

Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund Update

May 2025

Note from the Executive Director

Since 1988, research and projects supported by the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund (DPEF) has been supporting research and projects with the following objectives:

- To enhance pharmacy education
- To support the development of new programs, research or services
- To support the exchange of knowledge through fellowships and scholarships
- To support research activities in the area of professional practice
- To provide for the future needs of pharmacy

Featured in this edition of the DPEF newsletter is Dr Jo-Anne Wilson's recently published research titled, "Optimizing Prescribing for Individuals With Type 2 Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease Through the Development and Validation of Algorithms for Community Pharmacists"

Supporting pharmacy practice through the development of evidence-based patient assessment tools, while providing first-hand research experience to pharmacy student Jennifer Morris, Dr Wilson's work embodies the objectives of the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund, while making an impact on the lives of patients with diabetes & CKD.

The DPEF is proud to be supporting important research, such as Dr. Wilson's!

If you have an idea, funding may be available to support you!

Two pharmacists from each of the three Maritime provinces sit on the DPEF advisory board, and can help direct any questions you may have about the application process.

Or, feel free reach out anytime to:

Erin MacKenzie BSc.Pharm

Executive Director, DPEF

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IMPORTANT DATES in 2025

September 1st Applicants are required to submit a summary of no more than one page, describing the subject matter of the grant proposal to be submitted, due one month prior to the application deadline. This process has been added to facilitate the timely review of grant applications.

October 1st Completed applications must be received. Refer to checklist to ensure that your application is complete.

October 15th DPEF Grant Holders are required to submit either an interim or final report to the Executive Director of the Endowment Fund. Application & Report forms are available at

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/pharmacy/research/endowment-fund/application-process.html>

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DPEF

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2025 Successful Applicants

Index	Contact Applicant	Grant Title	Awarded
1	Jenny Curran	Assessing Antibiotic Prescribing for Pediatric Respiratory Tract Infections in Virtual Care and In-Person Settings	\$16,192
2	Daniel Rainkie	Evaluating the Impact of Assessment Methods on Pharmacists' Confidence and Competence in Upper Respiratory Tract Infection Services Requiring Physical Examination	\$19,240
3	Meghan MacKenzie	Impact of Opioid Stewardship Interventions for Acute Pain on Clinical Outcomes in the Acute Care Setting. A Systematic Review	\$15,360
4	Jennifer Isenor	Pharmacists' Perspectives on Pharmacogenomics Testing: Identifying Knowledge Gaps, Barriers and Opportunities for Implementation in Practice	\$10,100
5	Remigius Agu	Are Higher Prescription Strength Compounded Diclofenac Gels More Effective for Topical Pain and Inflammation Relief than OTC Voltaren®?	\$21,040
6	Natalie Kennie-Kaulbach	Development of a Framework for Assigning Practice Complexity of Pharmacist Tasks in Primary Care	\$22,033
7	Kyle Wilby	College of Pharmacy Graduate Program Scholarships	\$20,000

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FEATURED RESEARCH

“Optimizing prescribing for individuals with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease through the development and validation of algorithms for community pharmacists.”



Dr Jo-Anne Wilson & student Jennifer Morris at the 2024 Maritime Health Research Summit - Maritime SPOR Support Unit.

Dr. Jo-Anne Wilson, Associate Professor at Dalhousie University College of Pharmacy and Faculty of Medicine; Affiliate Scientists at Nova Scotia Health Research, Innovation and Discover; and Associate Scientist at the Maritime SPOR Support Unit has recently published the results of her DPEF funded research entitled, *“Optimizing prescribing for individuals with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease through the development and validation of algorithms for community pharmacists.”* The study can be found in *the Canadian Journal of Kidney Health and Disease* 2025; 12:1-15. DOI:10.1177/20543581241309974

Thirty-three percent of Canadian live with diabetes. One in three will develop diabetic kidney disease which contributes to 38% of kidney failure requiring dialysis. A gap in detection and management of type 2 diabetes (T2D) and chronic kidney disease (CKD) exists in primary care. Many individuals with earlier stages of kidney disease are managed in primary care. They have the most to gain from early detection and persistent prescribing of kidney protective therapies known to slow progression and its complications. Community pharmacists are well positioned to support those not able to access kidney care through traditional pathways.

The *objective* of this study was to develop and validate pharmacist algorithms to confirm T2D and CKD and to prescribe guideline-directed therapies for individuals with an estimated glomerular filtration rate of 30 to 60 ml/min/1.73m² in community pharmacy primary care clinics (CPPCC) in Nova Scotia. Four evidence and expert-informed algorithms were developed including *detection of T2D and CKD, initiation/titration of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers, and initiation/management of sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors and finerenone.*

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The algorithms underwent three rounds of content and face validation by a panel of 22 team experts (pharmacists, nephrologists, endocrinologist, family physician, nurse practitioner, policy makers and informatics experts) and then by 18 community pharmacists working in a CPPCC throughout Nova Scotia. The final algorithms are available in the above publication.

The DPEF funding supported hiring a pharmacy student, Jennifer Morris, who has gained valuable first-hand experience in translational pharmacy practice research. Jennifer presented this research as a poster at the 2024 Maritime Health Research Summit-MSSU and at the College of Pharmacy Undergraduate Research Event. Jennifer's work has also been nominated for an undergraduate AFPC student award at the CPERC 2025 conference in June. Funding provided by DPEF also enabled our team to apply for additional funding to support a future implementation study to determine the effectiveness and safety of the algorithms in CPPCCs. I am super excited to continue this research with the amazing pharmacists in the CPPCCs in Nova Scotia and hoping it will be scalable to other provinces. (#Pharmacy #Kidney #Diabetes Care, @KRINS_1).

The Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund (DPEF) supports programs of mutual interest and benefit to both the profession and the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy.

For further information on how to apply, please see our website at:

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/pharmacy/research/endowment-fund.html>

or contact the Executive Director:

Erin MacKenzie

dalpharmendow@gmail.com

902-367-7080

Please Note:

Annual funding is limited to the returns generated through investment of the capital funds to a maximum of 5% of the capital value. Money is available from the Endowment Fund to pharmacists living in the Maritime Provinces and faculty of the College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University.

As of March 31, 2025, the market value of the Fund was \$ 3,582,365.00

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Advisory Board Members

To ensure that the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund (DPEF) is managed fairly and responsibly, an advisory board handles all administration. The board is made up of representatives that have been appointed by the pharmacy licensing bodies of the three Maritime provinces.

This year's advisory board is comprised of the following members:

- Kyle Wilby, Director, College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University
- TBD, Acting Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Health, Dalhousie University
- Leanne French-Munn, Assistant Vice-Provost Planning & Analytics, Dalhousie University
- Sue Ellen Hamill, Chair, representing Prince Edward Island
- Kilby Rinco, representing Prince Edward Island
- Carole Goodine, representing New Brunswick
- Renee Erb, representing New Brunswick
- Sandeep Sodhi, representing Nova Scotia
- Randa Ataya, representing Nova Scotia
- Erin MacKenzie, Executive Director, Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund

Special thanks to Wanda Dundas, College of Pharmacy for her support!

Reminder to Applicants & Grant Holders

We have gone paperless!

All applications, interim & final reports can now be submitted electronically *only*!
A 'hard-copy' need not follow.