

**SHARON BATT, PhD.**

Independent Researcher & Investigative Journalist  
Adjunct Professor, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. Canada  
Departments of Bioethics and Political Science,  
and Faculty of Graduate Studies.  
Affiliate Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
Tel: 902-423-4679; e-mail: [sharon.batt@dal.ca](mailto:sharon.batt@dal.ca)

*Full CV available on request*

Sharon Batt is an independent scholar and an adjunct professor in the Departments of Bioethics, Political Science, and Graduate Studies at Dalhousie University. She is an affiliate adjunct professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and a research fellow at PharmedOut, a project to advance evidence-based prescribing based at Georgetown University's Medical Center. Her work in pharmaceutical policy and health politics integrates scholarly research, public education, and social change activism. Her latest book, *Health Advocacy Inc.: How Pharmaceutical Funding Changed the Breast Cancer Movement* (UBC Press, 2017) is an insider analysis of the alliances between patient groups and the pharmaceutical industry and the implications for health policy, social fairness, and democracy.

**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. Interdisciplinary (specialization in Bioethics), Dalhousie University
- M.A. Psychology, University of British Columbia
- B.A. Psychology (Honours), Carleton University

**EMPLOYMENT****ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- Affiliate Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. (May 2023-present).
- Adjunct Professor, Departments of Bioethics, Department of Political Science, Department of Graduate Studies, Dalhousie University (2017-present).
- Liliane Robinson Visiting Scholar 2017, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia, University, Montreal
- Elizabeth May Chair in Women's Health and the Environment; Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University (2001- 2003)
- Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies; Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University (1999-2001)

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT (NON-ACADEMIC)**

- Co-founder and Director of Breast Cancer Action Montreal (*BCAM*) (1991-1999)
- Consultant to Health Canada's National Forum on Breast Cancer (1993-1994)
- Editor, *Protect Yourself Magazine*, Quebec Consumer Protection Office, Montreal (1985-91)

**SELECTED GRANTS and AWARDS**

- Research on improving the FDA, PharmedOut, Georgetown University, 2022-2024.
- Pharmaceutical Policy Research Collaboration (PPRC) Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2012-13.
- Doctoral Thesis Award, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dalhousie University: Outstanding doctoral thesis in the Humanities and Social Sciences (2011-2012)

## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSITY TEACHING

### RECENT TEACHING AND THESIS SUPERVISION

- Guest Speaker, course on Pharmaceutical Regulation (Law 6859), Summer 2022 and Fall 2023, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto.
- Guest Panelist, Physicians and Advocacy. Professional Competencies II, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Winter 2020-2024.
- PhD Thesis Committee Member, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University, for Julia Rodgers, July 2020 to present.
- Honours Thesis Examiner, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University, for Noel Guscott, April 2020.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, BLOGS AND TALKS

### BOOKS

- Batt, S., Judy Butler and Adriane Fugh-Berman. *What needs to change at the FDA? Protecting and Advancing Public Health*. Washington DC: PharmedOut, March 2024.
- Batt, S. *Health Advocacy, Inc.: How pharmaceutical funding industry changed the breast cancer movement*. Vancouver: UBC Press, June 2017.
- Batt, S. *Patient No More: The Politics of Breast Cancer*, Charlottetown: Gynergy Books, and London, UK: Scarlet Press 1994.
  - Australia and New Zealand edition, Melbourne: Spinifex, 1996.
  - French translation: *À bout de patience: les enjeux de la lutte au cancer du sein*, Montréal: Remue-ménage, 1998.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Batt, S. Competing values, competing claims: Diversity among patient advocates who intervene to shape policies on drugs for rare diseases. *Healthcare Papers*, special issue on expensive drugs for rare diseases. 2023, 21(1):52-58. doi: 10.12927/hcpap.2023.27995.
- Lexchin J, Batt S, Goldberg D, Shnier A. A cross-sectional study of national patient groups in Canada to examine their disclosure of relationships with the pharmaceutical industry. *BMJ Open* 2022,12: e055287 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2021-055287
- Batt S. Interpretive sufficiency: where evidence in journalism and ethnography meet, *Politics, Groups & Identities* 2021, 9(4): 841-50. Dialogue contribution to “Misunderstanding Ethnography” doi: [10.1080/21565503.2021.1960868](https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2021.1960868)
- Batt, S. On being heckled at a National Health Technology Conference: Patient participation and democratic discourse. *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*. March, 2020. doi:10.20529/IJME.2020.027.
- Batt, S., Butler J., Shannon, O., Fugh-Berman, A. Pharmaceutical Ethics and Grassroots Activism in the United States: A Social History Perspective. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* 17:49-60 (March 2020), Available: <https://rdcu.be/b4vJp>
- Batt, S. 2019. Unhealthy Partnerships and Public Health: Breaking Free of Industry. Review of *The Perils of Partnerships* by Jonathan H. Marks. *The Hastings Center Report*. November/December 2019.
- Batt, S. 2014. Who will support independent patient groups? *BMJ*, October 15, 2014, 349:g6306.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

- Batt, S. 2015. A community fractured: breast cancer activism, pharmaceutical company funding and science-related advocacy in Canada. In *The Public Shaping of Medical Research: patient associations, health movements and biomedicine*. P. Wehling, W. Viehöver, and S. Koenen (eds). Routledge.

**BOOK REVIEWS AND BLOGS**

- Batt, S. and Fugh-Berman, A. EpiPen Furor: Patient Groups Take the Money and Stay Mum, *Hastings Center Bioethics Forum*, August 29, 2016.
- Batt, S. 2015. Branding the Barricades. Review of *Protest Inc.: The corporatization of activism*, by P. Dauvergne and G. LeBaron. *The Literary Review of Canada*, April 2015.

**ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, CONFERENCE TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**

- Batt, S., Adriane Fugh-Berman, John Power, Liza Vertinsky. Congressional Briefing: What Needs to Change at the FDA. Washington DC, May 21, 2024.
- Batt, S., Fugh-Berman A. *What Needs to Change at the FDA?* White Paper. Washington, D.C.: PharmedOut, Georgetown University, September 2022.
- Batt, S. Webinar panelist, “How Pharma Grooms Patients and Advocacy Groups to Sell Drugs.” PharmedOut, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington D.C., February 3, 2022. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PD\\_tBqHDouY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PD_tBqHDouY)
- Batt, S. Webinar panelist, “Misunderstanding Ethnography: Evidence in law, journalism and political ethnography,” in the series *Interpretation, Method, and Critique (IMC) Network and Research Cluster*, at Australian National University, Canberra, October 29, 2021.
- Batt, S. Invited talk: “Patient Groups and Pharma Partnerships in Health and Research Decisions: Challenging the Logic of Choice.” Mario Negri Institute, Milan, Italy, October 24, 2018.
- Invited participant. *Drug Pricing Scenarios Project*: workshops to develop scenarios to combat unsustainable drug prices. Sponsored by the Belgian Healthcare Knowledge Centre and the Dutch Health Care Institute. Amsterdam, March 17-18, 2016; April 13-14, 2016.

**PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

**PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS (CURRENT):** Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S); Pharmaceutical Policy Research Collaborative (PPRC); Nova Scotia Health Coalition, 2019-present board member; The Writers’ Union of Canada (TWUC); Common Sense Oncology.

**POPULAR PUBLICATIONS**

- Batt, S. How Big Pharma hijacked patient groups to keep drug prices high. *The Breach*, November 26, 2022. Translated to Spanish and Portuguese in *Boletim Fármacos*, March 2023.
- Batt, S. *The Big Money Club: Revealing the Players and their Campaign to Stop Pharmacare*. Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions report, March 2019.
- Batt, S. Breast Cancer awareness also includes who’s paying for campaigns. *Toronto Star*. October 11, 2017.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES**

- Scientific Advisory Council on Health Products for Women, Health Canada, Core committee member (January 2019-July 2024).
- Nova Scotia Health Coalition, board member (2018); executive board member (2019-2020), Secretary (2020-present).
- Canadian Deprescribing Network (CaDeN), Member, Public Awareness Committee (2018-2020)

**PUBLIC ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH****PUBLIC TESTIMONY, BRIEFS, OP-EDS, LETTERS TO EDITOR**

- 2024 Brief to the House Standing Committee on Health (HESA) and Health Minister Mark Holland regarding the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care's draft Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines. June 17, 2024.
- 2024 "A national pharmacare plan should cover what's best for patients, not what's new." *The Hill Times*, Opinion, with Colleen Fuller, April 3, 2024.
- 2023 "Can biotechnology put patients' needs ahead of profits?" *The Hill Times*, Sept. 11, 2023.
- 2023. Invited presentation to the Patented Medicines Prices Review Board and Management Team, June 7, 2023.
- 2023. Response to Health Canada's call for submissions on proposed agile regulations for health products. April 26, 2023.
- 2023. Response to Health Canada's *Guidance on Promotional and Non-promotional Messages and Activities*, submitted with Janice Graham, January 30, 2023.
- 2022. Submission to the Patented Medicines Price Review Board consultation on new draft guidelines. Submitted on behalf of Independent Voices for Safe and Effective Drugs, with Colleen Fuller, December 5, 2022.
- 2021. Presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA) studying the Patented Medicines Price Review Board. House of Commons, June 4, 2021. Available at: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/HESA/meeting-41/evidence>
- 2021. "Pharmacare, Patient Groups, and the Need for Open Discourse." *Hill Times* and *Hill Times Research – Health*. Feb. 8, 2021.
- 2021. "Big Pharma and the Covid Vaccines." (Letter) *New York Times*. January 7, 2021.

**MEDIA RECOGNITION AND COMMENTARY****DOCUMENTARY FILM APPEARANCES**

- *Exposure: Environmental links to breast cancer* Butterfield and Zuckerman Productions, 2000; *Tears are not enough: Living with breast cancer* Sisyphus Productions, 1995; *Beyond the Tears* Sisyphus Productions, 1995.

**MEDIA**

- *Appearances on CBC's Information Morning, TVO's The Agenda, CBC's the Sunday Edition, Health Matters, This Morning, Cross-country Check-up, The Health Show, CBC Commentary, Canada AM, Skylight, Straight from the Hip, The National, Vancouver Community Radio, Epoca Magazine (Brazil), CKUT's OWL, News 957's The Sheldon MacLeod Show and others.*