



Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

April 2020

Volume I

WMSHP Executive Board

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WMSHP website:

www.wmshp.org



Message from the WMSHP President

As health-care providers we face unprecedented challenges with the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Starting on page four of the newsletter we have highlighted information from ASHP to help educate Pharmacists on the latest best practices. We have also expanded our website with COVID -19 information. We hope that all health care providers can support each other as we all strive to serve society in this time when we are most needed.

WMSHP has had a successful beginning this year reaching out with members during several educational and networking events from January to March 2020. We hope to continue these educational opportunities going forward, perhaps with new technology approaches. As you are aware, the WMSHP Spring all day continuing education (CE) seminar and exhibit program planned on May 2, 2020, is canceled

See page 2 – President message

Online Pharmacy Continuing Education

By Sadhna Khatri, PharmD
(Immediate Past President)

Ashok Ramalingam PhD
(President Elect)

John Quinn RPh, M.S
(Board Member)

Given current events pharmacy practitioners need to find on-line courses to fulfill their continuing education. WMSHP is doing research in this area. This may include offering our own webinars or on-line courses. Part of this research looked at what no cost or low-cost pharmacy ACPE online courses are available. We would like to share some of the website we have found with you.

www.ashp.org

If you are an ASHP member they have over 144 ACPE hours of online course material that cover a broad range of topics. All of these are free to members

Non-members can also get free CE: [The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists \(ASHP\)](#) has opened access to the [Critical Care Pharmacy Specialty Review Course, Practice Exam, and Core Therapeutic Modules package](#) making it available to all pharmacists at no cost through May 31. This course consists of 11 activities and provides up to 16 hours of continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit. This is normally a \$425 (ASHP member) or \$625 (non-member) package. Please use **discount code: COVID-19** at checkout.

See page 2 – Online CE

Online CE from page 1

www.pharmacytimes.com

To access free online ACPE CE you must create an account which takes under 5 minutes. They have an impressive number of free offerings over a broad range of pharmacy topics. When signing up for the account you also have the option of signing up for their free email newsletter which highlights their latest new course offerings

www.powerpak.com

Over 100 pharmacy courses and webinars about half are free and the other half cost \$6.97 each

If after reading this article members want to share other options they have found please drop us a note at ashok.ramalin@gmail.com and we will have a follow-up article with all the sites we have missed



Current President Vaiyapuri Subramaniam and immediate past President Sadhna Khatri at Sept 14th WMSHP conference

President message

The WMSHP Program Committee had been actively planning for the May seminar. However, based on public health recommendations to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID – 19 and for the health, safety and well-being of our members, partners and the public, the WMSHP executive board decided that the event be canceled.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as WMSHP explores approaches to provide educational programs through webinars and other virtual means to meet member needs. We will update and keep you informed. Please refer to the WMSHP website and in this Newsletter on educational updates and resources on COVID - 19 to guide you in your practices (see DRUG INFORMATION tab in the WMSHP homepage).

WMSHP continues to embody a diverse professional membership that includes pharmacists and pharmacy personnel from federal agencies, university teaching and clinical health-systems pharmacy practices, ambulatory care, academia, community pharmacy practices and, retired pharmacists.

As a pharmacists' society serving members from the

See page 4– President Message



Members enjoy meeting pharmacy representatives at Sept 14th WMSHP conference

Delegates Corner



Delegates Michelle Eby and Carla Darling present a poster exhibit on ASHP Policies at the 2019 WMSHP Fall CE Meeting in Rockville, MD

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) House of Delegates (HOD) is the ultimate authority over ASHP professional policies, which are often contained in reports from ASHP councils. The development of policy requires thoughtful consideration and constructive debate and follows an annual cycle. The annual cycle consists of four meetings: two at the ASHP Summer Meeting and two virtual meetings in the spring and fall. At the virtual meetings, a given policy is approved if 85% of delegates concur with the proposal.

In March 2020, the virtual HOD voted on 15 policies. The HOD approved (ie 85% of delegates concurred) 13 recommendations including 10 new policies and the discontinuation of three policies. The following two policy recommendation did not achieve the 85% threshold for approval

1) Gabapentin as a Controlled Substance

Council on Therapeutics Policy: To advocate that the Drug Enforcement Administration reschedule gabapentin to Schedule V due to its low potential for abuse and patient harm.

2) Staffing for Safe and Effective Patient Care

Council on Pharmacy Practice: To encourage pharmacy leaders to work in collaboration with physicians, nurses, health-system administrators, and others to outline key pharmacist services that are essential to safe and effective patient care; further

To encourage pharmacy leaders to be innovative in their approach and to factor into their thinking the potential benefits and risks of flexible staffing models, legal requirements, accreditation standards, professional standards of practice, and the resources and technology available in individual settings; further,

To support the following principles:

Sufficient qualified staff must exist to ensure safe and effective patient care;

During periods of staff shortages, pharmacists must exert leadership in directing resources to services that are the most essential to safe and effective patient care;

Within their own organizations, pharmacists should develop contingency plans to be implemented in the event of insufficient staff—actions that will preserve services that are the most essential to safe and effective patient care and will, as necessary, curtail other services; and

Among the essential services for safe and effective patient care is pharmacist review of new medication orders before the administration of first doses; in settings where patient acuity requires that reviews of new medication orders be conducted at any hour and similar medication-use decisions be made at any hour, there must be 24-hour access to a pharmacist.

Note: This policy would supersede ASHP policy 0201

Delegates Corner continued

On March 29, 2020, ASHP announced that the summer ASHP Annual Meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19. However, the HOD will plan to meet virtually to consider these two policies, as well as several others. To prepare for the formal voting in the summer, the two delegates, Carla Darling and Kit Kong, and alternate delegate, Michelle Eby, will attend the virtual Regional Delegate Conference (RDC) in April. At the RDC, delegates will review and discuss the policies with ASHP staff. Before, during, and after the RDCs, delegates study the various policies and proposals on [ASHP Connect](#) and the [House of Delegate website](#).

The local ASHP chapters then send delegates to the summer meeting to participate in two ASHP House of Delegates meetings. At the first ASHP HOD meeting, each delegate votes on policies that become the basis for ASHP advocacy and lobbying. After the first HOD meeting, the ASHP board of directors meets to review the HOD's recommendations and may modify the written policies for the house to vote on at the second HOD meeting. Delegates not only vote on the policy, but also may suggest wording changes that are sent to the ASHP councils to review.

Well written policies are a core mission of ASHP. They must anticipate the needs of society and provide language that is vetted by pharmacists from different regions of the country who have different state laws. If you have questions on the two above policies or other questions for our delegates, please feel free to email them:

- Carla Darling- cabanilc@gmail.com
- Kit Kong- kong.wong@outlook.com
- Michelle Eby: ebymich@hotmail.com

President message continued from page 2

Washington DC metropolitan area, WMSHP will continue to develop programs designed to equip our future pharmacy colleagues with skills and confidence to work effectively in teams that are essential for the efficient management of any healthcare system or organization. One of WMSHP's strategic plans has been partnering with area pharmacy Residency Program Directors to facilitate teaching certificate competencies for pharmacy residents and outreach with students at local Schools of Pharmacy. WMSHP requests your support to reach out to recruit new members by encouraging your colleagues to become a member and take advantage of WMSHP's programs.

Use the website (www.wmshp.org) and select the CONTACT tab in the homepage to communicate with us.

Thank you for your dedication and support of our society.

Sincerely,

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources from ASHP in the WMSHP website (www.wmshp.org under Drug Information)

Pharmacist may not be aware that ASHP has a number of useful tools to help pharmacy departments in the fight against COVID-19. We have provided some relevant parts below and suggest going to the ASHP website for additional information (<https://www.ashp.org/>)

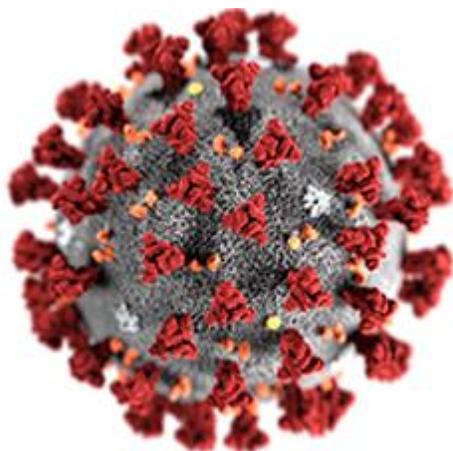


Image Credit: CDC

ASHP is closely monitoring developments related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes the virus as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first reported in Wuhan, China. Pharmacists play a key role as patient care providers and in implementing infection control procedures.

ASHP Resources

- **NEW!** [Assessment of Evidence for COVID-19-Related Treatments](#) [PDF]
- **NEW!** [Pharmacy Organizations Joint Policy Recommendations to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) [PDF]
- **NEW!** [COVID-19 Pandemic Assessment Tool for Health-System Pharmacy Departments](#) [PDF]
- [Report on Biweekly Survey on Status of Medical Supplies](#)
- [Pandemic Effect on Residency Q&A](#)
- [Chapter 10 Infection Prevention and Control Checklist](#) [PDF]
ASHP's Meeting Accreditation Standards: A Pharmacy Preparation Guide
- Pharmacy Competency Assessment Center modules (**free-member access**)
 - [Emergency Preparedness](#)

Infection Prevention

- [Drug Shortages Resource Center](#)
- Pharmacy Readiness for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Recommendations for Policymakers
 - [Federal](#)
 - [State](#)
- [ASHP Issue Brief: COVID-19 and Telehealth Changes](#)
- [ASHP Statement on Summer Meetings and Exhibition](#)
- [COVID-19 Connect Community](#)
ASHP has created an online COVID-19 Connect Community to provide a peer-to-peer resource for members and any healthcare provider to ask questions, receive answers, share experiences, learn best practices and support each other. ASHP

Sterile Compounding

- [USP March 18, 2020 Response to Shortages of Garb and Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Sterile Compounding During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [USP: Compounding Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [FDA Policy for Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency](#)

Use of Face Masks and Respirators

- [Face Masks versus Respirators](#)

Government Agencies

- [CDC Homepage for COVID-19](#)
- [FDA COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Public Health Emergency - Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response](#)

[COVID-19 Healthcare Planning Checklist](#)

State Resources

- [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy](#) (Links to State Boards of Pharmacy)
- [NABP Coronavirus Updates](#)
- [State and Territorial Health Department Websites](#)
- [50 State Health Department COVID-19 Resources for Patients and Healthcare Providers](#)

World Health Organization

- [World Health Organization Information and Guidance](#)
- [Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Health Workers and Considerations for Occupational Safety and Health with the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health in Public Health Emergencies](#)
- [Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak](#) (Interim Guidance)



Installation of officers at the 2020 WMSHP kick-off meeting. From left to right: Dr. Michelle Eby (Delegate), Dr. Kit Wong (Delegate), Dr. Tina Patel (Secretary), Dr. Ashok Ramalingam (President Elect), CDR Sadhna Khatri (Immediate Past President), Dr. Vaiyapuri Subramaniam (President), Mr. David Chen (ASHP Senior Director).



WMSHP Saturday September 14th 2019 all day CE seminar participants at Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring, MD..



From left to right: Raj Bykadi (WMSHP Program Committee Member), Ashok Ramalingam (WSMHP President Elect), David Chen (ASHP Senior Director), Zoya Ramzan (PGY1 Resident), Vaiyapuri Subramaniam (WMSHP President) at kick off meeting