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From the Desk of the President-Elect

"Progress is Impossible without Change, and those who cannot Change their Minds cannot Change Anything"
- George Bernard Shaw

We have learned from the Covid-19 pandemic that change can often be quite difficult, but sometimes entirely necessary. After much discussion, the Presidential Officers of the NYSCHP and the board of directors concluded that change has become unmistakably necessary across our professional organization. Upon this premise, the NYSCHP Presidential Officers and board constructed a Step Progression Strategic Plan that will revamp and reenergize our professional organization, the NYSCHP, over the course of three years 2020- 2022. This detailed plan will allow the NYSCHP and its members to move the pharmacy profession forward in an efficient, streamlined approach to effectively and comprehensively execute our operational goals: Engage / Lead / Advocate while holding true to the mission and vision of the NYSCHP organization.

During this first year, 2020, we will optimize leadership and governance under the focus goal of "LEAD". In doing so, we will utilize three overarching strategies: (1) Restructure of the table of organization for efficiency and growth (2) Create a leadership development cycle to further strengthen our member leaders, ensure improved collaboration across the state, and enhance both recruitment and attainment of key human resources as well as (3) Identify long range financial requirements, analyze financial trends and secure financial constancy to safeguard the future financial stability of the NYSCHP organization.

Over the next few months, prior to the House of Delegates, I will be holding

live virtual webinars explaining, in detail, the changes to the NYSCHP table of organization, proposed modifications to the constitution and bylaws, and the proposed plans for the leadership development program. I will be presenting this information to the past presidents, to the NYSCHP delegates and to all NYSCHP members at Chapter meetings across the state. I encourage all members to watch for the announcement of these local presentations and to actively participate in the question and answer sessions. The proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be voted on at the December 2020 House of Delegates; all members should be well informed to make an educated decision on the vote. I look forward to individual member engagement and feedback during the live, virtual presentations.

Best Regards,

Ruth E. Cassidy, B.S., PharmD., MBA, FACHE

President-Elect, New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists

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Advocacy Corner

Andrew Kaplan, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP, Vice President of Public Policy

Karen Berger, Pharm.D., FASHP, FCCM, BCPS, BCCCP, Grassroots Advocacy Committee Chair

Mike Milazzo, Pharm.D., Public Policy Committee Chair

NYSCHP Grassroots Advocacy Committee Updates

NYSCHP Advocacy Week: We will be hosting the inaugural NYSCHP Advocacy Week [February 8-12, 2021](#). This event will focus on promoting NYSCHP bills (CDTM and Immunization) by scheduling local legislative visits over a one week period of time. In addition to legislative visits, we are planning educational webinars, workshops, and other fun activities during the week. We encourage all NYSCHP members (students, technicians, residents, pharmacists, managers, directors, etc) to get involved! Please reach out to Andrew Kaplan or Karen Berger with any questions or suggestions.

NYSCHP Resources: We have updated our NYSCHP advocacy resource page. Check out our advocacy resources online at [NYSCHP.org/advocacy](https://nyschp.org/advocacy) for information on how to set up and conduct a legislative visit. Resources include:

- Updated legislator look up links
- Email template to set up meeting with legislator
- Sample script for legislative visit
- CDTM and Immunization fact sheets
- ****NEW**** CDTM and Immunization FAQ sheets
- ****NEW**** CDTM and Immunization educational videos

Advocacy Articles:

- Grassroots advocacy in NY State:
 - Berger K, Kaplan AS. Implementation of a grassroots advocacy movement through state and local collaboration. *Am J Health Syst Pharm.* 2019;76(11):774-778
- Setting up and conducting legislative visits:
 - Kaplan AS, Berger K. Expanding advocacy to the grassroots level: The New York State model. *J Pharm Pract* 2020 [Epub ahead of print]. doi.org/10.1177/0897190020934287
- Setting up and conducting virtual legislative visits:
 - Berger K, Kaplan AS. Advocacy during crisis: Maintaining a legislative presence during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Am J Health Syst Pharm.* 2020 Jul 24. Online ahead of print.

Public Policy Updates

Pharmacy Technician Oversight:

On April 25th, 2021, a law will go into effect which will require Pharmacy Technicians who compound to register with the New York State Education Department (SED) - assuming SED is able to implement the law. It will also require training, supervision and National Certification for pharmacy technicians who compound. Compounding by pharmacy technicians will only be permitted in hospitals/health-systems.

We have reached out to SED regarding the timelines, regulations, etc and have not heard specifics back yet. They have been overwhelmed with COVID-19 associated tasks. We will continue to follow up.

If you haven't had a chance, please fill out the NYSCHP [Survey](#) on pharmacy technician resources – if you are interested in NYSCHP creating toolkit of sorts, with job descriptions, competencies, training programs, etc.

Immunization:

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [directive](#) intended to override existing state restrictions and allow pharmacists in all 50 states to administer all CDC-recommended vaccines to all patients aged 3 years and above. New York is one of the states that restricts which vaccines a pharmacist may administer.

A further [directive](#) released by HHS intended to allow “qualified pharmacy technicians and State-authorized pharmacy interns to administer childhood vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines when made available, and COVID-19 tests, all subject to several requirements.”

NYSCHP has reached out to the Board of Pharmacy and SED and we have not heard an update as of this writing; we have also tried reaching out to the Governor. If this directive went into effect, it would represent a dramatic expansion of access to critically-needed vaccines. We will let everyone know when we hear more. We do not recommend any practice changes yet. A recent [news article](#) showed that New York is not the only state experiencing uncertainty between state and federal rules.

Finally, since this directive is only applicable during the nationally-declared state of emergency, we will nonetheless need to pass legislation in New York authorizing pharmacists to administer all CDC-recommended vaccines and order/administer COVID-19 testing for those authorities to be permanent.

Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM):

Last month, we told you about how **electronic** means can be used to provide the “written” consent necessary in the CDTM law. We are still working with the SED and Governor’s team on allowing verbal consent – since patients without means may not be able to provide an electronic consent, and therefore this serves as a barrier to care.

We will also be following up with the Governor to see whether CDTM language can be included in the next executive budget proposal. NYSCHP provided the Governor’s office with information demonstrating cost savings with expanding pharmacy practice.

Other Updates:

We are collaborating with some groups working on pharmacy provider status in New York, such as the Coalition for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice (CAP); we are also working directly with other pharmacy organizations on creating a unified pharmacy practice expansion proposal. We hope that this proposal will allow all the organizations and Colleges of Pharmacy to come together and speak with one voice.



Pharmacy Technician Corner

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

The NYSCHP Pharmacy Technician Committee is working on rebranding initiatives, including revamping the technician page on the website. Michele Kaufman, PharmD, BCGP is leading the efforts on this initiative. We are looking forward to recording our first technician podcast this month with invited guests, Cyndie Walton, CPhT (Chair of Pharmacy Technician Committee) and Zackary Green, CPhT (Associate Director of Partnership Development, Pharmacy Technician Certification Board).

For this month's 'Technician Spotlight,' we are happy to feature Rafael Roman, BA, CPhT. Rafael is a new member of the NYSCHP Pharmacy Technician Committee and the Chair of the New York City Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NYCSHP) Pharmacy Technician Executive Committee.

Pharmacy Technician Spotlight

Rafael Roman, BA, CPhT

**Training Coordinator of Technical Operations
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

Why I Do What I Do:

In all honesty, being a pharmacy technician has opened up a wealth of knowledge and access I never thought I would have. Helping train and educate pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy residents, pharmacy interns, etc with an amazing team of innovators is what wakes me up in the morning.

Latest Accomplishment:

I was recently appointed the Chair of the NYCSHP Pharmacy Technician Executive Committee. I work with a great team of advanced pharmacy technicians that practice in the NYC area to develop programming and outreach to other pharmacy technicians. I am beyond excited to see what work we will do together in the year ahead.

Most Memorable Experience as a Pharmacy Technician

My fondest and most memorable experience as a pharmacy technician had to be when I worked overnights at Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian Hospital. There was no such thing as an easy night, but what made the nights great was the team of amazing pharmacists and pharmacy interns I had the privilege of working with.

Why I Became Certified

I became certified for the same reason many other technicians at the time became certified: money. In 2006, the actual median hourly wage of a chain or independent pharmacy technician was a little over \$10 an hour. I, on the other hand, was making about \$8.75 an hour and if I became certified, my district manager would raise my hourly rate by \$1. To a full-time undergraduate student, that whole dollar made a world of difference.

Advice to Up-and-Coming Technicians

1. Never stop learning
2. Always see where the glass ceiling is and aim to break it
3. It is the impact we make on the patients and communities we serve that turns what we do from simply being a job, to being a profession.

My Passion Outside of Work

Outside of work I'm an entrepreneur. I am co-owner and Chief Operating Officer for two of the businesses I have created with my best friend and business partner. One being a multimedia and strategy company. The other being an entrepreneurial sharespace dedicated to providing safe spaces of culture, inspiration, and encouragement for minority women, men, and those identifying as LGBTQIA+ community.



New Practitioner Spotlight

Dimitrios A. Savva, PharmD, BCPPS

Path to Becoming a New Practitioner:

All through school, I always had a feeling I was going to end up with a profession in the medical field working with children. My passion for wanting to work in pediatrics has been there since the very beginning along with my goal to make a difference. With that in mind, I originally thought that I would pursue the path of becoming a pediatrician. However, that idea disappeared when I told my own pediatrician my career goal and he made me watch and listen to a child screaming and crying in agony and pain from immunizations. At that moment, I thought medicine was not for me. It was not until I shadowed a family friend/uncle who was a pharmacist at his own independent pharmacy that the idea of pursuing pharmacy came into the picture. My one day of shadowing became 7 years of working there throughout pharmacy school. I was able to see the impact that pharmacists have on patient care.

I attended St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and was part of the graduating class of 2016. My experience at St. John's was good from both the academic/professional and social perspectives. I was involved in many pharmacy organizations where I held executive leadership positions. Some of the organizations included Phi Delta Chi, Phi Lambda Sigma, and APhA. During pharmacy school I worked at an independent pharmacy called Crown Chemists, as well as in the hospital setting at Cohen Children's Medical Center. Both my inpatient work experience and my APPE rotations helped me solidify my decision to pursue a pharmacy residency and specialize in pediatrics.

After graduating with my PharmD, I pursued a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Children's National Health System in Washington, D.C. My pediatric passion pushed me to continue my post graduate training, and I pursued a PGY-2 Pediatric Pharmacy Residency at the University Of Maryland School Of Pharmacy with affiliations at the University of Maryland Children's Hospital in Baltimore, MD. After finishing my PGY-2 training, I fulfilled my goal of returning home to New York to work within my pediatric specialty and also achieved board certification in pediatric pharmacotherapy.

Practice Site:

I practice at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital as a pediatric clinical pharmacy manager focusing primarily in pediatric/neonatal critical care. This includes primary coverage for the pediatric and neonatal ICUs, infant cardiac ICU, pediatric step-down units, as well as cross coverage at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Alexandra Cohen Hospital for Women and Newborns. I precept APPE students from St. John's and Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. I also precept our PGY-1 pharmacy residents and PGY-2 critical care pharmacy residents who are interested in doing a pediatric rotation. I am very grateful for the strong pediatric group that I work with every day and for being able to elevate the quality of care whenever possible.

Organizational Involvement & Value of NYSCHP:

NYSCHP is a great avenue for new practitioners as they are transitioning from being a student to a practitioner. I was very grateful for the opportunities it offered when I returned home after being out of state for two years for residency. The NYSCHP network is a unique one that I was fortunate to get involved with. I was able to see the perks of membership in NYSCHP through my colleagues that have held leadership positions in the organization. My first step at getting involved and giving back was when I joined the New Practitioner Committee as a member in 2019-2020. During that year, I was also part of the Installation committee. Now, I am excited to take the role of New Practitioner Committee Co-Chair for the NYC Chapter for 2020-2021. In addition to NYSCHP, I am also involved in other organizations including ASHP, Pediatric Pharmacy Association (PPA) and Phi



Delta Chi. I am part of the Pediatric SAG group for ASHP and multiple PPA interest groups. In addition, I am an executive board member of the Phi Delta Chi Beta Alpha Alumni Chapter, as well as the Northeast Regional Director of Collegiate Affairs which oversees more than 11 school chapters. I still love giving back and stay involved with St. John's by participating as a guest speaker and panelist, and as a mentor since 2017 through their Alumni Mentor Program.

Advice for New Practitioners:

Never say no – now is the time to do everything and get exposed to as much as you can. The sooner you set your roots, the quicker your network will flourish. Get involved locally, regionally, and even nationally. Just because you are a “new practitioner” does not mean you are not qualified and capable to do things and make a difference. Do not be afraid to ask questions and even question the norm.

Fun Facts:

My favorite animal is an elephant – they are awesome! I have SOOO MANY elephant figurines and items in both my office, apartment, and even on my face mask that I wear to work ☺ . I am also a huge country music fan. I enjoy playing/watching sports, listening to music, singing, and going to concerts and Broadway shows. I love spending time with my family and friends. I also have a chocolate Havanese named Balto that I was lucky to bring home during my PGY-2 residency in 2018.



SAVE THE DATE 2021

New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists Virtual Annual Assembly!

Meeting Registration Fee: \$250.00

***Free Attendee Registration for participation in this
year's virtual exhibit program!***

- ♦ **Virtual Exhibits:**

- ♦ (Tues.) March 16th from 12:00—2:00 P.M.
- ♦ (Thurs.) March 18th from 7:00—9:00 P.M.

- ♦ **House of Delegates:**

- ♦ (Wed.) April 14th from 7:00—9:00 P.M.
- ♦ (Wed.) April 28th from 7:00—9:00 P.M.

- ♦ **Tentative Educational Programming:**

- ♦ (Mon.) April 19th - (Wed.) April 21st:
 - ♦ 11:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.
 - ♦ 5:00—8:00 P.M.
- ♦ (Thurs.) April 22nd
 - ♦ 1:00 -5:00 P.M.
- ♦ (Fri.) April 23rd
 - ♦ 9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.
- ♦ ****NEW** Technician Track**
- ♦ ****NEW** Pharmacy Advocacy Track**

- ♦ **Residency Research Practice Forum:**

- ♦ (Mon.) May 3rd to (Fri.) May 7th , times and sessions **TBA**

- ♦ **Student Competition:**

- ♦ (Sun.) April 18th from 1:00 —2:30 P.M.

- ♦ **Poster Session:**

- ♦ Dates and times **TBA**



**Dates and times are subject to change.
More information to follow.**

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