Candidate Statements
NYSCHP Candidate
President-Elect
2022-2023

Robert DiGregorio, PharmD, FNAP

Current Position
Senior Director of Pharmacy Services, The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, NY
Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine/Clinical Pharmacology, St. George’s University, Grenada, WI

Degrees
BS Pharmaceutical Sciences, St. John’s University
PharmD, Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, VA

NYSCHP Activities
Member since 1992
Director of Pharmacy Practice from 2013-2018
Royal Counties Pharmacists Society, Board of Directors

Other Professional Memberships
National Academies of Practice, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Society of the State of New York, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

Candidate Statement
NYSCHP has always been an instrumental element in my life; professionally, personally, and ultimately that blurred line between my professional and personal lives. NYSCHP members have been my mentors, my proteges, my sounding board, my co-conspirators, and most importantly some of my closest friends. Membership in NYSCHP has shown me the value of professional organizations as a place for networking, advocacy, continuing education, and sharing of ideas. It is often said that the key to success is surrounding yourself with great people. As a pharmacy director, you have the opportunity to surround yourself with extremely talented people through skillful recruitment; however, in a professional organization you sometimes realize that the talented people naturally surround each other. If elected as your president, I will be counting on the membership to create that envelope of expertise and support around me as we continue to shape our profession. Despite being one of the oldest professions, there is still much to be done to cultivate a profession that protects and serves those with health needs, while providing a rewarding and meaningful career for ourselves. This will be achieved by demonstrating our knowledge, education, skills and training while practicing at the apex of our licenses. The issues facing our profession remain near and dear to me. As an organization we must continue to advocate for provider status, unrestricted and permanent collaborative drug therapy management, the full spectrum of adult and pediatric immunizations, recognition and regulation of technicians, and cooperation between NYSCHP and the board of pharmacy and other pharmacy organizations, as well as fostering interprofessional relationships that will serve this, and future generations of pharmacists.
Leila Tibi-Scherl, PharmD, MBA, DPLA

Current Employment Position Title: Senior Director, Pharmacy Practice

Current Employment Position Location: Premier/Acurity, New York, NY

Nominees Affiliate Chapter: New York City

Local/State/National Association Involvement:

2021  ASHP Instructor, Pharmacy Leadership Scholars Program
       Course Theme of Instruction – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
       Module – Leading through Change and Uncertainty

2021  Corporate-sponsored Member, Professional Women Healthcare Association

2021  Committee Member, Premier Values Nominations Scoring Committee

2021  Member, Awards Committee
       New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists

2020-present  Co-chair, Strategic Planning Committee
                New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists

2020-present  Co-chair, Past Presidents Committee
                NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists

2016-2018  Treasurer, NYSCHP Board of Directors

2014-2016  Co-Chair, NYSCHP Annual Assembly

2010-2014  Chair, Director of Pharmacy Networking Committee, NYSCHP
           Annual Assembly

2011-2012  Chair, Constitution & By-laws Committee, NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists

2009-2010  Immediate Past-President, NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists

2008-2009  President, NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists
2007-2012 Delegate, NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists
2007-2008 President-elect, NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists
2005-2007 Secretary, NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists
2005-2007 Chair, Public Relations Committee, NYC Society of Health-system Pharmacists
2004-2006 Chair, Membership Committee, Royal Counties Society of Health-system Pharmacists

Candidate Statement:

Leadership is the sense of calling to a higher purpose. I am humbled to be called to a higher purpose and graciously accept the nomination for the position of President-elect for the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists. As an active member of the Council for the last 18 years, it has been an incredible honor and privilege to serve our profession in various leadership roles both on a local and State level and contribute to the mission and vision of the organization by leading and collaborating with members on a variety member-focused initiatives to propel the Council forward.

My leadership journey at Acurity/Premier and with the Council has afforded me with many unique experiences and skills to best prepare me as a leader of this organization. My humble beginnings as a leader began at the local level where I progressed in growing responsibilities which ultimately led me to become President of the NYC Chapter. Currently, I serve as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Such experience has provided me with a rich perspective and knowledge base of the Council’s current committee goals and initiatives, its plans to grow future leaders, enhance the member value proposition, and position itself as a leading pharmacy organization in New York State. As past Council Treasurer, I had firsthand experience in seeing the Council through several transitions which yielded substantial savings for the Council. As co-chair of the Annual Assembly committee for two years such experience provided me with the opportunity to lead a team and organize bi-weekly discussions to help prepare for the events leading up to the Council’s banner event.

As a field-based pharmacist within Acurity/Premier supporting mutual hospital and health-system members across New York State, I have gotten to know many of you very well over the years. Working closely with pharmacy directors, clinical pharmacists, and technicians I have a deep understanding of your practice concerns. For the last three years, I have been intimately involved in the development of Acurity’s semi-annual Pharmacy Leaders Roundtable which allows our members the opportunity to network with one another to discuss challenges, best practices, questions, and concerns. Within the last year, the Council has conducted similar networking sessions for Pharmacy Directors to celebrate successes, knowledge share, and talk through common struggles. In addition, I envision partnering with other State pharmacy organizations to advocate for the profession and collaborate on member-focused initiatives to elevate the practice of pharmacy to new heights.

I am committed to the success of the Council and welcome your creative ideas and input to make this organization thrive. Your insights and feedback will help set the Council up for success. I am confident that with your support NYSCHP will continue to be New York’s premier provider of information, training, and legislative representation for health-system pharmacy professionals. Thank you and I look forward to working with you!
Karen Berger, PharmD, FASHP, FCCM, BCPS, BCCCP

**Bio**

Dr. Karen Berger is a neurocritical care clinical pharmacy manager at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center. She received her doctor of pharmacy from the University of Florida and went on to complete her PGY1 pharmacy residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital and her PGY2 critical care residency at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, where she acted as chief resident. In 2017, Dr. Berger founded the NYC Grassroots Advocacy Committee which was expanded into a statewide Grassroots Advocacy Committee in 2018 and in 2021 she coordinated the inaugural NYSCHP Advocacy Week. Dr. Berger has previously served as NYSCHP Director of Education and Professional Development (EPD), Chair of the NYSCHP EPD Committee, Annual Assembly Committee Chair, NY State delegate, and NYC Chapter President, and she currently serves as the Chair of the NYSCHP Grassroots Advocacy Committee. She is also the secretary/treasurer of the Society of Critical Care Medicine’s Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology Section, a member of the Neurocritical Care Society (NCS) Pharmacy leadership Committee, and the Co-Chair of the NCS Marketing and Communications Committee.

**Candidate Statement**

As we continue to see new hurdles in an ever-changing healthcare environment, it makes it even more important for us, the most accessible healthcare providers, to practice at the top of our licenses. The list of important contributions that NYSCHP has facilitated to help us achieve this is a long one. Speaking from personal experience, the connections I have made through both my membership and active participation on various NYSCHP Committees have provided me with unimaginable opportunities and a network of colleagues whom I consider friends. It is my goal to make these opportunities more widely accessible to both new and seasoned practitioners. I believe that my past and current contributions to NYSCHP as Chair and then Director of Education and Professional Development, Chair of the 2021 Annual Assembly Committee, New York State delegate, and the founder and Chair of the NYSCHP Grassroots Advocacy Committee have prepared me for this important board position.

As President of the NYC chapter of NYSCHP, I created a Grassroots Advocacy Committee in 2017. The committee’s mandate was clear: develop activities and processes that empower every member to make at least one lobbying effort and to track and report our progress towards this endeavor. We provided legislative updates at every NYC chapter event and in all of our newsletter articles, presented legislative pearls at NYSCHP dinners, and facilitated legislative visits with new and seasoned members. We partnered with our Colleges of pharmacy as well, co-hosting a letter writing campaign with Touro College of Pharmacy and speaking on behalf of the New York State Council at St. John’s University’s Advocacy Night. This Committee facilitated 31 legislative visits that led to 10 cosponsors and 1 chamber sponsor of our NYSCHP bills. Based on the great work of the NYC pilot, a new statewide Grassroots Advocacy Committee was formed which has now facilitated almost 200 legislative visits and created the first NYSCHP-specific Advocacy Week. To support Advocacy Week participants, we developed a mini-advocacy toolkit which includes links and instructions on how to look up state legislators, an email template to set up a meeting with legislators, a sample script for legislative visits, fact sheets on our two bills (as a leave behind for legislators), an FAQ document which answers commonly asked questions during a legislative visit, and relevant publications to help prepare and lead a visit. Our inaugural Advocacy Week resulted in 55 legislative visits, a Senate sponsor for CDTM, and multiple cosponsors for our bills- a truly amazing outcome that was driven by our members’ grassroots efforts. We have also created new leadership opportunities at the local level by forming local Grassroots Advocacy Committees within every chapter of NYSCHP. Our ability to form relationships with our
local legislators and collaborate with other organizations has enabled us to push forward important pharmacy health-system legislation in New York state; the most recent success of our efforts was the passing of the technician bill which our organization has lobbied for in some capacity for 27 years. The resources and infrastructure provided by the Grassroots Advocacy Committee are invaluable to helping us advocate for important bills that will allow us to deliver an exceptional level of care to our patients.

It would be an honor to serve as Director of Advocacy for the New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists. If elected, I would expand our current advocacy infrastructure, develop leadership opportunities for new members, and partner with other organizations to push forward important advocacy issues. Thank you for your support over the past few years and consideration for this position.
NYSCHP Candidate
Director of Advocacy
2022-2024

Harshal Shukla, PharmD, BCPS, DPLA

Current Employment Position: Clinical Pharmacy Manager – Surgical Services/Anesthesiology / PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program Coordinator / Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at The Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Harshal Shukla is a Clinical Pharmacy Manager for Surgical Services & Anesthesiology at the Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein Hospital located in the Bronx, New York. In his current role he manages the clinical and operational perioperative pharmacy services. He is responsible for reviewing perioperative medication utilization trends, drug information and assists in cost saving initiatives of surgery and anesthesia related medications. Dr. Shukla is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is also currently the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program Coordinator at Montefiore Medical Center (MMC).

Dr. Shukla received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy at Long Island University. He completed his PGY-1 residency at the Montefiore Medical Center. Furthermore, he completed the Pharmacy Leadership Academy by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and holds the designation of Diplomate, Pharmacy Leadership Academy (DPLA). He is currently a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist and maintains a position as Adjunct Instructor for The University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. He was the first ever recipient of NYCSHP New Practitioner Achievement Award.

Dr. Shukla has served nationally on the ASHP New Practitioner Forum and Clinical Leadership Advisory groups. He has been an active member of NYSCHP since 2014. He currently serves as the Chair of the NYSCHP Communications Committee. He was previously a member of the NYSCHP New Practitioners and Pharmacy Technicians Committees. In 2016, he was the founding co-chair of the NYCSHP New Practitioners Committee. The committee efforts were spotlighted by ASHP as a Best Practice model for facilitating greater involvement for other city/state affiliates. In 2017, he served as NYCSHP Director-At-Large for Industry Relations, Membership & Installation. In 2020, Dr. Shukla served as President of the NYC chapter of Health-System Pharmacists.

During his Presidency term, the NYC chapter advocacy committee conducted over >25 legislative visits promoting Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM) and Immunization bills. He helped established the Spotlight of Health-System Pharmacy series which displayed the unique roles of members to promote awareness of health-system pharmacy professionals. The committee continued its advocacy efforts by creating educational programming, videos, letter writing campaigns and designated advocacy nights at local colleges of pharmacy. Moreover, Dr. Shukla created the NYCSHP Advocacy video to help expand the scope of practice of Pharmacists in New York State.
Additionally, Dr. Shukla helped create the first local Well-Being & Resilience Committee. The committee has created wellness programs, workshops & educational sessions geared to providing members resources to promote overall wellness. The efforts have been spotlighted by ASHP on their Wellness Wednesday Podcasts. Furthermore, Dr. Shukla help create the first local chapter Health Equity Committee to continue the discussion on social determinants of health and the impact pharmacists have in preventing healthcare disparities. The committee achievements included the creation of the Harriet Ellis Healthcare Equity Award, focused continuing educational programming, and co-written three Health Equity resolutions passed by the NYSCHP House of Delegates. Lastly, he was instrumental in the formation of the NYCSHP Pharmacy Technician Executive Committee (PTEC). The committee achievements included focused educational programs on the advanced roles pharmacy technicians have in health-systems and an educational course for technicians looking for certification. The PTEC recruited several pharmacy technicians from various health-systems to help promote technician involvement and overall NYCSHP membership.

Dr. Shukla is excited for the opportunity to serve as the NYSCHP Director of Advocacy. He would focus our efforts on engaging active members on issues related to advocacy, building stronger relationships with hospital pharmacy associations, promoting our NYSCHP Political Action Committee (PAC) funds and supporting ASHP on national issues regarding advocacy. Dr. Shukla believes advocacy is a collective effort and is committed to work collaboratively to advocate for pharmacist and technician advancement in New York State.
NYSCHP Candidate
Director of Education and Professional Development
2022-2025

Nicole E. Cieri-Hutcherson, PharmD, BCPS, NCMP

Current Position Title: Clinical Assistant Professor
Current Position Location: University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology; Doctor of Pharmacy

NYSCHP Activities
- NYSCHP Director, Education and Professional Development (current)
- NYSCHP Annual Assembly Student Development Committee Chair (past)
- NYSCHP Annual Assembly Poster Committee Chair (past)
- NYSCHP Education and Professional Development Committee Member (current, past)
- University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy SSHP Faculty Liaison/NYSCHP Faculty Liaison (current)
- D’Youville School of Pharmacy SSHP Faculty Liaison/NYSCHP Faculty Liaison (past)

Local Activities:
- WNYSHP University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy SSHP Faculty Liaison (current)
- WNYSHP Past-President (past)
- WNYSHP President (past)
- WNYSHP President Elect (past)
- WNYSHP Director of Pharmacy Practice (past)
- WNYSHP Director of Communications (past)
- WNYSHP Delegate (past)
- WNYSHP Alternate Delegate (past)

Candidate Statement
I value the members who support NYSCHP, including their time, expertise, and individual input. I believe that communication, respect, and the ability to activate a Committee’s strengths are hallmarks of any leadership position. I have been a part of NYSCHP’s Western Chapter, Board of Directors for over a decade, serving in several elected positions for the chapter. Over the past five years, I have become more involved at the state level and currently serve the Council as the Director of Education and Professional Development. In this position, I oversee educational programming for the monthly webinars, bi-annual miniseries, students, Tri-State meeting, and Annual Assembly Meeting. While we have faced many challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Education and Professional Development Committee has risen to the occasion by maintaining high-quality programming, continuing with adapted and virtual format education for the Tri-State and Annual Assembly meetings, creating new student programming, creating interprofessional CE/CME for the miniseries, and adapting the student competition and research poster session for virtual delivery. Without the continued engagement of the committee and subcommittee chairs, these things would not be possible, and I have the
committee to thank for my success. We are also planting the seeds to grow new programs, ideas for which were brought forth by Committee members, including specialty symposia and a year-long series of continuing education events, such as a Diversity and Inclusivity certificate program. We would like to create several certificate-based programs, create special interest groups, and provide targeted education for every member. Developing and maximizing educational programming that is future-minded and aimed at elevating our members is an area in which I can, and have, excelled. I continue to strive to achieve efficiency without being overbearing; dedication and commitment while maintaining personal balance; an open ear and ability to seek compromise; and production of high-quality programming. I would be excited and proud to continue to serve NYSCHP as Director of Education and Professional Development and be able to further develop these foundations.
NYSCHP Candidate
Director of Education and Professional Development
2022-2025

Yi Guo, PharmD, BCIDP

Current employment position title:
Montefiore Medical Center
Co-director, Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
Director, PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency
Clinical Pharmacy Manager of Infectious Diseases
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Degree: PharmD, BCIDP

NYSCHP activities, local chapter activities
• Delegate of New York City Society of Health-system Pharmacists (NYCSHP), 2012-present
• Past president of NYCSHP, 2015-2016
• Past treasurer of NYCSHP, 2012-2014
• Liaison to state membership committee, 2019-2020
• Participated in Annual Assembly planning committee and state Education and Professional Development committee in 2018

Other professional membership
• Member, Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
  o Evaluator of Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence
• Member, Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)
  o Faculty presenter for Antimicrobial Stewardship Certificate Program for pharmacist

Personal Statement:
Hi everyone! My name is Yi Guo, I am running for Director of Education and Professional Development position of New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP). I am currently the Co-director of Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Director of PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy residency program, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY. And I have been practiced as an antimicrobial stewardship/infectious diseases pharmacist for more than 10 years. And I have been a member of NYCSHP since 2010. During the past 10 years, I served as the past president (2015-2016) and past treasurer (2012-2014) of New York City Chapter. Currently, I served as a delegate.

It’s my great pleasure to be nominated for the Director of Education and Professional Development position. As a member of NYSCHP, I always appreciate the opportunities the council offered to network, broaden my scope of learning, and make me into a leader in pharmacy practice. Therefore, I would like to give back what I’ve received from the council by continue to serve our members. My goal is to provide education and training to advance the level of pharmacy practice and facilitate exchange of information among our members and health care professionals. I would like to promote
practicing evidence-based medicine and stimulate research in pharmaceutical practice and sciences. I envision myself to work closely with the chairs, co-chairs and members of different committees under the umbrella of Education and Professional Development to plan for monthly webinars on popular topics such as medication safety, opioids stewardship, immunization, wellness and burnout, preceptor development, healthcare disparities and barriers, etc. I also would like to have targeted symposium series on various topics in infectious diseases/antimicrobial stewardship, critical care, and oncology, etc. In addition, based on the feedback we received during the past annual assembly, I also would like to have CE webinar once or twice a year on weekends for members who work during the week. I certainly would love to hear from all of you to bring in new ideas and new energy as well. Thank you for your consideration for this position, and I am looking forward to serving and work with you all in the near future!
NYSCHP Candidate
Director of Resource Development
2022-2024

Ashley Galla, PharmD, MBA, BCACP, CSP

Current employment position title:
AVP, Pharmacy, Northwell Health
Residency Program Director, PGY-2 Residency in Specialty Pharmacy Administration and Leadership, Vivo Health Pharmacy

Ashley Galla, PharmD, MBA, BCACP, CSP, is an Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy for Northwell Health and the Program Director of the Post-Graduate Year Two Residency in Specialty Pharmacy Administration and Leadership at Vivo Health Pharmacy. In her current role, she oversees the development and advancement of the Ambulatory Pharmacy Division. Dr. Galla obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Bouve College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University in Boston, MA, and her Master of Business Administration degree in Health Services Management from Hofstra University’s Frank G. Zarb School of Business. She is certified by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and the Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board as a Certified Specialty Pharmacist. Over the years, Dr. Galla has been an active member of the New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists and the Royal Counties Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, serving in several leadership roles such as Annual Assembly Chair and President, respectively. Additionally, she is a member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy.

Candidate’s Statement: Director of Resource Development

“Better Together” is a phrase that cannot be understated. Our profession continues to face challenges, but time and time again we have risen to the occasion and overcome the direst of circumstances. We have not just survived but thrived. None of this would be possible if it were not for the dedication and passion of our members and colleagues. Fostering a sense of service to our organization and our profession is mission-critical and cannot be ignored.

Over the last several years, I have had the honor of serving you as a three-time Annual Assembly Chair and past member of the Membership Committee. In addition, I have served as President of our Royal Counties Chapter, updating the chapter bylaws and leading initiatives targeting member engagement and recruitment.

In the role of Director of Resource Development, I look forward to partnering with our industry membership and supporting the Resource Development Committee to identify innovative opportunities for collaboration that add value for each stakeholder. If elected, I am committed to enhancing the connectedness of our members through direct involvement with the Membership Committee. It is important to understand the unique needs of each type of member, including pharmacists, new practitioners, support personnel, faculty liaisons, and students. My career journey has included time spent in each of these roles providing me with a strong foundation of appreciation and desire to maximize their membership experience.

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Director of Resource Development and look forward to the opportunity to give back to an organization and profession that has given me so much.
NYSCHP Candidate
Director of Resource Development
2022-2024

Gerry Meglio, R.Ph.

Employment Experience

Senior Account Manager, Lilly Value & Access Division
- New York City Market 2013 – Present

District Sales Manager, Neuroscience, Lilly USA
- New Jersey & Pennsylvania Markets 2006 - 2013

Executive Hospital Sales Representative, Lilly USA

Pharmacy Manager, Walgreens
- Boston and New Jersey Markets 1993 - 2001

Education

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health (MCPHS University)
- Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy

NYSCHP REF

Research and Education Foundation Board Member – 2017 – Present
- REF Finance Committee
- REF Summit Planning Committee

NYSCHP IRC

Industry Relations Committee (IRC) Member – 2013 – Present

WCSHP

Treasurer for Westchester County Society of Health System Pharmacists (WCSHP) – 2017-2021
- WCSHP Board Committee Member – Industry - 2015-2017

Awards

NYSCHP Corporate Achievement Award – 2017
- For Significant Contributions in Support of NYSCHP

Personal Statement:
Over the past eight years I have supported NYSCHP through my work as an active chapter member and an industry advisor at both the council and chapter levels. I have served as active board member and officer for the Westchester Chapter. I continue to serve as an active board member for the Research and Education Foundation. If elected to serve as Director of Resource Development, I will utilize all of NYSCHP experience, my industry experience and my leadership skills to enhance the work of both the Industry Relationships Committee (IRC) and the Membership Committee. We will need to look for creative ways for NYSCHP to be a relevant organization as we transition out of pandemic. I am excited for the opportunity to lead and work directly with the talented members of both these committees. Creating and achieving the goals for each committee has a direct impact on our NYSCHP members and all of our various industry partners. Ultimately that can have a positive impact on NYSCHP’s mission of advancing our profession of pharmacy in the state of New York.