



Board of Directors Election 2024/2025 Candidate Profile

Candidate Information

Name:

Sean Hanson

Community of Residence:

Medicine Hat

Year of Admission to Practice (Alberta):

2019

Year first registered with RxA:

2015 as a student, 2019 as a pharmacist

Current Place of Employment:

Pharmasave #303

Professional Experience

Identify relevant professional experience, achievements or areas of focus related to your practice history:

I graduated from the UAlberta Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science in 2019 and immediately began working as a pharmacist at Pharmasave #303 in Medicine Hat, where I have worked ever since. I began managing the pharmacy in 2020, and shortly thereafter we were acquired by Neighbourly Pharmacy. As of March 2024, I have purchased an ownership stake in the pharmacy and now partner with Neighbourly in its operation.

I am highly motivated to practice to our full scope. I use injection certification and Additional Prescribing Authority regularly in my practice, and am currently working on obtaining Certified Diabetes Educator certification. Areas of focus include chronic disease management, psychiatry, opioid agonist therapy, and travel medicine.

I have worked alongside the Medicine Hat Drug Coalition over the past few years to offer naloxone kits and education/training at a variety of community events. I am also working on becoming a LiveRx study site, where pharmacists provide Hepatitis C screening and prescribing.

I am proud to be a regular preceptor for UAlberta Pharmacy Students (both first and fourth year), and have also precepted Pharmacy Technician students in the past. I try to always discuss RxA and the importance of advocacy with my students, and recently one of my students arranged meetings with local MLA candidates during the 2023 provincial election where we discussed pharmacy practice in Alberta.

Leadership History

Describe past opportunities where you held a leadership role either in a professional or volunteer capacity:

While I was a pharmacy student at UAlberta, I was fortunate to hold a few leadership positions with the Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association (APSA).

I served as the Vice President External in 2016-2017, which coordinated APSA's Movember campaign (raising over \$35,000 that year for Movember), and co-coordinating APSA's Pharmacy Awareness Month campaign.

In 2017-2018 I was honoured to serve as the President of APSA, and consequently the Student Board Member of RxA. This was a challenging and enlightening year to be on the RxA Board as most of the term focused on the 2018 contract negotiations with Alberta Health. Although I believe RxA obtained the best possible outcome for this contract given the circumstances, this contract represented a significant setback for pharmacy. It was clear that much more advocacy for pharmacy was needed. I met with nearly a dozen MLAs at that time to discuss pharmacy practice, and I was also involved in coordinating and speaking at the protest at the Alberta Legislature in the spring of 2018.

Since entering practice I have been a member of the RxA Leadership Cohort and have eagerly met with several elected officials over the past few years to discuss pharmacy practice and current issues affecting our ability to deliver the world-class patient care that Albertans rely on.

Vision

Describe your personal vision for the future of pharmacist practice:

My vision for pharmacy is the practice that we currently have, but with more support and less disruption from external forces. We have the gold standard scope of practice, allowing us to use all of our education to benefit patients. It is the envy of every other pharmacy jurisdiction in the world, and we are extremely fortunate to have it.

However, it is often difficult to practice to full scope and provide the level of care that we desire with all the daily distractions in our way. Pharmacists face a tremendous amount of administrative burden through excessive documentation, over-regulation, bureaucracy, and predatory third-party policies and fees. My vision for the future of pharmacy practice is an environment where pharmacists are less burdened by these challenges and can dedicate more time to excellence in patient care.

RxA has advocated on behalf of pharmacists for reduced bureaucracy, has provided pragmatic feedback on the new Standards of Practice, and has worked closely with CPhA to advocate against the new ESI fees. These are excellent steps forward and align with my vision of a less bureaucratic practice environment.

Additionally, pharmacy practice has evolved considerably over the past few years, and it can be difficult to keep up with ever-changing therapeutic guidelines and best practices. RxA has done tremendous work in providing tools to help pharmacists keep up with evolving practice (such as providing access to the USask Minor Ailment Guidelines). My vision for pharmacy practice has increased access to similar resources (therapeutic algorithms, guideline summaries, and documentation tools) that empower all pharmacists to remain up to date on best practices and efficiently provide the best possible care.

Identify from your perspective, RxA's 2024 – 2025 priorities to enhance the profession:

My priorities for RxA in 2024-2025 would be:

- Continuing positive momentum in relationships with MLAs, the Minister of Health, and Alberta Health staff, while advocating for a step forward for pharmacy practice in the next contract. My idea of a step forward would include an inflationary adjustment to current dispensing and clinical service fees, the introduction of new clinical service fees for ordering and interpreting lab results, and access to public supply of DTaP for all Albertans.
- Continued close collaboration with CPhA in advocating against predatory fees imposed by third-party adjudicators, and exploring all legal avenues for opposing this.
- Continuing to provide advocacy and feedback against unnecessary bureaucracy and over-regulation. For instance, advocating to Alberta Health for the removal of the AVI platform, and continued feedback (with a focus on pragmatism) to ACP on new regulations and standards.
- Searching for additional clinical tools and resources to provide members with as a benefit.

