



Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

November 2020
Volume 8

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2020 Virtual ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting: A Rare Opportunity

By Douglas Scheckelhoff, ASHP
Senior VP of Practice
Advancement, Former Director of
Pharmacy at Children's National
Medical Center, Past President,
WMSHP

For 55 years, ASHP has hosted the largest gathering of pharmacists across the globe who come together to learn, network, and advance their careers. This year's Midyear Clinical Meeting, from December 6-10, 2020, will be no different. What WILL be different is the way in which we come together, and who is able to attend. To keep everyone safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Midyear Clinical Meeting will be virtual. ASHP will offer the same marquee names, featuring actor Tom Hanks and Dr. Anthony Fauci as plenary speakers. There will be the same robust continuing education (CE) offerings (more than 175 hours of live and recorded CE), the Residency Showcase, Personnel Placement Service, posters, exhibits, and much more. However, because this will all be offered on an online platform, there is a lower barrier to attendance for many of our colleagues.

Message from the WMSHP President

We saw this past month of October as the American Pharmacist Month which gave us time to reflect on pharmacists' contributions to patient care in the health care community. This month further challenged pharmacists amid the Covid-19 pandemic to contribute more than usual that has required sacrifices in many ways. In the last issue, we discussed the important ways that communication play to reach out to diverse populations where culturally competent care can improve patients' health, reduce health disparities and promote health equity that can positively impact medication adherence and lead to patient satisfaction. Social determinants of health appear to be at the core of disparities among underserved populations and we are reminded of individuals and communities facing difficulties in meeting necessities and nutrition.

See page 5 – President message

See page 2 ASHP Midyear

ASHP Midyear (continued from page 1)

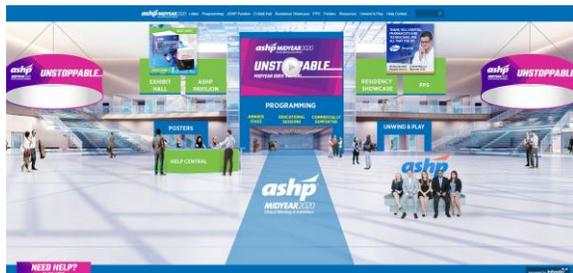
Recognizing that this year's virtual Midyear offers opportunities to expand the attendee population to include many who were unable to attend in the past, ASHP has worked to put together attractive pricing packages. Students, residents, and pharmacy technicians who are ASHP members will be able to register for free. This can enable practitioners with students or residents to incorporate Midyear Clinical Meeting content into their teaching plans. The lowered barriers to attendance at this year's Meeting also means that networking and career development events are accessible to more students, residents, and new practitioners than ever.

While the Midyear will offer the same wide variety of high-quality content as it has in past years, ASHP is also focused on meeting pharmacists' needs in the context of the pandemic. There are a number of sessions offering lessons learned by our colleagues on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, on topics ranging from preventing staff burnout to integrating learners into disaster planning to numerous specific logistical, clinical, and infection control issues and more.

ASHP staff is very proud of the amazing content our members have put together, and they look forward to "seeing" and working with you to move your career and our profession forward. You can find answers to many of your questions about the Midyear Clinical Meeting at midyear.ashp.org.

Register at

[https://midyear.ashp.org/?loginreturnUrl=SSOC
heckOnly](https://midyear.ashp.org/?loginreturnUrl=SSOCheckOnly)



Douglas Scheckelhoff, ASHP Senior VP of Practice Advancement, Former Director of Pharmacy at Children's National Medical Center, Past President, WMSHP





Helping the Next Generation of Pharmacists Reach their Potential

By Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, Jamila Jordan and John Quinn

Recently, WMSHP members engaged in virtual career round table discussions at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and the Post Graduate Readiness Series at the Howard University College of Pharmacy.

On November 18, 2020, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Student Government Association and their American Society of Health System Pharmacists Student Society held a Health System Pharmacy Career Roundtable Session. The pharmacist RoundTable faculty who were invited represented a broad range of practice and multidisciplinary settings. The pharmacist faculty interacted with the students and listened as the students discussed and outlined their future career plans in pharmacy and, at the same time, received advice from the pharmacist faculty on how they should approach and navigate their career goals following graduation from pharmacy school. The pharmacist faculty included WMSHP President Dr. Vaiyapuri Subramaniam and Board Member CAPT. John Quinn. The pharmacist faculty were chosen not from typical retail/hospital practices that the students would normally encounter in their rotations; instead, they represented categories from a variety of professional roles that students may not be always be aware of in pharmacy and beyond the usual scope of pharmacy practice and leadership. During the Roundtable session, the students were divided into small groups of two or three in individual virtual “rooms” and rotated through each pharmacist faculty member. Each student would introduce themselves to the pharmacist faculty and discuss what they had learned in pharmacy schools and how they planned to structure their careers.

The Howard University College of Pharmacy Post Graduate Readiness Series was held on Monday evenings this past October and November for their P3 and P4 students. This program was co-coordinated by WMSHP board member Dr. Jamila Jordan and Dr. Estela Lajthia & Dr. Jacquise Unonuwho are all on faculty at the College of Pharmacy.

continued on next page

Helping the Next Generation of Pharmacists Reach their Potential continued

The Post Graduate Readiness Series gives students an opportunity to have their CVs and letter of intent reviewed and critiqued by pharmacists in the field and also take part in mock interviews and mock presentations. The Post Graduate Readiness Series is designed to prepare the students for the actual interview process for any residency, fellowship and employment opportunities. Pharmacist participants also got the chance to mentor and give helpful tips/suggestions to the students. CAPT. John Quinn was the other WMSHP board member who participated in the Post Graduate Readiness Series as readers may remember the call for volunteers that was announced in the WMSHP October 2020 newsletter edition.

Students tend to be aware of traditional pharmacy roles and residency pathways. These two sets of events were aimed at giving students feedback on their career plans and allowing them to interact with pharmacists in roles they may not have come across in their school rotations. Interaction and collaboration with local Colleges of Pharmacy will continue as a WMSHP objective and priority.

New Technology for WMSHP

On December 3rd, President Elect Ashok Ramalingam hosted the first virtual board meeting with Microsoft Teams software. The society has enjoyed the support of our sponsors in hosting our initial virtual seminars, however we are now exploring various hosting solutions. President Elect Ramalingam is leading this effort.

COVID-19 Resources for Pharmacists

This past month we have seen that the FDA continues to authorize [emergency use of therapeutics for treatment of COVID-19](#) including monoclonal antibodies bamlanivimab and the combination of casivirimbab and imdevimab as well as the oral baricitinib in combination with remdesivir. In particular, healthcare providers in Maryland can access the [Maryland Referral Form for Ambulatory Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Treatment for COVID19](#) online as advised in [the Clinician Letter on Monoclonal Antibodies](#). Stay posted for updates to the [WMSHP COVID-19 Resource Table](#).

Pharmacy Times Donates \$1175.00 to the Capital Area Food Bank on behalf of WMSHP

Many of you recall our November 19 seminar “Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors: Utilizing telemedicine to Enhance Management of Adverse Events Within Health-System Settings” presented by Jocelyn E. Mohs. This was sponsored by Pharmacy Times which has been a very active supporter of the society. After the seminar Pharmacy Times decided to donate \$25 for each person who attended the presentation. This is their first **Donate Your Dinner** initiative. Members who attended enjoyed an excellent presentation and now can also know they helped someone in need during the holiday season. We are excited to do more joint events with Pharmacy Times in the coming year.

Renew Your Membership

By Tina Patel, PharmD, MBA Secretary & Chair of the Membership Committee
And Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, MS President, WMSHP President WMSHP

The WMSHP reminds you to renew your membership for the membership period that begins in January 2021.

Renewing your WMSHP membership is easy and convenient.

Please [Complete the Membership Form + Submit Payment via Paypal](#) from the WMSHP Membership site: <http://wmshp.org/membership-form.php>

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Renewals continued from page 4

WMSHP looks forward to having you reinvest in your WMSHP membership as a vital component to your current and future professional development.

WMSHP is proud to have you as a member of our professional society and part of the pharmacy community. Despite challenges faced in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, WMSHP has built and reinforced its mission and purpose on the value of membership by leveraging its resilience and strengths to positively influence and meet the needs of its diverse and multidisciplinary membership in health system pharmacy.

Renewal of WMSHP membership ensures uninterrupted member benefits including:

- *Member discounts or free access to CE, web resources, webinars, informative COVID-19 updates;
- *Access up to 12 ACPE accredited CE hours;
- *Member access to the WMSHP newsletter;
- *Multi-year discounted membership for employed and retired pharmacists;
- *Opportunities in association leadership; and *Networking with a professionally diverse and multidisciplinary group of pharmacists from health system pharmacy, ambulatory practice, academia, industry, community practice, and the federal government (FDA, VA, DoD, USPHS).

If you have any questions about renewing your membership, please contact us at: webwmshp@gmail.com

Thank you and we look forward to your continued support as a WMSHP member.

Message from the WMSHP President Continued

The Covid-19 pandemic has added to this additional hardship and its full effects are still emerging. Data from CDC suggests racial and ethnic minority groups are impacted much more. As pharmacists, we are aware of factors that positively affect the ability to respond to health emergencies is the infrastructure within the public health system.

This month, we offered WMSHP's last educational and continuing education (CE) virtual program session for the year 2020 on December 2nd which included a pre-symposium session on "Updates on Atrial fibrillation" by Lana Konigsberg, PharmD, Senior Medical Science Liaison, Cardiovascular General Medicines, Sanofi; which was followed by a CE symposium on "Preventing Medication Errors – Breaking the Habit" by Han Feng, PharmD, Supervisory Pharmacist, Medication Safety, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD.

On page 3 is an article on "Helping the Next generation of Pharmacists Reach their Potential" by Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD; Jamila Jorden, PharmD; and CAPT. John Quinn, that illustrates WMSHP officers participating in virtual career round table discussions at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and the Post Graduate Readiness Series at the Howard University College of Pharmacy. **On page 4** is an acknowledgement and gracious gesture from Pharmacy Times Continuing Education (PTCE) on the successful joint PTCE-WMSHP CE session where PTCE made a \$1175 donation to the Capitol Area Food Bank on behalf of WMSHP, this being their first *Donate Your Dinner* initiative that was based on the attendance at the November 19th CE program on "Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors: Utilizing telemedicine to enhance management of adverse events within health-system settings." Also **on page 4** is an article "Renew Your Membership" by Tina Patel, PharmD, MBA, and Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, reminding the current members to renew their WMSHP membership for the upcoming year. Instructions on how to renew membership as well as perks of the membership are described in further detail in the article. We hope the current WMSHP members will take this opportunity to continually support this organization's efforts in bringing exciting CE programs and providing a diverse network of professionals.

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WMSHP Presidents message from previous page

I wish to draw your attention on **page 2** of the announcement from Douglas Scheckelhoff, MS, who is ASHP Sr. Vice President and former WMSHP President. He describes the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) that will be held virtually from **December 6 – 10, 2020**, where students, residents, and pharmacy technicians who are ASHP members will be able to register for free. This would enable practitioners with students or residents to incorporate the ASHP MCM content into their teaching plans. The lowered barriers to attendance at this year's MCM also means that networking and career development events are accessible to more students, residents, and new practitioners than ever.

On page 4 is a reference to a comprehensive and updated table on “Covid-19 Resources for Pharmacists” by Tiffany Tseng, PharmD, which provides organizational sites to search and review including forthcoming coverage on the most recent Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) on Covid-19 treatment that is approved for use. This updated table will appear in the WMSHP website under the Drug Information Section.

I would also like to draw your attention to the WMSHP newsletter announcement on *Advertising Opportunities* shown on **page 7**. The WMSHP newsletter has started to accept half-page advertisements from anyone for a nominal fee and who to contact if interested.

We thank you for your continued interest and support of WMSHP.
Please use the society website (www.wmshp.org) to stay informed.

Thank you and stay safe.
Sincerely,

Puri

**Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, MS, FASHP, FASCP, FCP, FFIP.
President, WMSHP**

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WMSHP members get 10% off your order once you mention this ad.



Crispy Beef

And

Honey Walnut Shrimp



Advertising Opportunities

The WMSHP newsletter will start accepting half page advertisements as part of the newsletter.

For small businesses and hospitals, the rate will be \$20 a month or \$100 a year. For drug companies and larger medical related businesses, the rate will be \$30 a month or \$200 a year

Advertisements must be emailed to webwmsHP@gmail.com by the 15th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Both print images are acceptable.