



Canadian Foundation  
for Pharmacy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2018 Innovation Fund grant winner to bring opioid care to remote areas**

TORONTO, October 31, 2018 – The Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy is pleased to announce the winner of its annual Innovation Fund Grant: pharmacist **Paula Newman** of **NorthWest Telepharmacy Solutions**.

With the support of a \$22,500 grant, Newman and her team will determine the feasibility and effectiveness of a pharmacist-led opioid stewardship program (OSP) for chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP) using videoconferencing technology.

It's no secret that opioid misuse is a public health crisis in Canada, with a steady increase in opioid-related harms in Ontario for a decade. Since 2003, deaths increased by 246 per cent; more than 1,250 Ontarians died from opioid-related causes in 2017.

Pharmacists have already demonstrated they can lead OSP programs that improve, monitor and evaluate the use of opioids to support and protect patients. Telepharmacists have also proven to have a positive impact on health and economic outcomes in both hospital and primary care settings. With this pilot project, the researchers will determine if the same holds true for an OSP program in a remote, rural Ontario center with the Chappleau & District Family Health Team.

The project will be a collaborative team-based approach to opioid stewardship that includes: informed prescribing, prescriber and patient education, risk stratification and screening for potential harm, and patient monitoring with diligent follow-up and continuity of care.

The long-term goal is to develop a feasible and sustainable patient-centred CNCP OSP program that improves health outcomes and healthcare disparities in rural Canada, while broadening the scope of pharmacist care.

"This research is timely, relevant and a great use of technology," said a member of CFP's Innovation Fund Grant Evaluation Committee.

Newman is one of four Innovation 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:

**Dayle Acorn**  
**Executive Director,**  
Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy

<http://www.cfpnet.ca>  
Ph: 905.997.3238  
E: [dacorn@cfpnet.ca](mailto:dacorn@cfpnet.ca)