

**November 2015**

Volume 2, Issue 9

# **New York State Council Health-system Pharmacists**



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## **President's Message**

Dear NYSCHP Members,

I recently attended the New York State Board of Pharmacy meeting at St. John's University as a representative of our professional organization to discuss the proposed legislation that will require all pharmacy technicians to be registered and certified. We have been discussing this topic and various editions of the legislation for years during many of our NYSCHP board meetings; the NYSCHP board has always been in support of having mandatory registration and certification with opposition coming from our community and chain pharmacy colleagues. Well sadly I can report that not much has changed, the community and chain pharmacy organizations are advocating for bifurcated language in the bill that would only require certification for technicians who perform specific functions such as compounding. An example of their training suggestion is site-specific training; well I ask you is site specific training not what we all do as part of the onboarding process for all employees?

I cannot wrap my mind around how professionals such as pharmacists no matter what setting one works in could be opposed to a bill that would provide greater oversight and create criteria for those individuals that assist us. Do you want an individual that has no formal training or education related to pharmacy assisting you when you are ultimately responsible for the final product that these unlicensed personnel prepared (Emily Jerry Story)? Would you let a Physician's Assistant examine you if they did not have formal education and successfully complete an accredited training program? If your answer is no then why would we allow our "pharmacy technicians" to handle medications and perform the bulk of the filling of orders and prescriptions without a similar process? Do we think what we do is not as important?

The counting and pouring now often alleged to be the pharmacist's chief occupation will in time be done by technicians and eventually by automation. The pharmacist of tomorrow will function by reason of what they know, increasing the efficiency and safety of drug therapy and working as a specialist in their own right. — Linwood F. Tice, D.Sc., Dean Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (1966). Dr. Tice had this vision 50 years ago and here we are still struggling to get there. If we want to progress our great profession in New York State and to practice at the top of our license we need to raise the level of our technicians so that we can be confident and know that our patients are safe.

How do you feel about practicing in only one of 4 States plus the District of Columbia that does not regulate "pharmacy technicians"? If you are not happy about it make your voice be heard and speak to your legislators, community and chain pharmacy friends and colleagues and get them to support a bill that will set basic criteria in education and training and that will require mandatory registration and certification of all pharmacy technicians.

On behalf of the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists Board of Directors  
Happy Holidays

Joseph Pinto  
President Elect, NYSCHP

## Rochester Chapter Spotlight

On behalf of the Rochester Chapter, I would like to say greetings and I hope your fall is going well! We have had an exciting year so far. The board worked hard over the summer to update our Constitution and Bylaws, which, had not been updated since 2001.

One of the changes we decided upon is moving to bi-monthly 2-hour CE programs. This will allow us to provide the same number of continuing education credits per year in a more fiscally responsible manner while enabling us to hold social networking events on the off months. We also created a "Letter from the Board" to help with communication and a Facebook page where we will be posting our events and other pharmacy related news. Furthermore, in an effort to increase student and pharmacy technician participation, we have invited a SSHP student and pharmacy technician member to our board meetings.



To kick off our programming, in September, Dr. Tammie Lee Demler from the Buffalo Psych Center spoke on Updates in the Pharmacotherapy for Insomnia and her PGY-2 resident Kim Mulcahy talked about what's New in Psychiatric Medication Management. In October, we held our first "networking" event and last week, was our 3-hour URM C Pharmacy Resident Symposium. We look forward to our annual holiday party in December followed by a medication safety program in January.

In another effort to foster pharmacy comradery in the Rochester community, RASHP and PSR will hold our 4th annual Rochester Pharmacy Gala in February. This event brings together pharmacists, technicians, and students in different areas of pharmacy including hospital, community, managed care, long-term care, and industry.

Our focus for the remainder of the year will be working to increase membership and setting up multiple non-pharmacy related community service activities for our members and colleagues to become involved with.

Aviva Bodek, Pharm.D., BCPS  
President, Rochester Chapter

*Happy Holidays!*

## St. Johns University Spotlight

The Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP) at St. John's University has been actively involved in campus activities since the start of the academic year.

We kicked off the semester with a general body meeting to promote membership and to touch base with our current members and to keep them informed of upcoming events.

SSHP at St. John's University hosted the annual Residency/Fellowship showcase where representatives from over 30 local institutions participated and spoke with students about their respective programs. With the help of our advisor Dr. Maha Saad, the Residency/Fellowship showcase yielded a great turnout of over 150 students.

Even though applying for a Residency or Fellowship is often geared toward the later years of pharmacy school, we hosted "What is a Residency and How to Prepare for It" to provide information on different career options and what can be done to become a competitive applicant. At the event, we had Dr. Kimberly Ng present about the general process of applying and matching, things to expect while being a resident, and what options await the resident after completing a PGY1 and or a PGY2.

We hosted the local Clinical Skills Competition to allow students to utilize and put to the test their clinical knowledge acquired in their coursework and experiential rotations. The results are in and we are proudly sending our first place team of Michele Lee and Grace Yoon to the Midyear Clinical Meeting in December.

Finally, SSHP at St. John's co-hosted "Midyear for Pharmacy Students" with American Pharmacist Association (APhA), The Rho Chi Society, and the Drug Information Association (DIA) to prepare those students who are attending the Midyear Clinical Meeting. At this event, Dr. Ashley Richardson-Galla, Dr. Olga Hilar, Dr. Christine Chim, Dr. Celia Lu, Dr. Donna Sym, and Matthew Furnari served as panelists, answered questions, and offered advice on how to make the most out of Midyear.

It has been a busy two months, but we are excited and motivated to prepare the next generation of health-system pharmacists to be leaders in their schools and communities to advance the future of the pharmacy profession.

Matthew Li

Pharm D. Candidate 2017

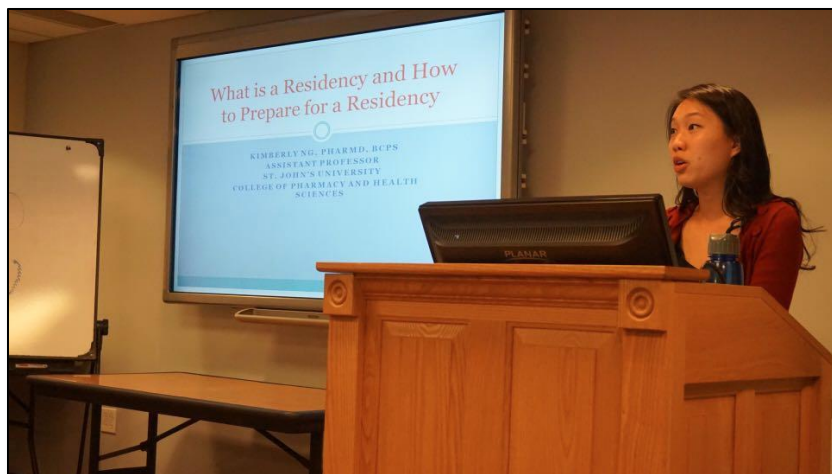
St. John's University

Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy | President

Student Society Development Advisory Group | General Member

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## St. Johns University Spotlight



## Legislative Update

Dear NYSCHP members,

According to a recent membership survey conducted in September 2015, NYSCHP members rated advocacy as an “extremely valuable” activity. As such, we are forging ahead and preparing for the new legislative season starting in January 2016. Last Spring, we made incremental progress with CDTM expansion (now pharmacists in all hospitals and nursing homes with an onsite pharmacy can enter into collaborative practice agreements). And tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis were added to the list of vaccines that pharmacists can administer in NY State.

This year, we hope to further expand CDTM and the number of vaccines that pharmacists can administer, but our big legislative push is technician registration and certification. There are numerous reasons why this is important...

A pharmacy technician is an individual who has been trained to assist in pharmacy activities that do not require the judgment of a pharmacist and who performs those activities under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist.<sup>1</sup> Most pharmacy technicians engage in drug product acquisition, preparation, dispensing, and distribution under the physical supervision of a pharmacist. A survey of over 600 pharmacists in various settings revealed that at least 83% of respondents agreed that working with certified technicians allows them to spend more time on patient care services. The work of pharmacists needs to be optimized so that we can perform medication therapy management (MTM), enter into collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) agreements, counsel our patients on how to appropriately use their medications, immunize patients, make pharmacotherapeutic recommendations, and many other clinical duties. But this is only possible if pharmacy technicians are adequately trained in medication distribution. Therefore, the first reason why technicians should undergo registration and certification is so that pharmacists can practice at the top of our licenses.

Secondly, technician certification/registration is important in order to decrease drug diversion. At present, only 18 states require a background check prior to working as a pharmacy technician. We are learning that DEA investigators from the Buffalo office verify a high degree of controlled substances diversion attributed to pharmacy techs, and that some “drug rings/gangs” are getting their members employed as techs to increase access to prescription opiates.



## Legislative Update

**...cont**

Finally and perhaps most importantly, we feel that technician registration and certification will increase patient safety. We are all familiar with incidents such as the Emily Jerry case in which fatal errors were made. Certification was associated with higher pharmacy math and compounding skills.<sup>1</sup>

This has been a long time coming. In the 1980's, pharmacy associations in Michigan and Illinois created programs for technician certification. At present, 45 states regulate pharmacy technicians.<sup>1</sup> Only five states do not regulate pharmacy technicians (including New York State). Also, 23 states require national certification in their regulations. This effort has widespread support, including from The New York State Board of Pharmacy, American Pharmacy Association, American Society of Health-system Pharmacists, and Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

Start gearing up. Find out who your legislators are. And start having the dialogue with coworkers. And as Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Stay tuned for more!

Best,



Monica Mehta, PharmD, MPH, BCPS  
Vice President, Public Policy  
NYSCHP

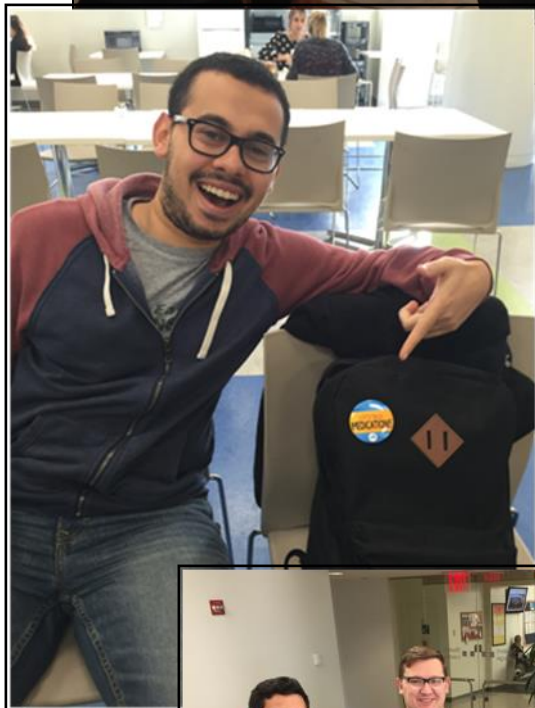
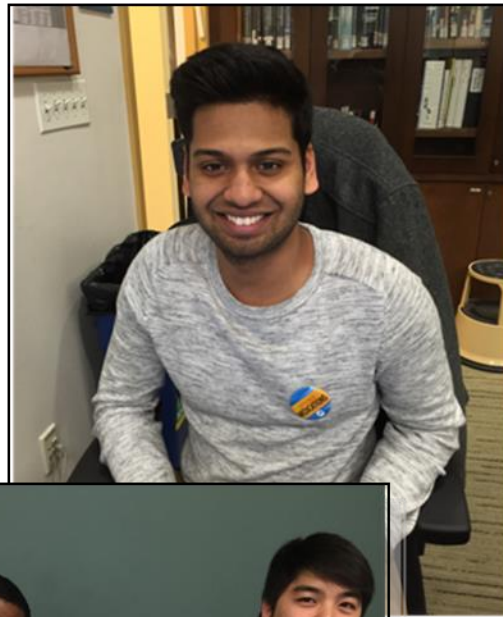
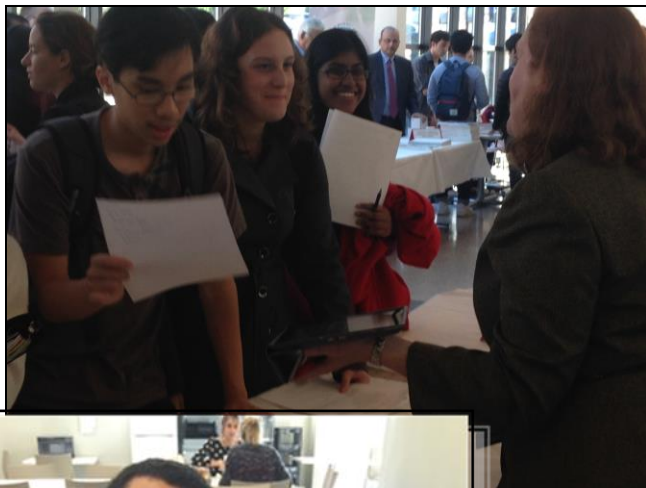
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<sup>1</sup> Myers C. Opportunities and challenges related to pharmacy technicians in supporting optimal pharmacy practice models in health systems. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2011;68:1128-36.

<sup>1</sup> Desselle S, Schmitt M. Pharmacists' perceptions of the value of technician certification through a nationally accredited certification program. *J Pharm Technol* 2010;26:340-51.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics from Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). November 1, 2015.

# Let's Talk Medications Campaign & Pharmacy Week



The Let's Talk Medications campaign button was one of the initiatives sponsored by NYSCHP to further publicize the profession of pharmacy during pharmacy week. Above are photos of NYSCHP student members from Touro College of Pharmacy. Top left photo is from the Annual Pharmacy and Health Sciences Organization Day at St. John's University.

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# It's that time again... to submit your resolutions

## Important Dates

February 5, 2016	Resolutions Deadline
February 15, 2016	1 <sup>st</sup> House mailing (reach delegates by February 22)
February 29, 2016	BOD House reports due
March 7, 2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> House mailing (reach delegates by March 23)
April 7, 2016 12 Noon	Open Hearing CC
April 21, 2016 12 Noon	Resolutions Committee CC
April 28, 2016 1-1:45 PM	Open Hearing
April 28, 2016 2 PM	House of Delegates, 1 <sup>st</sup> Session
April 30, 2016 2:00 PM	House of Delegates, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session

## RESOLUTIONS\*

Actions of the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists are expressed as resolutions submitted in writing according to the Regulations of the NYSCHP House. Resolutions may register an opinion or may recommend action be taken by the NYSCHP. The resolution should be clear, concise and specific. The substance should be well researched, and reflect the character and interests of the NYSCHP and the pharmacy profession. Each resolution should be written in a common format. Each resolution has three (3) parts: the heading, the preamble and the operative clause. It is one long sentence with commas and semicolons throughout the resolution, with a period at the very end. All operative clauses end with a semicolon except the final clause, which ends in a period.

### HEADING

Committee: i.e. the committee in which the resolution is introduced.

Topic: the topic of the resolution

Sponsored by: List the sponsors whose signatures appear at the bottom of the resolution.

### PREAMBLE

The purpose of the preamble is to demonstrate that there is a problem that needs to be solved or resolved. The preamble of the resolution does everything but propose the action or make any substantive statement in the topic at hand. Each clause of the preamble begins with "Whereas" followed by a comma and the next word should begin with a capital letter. The preamble, regardless of how many paragraphs should never contain a period. The last paragraph of the preamble should close with a semicolon, after which a connecting expression, such as "therefore, be it:" or "now therefore be it" can be added. The statements contained in the "Whereas" clause have no legal effect.

### OPERATIVE CLAUSE

Operative clauses are set to achieve the NYSCHP's main policy or goals on the topic. Each operative clause ends with a semicolon and the final clause ends with a period. Operative clauses should be organized in a logical progression and each clause should contain a single idea or policy proposal. The word resolved is printed in italics and is followed by a comma and the word "That" should begin with a capital "T". If there is more than one resolving clause, each clause should be in a separate paragraph. Each paragraph begins with the word "*Resolved*, That". A resolving paragraph should not contain a period within the paragraph.

Whereas, The... [text of the preamble]; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* That ... [stating action to be taken].

\*The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure; Alice Sturgis, The New Robert's Rules of Order.

# Sample Resolution

Committee: Central New York Chapter of Health-system Pharmacists

Topic: Certification of technicians in New York State

Sponsored: Roy Guharoy, Russell Yandon

## Registration of Pharmacy Technicians

Whereas, Hospital pharmacists have moved into clinical patient-care roles requiring more freedom from distribution, dispensing and manual tasks, and,

Whereas, Pharmacy technicians are being increasingly used to perform such work, and,

Whereas, There are large numbers of technicians working in hospitals in New York State over the past couple of decades; many in long-term employment, and,

Whereas, Pharmacy technicians give valuable support which enables pharmacists to use their cognitive services for better patient care, and,

Whereas, While not requiring knowledge framework of a pharmacist, the duties performed by technicians are often crucial; involving precision, trust, risk and excellence, and, oversight and regulation would be helpful for patient safety and quality of care, and,

Whereas, More technician participation and recognition should increase progress, accountability, efficiency, and job satisfaction in pharmacy practice, therefore , be it

Resolved That:

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists supports registration of all pharmacy technicians in New York State.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Roy Guharoy Russell Yandon

Resolutions should be emailed to Shaun Flynn [sflynn@nyschp.org](mailto:sflynn@nyschp.org)

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## **Did you know...**

### **.... About NYSCHP Best Practices?**

*Is your pharmacy department a center of excellence?*

*Do you practice innovative pharmacy?*

*Have you instituted a new protocol that improved the delivery of pharmaceutical care to your patients?*

*Or, have you developed a system that decreased medication misadventures?*

NYSCHP invites you to share your pharmacy practice experiences [HERE](#) in our monthly news brief under "Best Practices" section. By sharing your experiences with others, you can help elevate the profession of pharmacy. By replicating your successes, we can improve the quality of services our pharmacists provide.

Some examples of best practices include:

- Medication reconciliation process for transitions of care
- Use of barcode technology to decrease medication error
- Standardized drip rates for intravenous medications
- Interdisciplinary practices to improve outcomes

Guidelines for submitting best practices:

1. Include introduction/description, purpose, experience, and discussion portion
2. Graph, diagrams, and tables (if applicable)
3. Limit your write up to 500 words

Submission is open to all NYSCHP members. This is an opportunity to publish and publicize your good work.

Please email your best practice write up to the Director of Communications  
[Catherine.millares-sipin@touro.edu](mailto:Catherine.millares-sipin@touro.edu).



## Did you know...

### .... About NYSCHP Social Media accounts?

**Stay connected!**

**Be in the know!**

NYSCHP members can now connect with NYSCHP through Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. NYSCHP is continually working on improving the way we communicate and disseminate information to you, our members, so that you gain all the benefits of your membership. Take advantage of connecting with us through these social media accounts, and never miss out on all the wonderful educational, networking, and FUN activities NYSCHP offers. Speaking of which, are you going to ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting? Did you know NYSCHP is holding a reception at Midyear? If you were connected through social media, updated have been posted on our accounts.

Come join the hundreds of members who have already “Liked”, “Followed”, and “Connected” with us.



Facebook



LinkedIn

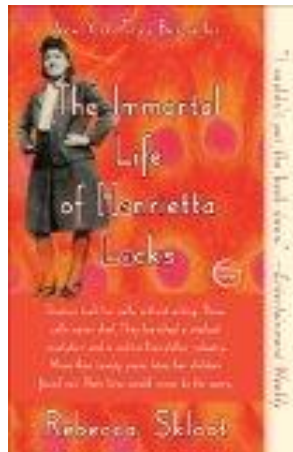


Twitter



## NYSCHP Book Club

Have you read a book that you think would interest other NYSCHP members? Here is the first Book Club recommendation, by NYSCHP Immediate Past President, Elizabeth Shlom. Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. New York: Crown Publishers;2010. 400 p.



She died of cervical cancer in Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1951 at the age of 31. A sample of Henrietta's cancer cells were taken for further study by her doctors, but were found to reproduce continuously when given the right medium for growth. These HeLa (HenriettaLacks) cells became the basis for the international discovery of many medicines and vaccines and are still in use today. But the heart of this book is not about the science behind the HeLa cells, it is about the family that mourned the death of Henrietta and were deprived of the knowledge, and possibly the wealth, of the contribution that her body made to the scientific community and the world. This book provides readers with an engrossing view of the author's journey to understand Henrietta's world and also help her family understand the huge contribution Henrietta had unwittingly provided to medicine. As a pharmacist, I think you will enjoy reading this nonfiction book not just to better understand the humanness of the HeLa cells, but to marvel at the intensity of the research that the author conducted in her quest to bring this story to light.

## NYSCHP and Local Chapter Upcoming Events



2015

- December 1 – NYC Networking Dinner
- December 2 – Leatherstocking Chapter Meeting
- December 2 – Rochester Holiday Party
- December 3 – NYC Networking Dinner Program

2016

- January 16 – 18 – Jan Keltz Winter Program
- January 20 – Rochester: Pain/Med Safety 2 hour CE Program
- January 21 – NYC CE Dinner Program
- March 16 – Rochester: Cardiology 2 hour CE Program
- April 28 – 30 – NYSCHP House of Delegate, Saratoga Springs
- April 29 – May 1 – NYSCHP Annual Assembly, Saratoga Springs



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From  
**NYSCHP Board of Directors**

*Wishing you all  
Happy Holidays*

