

The **IDEA DIALOGUES**

Amplifying voices beyond the month: Black pharmacist perspectives on pathways to equitable health care

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 | 12:00-1:30 PM ET

MODERATOR

PANELLISTS



Danielle
Paes



Olivia
Nwaokocha



Andrea
Morgan



Ebenezer
Asare



Havalee
Johnson



Tolu
Okubote

MEET THE PANELLISTS

Andrea Morgan, BScPharm

Hospital Pharmacist

Foothills Medical Centre, Alberta Health Services

Andrea Morgan is a hospital pharmacist with Alberta Health Services. She received her pharmacy degree from the University of Alberta. She also obtained a postgraduate diploma in Public Health from the University of Liverpool.

Andrea describes herself as a general interest pharmacist. As such, she has worked in community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and published original research.

Andrea is an active member of the Black Pharmacy Professionals of Canada (BPPC) where she chairs the fundraising committee. She is also Research Committee Chair with the Canadian Society of Healthcare-Systems Pharmacy (CSHP).

Being a lifelong learner, Andrea has taken continuing education courses focussed on eating at new restaurants in Calgary. She committed to several years of “eating” classes.

Ebenezer Asare, BPharm, RPh

Executive Member

Alberta Association of Travel Health Professionals

Ebenezer Asare is an International Pharmacy Graduate (IPG) from Ghana, West Africa. He started pharmacy practice in 2005 and relocated to Edmonton, AB in 2009. He became licensed to practice as a pharmacist in Alberta in July 2011.

In 2011, soon after obtaining his licensure, Eben took a keen interest in coaching and teaching other IPGs to succeed and obtain their licensure as well. In 2013 he was contacted by the government of Alberta to bring

his students to the Centre for Skilled Internationals to tutor and mentor. During that time, he was contracted to the Pharmacy Bridging Program, which was a 10-month program that helped IPGs transition and integrate to practice safely as pharmacists in Alberta. He was involved in both programs and trained over 200 pharmacists from 2013 to 2019.

In 2015, Eben started a new business with Shoppers Drug Mart in Edmonton and relocated to Brooks, AB, in July 2019. After his relocation, Eben joined the John Ware Youth Program in Brooks to continue his passion of mentoring the younger generation. Eben sits on the Board of Governors for Medicine Hat College in Southern Alberta and is on the 29-member Premier's Council of Immigration and Multiculturalism for Alberta. He is currently the immediate past president of the Alberta Association of Travel Health Professionals.

Eben is married to an amazing and beautiful woman and has 2 energetic children, a 14-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl. He loves to travel and enjoys golfing—his new-found hobby.

Havalee Johnson, BPharm, RPh

Dual-licensed Canadian Pharmacist

CEO & Founder, Immigrant PharmAssist™

Havalee Johnson is a dynamic force in the world of pharmacy and entrepreneurship. With a remarkable journey from Jamaica to Canada, she embodies resilience and determination, carving out her path to success against all odds.

A dual-licensed pharmacist, captivating speaker and visionary entrepreneur, Havalee's story is nothing short of inspiring. Despite grappling with financial hurdles and personal setbacks, she refused to be deterred from her pursuit of the Canadian dream.

Harnessing her indomitable spirit, she uncovered a groundbreaking and transformational system that fast-tracked her relocation and relicensing journey in Canada, propelling her to a six-figure career pinnacle amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Branded as the "Immigrant PharmAssist" and revered as the "Travel PharmAssist," Havalee extends her expertise globally, empowering pharmacists to unlock their Canadian dreams and unleash their earning potential. She's not just a pharmacist; she's a beacon of hope, transforming personal setbacks into a noble mission to uplift others. Fueling her passion with relentless dedication, Havalee spared no effort or expense in honing her craft. Through strategic investments she crafted a bullet-proof blueprint system to expedite the journey for internationally educated pharmacists, from permanent relocation to a rapid career relaunch and financial flourish.

In just one year of practice, Havalee reclaimed absolute autonomy over her pharmacist career in Canada. Today, she operates as a thriving entrepreneur, career relaunch strategist, consultant, mentor, speaker and a part-time travel pharmacist, who has inspired thousands to transcend limitations and embrace opportunities.

Olivia Nwaokocha, HBS., PharmD

Committee Chair

Black Pharmacy Professionals of Canada

Olivia Nwaokocha is a recent Doctor of Pharmacy graduate from the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy and holds an Honours Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Guelph. With over eight years of experience across clinical, hospital, and community pharmacy settings, she is building a career focused on patient care, advocacy, and health equity.

Currently, Olivia serves as Event Committee Chair for the Black Pharmacy Professionals of Canada (BPPC), spearheading the planning of their inaugural AGM Summit at the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy in February 2025. As a grassroots contributor, she helped shape BPPC's initiatives to foster professional growth and advance Black health equity in pharmacy.

At the national level, Olivia contributes insights on health data and outcomes affecting Black Canadians, helping to inform policies and advocacy efforts through her involvement with the Federation of Black Canadians (FBC). Olivia served as a panelist on the Public Health Agency of Canada-sponsored Black Health Panel at FBC, where she shared her expertise on Black health equity and pharmacy.

She has also contributed to vaccine pop-up clinics across Ontario and served as a COVID-19 Assessment Centre Educator, improving healthcare access and outcomes in underserved communities during the pandemic. Her clinical expertise, leadership experience, and dedication to patient-centered care make her a valuable voice in discussions on advancing equity in health care.

Tolu Okubote, MPharm, PGCert, RPh

Clinical Pharmacist

Alberta Health Services

Tolu Okubote is a dual-licensed, British-trained clinical pharmacist. She graduated from Kingston University School of Pharmacy in London, England, and has spent four years practicing in community pharmacies, as well as holding a brief position within a pharmaceutical company. Her primary areas of interest include travel health and management. In 2018, Tolu relocated to Canada, seeking opportunities for personal and professional growth. She believes that meaningful development occurs when individuals challenge themselves and step outside their established boundaries. Currently, Tolu serves as a clinical pharmacist with Alberta Health Services (AHS), where she focuses on the geriatric community and has a particular interest in mental health initiatives.

Tolu was previously engaged in the Black Pharmacy Student Association (BPSA) mentorship program, dedicated to supporting Black pharmacy students. She has organized various outreach programs aimed at educating and providing resources to elderly Black migrants. A notable example of her commitment to public health is her involvement in the Community Health Expo, which was conducted in collaboration with BPSA to enhance health awareness.

Additionally, Tolu is in the process of planning a skincare webinar series that will address prominent dermatological conditions within the Black community. Tolu is passionate about fostering equity and support for Black pharmacy professionals and advancing health equity for Black patients. Her work reflects a commitment to creating positive change in the health-care landscape.

This webinar is being hosted by CPhA in collaboration with the Black Pharmacy Professionals of Canada.



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pharmaciens
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