



## c/COMPRIS Newsletter

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### COMPRIS Sponsors:

We are pleased to welcome AstraZeneca Canada as a COMPRIS corporate sponsor. The current corporate sponsors are:

- AstraZeneca Canada Inc
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada Co/Sanofi Aventis
- Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.
- Overwaitea Food Group

## COMPRIS Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

In addition to a new representative from AstraZeneca, the following organizations have agreed to join the COMPRIS RAC:

- Alberta Health and Wellness
- Alberta Medical Association
- Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
- Capital Health, Community Care, Rehabilitation and Mental Health

These new members will join the original COMPRIS collaborators:

- Alberta College of Pharmacists
- Canadian Pharmacists' Association
- Faculty of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta
- Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta
- Pharmacists Association of Alberta

### SCRIP-HTN Study

COMPRIS launched SCRIP-HTN in May 2005 in Edmonton. SCRIP-HTN is a multidisciplinary research project to determine the effectiveness of a community-based screening, education and intervention program on blood pressure control in patients with diabetes. Pharmacists and nurses in Medicine Shoppe community pharmacies, in the Edmonton area, will screen, assess and intervene in the treatment of high blood pressure in people with diabetes over a period of 24 weeks. The Canadian Guidelines for the Treatment of Hypertension in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus will be used to establish target blood pressure. Primary study outcome will be improved blood pressure control in patients randomized to the intervention arm of the study. Secondary endpoints will include change in antihypertensive therapy (new medication or dosage increase) and proportion of patients using ACE inhibitors or angiotensin receptor antagonists.

SCRIP-HTN is overseen by a multidisciplinary research advisory committee, which includes the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta

### HEALTH POLICY INITIATIVE

One of the core goals and objectives of COMPRIS is "to advocate and support the translation of research results into Canadian health care policy". Mr. David Bougher, former Director of Pharmaceutical Policy and Programs of Alberta Health and Wellness, leads this initiative on behalf of COMPRIS.

To promote collaboration and to introduce the health policy initiative, David has met with numerous stakeholders over the past few months. A sub-committee of RAC will meet in the fall to develop a strategic plan toward advancing the health policy agenda. The sub-committee will be jointly chaired by David Bougher and a representative of the Pharmacists Association of Alberta.

Pharmacists Association, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, Alberta College of Pharmacists, Alberta Health and Wellness, the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy at University of Alberta, Capital Health, and prominent hypertension specialists from Alberta.

### Research Grants

Improving Blood Pressure Management in Patients with Diabetes: SCRIP-HTN. Donna McLean and Ross Tsuyuki received a grant of \$197,000 from Merck Frosst to complete the required funding for this project. Grants were previously received from the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Diabetes Association, and CIHR through its Rural and Northern Health Initiatives program.

A randomized trial of community pharmacist-initiated screening and treatment program for osteoporosis - the OsteoPharm Study. Dr. Nese Yuksel has received a grant of \$95,000 from the Institute of Health Economics. The study will commence in late September 2005.

## Appointments

Jennifer Shiu has been working on numerous projects as a summer student with EPICORE Centre and COMPRIS. She recently completed a literature review in support of the COMPRIS Health Policy Sub-committee. Jennifer is entering second year Pharmacy at the U of A.

COMPRIS welcomes Dr. Sheri Koshman, who has begun an Advanced Pharmacotherapy Practitioner Residency in Ambulatory Cardiology. Ross Tsuyuki serves as her preceptor.

COMPRIS also welcomes Dr. Mark Makowsky in September as a Post Doctoral Research Fellow.

Dr. Ross Tsuyuki has accepted an appointment to serve as Chair of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal. The Journal has been redesigned and revitalized with a planned focus on pharmacy practice research.

## Awards/Accomplishments

Please join us in congratulating the following people for their significant achievements:



Ross Tsuyuki was named 2005 Pharmacist of the Year by the Canadian Pharmacists Association. This honor is awarded to a CPhA member who exemplifies how a pharmacist's expanded role can benefit the health care system. Ross received his award at the CPhA Annual Meeting in Quebec City, in May 2005.



Teri Charrois successfully defended her thesis and received her M.Sc. in Clinical Epidemiology at the spring convocation of the University of Alberta in May 2005. Her thesis was the BREATHE Study.

c/ COMPRIS is part of the  
Epidemiology Coordinating  
Research (EPICORE)  
Centre, Department of  
Medicine, University of  
Alberta.

## Recent Publications

Yamada C, Johnson JA, Robertson P, Pearson G, Tsuyuki RT. Long Term Impact of a Community Pharmacist Intervention on Cholesterol Levels in Patients at High Risk for Coronary Heart Disease Events: The Second Study of Cardiovascular Risk Intervention by Pharmacists (SCRIP-*plus*) Extended Follow-up. *Pharmacotherapy* 2005;58:138-141.

Feeny D, Farris K, Cote I, Johnson JA, Tsuyuki RT, Eng K. A Cohort Study found the RAND-12 and Health Utilities Index Mark 3 Demonstrated Construct Validity in High-Risk Primary Care Patients. *J Clin Epi*2005;50:138-141.

Simpson SH, Marrie TJ, Majumdar SR. Do Guidelines Guide Pneumonia Practice? A systematic review of interventions and barriers to best practice in the management of community - acquired pneumonia. *Respir Care Clin.* 2005;11:1-13.

Charrois T, Newman S, Sin D, Senthilselvan A, Tsuyuki RT. Improving Asthma Symptom Control in Rural Communities: The Design of the Better Respiratory Education and Asthma Treatment in Hinton and Edson (BREATHE) Study. *Controlled Clinical Trials* 2004;25:502-514.

Tsuyuki RT, Olson KL, Dubyk AM, Schindel T, Johnson JA. Effect of community pharmacist intervention on cholesterol levels in patients with high risk of cardiovascular events: The second Study of Cardiovascular Risk Intervention by Pharmacists (SCRIP-*plus*). *Am J Med* 2004;116:130-3.

Charrois TL, Johnson JA, Blitz S, Tsuyuki RT. Relationship Between Number, Timing, and Type of Pharmacist Interventions and Patient Outcomes. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm* 2005;62:1798-801.

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