Wednesday, October 5th, 2016

Mike DeVillaer
Title: “Cannabis Legalization: Dude, It’s Complicated!”

Presentation Description:
The Canadian government is legalizing the recreational use of cannabis. This will involve the successful navigation of a complex labyrinth of regulatory issues that must reconcile public health and safety, human rights, and commercial interests, ultimately determining whether we achieve a social justice victory or usher in the next drug-related endemic of harm. Those who care for people with addiction and mental health problems can advocate with government to protect their safety.

Learning Objectives:
- increase awareness of the complexity of cannabis legalization
- identify the various agendas for reform and potential conflicts
- help health care providers advocate for people with addiction & mental health problems

Wednesday, October 12th, 2016

Dee Mangin
Title: “Stopping SSRIs – 'I Can't Fight This Feeling””
Presentation Description:
More than 10% of the adult population in primary care are currently taking an SSRI. The increasing SSRI prescription numbers are driven largely by continuation of medication after acute treatment phase as long term maintenance therapy to prevent recurrence. There are no RCTS of the effectiveness of this strategy in primary care patients. This session presents the results of a multicentre double blinded RCT of continuing versus stopping long term maintenance SSRIs in primary care.

Learning objectives:
- To identify the issues involved in prescribing antidepressants, including the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence around long term maintenance treatment.
- Discuss evidence to inform shared decision making around discontinuation vs. continuation of maintenance SSRIs (Absolute risk difference, NNT, NNH, NNTrial.....)
- Discuss practical approaches to tapering and stopping SSRIs.

Wednesday, October 19th, 2016

Francesc Colom
Title: TBA

Presentation Description:
Learning Objectives:

Wednesday, October 26th, 2016

Rachel Tyndale
Title: “Can defective genes be good for you? Smoking, Cessation and CYP2A6-mediated nicotine inactivation”

Presentation Description:
CYP2A6 is a genetically variable enzyme which metabolically inactivates nicotine. Genetic variation in the rate of nicotine metabolism alters numerous aspects of smoking, including the risk for being a smoker, how much one smokes, response to smoking cues, lung cancer, and the ability to stop smoking unaided, as well as when using pharmacotherapy.

Learning objectives:
- Learn about genetic variation in nicotine metabolism
- Understand sources of variation in smoking behaviours
- Use of a biomarker of nicotine metabolism to personalize smoking cessation
To take the shuttle for any of these presentations it is best to use the Charlton/West 5th shuttle which runs on a continuous 30 minute loop between sites running from 530am to 730pm. This shuttle picks up and drops off in the small parking lot outside the cafeteria level entrance at the Charlton and outside the outpatient entrance at West 5th.