



Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

May 2020
Volume 2

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Message from the WMSHP President

As we embarked 2020, we as WMSHP members were greeted by the COVID-19 pandemic that has since been testing our health care system and ability to meet the challenge and maintain our health and well-being. We are faced with a “new normal” and when this is over, we will be faced with a different aspect of a new normal to adapt to. Since the publication of the April 2020 issue of the WMSHP newsletter, we have seen the need to disseminate current and reliable educational information and resources which the newsletter has provided at a level that is easily accessible. The *Drug Information* section from the WMSHP website homepage continues to communicate health information related to the Covid-19 pandemic that is also tailored to the practice needs of pharmacists. On page one of this newsletter issue, the article on “*All Hands on Deck: Covid-19 Resources for Pharmacists*” offers a comprehensive perspective to the extensive compilation

All Hands on Deck: COVID-19 Resources for Pharmacists

By Vaiyapuri Subramaniam,
PharmD (President)

John Quinn RPh, M.S
(Board Member)

Tiffany Tseng, PharmD (Member)

WMSHP continues to update their website’s [Drug Information webpage](#) with educational resources for pharmacists to best minimize COVID-19 transmission and optimize patient care.

[Resources have been organized](#) into seven categories with key highlights in pharmaceutical and healthcare information, including: (1) **Organizational Sites:** [FIP](#) and [WHO](#) global references; (2) **Transmission:** [4/8/20 HHS authorization of pharmacists to order and administer FDA-authorized COVID-19 tests including serology](#), [CDC’s 4/14/20 Considerations for Pharmacies](#), and [4/22/20 Strategies to Optimize PPE Supply](#), and [4/27/20 Infectious Diseases Society of America \(IDSA\) Guidelines on Infection Prevention](#); (3) **Operational:** [5/6/20 USP Sterile Compounding Considerations](#); and [Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding \(APC\)’s COVID Treatment Drug Submission Form for 503B/503A Facilities](#); (4) Clinical: [NIH Treatment Guidelines “Living Document,”](#)

See page 2 COVID-19 resources

COVID-19 Resources

[4/11/20 IDSA Treatment Guidelines](#), and FDA's [4/24 caution on hydroxychloroquine/chloroquine heart rhythm risk](#), [5/1 EUA of remdesivir for treatment of hospitalized COVID-19 patients](#), and [COVID-19 plasma donation information](#); (5) **Research:** [5/11 WHO COVID-19 candidate vaccines](#), RAPS COVID-19 [Vaccine](#) and [Therapeutic Trackers](#), [Stat COVID-19 Drugs & Vaccine Tracker](#), and [Science Direct Pharmacist's Response](#); (6) **Educational:** COVID-19 continuing education (CE) via [APhA](#), [ASHP](#), [FreeCE](#), [PTCE](#), [Pharmacist's Letter](#), and [Medscape](#); and (7) **Community:** [ASHP Career Pharm Rapid Connect](#), [MPhA](#), and [UMMS](#) relief staffing and [BOP Emergency Preparedness Task Force Volunteer](#) opportunities. The WMSHP website Drug Information webpage's [added PDF](#) delineates the various resources by specific subheadings, classified as follows: (1) **Organizational Sites** is a comprehensive list of governmental, professional, clinical/health/news data, nonprofit, and academic resources; (2) **Transmission** helps pharmacists minimize and prevent transmission of COVID-19; (3) **Operational** assists with medication management, preparation, and distribution; (4) **Clinical** refers to pharmaceutical guidelines on the treatment and care of patients with COVID-19; (5) **Research** provides information on possible future prevention and treatment options and latest scientific findings; (6) **Education** lists opportunities to earn COVID-19 specific CE credit; and (7) **Community** includes pandemic discussion forums and local opportunities for emergency staffing and volunteering.



Tiffany Tseng has been a WMSHP member since 2019. She received her PharmD from the University of Florida and has served in clinical research for 6+ years within the VHA, NIH, a CRO, and an independent consulting company based in DC. Please email her (ttseng3027@gmail.com) if you know of or are seeking any additional COVID-19 resources that could better support your respective pharmacy practices.



ASHP David Chen presents past WMSHP President Sadhna Khatri with the ASHP leadership award at the January WMSHP kickoff meeting

Presidents Message

of resources that can be searched to address, manage, and mitigate Covid-19 transmission to use in educating patients and the public when needed. Members are encouraged to access these accessible and well-detailed resources under *Drug Information* from the WMSHP website homepage (wmshp.org).

The WMSHP Program Committee is in the process of formulating the provision of virtual continuing education (CE) webinars that can be available for members after a feasible approach is adopted to roll out for educational programs. We will update and keep you informed. As part of WMSHP's strategic plans to reach out with students at local pharmacy schools, we are pleased to have an article in the *Students Corner* in this newsletter contributed by the ASHP Chapter of the Students Society of Health System Pharmacists from the University of Maryland at Eastern Shore. In our strategic plan with developing teaching programs for pharmacy residents, the newsletter includes an article that describes the "WMSHP Teaching Certificate Program: Reflections After 9 Years" to depict our collaboration to coordinate this program for area pharmacy residents and fellows.

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WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program: Reflections After 9 Years

by Pamela Smith, PharmD; Senior Director, Field Medical – Pfizer, Inc



Pam Smith with the WMSHP Board at a WMSHP seminar at Maggiano's June 2019



Residents receiving their certificates at the WMSHP seminar

The Washington, DC area is home to 15 fellowship and ASHP-accredited pharmacy residency programs. For the last sixteen years, residents, fellows, residency directors, residency preceptors, and medical colleagues from pharmaceutical industry have demonstrated teamwork and participated in an all-day seminar program, offered four to six times per residency year. Opportunities for residents to develop teaching skills vary among programs across the United States. Over the course of this seminar program, we realized this gap and developed curricula for a Teaching Certificate for pharmacy residents and fellows participating in residency and fellowship programs in the Washington, DC area. The first year of the Teaching Certificate was the 2012-2013 residency year. In the development of the program, we realized that the knowledge and skills taught during a teaching certificate program could be of benefit not only to practitioners considering a career in academia, but also those who move on to serve as preceptors to both students and residents.

The Washington Metropolitan Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (WMSHP) Pharmacy Teaching Certificate program has the mission to prepare pharmacy residents and fellows for competitive career placement, while enhancing residents'/fellows' application of educational principles and practical skills for effective didactic and clinical teaching. It is a collaborative effort coordinated by WMSHP and led by pharmacist leaders in the Washington, DC metro area every residency year since 2012.

Residents who successfully complete a PGY-1 pharmacy residency or fellowship should be prepared to enter a vast array of potential positions within the profession of pharmacy. These positions include, but are not limited to, clinical specialists, clinical pharmacy managers, preceptors, research development, industry, and academia.

WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Program Certificate cont.

To date, many residency programs vary in their goals and objectives on providing medication and practice related education opportunities for residents to develop teaching skills. As a result, participation in the WMSHP teaching certification program prepares residents and fellows with the essential skills needed to embrace various aspects of teaching as a clinician, and hone leadership expertise as well as embrace roles in public health, including planning and executing didactic and experiential learning.

We continue to strive to make enhancements to the WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Programming each year. In the Spring of 2019, the leadership of the program made the decision to formalize the presentation of certificates to residents and fellows who successfully completed the requirements. Teaching Certificates were presented to residents/fellows in conjunction with a WMSHP Continuing Education Program in June 2019, with an audience of over 100 pharmacists. The feedback to date has been very positive and it is clear that the Certificate Program in Teaching has filled a need locally for teaching skills education, professional development, and leadership for pharmacy residents and fellows.

Student Corner



Mit Patel, PharmD Student



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My Pharmacy Career Journey
By Mit Patel, PharmD Student, School of Pharmacy.
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)

My name is Mit Patel and I am currently a second-year PharmD student in an accelerated 3-year program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy. I am the current President of the UMES Student Chapter, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, which has more than 50 members. As a local student chapter, the goal of our organization is to promote student interest in health-system pharmacy and to inform students of pertinent changes and advances affecting the pharmacy profession. Throughout my role as a leader of an ASHP Student Chapter, I have planned and coordinated chapter meetings to implement
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Student Corner Cont.

the ASHP Practice Advancement Initiative (PAI), which assures that the pharmacy profession meets standards of patient-centered care models and future pharmacy practice.

In our monthly general body meetings, we have invited health professionals from various backgrounds in the field of pharmacy, ranging from post-graduate residents to residency directors to ambulatory care pharmacists. Guest speakers helped prepare and inform students of the growing competitive job market and gave tips on how to stand out when attending the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting to apply for residencies, fellowships, and jobs. In the future, with the collaboration of other regional health-system pharmacist societies like the Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (WMSHP), we hope to initiate a Mentor Match program, CV workshops, and a virtual career panel. These programs will offer unique networking and career development tools to connect students with other pharmacy students and professionals on the broad range of career opportunities available within the field of pharmacy.

One of the goals of ASHP has been to highlight the expanded role of the pharmacists' scope of practice. There has been an increase of pharmacists obtaining specialty certifications and completing advanced pharmacy training via residencies that makes pharmacists a crucial healthcare resource to physicians, nurses, and other medical providers. Pharmacists play an important role in managing and improving the population's health in areas such as tobacco cessation and cardiovascular risk management. In addition to improving medication adherence and clinical outcomes, pharmacists are also able to administer vaccinations and prescribe medications such as oral contraceptives under an expanded scope of practice in some states. This further exemplifies pharmacists' knowledge and accountability when providing best patient care. The role of a pharmacist will continue to evolve as it has with the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has called on pharmacists as members in the healthcare emergency response team effort, to help mitigate adverse consequences that may arise from this pandemic.

Just like how the roles of pharmacists have evolved, being the President of the UMES Student ASHP Chapter and holding executive board positions in various organizations on campus have allowed my leadership skills to evolve greatly throughout the year, especially since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. I learned to adapt to new circumstances and overcame unprecedented challenges through leading others by example, increasing teamwork within our organization, and learning to take constructive feedback to increase productivity and make sure the organization's goal was reached. Whether being in person or online, one thing that has not changed is my ability to be the voice for the student body at UMES. Along with that, working as a pharmacy technician at a community pharmacy in a low-income neighborhood for 6 years has enlightened me to the problems in our healthcare system such as health inequality and access to medications for patients in underserved communities. I have been able to achieve my own personal goal of providing my fellow classmates with all the tools to succeed and advocate for policies that affect both our education as current pharmacy students and our ability to practice in the future. I hope to continue to make a difference in my career as I strive to provide optimal patient care, promote interprofessional collaboration, and work to mitigate healthcare disparities.

Thank you Dr. Subramaniam, President of WMSHP, for allowing me to be a part of the WMSHP's monthly newsletter. We look forward to more collaborative work between our organizations that will provide students with networking opportunities, career advice, and various educational and outreach programs.

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We are well reminded of pharmacists being a highly valued resource for the public. They are accessible and continue to provide their expertise to fulfil roles in medication management and provision and in public health services to meet changing needs of patients. WMSHP gratefully acknowledges our fellow pharmacist members for their dedication and services during these unprecedented times and challenges brought upon from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please use the society website (www.wmshp.org) when needed for your needs and stay in touch.

Thank you for your dedication and support of our society and stay safe.

Sincerely,

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Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, MS, FASHP, FASCP, FCP