



# Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

July 2020  
Volume 4

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### Message from the WMSHP President

On behalf of the WMSHP Executive Board, I send our very best wishes and hope you are all keeping well during these uncertain times. We can see that in almost every aspect of our daily activities and particularly at the present time, we are faced with the challenges to rapidly adjust to new practices and to understand how and why we adopt new approaches from our perspectives as pharmacists. My thanks to our colleagues in the Board, Committees, the Editors, and Members for your dedication to WMSHP with your expertise, experience, and support. Our WMSHP team continues to create educational and programming sessions to engage our membership through a variety of outreach channels. On page 1 of this July 2020 newsletter is a comprehensive article on the "June/July Continuing Education (CE) Highlights" that describes WMSHP's commitment to ensure and provide quality virtual

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## June/July Continuing Education (CE) Highlights

Meenakshi Shelat, PharmD,  
BCOP

Co-Vice Chair, WMSHP  
Programming Committee

As we are all adjusting to life and work during this pandemic, WMSHP continues to provide relevant and engaging CE programs in a safe and convenient virtual manner, often with excellent discussions and questions for our speakers with our society members. Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, MS, WMSHP President, implemented initiatives in collaboration with Lana Konigsberg, PharmD, Senior Medical Science Liaison Cardiovascular Medicine Sanofi, to kickstart our June 24th and July 8th virtual non-CE presymposium sessions. Dr. Konigsberg made presentations on "RecordAF: Registry on cardiac rhythm disorders assessing the control of atrial fibrillation" and on "Real World Evidence: What is it and examples for cardiovascular disease." For the June 24th CE symposium session, James E. Cummins, Jr., Ph.D. from the Preclinical Microbicide and Prevention Research Branch, NIH, presented on "Understanding the COVID - 19 Pandemic: Epidemiology, Basic Science, Drug Targets and Therapeutic Options." The pandemic and its many challenges and concerns have been at the forefront this year, and

see **page 2 - CE Highlights**

## **Networking- Perspectives from an industry pharmacist professional**

By Opeoluwa Fagbemi, PharmD  
(WMSHP Treasurer)

Prior to my current role in Medical Affairs in the pharmaceutical industry as a Senior Regional Medical Manager for Supernus Pharmaceuticals, I had served in community retail pharmacy practice for two years after graduating from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, while becoming a pharmacy manager in the process. Shortly after my career in community pharmacy practice, I transitioned to a private practice setting where I worked as a clinical pharmacist. These positions helped me develop a strong business acumen and build relationships with other healthcare providers in the community. Networking advice that I strongly recommend to new pharmacy graduates and pharmacists is to develop a growth mindset while networking. Additionally, it is vital to develop your knowledge of the specific role you desire within your network. Modern networking is also vital, and for example, LinkedIn is a strong tool to communicate with professionals currently in the role you are seeking. Set up a time to speak with them so that you may be more knowledgeable of the role during screening or phone interviews. Developing your network on a consistent basis is a great way to increase your chances of securing a position, because they will reach out to you when positions become available. Finally, know that there are several opportunities right now that need your unique skill sets and experience. Having a mentor that can guide you with a specific plan will dramatically improve your chances and ultimately lead to you securing your ideal role as a pharmacist practitioner and professional.



**Opeoluwa Fagbemi, PharmD  
WMSHP Treasurer**



**Meenakshi Shelat, PharmD, BCOP  
Co-Vice Chair, WMSHP Programming  
Committee; ASHP Alternate Delegate**

## **CE Highlights from page 1**

Dr. Cummins' presentation explained the basics of the virus, mechanisms of actions associated with the therapeutic targets, and also included the implications and considerations beyond the science. The options of having a virtual chat box and an audiovisual component facilitated a healthy discussion. For the July 8<sup>th</sup> CE symposium session, Han Feng, PharmD, Supervisory Pharmacist for Medication Safety at the NIH Clinical Center, presented on "A Spectrum of Risk: Analyzing the Use of Color in Medication Safety." As pharmacists, we all work toward ensuring safety in our diverse areas of pharmacy practice and the topic of how color is used and perceived in differentiating medication dosage forms and packaging in patient care on an operational and clinical level, spurred an excellent discussion and highlighted the work that remains in the area of medication use and safety. We are also looking forward to July 30<sup>th</sup>, when Ferdaus Hassan, PhD, Medical Science Liaison (DC/MD/VA) of Sanofi Pasteur, US Medical Affairs, will be presenting a non-CE pre-symposium session on "Influenza: Cardiovascular Risks and Considerations during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

see **page 6 - CE Highlights**

## **WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program: Success Demonstrated During COVID-19 with Virtual Resident Research Presentations**

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

There are 15 fellowship and ASHP-accredited pharmacy residency programs in the Washington, DC area. For the last 16 years, residents, fellows, residency directors, residency preceptors and medical colleagues from the pharmaceutical industry have demonstrated teamwork and participated in an all-day seminar program, offered four to six times per residency year. Literature has shown that opportunities for residents to develop teaching skills vary among programs across the United States. Our team concurred with 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. We launched the WMSHP Teaching Certificate Program in the 2012-2013 pharmacy residency year.

The Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System 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 metropolitan area which was initiated in 2012, and has been executed each year since that time.

As we have all adapted to our ever-changing environments since the onset of COVID-19, the same has held true with the WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program. The leadership team for this group met virtually towards the end of March 2020 to determine the next steps given this environment. We were alerted to the fact that the Eastern States Conference for Pharmacy Residents and Preceptors had been cancelled. One of the requirements for successful completion of the WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Certificate includes a presentation of the resident's research project. The team developed a plan of action to conduct Resident Research Project presentations virtually in lieu of doing so at the Eastern States Conference. Over the course of one month, the team was able to conduct virtual resident research project presentations designed to simulate the live Eastern States Conference. This included the resident research project presentations, evaluation by an audience of peers/faculty, and follow-up by designated faculty to provide feedback (based on audience survey information). The team developed a Survey Monkey tool that was identical to the Eastern States Conference evaluation for audience members to use to provide feedback on each presentation. In addition, the team identified and designated a faculty member to serve as both Facilitator and Lead Evaluator for each session. After completion of all resident research project presentations, the team received positive feedback that this adaptation was very successful.

Amid the COVID-19 situation in 2020, the leadership team achieved in successfully distributing the Teaching Certificates to all residents this year who successfully met all requirements. Each individual site Residency Program Director was responsible for affirming their pharmacy resident's completion of requirements and the subsequent presentation of Resident Teaching Certificates. Success was demonstrated in terms of the team's adaptation of the environment given the COVID-19 situation. A total of 19 residents were awarded Teaching Certificates as a result of completion of the program requirements. The feedback to date has been very positive and it is clear that the WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program has filled a need locally for teaching skills, education, professional development, and leadership for pharmacy residents and fellows, especially during this unexpected time affecting all of the pharmacy profession and particularly in this virtual environment.

Please see below the listing of the Pharmacy Residents (n=19) who met all of the WMSHP Pharmacy Resident Teaching Certificate Requirements for the 2019-2020 year. Congratulations to all of you!!

**CareFirst Community Health Plan, District of Columbia:**

- Jessica Pinchinat, PharmD
- Andrew Wherley, PharmD

**Howard University Hospital**

- Augustina Anador, PharmD
- Larina Bourne, PharmD
- Mikayla Johnson, PharmD
- Finnella Morgan, PharmD

**Kaiser Permanente**

- Hannah Makridis Foery, PharmD
- Mackenzie Hrubey, PharmD
- Suza Tsegai, PharmD
- Nakiya Whitfield, PharmD

**MedStar Washington Hospital Center**

- Carlette Cavanaugh, PharmD
- Dilbi Hussein, PharmD
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**MedStar Washington Hospital Center** *(continued)*

- Roshani Patel, PharmD
- Nancy Tang, PharmD

**Sibley Memorial Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine**

- Leanna Winnick, PharmD

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore/Apple Discount Drugs**

- Emily Biskach, PharmD

**Walgreen's/Howard University**

- Tiffanie Taylor, PharmD

**Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington DC**

- Ketema Pawlose, PharmD
- Venise DeEtoulem, PharmD

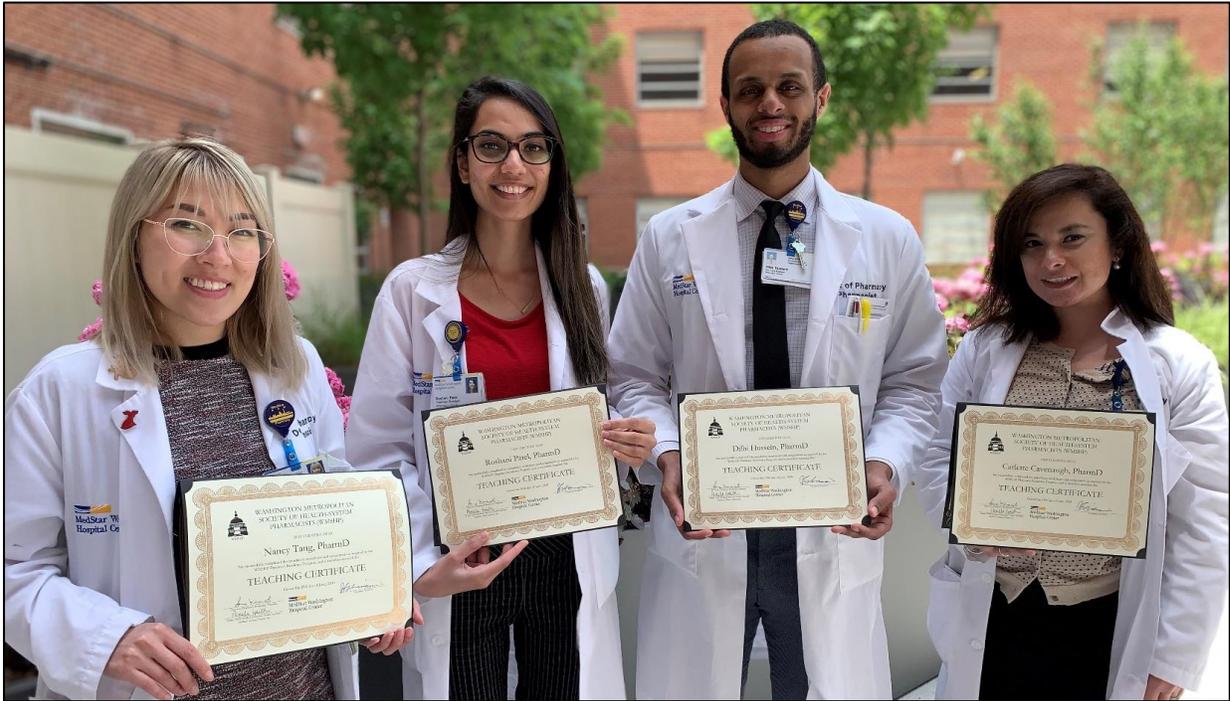
*Selected pictures from Program Sites:*



**Sibley Memorial Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine**

Residency Program Director: Monique Bonhomme, PharmD, MS, BCPS

Resident: Leanna Winnick, PharmD



**MedStar Washington Hospital Center**

Residency Program Director: Lama Kanawati, PharmD, BCPS

Residents: Nancy Tang, PharmD; Roshani Patel, PharmD; Dilbi Hussein, PharmD; Carlette Cavanaugh, PharmD



**Kaiser Permanente**

Residency Program Director: Kristen Fink, PharmD, BCPS, CDCES

Residents: Mackenzie Hrubey, PharmD; Nakiya Whitfield, PharmD; Suza Tsegai, PharmD; Hannah Makradis Foery, PharmD

## CE Highlights from page 2

For the July 30<sup>th</sup> CE symposium session, Amy Ives, PharmD, BCPS, Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy at Baltimore, MD will present on "The ABC's of CAT: An update on the treatment of cancer-associated thrombosis." We look forward to seeing you there! Online registration through survey monkey or the WMSHP website will be available free of charge for WMSHP members and for a nominal fee for non-members. Acknowledgments and many thanks to the WMSHP Programming, Membership, and Communication Committees. Please let us know if you know of any dynamic speakers who would like to present at an upcoming event and if you would like to be involved with WMSHP!

## Presidents message from page 1

educational program sessions to meet our members' needs. On page 2, the article on "Networking - Perspectives from an industry pharmacist professional" focuses on opportunities and networking strategies for pharmacists that can be useful especially during these challenging times. Beginning from page 3 is an article that exemplifies WMSHP's outreach efforts in the training and education of pharmacy residents on "WMSHP Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program: Success Demonstrated During COVID-19 with Virtual Resident Research Presentations." The 19 pharmacy residents from the Washington DC area are recognized here for having completed the 2020 WMSHP Teaching Certificate Program. The Program's mission is to prepare pharmacy residents and fellows for competitive career placement, while enhancing the residents' and fellows' competencies in application of educational principles and practical skills for effective didactic and clinical teaching. Our thanks to the WMSHP Legislative Committee as represented by our Delegates for taking the lead to provide their expert comments and review for the draft guideline entitled, "Guidelines of Management of Opioid Through a Collaborative Approach" for which WMSHP was invited as a stakeholder to participate by the DC Drug Utilization Board of Health Care Finance. Our WMSHP Delegates assisted the ASHP Office of Government Relations to review and verify information in the DC Scope of Practice Advocacy Tool Content on adult and pediatric vaccinations; medication administration; ordering and interpretation of point of care testing; and authorization to initiate antivirals and reimbursement.

Many thanks to the WMSHP Newsletter Editors for researching on high quality resources as references to update the *Drug Information* section of the WMSHP website. The updates consist of resources with search links on the management and mitigation of COVID-19 transmission for pharmacists, patients, and the public.

Take care and please feel free to be in touch.

Sincerely,

*Puri*

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