CAPSI Representative. **Jeevan Gill & Jade Hoang**



Sponsorship

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CSHP BC Branch would like to thank the following companies for their support through unrestricted grants.

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