

# 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

**Dear CSHP-BC Branch Members and Supporters,**

As Autumn settles across British Columbia, the cooler weather and changing leaves provide a moment of reflection of work completed, but also a renewed sense of focus on what lies ahead.

This year, this carries special significance as we enter the final months of our **2023 - 2025 Strategic Plan**. I’m pleased to share that we were able to achieve our deliverables thanks to the tremendous efforts of our volunteers.

Over the past year, the CSHP-BC Branch has worked diligently to develop our **2026–2029 Strategic Plan**. Guided by feedback from the **2024 CSHP National Membership Survey** and aligned with **CSHP National’s new strategic priorities**, this plan reflects our shared vision for the years ahead. I encourage you to review the President-Elect section of this newsletter to learn more about the planning process and how you can share your feedback.

We have also continued to build strong collaborative relationships with our external partners. In July, I had the privilege of representing **CSHP BC at the Provincial Allied Health Association Collaborative Meeting**, where the **Allied Health Policy Secretariat** shared updates on meeting the goals of the Allied Health Strategic Plan. This included progress on **Action 3**, which focuses on adopting a definition of allied health that informs policy, program development, and workforce planning. The **Ministry of Health** has created an [infographic](#) outlining the rationale for this initiative and is seeking provider feedback through a [survey](#); an important opportunity to inform future workforce and policy development.

Fall also marks one of our busiest student engagement seasons. This year, CSHP BC was proud to co-sponsor the inaugural **UBC PharmD Backpack Project**, led by the Pharmacy Undergraduate Society. Each first-year Entry-to-Practice PharmD student received a **complimentary backpack** embroidered with the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, CSHP BC, and Medicine Shoppe logos. The goal of this initiative is to create a sense of connection, identity, and community for students entering the program. Keep an eye out for them on campus and at your sites.

In early October, members of our Membership Committee and I represented **CSHP BC at the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Career Avenues Night**. We were delighted by the number of students eager to learn about opportunities within healthcare-systems pharmacy and to meet their CSHP BC mentors. It was a wonderful reminder of the impact of our **Student Mentorship Program**. My sincere thanks go to **Shirin Malek** (Membership Chair), **Billy Yu** (Senior Student Representative), **Amanda Lee** (Junior Student Representative), and the entire **Membership Committee** for their dedication in planning and leading our student engagement activities.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our newest Council members who joined over the summer: **Emily Gale** and **Sarah Kim** (BC Co-Chief Residents), **Florian Zhou** (Fraser Valley Chapter Chair), and **Simrat Sekhon** (CAPSI Junior Representative). Beyond the branch, we’re also thrilled to share news of CSHP’s newly appointed **Chief Executive Officer, Karla Thorpe**! Please see the National Delegate section of this edition for more details about Karla’s appointment. **(continued on next page)**

# President's Message

As my term as **CSHP BC President** draws to a close following our Branch AGM in November, this will be my **final submission** to the Branchlet. Of all the takeaways from this experience, one of the most meaningful has been witnessing the strength and power of our community. Whether in easy or challenging times, the dedication, collaboration, and creativity of our members continue to move our profession forward. I am deeply grateful for the commitment of our Council and committee volunteers, and it has been an honour to represent the CSHP-BC Branch.

**If you're attending our Annual General Meeting, please come by and say hello.**

Warm Regards,  
**Asal Taheri**

CSHP BC President 2024-25



## Advocacy

**Dear CSHP BC Members and Supporters,**

As the weather turns and the days shorten, the CSHP-BC Advocacy has come back together to continue to work in support of improving the visibility of pharmacy professionals while taking every opportunity to demonstrate our value, both currently as well as our value optimization potential with things like expanded scope.

We continue to monitor the **HSA - HEABC bargaining developments** through our members and participation in bilateral HSA Professional Associations meetings. Recently, HSA reported that the **Community Bargaining Association (CBA)**, who negotiate on behalf of some HSA members, reached an impasse in their negotiations with **Health Employers Association of BC (HEABC)** and the provincial government on things such as wages, overtime, vacation, and health benefits ([see more at Health Sciences Association | CBA Bargaining: Impasse Reached with Employer](#)). Meanwhile, the **Health Science Professionals Bargaining Association (HSPBA)**, who represent many of the HSA members in negotiations with HEABC, continues their negotiations and has announced an extension of recruitment and retention incentives for health science professionals until the end of the year ([see more at Health Sciences Association | HSPBA: Recruitment and Retention Incentives Extended to End of Year](#)). CSHPBC remains informed and proactive in exploring ways to advocate for members as these negotiations progress. Again, we extend our thanks to all members of the HSPBA bargaining committee for their representation at the negotiation table.

The fall bilateral meeting with the **Ministry of Health's Systems Policy and Oversight Division** has been rescheduled to the spring. We continue to meet with our colleagues within the **Ministry of Health's Pharmacy Division** on a monthly basis where we can continue our work in advocacy for the expansion of scope of all pharmacy team members.

As we move through all of the festivities of fall, Kseniya and I are thankful for the members of the **CSHP-BC Advocacy Committee** and all of the wonderful ideas and contributions that they make to our advocacy efforts through their specific practice lenses, and to the success of our planning and execution of **Pharmacy Appreciation Month**.

If you are interested in participating in these exciting discussions and events, please reach out to us at [advocacy@cshp-bc.com](mailto:advocacy@cshp-bc.com). We are actively recruiting members in general and are specifically looking for student and resident representatives to lend their voices to our efforts.

**Please consider joining this exciting committee to be part of the future of our profession!!**



All the best,  
**Michael Kammermayer and Kseniya Chernushkin**  
CSHP BC Advocacy Co-Chairs



# President Elect

In January the BC Branch Council initiated its work on the 2026–2029 strategic plan.

To launch this process, the council thoroughly reviewed the feedback provided by BC branch members in the 2024 CSHP National Membership survey.

Council also met with CSHP National to gain a deeper understanding of the new National strategic plan to determine how CSHP national priorities align with our unique needs here in BC.

The focus of CSHP National has shifted to reflect the impact CSHP has on the profession and patient outcomes.

## CSHP National Key Strategic Areas

- Professional leadership
- Identity
- Community
- Advocacy
- Organizational excellence

For more information on National priorities go to the [CSHP National Strategic Plan](#).

In addition, Council completed a robust SWOT analysis that focused on prior priorities and the key strategic areas noted above.

Council used the information from these resources to create the BC Branch strategies, tactics and deliverables.

We are now nearing the final stages of this plan and would like to share the branch's strategic priorities with membership.

Over the next 3 years the BC Branch will focus on advancing excellence in pharmacy practice and being the voice of pharmacy within the healthcare system.

The BC Branch will continue to grow strong relationships and engage regularly with local and provincial organizations to elevate the practice and scope of pharmacy professionals. The Branch will continue to enhance communication, and cultivate belonging and purpose with students, members and the community.

We will continue to prioritize environmentally sustainable practices through branch initiatives and in-person events.

The BC Branch will create new opportunities to foster inclusivity and participation in the organization.

To view the CSHP BC Branch Strategic Priorities Visual go to the [CSHP BC Branch website News and Updates](#).

**Canadian Society of  
Healthcare-Systems Pharmacy (CSHP)**  
BC Branch  
News and Updates

The BC Branch Council welcomes feedback on the priorities identified from members prior to Oct 31, 2025.

If you have suggestions for priorities that Council should consider or emphasize in future strategic planning initiatives, please email [cshpbc@gmail.com](mailto:cshpbc@gmail.com) with the subject line "Strategic Plan."



Kind Regards,  
**Hilary Rowe**  
CSHP BC President-Elect



# Programs

We continued our exciting year of CSHP BC Branch events with the 2025 **Clinical Symposium**, held virtually on **Wednesday, September 18, 2025**.

This fully online format allowed pharmacists from across the province to connect, learn, and engage from the comfort of their homes or workplaces. Attendees tuned in for an evening packed with thought-provoking clinical content and dynamic discussions.

This year's symposium featured three expert speakers who shared insights on key practice areas:

- **Dr. Tom McFarlane (University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy):** Autoimmune Toxicity from Cancer Immunotherapies
- **Dr. Kyle Collins (Island Health):** An Update on Pediatric Asthma
- **Dr. Melanie Carter (Interior Health):** Update on the 2025 ACC/AHA/ACEP/NAEMSP/SCAI Guideline for the Management of Patients with Acute Coronary Syndromes

A big thank-you to our speakers, Programs Committee, and all who attended for making this virtual event a success!

**Didn't catch it live?** All CSHP members have access to the [event recordings](#) to watch (or rewatch) at their convenience.



Special Discounted Pricing for CSHP Members!

CSHP-BC BRANCH PRESENTS

# Clinical Symposium 2025

## VIRTUAL EVENT

Thursday  
September 18th  
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
PDT

TWO OPTIONS TO ATTEND:

- In real time via Zoom
- Via video on demand (view recordings and complete evaluations by Friday October 3rd 2025 11:59 PM PDT to receive CE credits)

For more event info visit [cshp-bc.com](http://cshp-bc.com)



Canadian Society of Healthcare-Systems Pharmacy Société canadienne de pharmacie dans les réseaux de la santé

## BC Branch

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER

JOIN US AT THE VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE

Friday November 14 (fully virtual):  
6:30 - 8:10 PM PDT


Saturday November 15 (Hybrid):  
7:30 AM - 4:15 PM PDT

We're wrapping up the year with the **CSHP-BC Annual General Meeting 2025**, taking place **Friday, November 14 (virtual with viewing party at St. Paul's Hospital)** and **Saturday, November 15** for the first time at the beautiful **Vancouver Convention Centre!**

This year's program features a stellar speaker lineup covering diverse topics in clinical practice and special keynote presentations from **UBC President Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon - "A Journey out of Multigenerational Trauma: Cures for the Body, Mind, and Soul"** and a **panel presentation on "Uprooting Pharmacy: Bringing Together Traditional and Western Medicines"**.

We also have social events lined up for both Friday and Saturday, and an amazing hotel rate at the Auberge Hotel for attendees joining us from across BC (email [programs@cshp-bc.com](mailto:programs@cshp-bc.com) for more information).

Visit our event [website](#) for more details and [register](#) before the early bird deadline of **Oct. 30, 2025!**



**Tamara Mihic**  
CSHP BC Programs Chair 2025



# Awards

The Awards Committee has been working very hard judging numerous awards and cannot wait to recognize our BC Branch award winners at the AGM in November!

## Upcoming Awards

If you are attending the AGM in person, please be sure to check out our excellent poster submissions for the Pharmacy Practice Award on display. If you are a CSHP-BC member and are interested in helping to judge these poster submissions please e-mail [awards@cshp-bc.com](mailto:awards@cshp-bc.com). You do not need to be a part of the Awards Committee to participate.

## We want to hear from you!

The Awards Committee is reviewing how we recognize our valued members (ex: with physical, monetary awards, etc.) and want your feedback! Please share any comments or suggestions with [awards@cshp-bc.com](mailto:awards@cshp-bc.com) and stay tuned for a survey in the coming months.

Have a wonderful fall season,  
**Laura Rozka**  
CSHP BC Awards Chairperson



# BC Delegate

I want to first share some very exciting news with everyone. The CEO Search & Selection Steering Committee of which I was a member has been hard at work these past few months. Our efforts have culminated in the appointment of **Karla Thorpe** as CSHP's new **Chief Executive Officer** effective November 12, 2025.

Karla brings extensive experience in strategic and operational leadership, stakeholder relations, and healthcare systems advancement. Most recently, she served as **Vice President, Programs and Priorities at the Mental Health Commission of Canada**, where she was responsible for successful program leadership and strategic oversight. Her previous tenure as **Director of Workplace Health and Wellness at the Conference Board of Canada**, combined with her **Master of Science in Statistics from Queen's University and completion of the Not-for-Profit Governance Essentials Program**, make her exceptionally well-suited to lead CSHP into its next chapter. Karla's leadership will further strengthen CSHP's external influence, system advocacy, and professional leadership across Canada's healthcare-systems pharmacy landscape. I am looking forward to working with Karla as she steps into this important role.

The **National Award program** is currently open for applications for a variety of different awards. **More information can be found [here](#)**. The **Awards Program** is focused on promoting excellence in pharmacy practice and recognizing programs and initiatives that have improved patient outcomes. I encourage all of you to review the criteria and submit to get recognized for your professional dedication and commitment to the profession and provision of patient care.

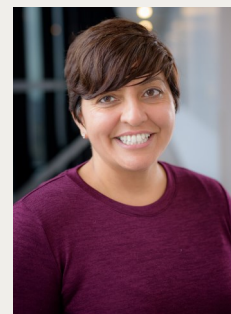
Another **CSHP National recognition program** is the **Fellows program**. Applications for Fellows recognition are currently open. It was an honor to receive my Fellows recognition many years ago. The Fellows committee has worked on improving communication around the criteria for recognition and recently held a webinar to give an overview of the program and the application process. **More information can be found [here](#)** along with a recording of the webinar.

A new member benefit was recently introduced. **"The Equity-Diversity-Inclusion, Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ Health & Cultural Safety Training for Pharmacy Professionals** is a two-course series for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. **The Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada** and the **Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada** partnered to develop this program with assistance from **PRIDE-RX** and the **Black Pharmacy Professionals of Canada.**" CSHP members receive a **15% discount** on this course and you can find **more information [here](#)**.

The **QID PSNs** are migrating to a new platform, CSHP Communities. This will be a rejuvenation of this program and an opportunity for a refresh. **You can learn more [here](#)**.

And finally, I will be representing BC at the **Fall Board Meetings** which will be taking place near the end of October in Calgary. The Fall Board Meetings will provide an opportunity to meet our new CEO in person and to discuss our progress over this past year and our plans for the year ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Karen Dahri**  
CSHP BC Delegate



# Student Mentorship

Welcome back everyone!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Class of 2029 and hope the school year is off to a great start. Our team is excited for another year filled with opportunities for UBC pharmacy students to explore hospital pharmacy and connect with professionals in the field.

We have already had the chance to meet many of you at the **Great Pharmacy Adventure** and **Clubs Night** in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building, where interest in CSHP and the **Student Mentorship Program** was stronger than ever. To help students get involved early, **CSHP Student Supporter membership is now free for first-year students and half-priced for second-year students**, making it easier than ever to access events, mentorship, and resources.

Our [CSHP-BC Student Symposium and Social](#) is coming up on **Friday, October 24 at 5:30 pm** in the **UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences Building (Atrium and PHRM 1201)**. This year's speakers include residents **Sarah Kim** (LMPS Y1 LGH Adults Pod) and **Michelle Chau** (LMPS Y1 VGH Adults Pod). Students interested in hospital pharmacy, residency programs, or learning about the resident experience are encouraged to attend what promises to be an engaging evening.

## CSHP-BC Student Symposium + Social 2025

Canadian Society of Healthcare-Systems Pharmacy (CSHP-BC) Student Symposium + Social



Thank you to all the students who attended the **BC Residency Information Session on Tuesday, September 23**, and to the **Residency Coordinators** for taking time out of their busy schedules to present and share their insights on the residency programs across BC. The event was a great opportunity for students to ask questions and learn more about the residency process.

The [Student Mentorship Program](#) is also open for registration. With strong interest again this year, it remains one of the best ways for students to connect with hospital pharmacists, ask career questions, and gain insight into health-systems pharmacy. We are grateful for the many mentors across BC who

have signed up to support students and always welcome more pharmacists to join. **The mentor sign-up link can be found [here](#).** Questions about the program can be sent to [csHPstudentcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:csHPstudentcoordinator@gmail.com).

We look forward to another exciting year ahead and hope to see you at our upcoming events.



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



# Sponsors



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

## MAJOR BENEFACTORS



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