

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Fall 2019



Jennifer Donnan

My name is Jennifer Donnan and I just completed my PhD Memorial University of Newfoundland and I am looking forward to convocation next month! I was privileged to work under the supervision of Dr. JM Gamble where I studied the integration of patient preferences into the quantitative benefit-risk assessment of medications used to treat type 2 diabetes. To do this I used emerging methodologies including pair-wise and network meta-analyses, choice modeling using a discrete choice experiment and building a benefit-risk model using the incremental net benefit framework.

This work was possible by generous financial support through a CIHR Doctoral Fellowship (Drug Safety and Effectiveness priority area), the NL SPOR SUPPORT unit doctoral award, the Drug Safety and Effectiveness and Cross-Disciplinary Training program, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research.

This semester I started my first academic appointment as an Assistant Professor at Memorial University's School of Pharmacy. I will be teaching in the area of clinical skills, pharmacy practice and evidence-based medicine in the undergraduate curriculum. I look forward to getting to know the students and supporting their journey to become independent pharmacists! I also look forward to building my own research program and taking on eager graduate students. My PhD work identified a number of gaps with respect to evidence-based best practices for using a discrete choice experiment to capture patient preferences for benefit and risks. Moving forward, my research, in part, will focus on generating evidence to support best practices in this area. I also hope to create and evaluate tools that support shared decision making for pharmacotherapy.

I served as the past student representative on the CAPT board from 2016-2018. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. CAPT is a unique organization that brings together key stakeholders to discuss timely issues surrounding population therapeutics. I have learned so much from the incredible team of people that have, and continue to, lead and contribute to this valuable initiative.