



Canadian Foundation
for Pharmacy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2018 Innovation Fund winner studies impact of pharmacist-directed vaccines

TORONTO, October 31, 2017 – The Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy is pleased to announce the winner of its annual Innovation Fund Grant: pharmacist **John Papastergiou** of **Shoppers Drug Mart/University of Toronto**.

With the support of a \$15,000 grant, Papastergiou and his team will quantify vaccines adherence rates nationally when they're provided through a community pharmacy. They'll also study the impact of pharmacist-directed immunizations on vaccines regimens as whole.

“We hope to demonstrate that patients who get their vaccines administered by a pharmacist are more likely to complete their vaccine series,” says Papastergiou, noting that adult immunization rates are consistently low because Canadians aren't aware of which vaccines are available. In fact, a Shopper Drug Mart consumer survey showed that 44% of patients missed a booster vaccine because they didn't know a booster dose was needed.

Using a huge sample size of patients from Shoppers national network, this study will be the very first in Canada to look at vaccines adherence and its potential links to pharmacists' injection and prescribing scope of practice.

“This study can hopefully assist pharmacists in obtaining prescribing rights for vaccines nationally,” said a member of CFP's Innovation Fund Grant Evaluation Committee.

Papastergiou is one of four Innovation Fund grant recipients this year. Through the ***Innovation Fund***, CFP supports projects and research that facilitate the evolving role of the pharmacist. The Foundation has contributed more than \$1 million to this cause since 2006.

For more information about the awards and grant recipients contact:

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