

2018 PAS Award of Merit Recipients

Recognizes pharmacists, individuals or organizations, who through their active participation have promoted the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan



Matthew Manz, BSP

with Presenter Janet Bradshaw (PAS Awards Committee Chair)

Matt works in and owns a community pharmacy in the core of Regina that works collaboratively with the neighbouring primary care site - Meadows Primary Health Care Centre. At the community pharmacy, Matt offers opioid agonist therapy services, a service not available at all pharmacies due to the stigma attached to patients with substance use disorders. Matt works collaboratively with Dr Marwah and provides specialized service to both her Chronic Pain Clinic patients and her substance use disorder patients. Matt actively advocates on behalf of his patients and does not standby when they receive substandard care. Matt happily welcomes all patients, regardless of their health care needs, the complexity of care, or social status.

Matt's patients trust him and respect him, as do his colleagues. Matt's commitment to his patients, especially those who are often not treated appropriately, sets the standard for all other pharmacists. Matt does not back down when his patients are mistreated. Matt ensures his patients receive the best care possible and goes out his way to provide them with access to care - such as paying for a taxi to get his patient to his store for opioid agonist therapy every day! Matt works with physicians in Regina to help find care for his patients who require it. And despite two recent pharmacy robberies, Matt still goes to work each day and continues to give his all to his patients. Matt has held customer appreciation barbeques and has collected donations for the North Central Community Association.

Matt exemplifies what it means to be a pharmacist and always provides excellent patient care. In the midst of an opioid crisis and high levels of HIV rates, Matt ensures he offers appropriate care to patients with these health conditions, which not only serves the patient but the community and the province as a whole. Matt's innovation comes from his tireless dedication to his patients with substance use disorder. He finds ways to get them access to care in very innovative ways. Ethnicity, social status, healthcare conditions, physical appearance, lifestyle - none of these attributes deter Matt from providing care to patients who need it and often are turned away.