John Papastergiou

Owner - Four Shoppers Drug Mart in Toronto

Presenter

John Papastergiou graduated from the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto in 2002. After graduation he was employed as a staff pharmacist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center. In 2005, John joined Shoppers Drug Mart and acquired his first store at Pape and Danforth. He now owns and operates four locations in downtown Toronto. In 2014, John received an appointment as an adjunct assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy, University of Waterloo. In 2016, he was cross-appointed at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto.

In addition to managing a large business, John employs his unique background in clinical research to explore an expanded role for the community pharmacist. John has been the recipient of two research grants from CFP through the Innovation Fund grant.

John can be heard regularly on Fight Back with Libby Znaimer on AM740 Zoomer Radio and on his top-rated podcast, The Pharmacists Are In.

John has received numerous awards, including the Shoppers Drug Mart Associate of the Year, the OPA Mentorship Award and was named CPhA Canadian Pharmacist of the Year.

He was the recipient of the OPA Voice of the Profession Award and the Pharmacy Practice Commitment to Care Award for Overall Patient Care. In 2019, John was named by the International Forum on Advancement in Healthcare as one of the top 100 health care leaders globally. He was also presented with the OPA Award for Excellence in Research and Academia.

Sherilyn Houle

Assistant Professor - University of Waterloo

Moderator

Sherilyn received her Pharmacy degree from the University of Saskatchewan and PhD from the University of Alberta. In 2018 she also received her Certificate in Travel Health from the International Society of Travel Medicine. She has experience in hospital, home care, and community pharmacy practice, and is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy with research and teaching interests in pharmacist practice to full scope, particularly as immunizers and travel medicine providers. She also maintains a practice at the International Travel and Immunizations Clinic with the Centre for Family Medicine Family Health Team in Kitchener, Ontario.

Suhas Thaleshvar

Owner - Two Medicine Shoppe Pharmacies in Alberta

Panelist

Suhas graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta a few decades ago. His past experience includes community pharmacy ownership as well as several years at Health Canada. He is currently the owner of two Medicine Shoppe Pharmacies in Sherwood Park Alberta. He has his Additional Prescribing Authorization and a Certificate in Travel Health. He believes that the pharmacist can play a key role in helping patients maintain access to vital services in an overburdened healthcare system.

Glen Rodrigues

Facilitator - Prescription to Thrive

Panelist

Mr. Glenn Rodrigues, Pharmacy Practice Facilitator, PANS. Glenn Rodrigues is a community pharmacist who graduated from Dalhousie's College of Pharmacy. He is currently a Facilitator in Prescription to Thrive, a program supporting pharmacies throughout Nova Scotia in operationalizing the full scope of pharmacy practice. The role involves streamlining workflow, supporting the clinical and technical competencies of the team, developing operational plans for pharmacy services and building economic models that support the practice. He has also served as a Skills Lab Coordinator at Dalhousie's College of Pharmacy and as a pharmacy advocate as a Board Member of the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia. He has developed and facilitated numerous Continuing Education Programs on Pharmacist Prescribing and Patient-Centred Care.