

AFPC Award Winners



AFPC New Investigator Research Award

Dr. Mark Harrison

Dr. Mark Harrison is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of British Columbia (UBC), where he leads the Initiative for Sustainable Health Care, and Scientist at the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcomes Sciences (CHEOS) at St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver. Dr. Harrison is a health economist and epidemiologist who's methodological and research interests lie in policy evaluation, patient and physician decision making and preferences for healthcare interventions, and the measurement and valuation of health. Dr. Harrison is applying advances in research, education, and practice in these areas to the economic principles of health care sustainability.

Dr. Harrison has a long-standing interest in the study of chronic disease. He is currently involved in projects investigating perspectives of health care providers, patients and at-risk people on preventative treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, policy evaluations of pharmacist medication reviews and accelerated integrated primary and community care programs for people with chronic diseases. His policy work uses the rich administrative data sources available in British Columbia and builds on his track record in evaluating policy interventions in the UK. Before moving to UBC, he worked at the University of Manchester (UK) on a range of projects, including evaluating the impact of a national pay for performance schemes to improve the quality of primary care for chronic diseases, the use of patient-reported outcome measures to evaluate surgical outcomes, and strategies to improve the communication of risk and uncertainty in physician-patient interactions.

Dr. Harrison has a first-class Honors degree in Business and Management Sciences (University of Bradford, 2000), an MSc (University of Edinburgh, 2002) and a PhD (University of Manchester, 2008) in Epidemiology. He began his research career with the Arthritis Research UK Epidemiology Unit in 2002, and then following the completion of his PhD, at the Manchester Centre for Health Economics, both at the University of Manchester. He also served as an adviser for the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service for North West England. Dr. Harrison has a strong publication record with 41 publications, 22 as lead author.



AFPC/CFP Graduate Student Award for Pharmacy Practice Research

Mr. Robert Pammett

Rob Pammett graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Saskatchewan in 2010, from where he also holds a Bachelor of Science Honours in Biology and Biotechnology. In September of 2012, Rob returned to the University of Saskatchewan to pursue a Master of Science in Pharmacy, graduating in 2015. Rob is currently the Research and Development Pharmacist – Primary Care, a partnership between Northern Health and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia, where he holds the rank of Assistant Professor (Partner). He was a recipient of the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Wellspring Pharmacy Leadership Awards in 2013, and received the Canadian Pharmacists Association New Practitioner Award in 2015. He has an active clinical role in multiple primary care homes in Prince George, British Columbia and works with the city's Interprofessional Teams to provide comprehensive care to patients.

Rob is also engaged in research surrounding the optimal role of pharmacists in primary care, is a member of Northern Health's Research Review Committee and is the Chair of the Canadian Pharmacists Association and Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists joint Primary Care Pharmacy Specialty Network.

AFPC Award Winners



AFPC/Pfizer Research Career Award

Dr. Shirley Wu

Dr. Shirley X.Y. Wu is a full Professor at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto. She was trained in polymer science and engineering and earned her PhD degree in Chemical Engineering at McMaster University. After over 2-years postdoctoral research in pharmaceuticals and drug delivery, she joined the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto in 1994 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2006. During her over 21 year academic career, Dr. Wu has established and directed a very active and innovative research program in advanced pharmaceuticals and drug delivery. She has provided excellent multidisciplinary research training to more than 130 graduate and undergraduate research students and postdoctoral researchers in the field of pharmaceuticals, drug delivery, drug development, and pharmaceutical nanotechnology. Dr. Wu is a nationally and internationally recognized expert and distinguished research leader in controlled release dosage forms and innovative drug delivery systems and delivery strategies for enhanced treatment of multidrug resistant and metastatic cancer. In addition, she has made significant contributions to modeling and computer simulation of modified release dosage forms, and nanotechnology-enabled closed-loop insulin delivery. Her lab has developed a novel nanoparticle platform - polymer-lipid hybrid nanoparticles (PLN) for delivering synergistic drug combinations. Her current research remains at the forefront of the field including blood-brain barrier-penetrating nanoparticles for treatment of brain cancer and CNS diseases, synergistic drug combination nanomedicine, tumor microenvironment-modulating bioactive nanoparticles, glucose-responsive delivery of therapeutic hormones, and computer-aided design of controlled release drug delivery systems. Dr. Wu has published >350 journal papers, book chapters, conference proceedings and abstracts. She is a co-inventor of 25 issued and pending worldwide patents. She has delivered over 100 invited presentations and received numerous awards and honors, including induction to a Fellow of American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) in 2014, in recognition of her sustained level of superior and distinguished professional achievement, contributions, and leadership in the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences.



AFPC/Merck Canada Ltd. Postgraduate Pharmacy Fellowship Award

Dr. Katherine Koroluk

Katherine Koroluk is a native of Caledon Ontario. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Chemistry at the University of Toronto before graduating with Honours from the PharmD program at the University of Toronto in 2015. Katherine is currently completing a pharmacy residency in primary care at the University Health Network in Toronto. She is concurrently completing her master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Toronto, focusing her research on antimicrobial stewardship in the primary care setting.

Katherine feels lucky to have been involved in several different areas of the multifaceted profession of pharmacy. She has had the opportunity to work in ambulatory, hospital and community practice, and has been involved in teaching, research, knowledge translation and professional associations. Besides pharmacy, Katherine's interests include music, baking, cooking, and enjoying the great outdoors through running, hiking and gardening. She is grateful to AFPC and Merck Canada for their sponsorship of the award, which will allow her to focus on her studies and research.

AFPC Award Winners



AFPC Graduate Student Research Award

Dr. Warren Viricel

Warren Viricel is currently a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Montreal (University of Montreal) since 2012, in the Pr. Jeanne Leblond-Chain's lab. He earned his Pharm.D and his Master's degree in "Science of Medicines" at University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (France) respectively in 2014 and 2012. He is currently developing new pH-sensitive nanoparticles for hydrophilic drug and gene delivery (siRNA). These nanovectors are based on switchable lipids, able to change their conformation in acidic environments (such as tumors or inside the cells in endosomes). These lipidic nanovectors could be used for efficient delivery of drugs for cancer treatments or hereditary disorders.



AFPC National Award for Excellence in Education

Mr. Jean-Fran ois Bussi res

Jean-Fran ois Bussi res is a pharmacist since 1988. He completed a Bachelor in Pharmacy at Universit  Laval, a master in hospital Pharmacy at Universit  Laval and an M.B.A. at Universit  McGill. Since 1996, he is the Director of the Pharmacy Department and the Pharmacy Practice Research Unit at CHU Sainte-Justine and full clinical professor at the Facult  de pharmacie at Universit  de Montr al. He chairs the Executive Committee at the Group Purchasing Organisation SigmaSant  for drugs and related disposals. He has been involved in numerous committees and organizations in Quebec and Canada. He has received many awards including the Pharmacist of the Year from the Canadian Pharmacists Association in 2007 and the personality of the week from the daily newspaper La Presse in 2004. He has published a few books, more than 1100 abstracts and papers and has given more than 250 oral communications. He is dedicated to patient care in a mother-child hospital, teaching, research and management.



AFPC/Janssen Award for Innovation in Education

Dr. Derek Jorgenson

Derek Jorgenson is an Associate Professor of Pharmacy in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Ottawa School of Nursing. Dr. Jorgenson teaches both undergraduate and graduate students in pharmacy, medicine, physiotherapy and nursing. He also maintains a health service utilization research program that focuses on the role of pharmacists in the primary health care system. Dr. Jorgenson has a background as a community pharmacist but now maintains a clinical practice as a pharmacist within an interprofessional primary health care team.

AFPC Award Winners



AFPC/PEBC Award for Excellence in Research or Innovation in Assessment of Competence

Dr. Anne Marie Whelan

Anne Marie Whelan is a Professor at the College of Pharmacy at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After receiving her B.Sc. in Pharmacy she started her career working in community pharmacy practice. Building on this experience, she obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1989 and completed a one year post Pharm.D. Residency in Family Medicine. Dr. Whelan has been a faculty member at the College of Pharmacy since 1990. She teaches in the area of pharmacotherapeutics, primarily topics related to women's health. Students selected her as the recipient of the Dr. Jessie I. MacKnight Award for Teaching Excellence in Pharmacy in 1992, 1993 and 1994. In recognition of her work with implementing and evaluating the only undergraduate problem-based learning pharmacy curriculum in Canada she was a co-recipient of the Bristol-Myers Squibb National Award for Excellence in Education in 2000 from the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada and, received Honorable Mention in the 2002 Innovations in Teaching Competition sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. In 2011 she was awarded the Faculty of Health Professions (Dalhousie University) Teaching Excellence Award. To facilitate her leadership role in the area of curriculum evaluation she was appointed Associate Director, Program Evaluation at the College of Pharmacy in 2010. Her research interests span from her work in curriculum evaluation to clinical practice (where she is currently conducting research in the areas of emergency contraception and use of natural health products in women). Dr. Whelan was honoured to serve as President of both the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (2006-2007) and the Board of The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (2013-2014). Currently, Dr. Whelan is completing a sabbatical where she has been enhancing her knowledge and skills in the area of program evaluation. She is looking forward to designing and implementing a comprehensive evaluation plan for the new Doctor of Pharmacy program.

AFPC Student Research Poster Award Winners

Chesarahmia Dojo Soeandy (*University of Toronto*), Waseem Abu-Ashour (*Memorial University of Newfoundland*), Naif Alujhani (*University of Alberta*), Nyasha Gondora (*University of Waterloo*), Divna Calic (*University of Manitoba*), Mia Losier (*Dalhousie University*), Marilyn Sun (*University of British Columbia*), Pedram Rafiei (*University of Saskatchewan*), Marc-André Renaud (*University of Montreal*), Anna Cieślak (*Laval University*)