

**November 2017**

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## **Press Release**

### **Trump Administration Declares Opioid Crisis A Public Health Emergency**

Albany, NY – New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists supports the public attention drawn to the opioid crisis by the Trump Administration’s declaration of a Public Health Emergency.

As members of the Pharmacy profession, we see the impact of opioid epidemic every day – in communities, hospitals, health-systems – all throughout New York State. The Council supports the expansion of telemedicine initiatives to help treat the medically underserved suffering from mental illness or substance abuse. The Council believes the Administration should work with Congress to pass H.R. 592/S. 109 (Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act), which would allow pharmacists in medically underserved communities to treat those who critically need it.

The Council has helped educate Pharmacists throughout New York State on how to acquire, dispense and administer the opioid reversal agent naloxone. At a time where nearly 100 Americans die each day of an opioid overdose, this life-saving medicine is a critical tool that must be accessible and affordable. In addition, the Council supports expanded access and insurance coverage for medication-assisted treatment, such as with methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone, to ensure overdoses don’t happen in the first place.

Pharmacies throughout New York State have taken advantage of a recent piece of legislation which makes it easier to set up medication disposal kiosks. Too many New Yorkers have unused controlled substances in their homes, awaiting illicit use, either by themselves, or by a friend or family member; many addicted to heroin and fentanyl started out by abusing prescription opioids. This declaration should serve as a reminder to dispose of unused controlled substances whenever possible.

Founded in 1958, the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists is a professional organization of approximately 2000 pharmacists, pharmacy technical personnel, students, industry personnel and other interested in the advancement of pharmacy as an essential component of health care and medication error reduction. NYSCHP is dedicated to promoting good health through public education, fostering safe and rational drug use; encouraging and assisting in the development of quality, comprehensive pharmaceutical services and serving as a catalyst for practice innovation that enables members to better serve the public interest and the profession.

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## Spotlight on Chapter Services

It is the members and leaders of each local chapter that make the NYSCHP what it is. The more of us there are, the larger the impact we can have. And good news... we're growing! There are more people like you joining the Council every year – As of September 2017, there were 1,766 members in our great organization, a 20% increase from the same time last year. Thank you for all your hard work! A large portion of our membership is composed of student-members. Our leadership has made a concerted effort to better tie students into the Council: they are now being integrated into all NYSCHP committees! Not only are they serving on Council committees, but they now have a committee of their own. We are confident that this will not only help to actively engage students in the Council, but will also positively impact what we do as an organization. Students are, without question, our organization's future.

The NYSCHP's membership committee recently collaborated with the Council office to establish geographic boundaries for the nine local chapters. This initiative was undertaken to help the local chapters better understand the regions they serve and to help current and prospective members identify where they can best connect (see <http://www.nyschp.org/chapters>). While we've been drawing barriers, the CCC has been busy breaking them down through their distance learning initiatives: they are striving to provide "cross-chapter" online continuing education programming to all NYSCHP members. This should help us better serve our members, particularly those that reside in the more rural areas of New York State. This may also help us reach individuals in those regions that were previously unable to connect with the Council.

In an effort to improve new member recruitment, the Council added an institutional membership option this past year. This program, which provides all the benefits of active membership at a reduced cost on a per member basis, has been a great success! If you'd like more information, please contact the Council office at [office@nyschp.org](mailto:office@nyschp.org). The Council also expanded eligibility for the pledge membership to permit pharmacists who have not been an active member for the past three years, and to permit those that held resident membership during the past year, to join via this route. These changes were made to give previous members an opportunity to experience the "new and improved" NYSCHP and to provide pharmacy residency graduates with a low-risk avenue to experience all the Council has to offer first-hand. It is our hope that this initiative will improve recruitment of future leaders to this organization. If you know someone who used to be a member, or if you interact with Residency Program Directors and/or pharmacy residents, please pass the news along – thanks! That said, recruiting new members is great, but we are striving to provide value to our current members so all have a reason to remain a member year after year. If you want to better connect with the Council, or know someone who does, ask your local chapter leadership about the NYSCHP Ambassador Program – this is just one way we are trying to provide you, as a member of the Council, with what it is you've told us you want.

Bill Prescott  
*Director, Chapter Services*



## Education and Professional Development Committee

We are excited to announce that the NYSCHP Continuing Competency Committee (CCC) has been renamed, the “Education and Professional Development Committee”. This name change should help us better align our name with the goals of the committee: providing high level educational programs to our members to further enhance their clinical knowledgebase and provide them with the necessary tools to optimize patient care. The committee meets on a monthly basis and plans continuing education activities and other networking/educational programs on a variety of topics. Through optimization of remote programming opportunities, the CCC now provides monthly educational programming to even more pharmacists, technicians, and students across the state. Registration has been >100 for our first few webinars and we are excited to see this program expand to include speakers from every chapter in NY state!

The summer was very busy for the CCC, planning the varied fall programs that have been held. The very successful Tristate Program was held on September 29, 2017 at the Doubletree, Tarrytown, bringing together 150 attendees, 37 vendors, and representatives from NY, NJ and CT. The Downstate Critical Care Pharmacotherapy Symposium was held on 10/21 at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center and the Upstate program was held on 10/28 at University at Buffalo. This year both programs included a platform for pharmacy residents to present critical care focused clinical pearls on hot topics in the field of critical care. Additionally, the programs provided both CE and CME credit and included a multidisciplinary group of speakers including pharmacists, physicians, and nurse practitioners. Student programs were held Downstate and Upstate, offering students a full-day of educational opportunity, with a focus on preparing students for success in the job market.

The 2018 Annual Assembly (AA) planning has begun. The theme for the program is “Pharmacists as Providers: Completing the Circle of Care”. The student and resident poster/platform sessions will continue to be a key component of the 2018 AA planning and will help attract new resident members. This year, we are excited to announce a student clinical skills competition with teams from schools of pharmacy in New York State competing in the inaugural challenge. In addition, the CCC has developed a Speaker’s Bureau to help identify content experts, diversify topics, and provide opportunities to more practitioners throughout the state. If you would like to be added to the Speaker’s Bureau, please email Heide Christensen for more information. The AA Planning Committee welcomes any new ideas and is excited to see the program get bigger and better each year!

Heide Christensen, RPh, MS

*Director, Education and Workforce Development*



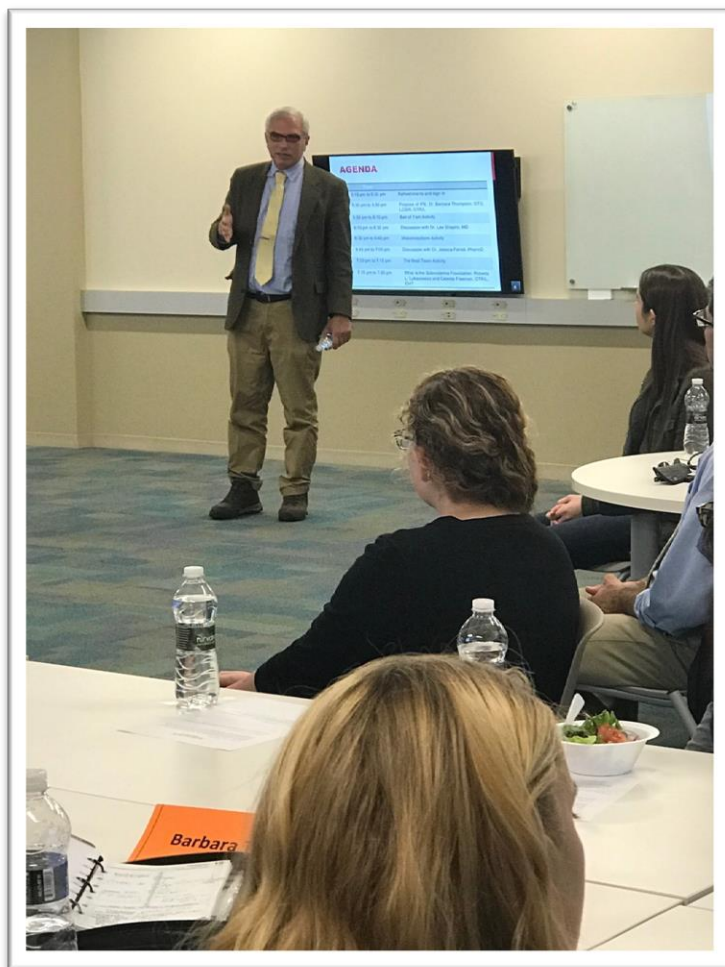
## Student Corner

On October 18th, 2017, the students from the Albany College of Pharmacy and Sage Colleges engaged in the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Networking Series: Introduction to Scleroderma. Not only did pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and psychology students share their role in patient care, but they also explained where they see themselves in an interdisciplinary team as a practitioner. In addition, students heard from the scleroderma interprofessional team including, Lee Shapiro, MD, Jessica Farrell, PharmD, Vivek Mehta, MD, Celeste Freeman, OTR/L, CHT, Roberta L. Lukasiewicz, and Mitchell Miller, PharmD Candidate 2018. This was the first student initiated IPE event organized solely by students at the respective colleges. This event allowed students from the various disciplines to network and foster relationships while learning about their role on an interdisciplinary team caring for patients with scleroderma.

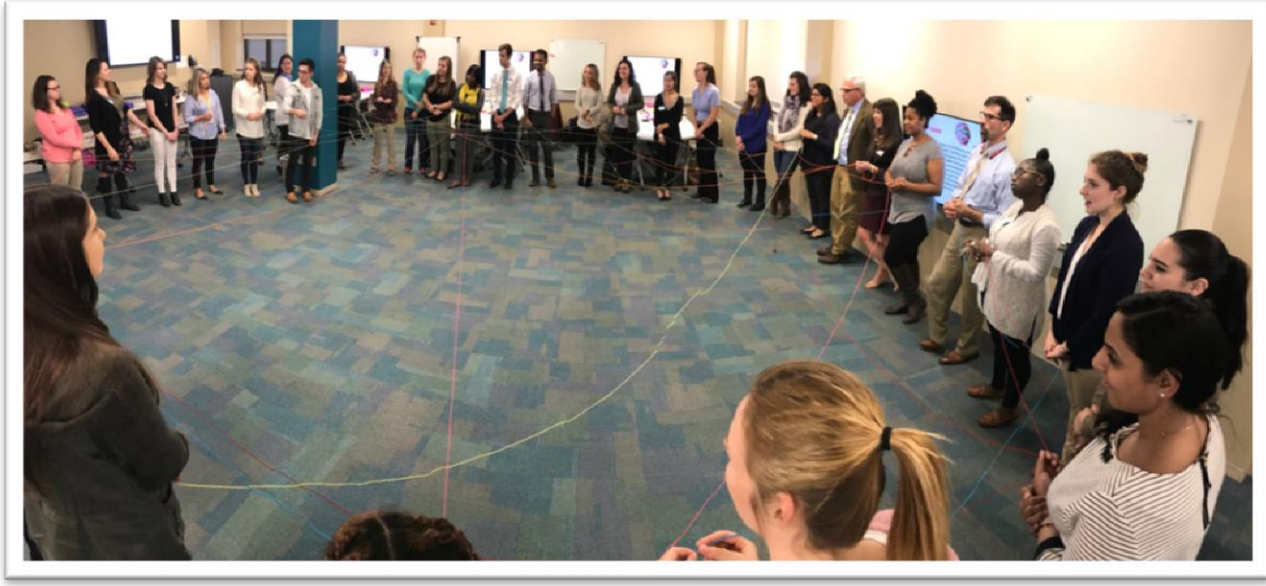


Scleroderma Interprofessional Team: Vivek Mehta, MD, Lee Shapiro, MD, Mitchell Miller, PharmD Candidate 2018, Jessica Farrell, PharmD, Celeste Freeman, OTR/L, CHT, and Roberta L. Lukasiewicz





Lee Shapiro, MD



IPE Activity: Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Psychology students shared their role in patient care and created a net of patient care with yarn shown above.

Kaitlyn Victor, B.S.

*University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy*

*PharmD Candidate, Class of 2018*

*NYSCHP Communications Committee Student Representative*

*Rho Chi Academic Honors Society*

*Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society*



## Student Corner

### “Putting Your Best Foot Forward for Postgraduate Opportunities: ASHP Midyear 2017”

Interviewing season is coming up for pharmacy students looking for postgraduate opportunities. Recently [Touro College of Pharmacy](#) (TCOP) in Harlem held a Career Fair where representatives from major retail, community and hospital pharmacies, and residency and fellowship programs gathered to discuss tips and strategies for landing postgraduate positions. Tips on preparation and interviewing took center stage. Here are some of the highlights:

1. **Create a list of all work.** Students should write down everything they have done during pharmacy school. Write detailed descriptions of responsibilities, including all supervisory work – both paid and volunteer. This would include work for student organizations, any pharmacy practice experience, rotations, and community service. List everything in a timeline that shows progressive responsibility over time and professional development.
2. **Create a Curriculum Vitae** that can be continually updated as one progresses through school and post-graduate training. Have the CV reviewed by a mentor or an expert in the field where one is applying so that they can help you structure your CV to highlight your strengths that are valuable to that professional area.
3. **Research the company** that you are interviewing with, review their website, read about them in the news, and check out any news on their website. Look at the company’s branding, mission and understand the company’s business, its competitors, and products, because you may be asked about them. Know the position that you are interviewing for.
4. **Practice, practice, practice...**There’s no better preparation for making a great impression than practicing your interviewing skills. Prepare an elevator speech (a clear brief message that communicates who you are, what you're looking for) that typically lasts about 30 seconds. Think what you would like to say about yourself so that when you are asked you can be clear and concise. Anticipate what other questions you might be asked and practice answering those as well.
5. **Prepare questions for the interviewer.** This shows that you are prepared and engaged and want the job.
6. **Project confidence and be yourself.** Employers want to know that the person they are hiring can work within the organization. Students tend to become robots – after all, they interview with hundreds of people. Those who stand out are the ones who are comfortable and let their personalities shine through. They are able to make an impression, usually a good and lasting one.
7. **Network.** If you are planning on going to the [ASHP Midyear 2017 Conference](#) in December, make an effort to find out if the places where you are interviewing are a good fit for you – culturally and in other ways. Network in both formal and informal settings. Contact current fellows and residents about their experiences to gain insight. If possible, contact former employees who have moved on.

“With interviewing, you get out what you put in,” observed Dr. Ronnie Moore, Assistant Dean, Clinical Affairs and Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice at TCOP. “Everyone there has similar credentials and one of the challenges is to communicate your knowledge, passion for the opportunities that await you and differentiate yourself from your peers. Everyone is unique and you need to find a way to communicate what is special about you and what you can deliver to the organization.”

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## Event Highlights

### NYSCHP Downstate Critical Care Symposium

On October 21, 2017, Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> annual NYSCHP Downstate Critical Care Conference. This year lectures throughout the day were led by pharmacists, physicians, and nurse practitioners from local New York City area hospitals.

The morning began with a presentation given by **Laura Evans, MD, MSc** from Bellevue Hospital who spoke about “The Ever Changing World of Sepsis Management”. Dr. Evans who serves as the co-chair of the 2016 sepsis guidelines expertly covered recommendations from the guidelines including caveats and limitations of initial resuscitation, vasopressor choice, and antimicrobial selection. This was followed by a presentation from **Cristian Merchan, PharmD** from NYU Langone Medical Center that described the integration of dexmedetomidine and ketamine into sedation practices in critically ill patients. He also highlighted the use of these agents in acute agitation and alcohol withdrawal. **Whitney Gannon, MSN, ACNP-BC** from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital presented on “Breathing Life into New Therapies: Updates on the Treatment of Severe Respiratory Failure”. She stressed the importance on early identification of severe respiratory therapy, application of appropriate mechanical ventilation strategies and prone positioning, as well as other adjunctive therapies including paralysis and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation.

After breaking for lunch, **Monica Mehta, PharmD, MPH, BCPS** and **William Greendyke, MD** both from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital battled out the controversies of the 2016 HAP/VAP guidelines in a pro/con debate. Hot topics that were debated with cross-examination included the elimination of health-care associated pneumonia from the guidelines, the use of procalcitonin to de-escalate antimicrobials, and the duration of antimicrobials in patients with gram-negative infections. **Corey Witenko, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP** from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital had a pulse check with the audience with his presentation on updates in ACLS and post-cardiac arrest management. He presented controversial literature on the administration of vasopressin and alteplase during cardiac arrest and addressed the clinical conundrum of sodium bicarbonate administration in the face of national shortages.

The afternoon concluded with a talk from **Jerry Altshuler, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP** on the importance of integration of the ABCDEF bundle into our daily care for our critically ill patients. This presentation included concepts that we can draw into our clinical practice sites and use to in turn educate others in our practice sites. Local PGY2 pharmacy residents presented clinical Pearls in Critical Care throughout the day. As last year, this was a huge success!

- **Teresa Poon, PharmD**, (PGY2 Critical Care pharmacy resident at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital) presented “The ‘Cure’ for Sepsis” in which she critiqued the recent publication reporting on improved mortality in patients with sepsis using hydrocortisone, vitamin C, and thiamine.
- **Nicole Davis, PharmD**, (PGY2 Critical Care pharmacy resident at Touro College of Pharmacy/The Mount Sinai Hospital) presented on the hot topic of “Stress Ulcer Prophylaxis in 2017: Is It Time to Reevaluate?” During this presentation Dr. Davis discussed the overuse of stress ulcer prophylaxis and examined the potential for withholding prophylaxis in the setting advanced critical care in certain patient populations.





- **Ankit Gohel, PharmD**, (PGY2 Emergency Medicine pharmacy resident at Maimonides Medical Center) “Ketamine’s Role in Pain Management and its Potential Use in the Emergency Department”. Dr. Gohel presented the limitations of opioids in pain management and reviewed the literature surrounding ketamine as an alternative.



A huge thank you to **Heide Christensen, RPh, MS** for her dedication to the success of this program.

Amy L. Dzierba, PharmD, FCCM, FCCP, BCPS, FCCM  
*Clinical Pharmacist, Adult Critical Care New York-Presbyterian*



## Event Highlights



Royal Counties at Today Show as part of the Pharmacy Media Day



Grassroots advocates Andrew Kaplan and Cye Cornelio met with Assemblywoman Mayer to discuss Technician Registration legislation

## **NYSCHP and Local Chapter Upcoming Events**

### *November 2017*

- November 16<sup>th</sup> : NYCSHP Grassroots Lobbying Dinner
- November 21<sup>st</sup>: Southern Tier CE Program
- November 30<sup>th</sup> : NYCSHP CE Program

### *December 2017*

- December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm-8 pm: NYSCHP Reception at the Midyear Clinical Meeting

### *March 2018*

- March 10<sup>th</sup> , 10am-2pm: NYCSHP Cycle for Survival



## SAVE THE DATE

### 2017 NEW YORK STATE RECEPTION

Sunday, December 3, 2017  
Rosen Centre (Grand E)

9840 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE | ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32819

6:30-8:00 PM

Join with your colleagues from across New York State at the 2017  
ASHP Midyear.



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*Wishing you all a ...*

