

## Board of Directors

**President**  
Lisa Voigt

**President Elect**  
Heide Christensen

**Immediate Past President**  
Anthony Longo

**Vice President, Public Policy**  
Andrew Kaplan

**Treasurer**  
William Prescott, Jr.

**Chair, House of Delegates**  
Elizabeth Shlom

**Chapter Services**  
Matthew Zak

**Pharmacy Management**  
Robert Berger

**Communications Services**  
Angela Cheng-Lai

**Pharmacy Practice**  
Mary Choy

**Industry Affairs**  
Elizabeth Cobb

**Education and Professional Development**  
Karen Berger

**Executive Director**  
Shaun Flynn

**Office Staff**  
Rebecca Harrington

## President's Message: December 2019

Not finance. Not strategy. Not technology. It is teamwork that remains the ultimate competitive advantage, both because it is so powerful and so rare.

Dear NYSCHP members,

I open with the above statement from a book titled *The FIVE Dysfunctions of a TEAM* by Patrick Lencioni. As Thanksgiving is behind us and the upcoming Holidays approaching, it causes me to reflect about what is important. Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues, I believe we can all agree that working together achieves the greatest outcomes. All of us have teams we work on, some more difficult than others, and we strategize how to make the best of every situation or project.

As we continue to solve our Rubik's cube in the health-system pharmacy profession, working together with our colleagues does reward us. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Governor Cuomo signed into law a bill that officially recognizes pharmacy technicians that work in Article 28 facilities in New York

State. Lencioni states in his book something a friend told him: "If you could get all the people in an organization rowing in the same direction, you could dominate any industry, in any market, against any competition, at any time." Pharmacy Technicians are recognized today because of just that. We now move to solve our challenge of continuing and expanding CDTM, another side of our Rubik's cube.

The NYSCHP BOD will be discussing the Strategic Plan in the next few weeks and will share with the membership in the beginning of 2020. I encourage everyone to embrace our mission and vision in everyday encounters. We look forward to your input as we move ahead utilizing this as our guidance for the next three years. A Strategic Planning Committee will be developed to help keep us moving in the right direction.

Our committees continue to work on advancing our efforts to serve our membership. The countless hours our members volunteer has proved to be why NYSCHP remains a strong organization.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

Lisa Voigt  
President, NYSCHP

"What I've really learned over time is that optimism is a very, very important part of leadership." Bob Iger, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Walt Disney Company

### NYSCHP Congratulates Mary Choy and Michele B. Kaufman

NYSCHP would like to congratulate Mary Choy, PharmD, BCGP, FASHP, and Michele B. Kaufman, PharmD, BCGP, for publishing their first book, *Healthcare Heroes: The Medical Careers Guide*.

The book features some of the top healthcare careers highlighted in the U.S. News & World Report. It also provides expert insights and strategies to help readers find their career path in the medical field. Congratulations to Dr. Choy and Dr. Kaufman!



## Contents

President's Message	1
Board of Directors Spotlight	2
New Practitioner Spotlight	3
Pharmacy Technician Corner	4
Grassroots Advocacy	5
Corporate Scholarship Essay Award	7
Pharmacy School Highlight	8
In Memoriam	8
Announcements	9



## Elizabeth Cobb, PharmD

Vice President, Strategic  
Planning Director  
Mosaic Group  
Director of Industry Affairs  
New York State Council of  
Health-system Pharmacists

# Board of Directors Member Spotlight

### My work as a Pharmacist

I have to credit my pharmacist journey to my very first official job, being a cashier at Wegmans. For any of you who know me I am constantly going on about my love for Wegmans. Partially because the super-market itself is amazing—the sub shop in particular! More importantly, Wegmans highlighted a career path for me through exposure to its wonderful pharmacists. Sometimes I would cover the register in the pharmacy and was just in awe of the pharmacist's knowledge. She was able to easily answer customer questions with such intelligence and confidence. You could sense how highly she was valued by her patients. After seeing those interactions, I knew that pharmacy was something I really wanted to pursue. Fast forward through 6 amazing years at UConn, a few years at CVS, time at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, even more time at Mount Sinai Beth Israel and you can find me now in a role you may not even know exists for pharmacists. Currently, I serve as the Vice President, Strategic Planning Director for Health Systems for the Mosaic Group.

I have probably lost you a little at this point but let me try to explain my job. I work for a managed markets communication agency that is part of a larger network. It is my responsibility to figure out how specific brands can find utilization in hospitals and health systems. My clients are pharmaceutical manufacturers across a variety of clinical focuses and they look for me to leverage my past experiences to develop brand strategies.

It is hard to describe a typical day for me since my role requires flexibility and a fair amount of unknowns. One of the highlights of my job is being able to help inform sales materials and programming for my peers still working in the hospital. I get to travel a decent amount and still have the opportunity to attend conferences to stay up to date with pharmacy trends. Most of what I do doesn't even depend on me being a pharmacist.

I was fortunate enough to take a risk 3 years ago by being active on LinkedIn and I tell others not to be afraid to do the same. You never know what unknown career paths may be out there for you.

### Journey to becoming the Director of Industry Affairs

NYSCHP was first introduced to me at Bronx Lebanon, to help increase my qualifications as a residency preceptor early in my career. I joined the NYC chapter and become an editor for the newsletter. The group was welcoming right from the start and I knew I found, or rather was led to, an organization I could really see myself in. As my involvement continued to increase, I became director at large for industry followed by President a few years later.

My time as President was critical in further developing my leadership skills. It allowed me to really get to

know our members and find ways to keep them engaged. NYC membership was on the rise and our monthly programs filled up regularly. I had developed very strong relationships with our industry partners, which really set the foundation for future work I didn't even know was ahead of me! It was a great time to lead our chapter.

After that 3 year cycle surrounding the presidency I stayed involved with the chapter, absent of a leadership role. While I knew leadership opportunities existed at the state level I wasn't sure I was headed in that direction. Luckily, the mentors I had around me knew better. They really guided me towards my existing state position, which has been a wonderful learning experience. I have a great committee that supports me and helps to deliver on needs for our industry partners.

### Value of NYSCHP

I often get questions from students on how I got where I am today. While I am very proud of my answer, in today's competitive market, things are slightly different. I did not know I would be working in a hospital one day so I did not complete residency training. I was able to continue to advance my career from staff pharmacist to IV room manager to clinical manager to assistant director of clinical pharmacy through networking, coupled with hard work. All of my hospital job opportunities came through leveraging my network. NYSCHP was the foundation for that network and continues to be a critical part of my professional success.

### Fun Facts about Me

I don't know if these are all fun but now you know a little bit more about me

- I come from a large family, the last of 5 kids, with a total of 22 in my immediate family with spouses/kids
- I am a mother of 2 little boys so my apartment is like a zoo (Archer- 2 y/o, Wesley 1 y/o)
- My brother also has 2 little kids, born within 1 week of each of mine
- Pearl Jam is my favorite band. I flew with a friend to New Orleans in high school to see them live and we pretended we were on a business trip to hide being minors from the hotel staff
- I eat almost half a bag of carrots almost every day. I can't help myself!
- I make Italian 7 layer cookies (rainbow cookies) every year for the holidays and they take several hours from start to finish
- I am a huge NY Rangers fan. When they won the Stanley Cup in 1994 I skipped school and came to the city with my Dad for the parade

# New Practitioner Spotlight

## Path to Becoming a New Practitioner

I am originally from Syracuse, NY, and knew I wanted to pursue a career in pharmacy during high school through local career fairs. I attended University at Buffalo for my undergraduate coursework and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for my Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Throughout my pharmacy school career, I had a strong interest in infectious disease pharmacy based on my pharmacotherapeutics courses. The content was interesting and challenging, especially with the interaction between the host, drug, and pathogen. I pursued an antimicrobial stewardship advanced pharmacy practice experience during my fourth year of pharmacy school and really enjoyed working with the multidisciplinary infectious disease team where I helped provide evidence-based recommendations for patients, antimicrobial dosing, and microbiology review. I also had a strong interest in academia given my experiences as a teaching assistant and research project involvement.

Upon graduation, I pursued a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at SUNY Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse, NY, where my interest in infectious disease pharmacy grew further. I completed an infectious disease and antimicrobial stewardship rotation, was involved in various teaching opportunities, and engaged in infectious disease-related research projects. I pursued a PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency at University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill, NC. During this experience, I continued to build upon my infectious disease clinical skills, research, and teaching. Based on my residency experiences, I wanted to pursue a career in academia specializing in infectious disease pharmacy.

## Current career role

I am currently a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Binghamton, NY, where I am responsible for delivering infectious disease didactic education. I am also a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Infectious Disease at SUNY Upstate University Hospital and am currently the Residency Program Coordinator for the PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program where I precept pharmacy residents on infectious disease consultations, teaching, and research experiences. I also provide clinical services for the antimicrobial stewardship program and round with the infectious disease consultation teams. I was also a key leader in our institution receiving designation as an Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence from the Infectious Diseases Society of America. I also hold an appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University, where I provide clinical education to medical students, residents, and infectious disease fellows.

I am also engaged in scholarship and research with over 30 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts with over 100 citations. I have received grant funding in the area of antimicrobial stewardship, infectious disease education, and Lyme disease including receiving the 2018 ASHP New Investigator Research Grant. I also serve as the co-coordinator for the SUNY Upstate University Hospital Pharmacy Residency Research Certificate Program. I've also delivered several presentations at local, state, and national meetings in the area of infectious disease.

## Organizational Involvement and Value of in NYSCHP

I have been involved with NYSCHP in various capacities including serving as a member on the Education and Programming committee and School of Pharmacy Faculty Liaison committee. I am the Co-Chair for the inaugural NYSCHP Infectious Diseases Webinar Series in January 2020. I was also invited to speak at the 2018 NYSCHP Annual Assembly. I have been involved with the Southern Tier Society of Health-System Pharmacists for the past three years serving on the board of directors. I was President-Elect in 2018-19 and am the current President for 2019-20.

I am also active in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists through various service roles including Case Writer for the 2018 National Clinical Skills Competition, National Clinical Skills Competition Judge, Council on Therapeutics member, Infectious Diseases Network Facilitator for the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists, New Practitioner Forum Membership and Outreach Advisory Group member, Infectious Disease Specialty Recertification Field Tester, CV reviewer, and ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting speaker. I am also actively involved in other professional organizations including the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

## Advice for New Practitioners

Make connections and get involved! There are so many valuable opportunities through networking and professional organizations including NYSCHP. I have made numerous collaborations with pharmacists from all over that have helped me get to where I am in my career today. Don't be afraid to branch out and network!

## Fun Facts

- I met my fiancé at the NYSCHP Annual Assembly. Always a great meeting for networking and connections!
- I am also a big Syracuse University sports fan and enjoy traveling with friends and family.



**Wesley D. Kufel,  
PharmD, BCIDP, BCPS,  
AAHIVP**

Clinical Assistant Professor of  
Pharmacy Practice  
Binghamton University School of  
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical  
Sciences  
Clinical Assistant Professor of  
Medicine  
SUNY Upstate Medical University  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist,  
Infectious Diseases  
SUNY Upstate University Hospital

# Pharmacy Technician Corner

The Support Personnel Committee is comprised of pharmacists and technicians who are committed to shaping the future role of technicians, as well as advancing the roles of pharmacy technicians to enhance the direct patient care efforts of pharmacists.

It is the vision of Cyndie Walton, Chair of the Support Personnel Committee, to increase technician programming and we have been working with the Education Committee to provide additional professional development and continuing education to our members. We would like to thank Jamie Chin, the Education Committee Chair, who has been instrumental in making the webinar happen. Our first ever NYSCHP Technician Webinar (Pharmacy Technician Certification and Training to Perform) was on November 5, 2019. Kate Adler, CPhT, was the webinar's moderator. The speakers for the program were Ryan Burke, PharmD (Director, Professional Affairs; Pharmacy Technician Certification Board) and Mark Shen, PharmD, BCPS (Transitions of Care Pharmacist, Winthrop Hospital). Some of the program's objectives for technicians were to identify barriers to collecting a best possible medication history and list the steps to becoming an Advanced Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT-Adv). We are looking forward to many more technician webinars. In addition to having our 'Technician Spotlight' in the News Brief, we are also collaborating with the Communications Committee for future podcast interviews.

The committee is currently recruiting for additional technician members. Our goal is to have a technician member from every chapter on our committee. Kate Adler, CPhT, has been an active member of the Support Personnel Committee and we are happy to feature her in this month's "Technician Spotlight."

Mary Choy, PharmD, BCGP, FASHP  
Director of Pharmacy Practice, NYSCHP

# Pharmacy Technician Spotlight

## Why I Do What I Do

I have been a member of NYSCHP since before passing the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam in 2015! Through NYSCHP I have met different professionals in pharmacy and made life-long friends. Today, I'm glad to be an active member of NYSCHP by contributing to the Support Personnel and Legislative Committees. My goal is to support and promote other technicians in their training and professional growth, as others have supported me.

## Latest Accomplishment

My latest accomplishment is going back to school full-time to pursue a Master's of Science in Biomedical Informatics at SUNY Osewego. I maintain my certification because pharmacy is important to me and the ability to work in pharmacy informatics means I can support our goals of patient safety and organizational efficiency.

## Most Memorable Experience as a Pharmacy Technician

A patient came to the window with his medication bottles for refills. His profile showed he had type 2 diabetes, but he said he no longer took the statin he was prescribed. I looked at the full statin bottle and asked why; he said because the pills used to be white but now they're blue. It dawned on me that this man could not read. He took his meds based on color, not label. I discussed with him why some medications come in different colors and to call the pharmacist or his doctor with questions before stopping a medication on his own. We completed a medication list for him to bring to the pharmacist and doctor. I felt that I treated this man with dignity and kept the emphasis on being healthy with meds and proactive with questions to his providers.

## Why I Became Certified

In 2015, I was ready for a new career and passed the PTCE after completing the program at Onondaga Community College. Certification before beginning a career made sense because I would learn so much, be a better job candidate, and both these things proved true.

## Advice to Up-and-Coming Technicians

Keep learning! Join a professional organization, connect with others, and attend dinner programs to stay up-to-date with CE. During your shift, write down your questions so in a lull you can ask your supervisor; I came up with potential answers and why I thought they might be right. Sometimes I was right and other times my supervising pharmacist taught me something new. I was always reading the full prescribing information online or hardcopy from the stock bottles so that I could learn about all the new drugs.

## Fun Facts

- My son is teaching me to cook vegan food at home. I thought it would be boring, but he's taught me so much about spices and cooking techniques that I'm having a ball.
- My favorite movie is Night at the Museum. I'm a history buff, and where else can one get Teddy Roosevelt, Genghis Khan, and a Maori head in the same movie?



Kate Adler, CPhT

# NYSCHP Grassroots Advocacy Committee: Year in Review

The statewide Grassroots Advocacy Committee was founded in August 2018 after the success of the NYC pilot chapter. It has since grown to include over 80 members from all over NY State. The goals of the committee include organizing legislative visits and grassroots engagement by providing information, support, and follow up, like has never been seen before. Since its creation, the NYSCHP Grassroots Advocacy Committee has helped organize and facilitate nearly 50 legislative visits, involving more than 70 members. The Committee now has five local chapters with dedicated support, including a Committee Chair and infrastructure, with a plan to grow to all chapters. We have provided webinars, local chapter educational events and workshops, preparatory calls, and letter writing campaigns; we have also collaborated with PSSNY and other organizations to educate and inform students at colleges of pharmacy throughout the state. We plan to host a CE-accredited legislative update and workshop at the 2020 Annual Assembly. After our Grassroots Advocacy Strategic Planning meeting this fall, we identified new goals for 2020: 1) Create local committees in every NYSCHP chapter by the end of 2020; 2) Improve tracking of legislative visits and follow up on cosponsors of bills; 3) Develop a NYSCHP Advocacy Week aimed at engaging members to set up local legislative visits. Come be a part of the Grassroots Movement in NY State! It is easy; just email Karen ([karenberger7@gmail.com](mailto:karenberger7@gmail.com)) and Andrew ([andrew.kaplan@mountsinai.org](mailto:andrew.kaplan@mountsinai.org)) for more information. Thank you to our current members who have advocated with us on behalf of our profession. We look forward to expanding our committee in the new year!

Andrew Kaplan, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP  
Associate Director of Pharmacy, Mount Sinai West  
NYSCHP Vice President of Public Policy

Karen Berger, PharmD, FCCM, BCPS, BCCCP  
Neurocritical Care Clinical Pharmacy Manager, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center  
NYSCHP Grassroots Advocacy Committee Chair and Director of Education and Professional Development

## New York City Chapter

Our chapter began in September 2017 with a goal to provide a legislative update at each event, include a Law CE for the fall and spring events, and lead our members to coordinate and participate in legislative visits. In August, we had a Grassroots Advocacy Law CE presented by Karen Berger, PharmD, FCCM, BCPS, BCCP and Andrew Kaplan, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP highlighting the updates in the bills NYSCHP is supporting as well as a legislative visit workshop. In November, our seasoned member, Lilia Davenport, held a Grassroots Advocacy Workshop and Letter Writing Campaign at Long Island University School of Pharmacy, reaching 120 student pharmacists. Three questions she had received and addressed were: Which vaccines is the bill looking to expand the pharmacists' privilege to? What is CDTM? In which settings has CDTM been utilized? All students have successfully mailed their letters. Since assuming Chair in September 2018, we have had 28 legislative visits and 40 members participate in the visits.

A significant barrier that our chapter has faced is scheduling our legislative visits at a convenient time for our members to join. Our team effortlessly looks for dates and times that work for the majority of the group and we have found the most success scheduling visits between 4:30 and 5 pm. After completing our visits, we were pleasantly surprised to find that representatives are genuinely interested in learning more about our profession as well as the bills that we are passionate about. We are also really excited to see our legislators reach out to us as a resource in their community as well as co-sponsor the bills we have discussed.

We are excited to graduate active members to seasoned members, defined as able to independently lead a legislative visit and provide mentorship to junior members. Our seasoned members have grown to now include Lilia Davenport, PharmD candidate, Samantha Paone, PharmD, Kateryna Kovalenko, PharmD candidate, and Tamara Hernandez, PharmD candidate!

Jamie Chin, PharmD, MS, BCOP



Student pharmacists from Long Island University write to their local representatives urging support for pharmacist CDTM and immunization expansion during their advocacy legislative workshop

## Central Chapter

The Central New York chapter's grassroots advocacy activities have been led by Peter Aiello, the immediate past president of the chapter with tons of help from Luke Probst, current president. In addition, we thank Ryan Watson from the Mohawk Valley Region for his outstanding efforts in mobilizing support via Change.org. Over the past year, we accomplished the following:

- 6 meetings with local state Assembly Members and Senators speaking to the technician crisis
- 1 trip to Albany with other grassroots members to advocate for the technician bill
- Discussions with chapter members at continuing education events regarding legislation updates
- Collaboration with local hospital directors of pharmacy in regards to developing documentation regarding impact of lack of technician legislation on pharmacy operations

Our biggest barrier was setting up appointments with our local legislators and this still remains to some extent. With the staff connections that we made; however, we are looking forward to an easier time this coming winter and spring.

It was very interesting to see the responses of many of our legislators in regards to the technician legislation. We were able to convince four—William Barclay, William Magnarelli, and Al Stirpe (Assembly) and Patty Ritchie (Senate)—to sign onto the legislation. We even received a handwritten congratulatory letter from Assemblyman Barclay, speaking to the amazing grassroots effort that brought about passage of the legislation.

We look forward to growing over the next few months. Right now, with two active members, we are stretched a little thin. We hope that others are interested in advocacy and look forward to working with them!

Peter J. Aiello, PharmD

## Westchester Chapter



WCSHP has undergone some exciting local grassroots advocacy committee transformation this year to prepare for its launch of legislative visits in 2020. Currently, WCSHP has more than 40 members pledged to join the effort of grassroots advocacy, a successful expansion from the original six-member pilot chapter. In addition to its collaboration with NYCSPH, in October WCSHP was very fortunate to have Andrew Kaplan and Karen Berger (photo above) from NYCSPH to host a grassroots advocacy CE workshop for the members. During the workshop, WCSHP members practiced how to approach local assemblymen and assemblywomen in a simulated legislative visit, each with different pharmacy concerns and issues. The grassroots advocacy CE has inspired more members to stay proactive and join in the local legislative visits. WCSHP has scheduled a legislative visit in January 2020 with Senator Gustavo Rivera's office to kick off another fruitful year in the effort to support for pharmacist immunization and CDTM.

Grace I. Shyh, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP

## Southern Tier Chapter

We are the newest local chapter to join the NYSCHP Advocacy Committee. This past year, we have participated in visits with several legislators, including Senator Fred Akshar and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. We also worked with students at Binghamton University, many of whom are actively involved in our local chapter, to advocate for legislation surrounding pharmacy technicians. The students participated in a letter writing campaign, coordinated by Andrew Kaplan, to support efforts to encourage Governor Andrew Cuomo to sign the pending pharmacy technician legislation. Furthermore, I traveled with our students to PSSNY's Annual Lobby Day, which was a great opportunity to discuss issues important to our profession and gain experience speaking with legislators.

The most significant barrier our chapter has faced in developing our Grassroots Advocacy Committee has been a lack of membership engagement with legislative issues. To overcome this issue, we have been providing our chapter members with a brief overview of pertinent legislative issues during each monthly meeting, sending out calls for volunteers to attend mentored legislative visits with seasoned members, and increasing student involvement in advocacy.

I expected legislative visits to be intimidating, but what surprised me most was how approachable the legislators were. During my first visits the conversations flowed with ease and I felt very comfortable speaking about the issues impacting our profession. The legislators want to hear our expertise and first-hand experiences in the field of pharmacy. They do not expect you to be experts on the history of the bill, rather they want to know how this bill would affect pharmacists and our patients. Given that we are from a small area of the state, we are able to see the same legislators frequently, which has allowed us to build relationships and makes them easier to approach when timely issues arise.

Amanda Mogul, PharmD, BCACP

## Western Chapter

As Director of Public Policy and Chair of the Grassroots Advocacy Committee for the Western Chapter of NYSCHP, I can attest that we saw the Grassroots Advocacy Committee really gain traction this year! We have been busy, including:

- An Advocacy Dinner with Senator Nick Spano
- 11 legislative visits (and counting!)
- Participating in Pharmacy Lobby Day, as well as the Technician Lobby Day
- We successfully gained three co-sponsors for the technician bill directly through our efforts! While pushing for the technician bill, we organized a meeting to get the directors of pharmacy from each of the major hospitals/hospital systems to meet with Crystal Peoples-Stokes office and explain the impact to the region. No doubt that it had an impact on their signing on as a co-sponsor!

Starting the group was challenging in that members—while eager to help—were intimidated by the process. I think scheduling a meeting myself and explaining how engaging the assembly member's staff was, as well as how rewarding it felt to take action, helped empower other committee members to schedule and complete their own meeting. Success breeds success! As well as empowering others, the success that I had with my first visit surprised me the most and inspired me to keep pushing forward. At this point, many of us have become "pharmacy liaisons" for our senators and assembly members. Offer to be that point person for your representative; they will appreciate having an expert to call upon, and you can know that your voice will be heard come time to promote legislation.

Michael Milazzo, PharmD

# Corporate Scholarship Essay Award

## Pharmacists: Leaders of Change and Population Health

Pharmacists have had an emerging role as health care providers in the past few decades. Their accessibility to patient care is often underutilized despite the extensive clinical knowledge they carry. As one of the most trusted professions, they can be a valuable source to improving population health. According to the American Public Health Association, public health is defined as "promoting and protecting the health of people and communities where they live, learn, work and play."<sup>1</sup> It focuses on improving the health of the population and ensuring we can take measures to manage diseases and outbreaks. Health systems pharmacists can actively play a strong role in public health by establishing programs and collaborating with societal figures to provide services throughout the community.

The foundation of promoting public health is providing population based care by designing disease management programs for those diseases that most heavily impact the society. By applying the continuum of care and pharmacists' patient care process, pharmacists can improve overall patient health outcomes. Contrary to the antiquated beliefs that pharmacists just count and dispense, pharmacists can optimize therapeutic outcomes. They can collect and assess patient information by collaborating with other institutions and health care providers. They can create a therapeutic plan by working with patient preferences and communicating with providers. Furthermore, they can implement and monitor their plan to see how effective it is and make any changes if needed. This algorithm can be applied to managing many disease states. Pharmacist intervention can improve short term and long term goals of many chronic diseases.<sup>2</sup>

Hyperlipidemia, hypertension and diabetes are some of the largest disease states that affect a large population and require intervention to prevent negative health outcomes. The management of these diseases by appropriate medication use and lifestyle changes can allow patients to live long and healthy lives. Health systems pharmacists can promote medication therapy management services to address adherence concerns by following up with patients in order to improve therapeutic outcomes.<sup>3</sup> MTM services allow pharmacists to not only educate patients on their diseases and of the long term consequences, but also ensure appropriate medication use and safety. Pharmacists can help identify adverse drug effects and can use their expertise to determine if the side effect is appropriate to the medication and patient or if changes need to be made. Pharmacists can provide meaningful interventions by assessing the appropriateness of prescription medications, supplements and over-the-counter medications. They can also encourage and motivate patients to stay on the right track by assisting patients with adherence aids such as pillboxes and alarm clocks to make their lives easier.

Health system pharmacists can delve deeper and also train to be certified Point of Care Testing

such as Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) waived testing through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).<sup>4</sup> This laboratory testing would provide accurate and rapid results, allowing pharmacists to directly manage diseases and infections. Pharmacists would be able to identify acute infections such as influenza and strep A, along with chronic diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C. Furthermore, pharmacists would be able to monitor chronic diseases by measuring lipids, hemoglobin A1c and international normalized ratio (INR). By monitoring lab values such as INR, thyroid stimulating hormone, and serum creatinine, pharmacists would be able to make recommendations and adjust medication dosages to appropriately tailor therapy to the patient.<sup>5</sup> This will provide pharmacists with the tools and resources they need to directly manage patient care and improve health outcomes. Patients often have to make appointments and wait weeks to see a diagnostician. This program directed by health system pharmacists would allow a convenient, direct and reliable method to manage acute and long term disease states. Combining this program with MTM services will result in maximal benefit of pharmacist intervention.

Health system pharmacists can also promote strategies and activities to promote disease prevention. With the expanding scope of practice, pharmacy student interns are now certified to administer immunizations. With extra hands on deck, pharmacists can reach out to schools and communities to set up clinics and immunize members of the community while targeting high risk groups. Pharmacists not only have a duty towards their own patients, but to anyone they can help. By reaching out to as many members of society as we can, we can maintain herd immunity and promote the health and wellbeing of all members.<sup>6</sup> This can reduce the incidence of influenza outbreaks and protect high risk populations such as children and the elderly from getting sick.

Furthermore, pharmacies in New York State participate in the expanded syringe access program (esap) to minimize the risk of blood borne diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. However, to further enhance the effects of this program, pharmacies can collaborate with pharmaceutical companies to eliminate hazardous waste and provide safe needle disposal to the public. This can reduce unintentional harm and exposure to not just the users but also those around them. This can also benefit patients who use needles to manage their disease states such as insulin for diabetes. Patients often do not dispose these appropriately and sometimes accumulate them in households. This will benefit and protect all household members and promote timely disposal of the products.

In conclusion, pharmacists have extensive clinical backgrounds and can utilize their experience to promote public health through various measures. By collaborating with other health professionals,



### Krishna Daiya, PharmD Candidate

Class of 2020

University at Buffalo, School of Pharmacy  
and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
NYSCHP Student Committee Member  
Dean's Student Ambassador

community leaders and organizations, pharmacists can expand their practices to reach numerous citizens to prevent outbreaks and acute illnesses. Using their services, health system pharmacists can encourage appropriate medication use and disposal to protect the community. By enrolling in point of care testing programs and providing MTM services, pharmacists can directly impact patient care by identifying acute and chronic diseases and managing them to prevent negative consequences in the future. Health systems pharmacists can integrate their practices to a patient level and population level to promote overall public health.<sup>7</sup>

#### References:

1. "What Is Public Health?" American Public Health Association, [www.apha.org/what-is-public-health](http://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health)
2. Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners. Pharmacists' Patient Care Process. May 29, 2014. <https://jcpp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/PatientCareProcess-with-supporting-organizations.pdf>
3. Bluml, Benjamin M. "Definition of Medication Therapy Management: Development of Professionwide Consensus." *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, vol. 45, no. 5, 2005, pp. 566-57., doi:10.1331/1544345055001274
4. "Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27 Feb. 2019, [www.cdc.gov/clia/resources/waivedtests/default.aspx](http://www.cdc.gov/clia/resources/waivedtests/default.aspx).
5. "Point of Care Testing." *National Community Pharmacist Association*, [www.ncpanet.org/innovation-center/diversified-revenue-opportunities/point-of-care-\(poc\)-testing](http://www.ncpanet.org/innovation-center/diversified-revenue-opportunities/point-of-care-(poc)-testing)
6. Stergachis, Andy. "Promoting the Pharmacist's Role in Public Health" *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, vol 46, Issue , pp. 311-319, doi: 10.1331/154434506777069444
7. American Public Health Association. APHA policy 8024: the role of the pharmacist in public health. *Am J Public Health*. 1981; 71:213-6

## Announcement: 2020 NYSCHP Nominations

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists is seeking candidates for the following offices:

President-Elect  
Treasurer  
Director, Communications  
Director, Chapter Services  
Director, Pharmacy Management  
Chairperson, House of Delegates

If you or someone you know are interested in being considered for nomination to one of these offices, please submit their names to Nominations Committee Chair Anthony Longo  
Alongo@northwell.edu by 2/28/2020.

## Pharmacy School Highlight: St John's University

On October 4, 2019, St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences hosted its annual Pharmacy Residency and Fellowship Showcase to educate students about post-graduate training opportunities. The event was an integral part of the Annual Pharmacy Month activities held at the College. The Showcase allowed for students to meet with current residents, fellows, preceptors, program directors and other key personnel from various residency and fellowship programs. The showcase hosted approximately 120 representatives from 47 post-graduate programs. Some residency programs including New York-Presbyterian, Mount Sinai Health System, NYU Langone Health, and Northwell Health participated in this year's Showcase. In addition to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences' Postdoctoral Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships, which includes Allergan, American Regent, Inc., and Daiichi Sankyo Group, other fellowship programs in attendance included Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Long Island University Pharmacy Fellowship Programs in Medical Communications. Managed care post-graduate program participants included Fidelis Care New York and Healthfirst.

Kimberly E. Ng, PharmD, BCPS  
Assistant Professor  
St. John's University  
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Photo (left): Students from St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences got to meet with more than 120 representatives from both residency and fellowship programs at the Annual Residency and Fellowship Showcase

## In Memoriam



David Blanchard

The pharmacy world lost a true friend and leader on November 24, 2019 with the passing of David Blanchard. Dave was an inspirational and insightful leader, a man of faith and honor, and a pharmacist of distinction.

Dave completed his pharmacy education at the University of Buffalo and a hospital pharmacy residency at the University of Connecticut before returning home to central New York for the rest of his career. He worked at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown and eventually became the Director of Pharmacy at Faxton-St. Lukes Hospital in Utica.

Dave served the Council as a member of the Board of Directors and Presidential Officer for over 10 years.  
Director of Organizational Affairs 1997 – 2000  
President-Elect 2002 – 2003  
President 2003 – 2004  
Immediate Past President 2004 – 2005  
Treasurer 2006 – 2008

He went on to represent New York at the ASHP House of Delegates and was active at the national level, serving three years of the ASHP Committee on Nominations, with the last year as Chairman.

A quiet giant, Dave had a leadership style that made everyone feel important. He listened more than he spoke and he remained calm regardless of the circumstances. He never took himself too seriously and always kept the good of the Council in the forefront of his decisions. He considered himself to be a servant of the Council, its members and the profession of pharmacy. He was integral in the creation of the first Strategic Plan of the Council and created an ad-hoc role on the Board of Directors for a Historian—because his vision of the future of the organization was based on knowing and appreciating where we came from.

During his outgoing presidential speech, Dave called on words from The Lion King: "Hakuna Matata—what a wonderful phrase. It means no worries for the rest of your days. It's our problem-free philosophy." Dave's Christian faith was very important to him. It is in times like these when we rely heavily on faith and a belief that Dave is exactly where he is supposed to be: in a place with a problem-free philosophy and no worries for the rest of his days.

Until we meet again, Dave—Hakuna Matata



# NYSCHP featured in AJHP: "New York OK's Compounding by Registered Pharmacy Technicians"

Andrew Kaplan, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP  
Vice President of Public Policy, NYSCHP

As a representative of NYSCHP, I was invited to be interviewed by AJHP's News Writer, Kate Traynor, regarding New York State's new pharmacy technician law. While New York State is the 46<sup>th</sup> state to require technicians to be licensed, it was an honor for our grassroots movement and legislative success to be featured.

NYSCHP was integral to getting this legislation written and passed. We will maintain our leadership as the law moves into implementation phase – the New York State Education Department will be writing regulations that will provide more detail about what the transition will look like. NYSCHP, we hope, will remain a key networking agent for health-systems across the state to connect and share best practices regarding pharmacy technician job descriptions, training, supervision, etc.

In the interim, our grassroots movement is growing. Our Grassroots Advocacy Committee, chaired by Karen Berger, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP, FCCM, has expanded to another local chapter—Royals—now bringing the total to six (out of nine). It is really inspiring to see our members involved in grassroots advocacy and educating legislators about our priorities.

We now have two key legislative priorities:

## CDTM

- Reauthorization and elimination of the sunset on collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM). CDTM authority expires in July, 2020 and without legislative action, it will be eliminated. The sunset is detrimental to program development across the state and is not necessary.
- We would also like to see the consent process streamlined

## Immunization

- Expansion and elimination of the sunset for immunization authority. Like CDTM, immunization authorization will expire in July, 2020. New York State is peculiar in that certain CDC-recommended vaccines are actually *not* allowed to be administered by pharmacists:
  - **Hepatitis A: NYS is the only state** which does not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **Hepatitis B: NYS is the only state** which does not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **MMR: NYS/WV are the only states** which do not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **HPV: NYS/WV are the only states** which do not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **Varicella: NYS/NH are the only states** which do not allow pharmacists to administer

Check out ASHP's news and press release or pick up a copy of AJHP to read the interview! Contact us for more information on how to get involved!

---

## NYSCHP 2020 Infectious Diseases Live Webinar!

Mark your calendars for 2 sessions NYSCHP Infectious Disease Webinar Series!

**Program Co-chairs:** Karen Berger, PharmD, FCCM, BCPS, BCCCP, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Wesley D. Kufel, PharmD, BCIDP, BCPS, AAHIVP, Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

### Session 1: A Case-based approach to the Management of Infectious Diseases January 8, 2020 from 7 to 9 PM

**7 to 8 PM:** ID ABCs: Antibiotics, Bacteria, and Core Concepts  
Angela Loo, PharmD, BCPS AQ-ID, BCIDP  
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

**8 to 9 PM:** Welcome to the Jungle: Update on New GNR Agents  
Monica Mahoney, PharmD, BCPS AQ-ID, BCIDP  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

[Register here](#)

### Session 2: Clinical Stewardship, Less is More January 22, 2020 from 7 to 9 PM

**7 to 7:30 PM:** Risks of Screening and Treating Asymptomatic Bacteriuria in a Post Antibiotic Era  
Jo Carreno, PharmD  
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

**7:30 to 8 PM:** Short is In: Update on Antimicrobial Duration of Therapy  
Christopher M. Bland, PharmD, FCCP, FIDSA, BCPS  
University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

**8:00 to 9:00 PM:** Modifying Antibiotics: Tools to Improve Stewardship  
Lisa Avery, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP, FCCP  
Wegmans School of Pharmacy/St. John Fisher College, St. Josephs Health

[Register here](#)

Click [here](#) for a PDF copy of the flyer