



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT...



Salmaan Kanji, Pharm.D. CSHP Foundation Research Grant Recipient

“Validation of a Pain Assessment Tool (CPOT) in Critically Ill Patients with Delirium”

Dr. Kanji and co-investigators Heather MacPhee, Avinder Singh, Christel Johanson, Jennifer Fairbairn, Tammy Lloyd, Robert MacLean, and Erin Rosenberg received a CSHP Foundation research grant of \$8,000 in 2013 to conduct research.

Q: How did the concept/idea for your project come about?

A: We were planning to re-evaluate our sedation and analgesic practices in the ICU at our institution in light of newly published consensus guidelines. Implementation of a pain assessment tool was one of our objectives. Given the frequency of delirium observed in our ICU, we identified this research project as an opportunity to fill a gap in the literature and address a local need.

Q: Please briefly describe your research project and what it revealed.

A: A prospective cohort of 40 adult patients deemed delirious were enrolled in an ICU within a tertiary healthcare centre. Pain assessments were compared between the CPOT and other subjective and objective measurements. The COPT demonstrated excellent discriminant validity and a high level of internal consistency. We found our new tool is valid to assess pain in non-comatose, delirious adult ICU patients who are unable to reliably report pain.

Q: What impact will your research have on patient care and hospital pharmacy?

A: The under-recognition of pain is associated with significant consequences in daily functioning and quality of life, as well as increased length of hospital stay, longer recovery times and poorer patient outcomes. Use of a validated behavioural pain scale can help hospital pharmacists promptly assess pain in critically ill patients and improve pain management and clinical outcomes as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Q: Why are CSHP Foundation grants important to hospital pharmacists?

A: Funding opportunities for Canadian clinicians and researchers are few and far between but essential for the conduct of research in today's environment. Peer reviewed research funding opportunities are very competitive as a result. The CSHP Foundation provides a funding source to Canadian hospital pharmacists who otherwise have few options. Even with small grants, clinically significant research projects can be conducted.

Publication and Presentations: Dr. Kanji's team presented the results of this research project at a Patient Safety Conference in Ottawa, an Ontario Branch CSHP Education Session, and at a Critical Care Canada Forum in Toronto.

The role of the hospital pharmacist is changing; research and education will support the change.

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