



# Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

April 2021  
Volume 4



Excerpt from *Expanding the scope of practice: 2020 Distinguished Alumnus James E. Knoblen*. By Grant Burningham, May 21, 2020 [from UCSF School of Pharmacy Website]

Jim Knoblen, PharmD, MPH, a member of WMSHP (and former WMSHP Pharmacist of the Year), was named the 2020 University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. He has noted that “getting into UCSF was one of the best things in my life - it laid a critical professional foundation needed to meet many new challenges.”

Following graduation, Jim’s first position was working with Dr. Donald C. Brodie at the National Center for Health Services Research. Brodie was considered the theoretician of the clinical pharmacy movement which significantly expanded the role of pharmacists. Jim attended Yale University to earn an MPH degree and then re-joined the PHS Commissioned Corps, later serving in several federal positions including Regional Pharmacy Consultant for the Southwest U.S. and director of the Division of Drug Information Resources in FDA, a position he held for 12 years. The position enabled him to introduce new and enhanced drug information resources and hire numerous pharmacists to serve in novel practice roles. Jim served with distinction in the Public Health Service and retired with the rank of Captain in 2005 after 33 years of active service. He was awarded three U.S. Surgeon General’s Exemplary Service Medals, the PHS Career Achievement Award in Pharmacy, and the UCSF

See page 2 James Knoblen

## WMSHP Executive Board

**President**  
Ashok Ramalingam, RPh, PhD

**President Elect**  
Dhakrit Rungkitwattanakul, PharmD

**Immediate Past President**  
Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD

**Treasurer**  
Opeoluwa Fagbemi, PharmD

**Secretary**  
Tina Patel, PharmD

**Board Members**  
John Quinn, RPh, M.S.  
Marilyn Farinre, PharmD

**Delegates**  
Michelle Eby, PharmD  
Kit Wong, PharmD  
Meenakshi Shelat, PharmD, BCOP

**Editors**  
Tiffany Tseng, PharmD  
John Quinn RPh, M.S.  
Theresa Chan, PharmD

**WMSHP website:**  
[www.wmshp.org](http://www.wmshp.org)

### Message from the WMSHP President

Howdy! As the saying goes “March winds, April showers, May flowers, and June bugs”. We together effectively survived the cold winter and windy and rainy spring against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic. As it is getting warmer day by day, now is the time to prepare our flower and vegetable gardens; we can worry about the bugs in June.

Through WMSHP’s continued collaboration with Pharmacy Times CE (PTCE), we are pleased to announce an upcoming CE opportunity for pharmacists and pharmacy technician in June 2021 for members and non-members:

**Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 6 pm.**

*Title: Novel Reversal Agents to Safely and Effectively Treat Direct Oral Anticoagulant Bleeding: Education for the Health-System Pharmacist.*

John Fanikos, R.Ph., MBA, Chief of Pharmacy Services, Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Boston, Massachusetts. Adjunct Clinical Professor, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy Boston, Massachusetts.

See President Message page 6

### James Knoben from page 1

Alumni Excellence Award; he is also a Fellow of the APhA. Knoben was the founding author of the *Handbook of Clinical Drug Data*. While at UCSF, he noticed fellow students carrying pocket notebooks to jot down “clinical pearls,” critical features of drugs not yet organized in published literature. Recognizing a need, he worked with School colleagues to consolidate clinical information in a compact book, the *Handbook of Clinical Drug Data*, leading to ten editions of a book that was utilized by clinical pharmacists throughout the nation. Throughout all his jobs, Knoben has tirelessly forged new paths for advanced pharmacy clinical practice, expanding the scope of practice for all pharmacists.



James E. Knoben, PharmD, Captain USPHS (ret) was recognized by the University of California at San Francisco in 2020 as a Distinguished Alumnus



### Journey to Pharmacy by David Emaikwu, Class of 2022 Howard University College of Pharmacy

George Washington Carver once said, “Education is the key that opens the golden door to freedom.” This statement has been the backbeat of my life from a child in rural Nigeria to a Doctor of Pharmacy candidate in the United States. My first introduction to the power of education was through my father becoming the only person from not only his family, but our entire village, to travel to the United States as a recipient of a scholarship. Because of his example, I always knew that an advanced education was not only an option but also a necessity for me.

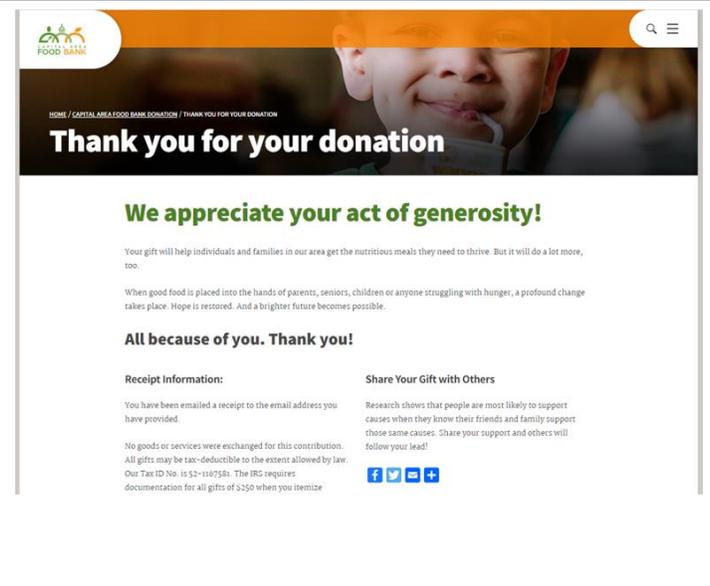
During my undergraduate studies, I pursued a major in biochemistry which exposed me to drug development and medicinal chemistry through elective courses such as advanced organic chemistry of nucleic acids and drug development. Not satisfied with in-classroom topic discussions alone, I applied to pharmacy positions post-graduation to obtain real-world experience. My work in both inpatient and outpatient pharmacy practice solidified my decision to pursue pharmacy as my career. Ultimately, my career path was shaped by a firm belief in the need to achieve the highest level of education through didactic education and real-world experiences within the field of pharmacy. The staunch belief that I hold in the power of education to liberate spurs my desire to help provide all necessary resources for other students to thrive through tutoring and mentorship.

In addition to tutoring and mentoring fellow pharmacy students, I have mentored high school and middle school students through a variety of programs. I have worked with high school and middle school students through the Little Lights DC program, Prince Georges County public school’s Health, Biosciences Mentoring Program, and Howard University’s STEM and Career Intervention Program. Through these programs, I have the honor of assisting in exposing these students to the educational opportunities available within the health sciences and guiding their professional growth in preparation for such careers.

# Don't miss our next WMSHP virtual seminar on Thursday June 24th



**Resident Recharge: DC Spring 2021 Activities**  
Vicky Zhu, PharmD, PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident  
Sibley Memorial Hospital – Johns Hopkins Medicine



Our partner pharmacy times donates \$25 to the food bank for each participant. Help others by attending June 24<sup>th</sup>.

This is the time of year when most (if not all) pharmacy residents have reached some type of burnout, especially amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. On top of long hours and multiple assignments for rotations, deadlines for longitudinal projects are fast approaching, and the uncertainty of securing a pharmacist position post-residency in a tough job market looms in the background. One strategy that I have found very effective in combating stress and burnout is escaping the hospital “bubble” at least weekly and going outdoors to further explore the DC area (with COVID-19 precautions, of course!).

Here are four free in-person activities you may enjoy in the DC area this spring:

- Georgetown GLOW (April 2 – June 27)
  - This year's spring edition features unique, illuminated outdoor artworks in the Georgetown neighborhood.
- Rock Creek Park
  - This is one of DC's largest parks that offers a network of easy and more challenging pathways through natural and historic landmarks.
- Anacostia Riverwalk Trail
  - This new 20-mile trail runs along both sides of the Anacostia River through the Capitol Riverfront and Anacostia neighborhood.

Continued page 4

Resident Recharge continued from page 3

- The Wharf's Recreation Pier
  - This spot offers lounge chairs and modern swing sets that allow visitors to admire breathtaking views of the Washington Channel.

Additional places to explore include the National Mall, National Harbor, and Old Town Alexandria!

I hope these activities will encourage residents (as well as all pharmacists!) to go outdoors, get some sunlight, and recharge for the remainder of the residency year! There is only around three months of residency left - let's all cross the finish line strong!

References:

- Free Things to Do: Spring in Washington, DC. Washington. DC. <https://washington.org/visit-dc/free-things-to-do-spring-in-dc>. Published 2021. Accessed March 24, 2021.
- 15 Jaw-Dropping Hikes in and Near Washington, DC for All Levels. Urban Outdoors. <https://theurbanoutdoors.com/hiking-in-near-washington-dc/>. Published November 4, 2020. Accessed March 24, 2021.

## Membership Renewal and Industry Support

We encourage all members to renew their membership at our website so they can attend our virtual seminars free of charge

<http://www.wmshp.org/membership-form.php>

Members of Industry who would like to know more about seminar support or advertising in our newsletter can reach out to [wmshp@wmshp.org](mailto:wmshp@wmshp.org) and we will contact you to discuss opportunities.

## 2021 USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award

*Submitted by CDR Sadhna Khatri, CDR Trang Tran, and LCDR Daniil Marchuk*

The prestigious USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award was established by the Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) Student Awards Program to encourage student pharmacists to become active in public health. Over the years, this award program has significantly grown in its capacity, outreach, and recognition of pharmacy students across the entire nation.

This unparalleled award recognizes outstanding pharmacy students who have made significant contributions to public health by promoting and advancing wellness and healthy communities. Students are evaluated on their contributions towards voluntary health related services, emerging public health issues, or contributions that advance the goals of Health People 2030 or the National Prevention Strategy.

This year, unlike any others, the PharmPAC Student Awards Program team has shown incredible dedication and resilience in response to the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite unprecedented challenges, the team has been tirelessly at work behind the scenes to ensure timely solicitation and review of award nominations, communications with pharmacy schools regarding the award recipients, and solicitation of volunteer award presenters. CDR Sadhna Khatri successfully led a team of 7 members who have made this year's program a remarkable success: CDR Trang Tran, LCDR Daniil Marchuk, LCDR Christine Corser, LCDR Chaltu Wakijra, LCDR Sally Doan, and LT Sylvia Park.

In 2021, this Program recognized 89 pharmacy students from across the country as the recipients of this distinguished award for their innovative and impactful efforts to address current public health challenges. Their above and beyond efforts advanced the goals of Healthy People 2030 and addressed the priorities of the Surgeon General. This involves a variety of public health-related matters such as addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, opioid epidemic, substance use disorders, and living a healthy and tobacco-free life, promoting community health and economic prosperity, increasing awareness of the importance of oral health, and providing services to eliminate disparities and improve the health of all members of their communities.

Of those students, the Program selected the top ten award recipients for their public health work that positively impacted their local communities and beyond. Historically, the top ten award recipients would be recognized by the Chief Pharmacy Officer at the APhA annual meeting. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's top ten award recipients will be featured during the November 2021 Joint Federal Pharmacy Seminar (JFPS). In addition, these recipients are currently featured on the HYPERLINK "[https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/pharmacy/student\\_awards.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/pharmacy/student_awards.aspx)" [Student Awards website](#).

Congratulations to all 2021 USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award recipients. Thank you to all team members of the PharmPAC Student Awards Program for their leadership, hard work, dedication, and flexibility during this challenging time.

Photo Caption: (Left to Right, top to bottom: Joel A. Gardea Beltran (Texas A&M University Health Science Center Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy), Stephanie Hendricks (Purdue University College of Pharmacy), Kristine Hoang (Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), Jacob Jordan (Idaho State University College of Pharmacy), Lucas Kosobuski (University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy), Samantha Lewiston (University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy), Tyler Pitcock (University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy), Isabelle Sviatoslavsky (Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy), William Campillo Terrazas (University of Texas at El Paso School of Pharmacy), and Margaret A. Underwood (Oregon State University College of Pharmacy).

See Page 8 Assessing Renal Function



**USPHS  
Excellence  
in Public  
Health  
Pharmacy  
Award**

**2021 Top  
Recipients**

President message from page 1

Last month, we successfully held the April 6<sup>th</sup> CE program on the FDA's Postmarketing Drug Safety Surveillance System presented by LCDR Melissa Reyes, MD, MPH, DTMH, USPHS. We also successfully provided a 2-hour evening WMSHP CE program on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The first topic was Hot Topics in Medication Safety such as temperature control in drug delivery, vaccination adverse effect reporting, most frequently reported adverse events, and the most common insulin self-administration errors. The information ranged from being informative to applicable to preventing and aiding in the reporting of medication errors/events. The speakers were: Dr. Antonia Gobo, PharmD, PGY-1 Managed Care Resident; Dr. Dominique Cossari PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Practice Resident, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States; Dr. Meron Dinsa PharmD; PGY-1 Ambulatory Pharmacy Resident and Dr. Tsion Tafesse, PharmD, PGY-1 Ambulatory Pharmacy Resident, All from Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States. The second topic was on Keeping up with the DOACs: A Review of DOAC Management in Special Populations by Dr. Ashley Hendje, PharmD. This presentation provided guidance and recommendations for DOAC management in obesity, pregnancy, oncology and chronic kidney disease/end-stage renal disease. We would like to thank Dr. Kelly Mullican, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States for coordinating this program with the Pharmacy Residents.

We would also like to thank Ms Crissy Wilson from Pharmacy Times CE for her continued WMSHP support for CE programs for pharmacy professionals in the DC Metropolitan region. The joint WMSHP-PTCE April 22<sup>nd</sup> CE program was well received. Its program title was, "Optimizing Safety and Efficacy of BTK Inhibitors Within the Health-System Via Digital Strategies", by Dr. Anthony J. Perissinotti, PharmD, BCOP, University of Michigan - Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, Michigan, This PTCE program has also been generous to support our local community through "Donate Your Dinner" contribution for each participant of CE program on behalf of WMSHP. PTCE made a \$500 donation to the Capitol Area Food Bank on behalf of WMSHP for our last joint session. This is PTCE's continued Donate Your Dinner unique initiative through WMSHP collaboration.

You may have noticed that the WMSHP newsletter has easy and economical advertising opportunities for local businesses. You can find advertisement information in the last page of this newsletter. Please spread the word to your friends and families with businesses so that we can do our part to help our community in whatever way we can.

I hope to see most of you in our next virtual CE programs. Don't forget to renew your annual WMSHP membership to get the most value for your money. Please refer to the WMSHP website for information ([www.wmshp.org](http://www.wmshp.org))

Sincerely,

Ashok Ramalingam. RPh, MS, PhD, PharmD, CPPS.  
President, Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacists.



Presents

# PHARMACY-BASED IMMUNIZATION ADMINISTRATION BY PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

**Virtual Webinar  
&  
LIVE Injection  
Demonstration**

TO REGISTER, EMAIL

[INFO@GLOBALRXS.COM](mailto:INFO@GLOBALRXS.COM)

For course information, visit:

<https://www.pharmacist.com/Education/Certificate-Training-Programs/Technician-Immunizations>



## CHINESE EXPRESS

849 Russell Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 (near Costco)

Help support a family owned business and enjoy delicious authentic and Chinese-American dishes like **Jiangsu Squirrel Fish** and **General Tsao's Chicken** (pictured below)! Delivery and Take-out only, order by phone (301) 987-7877 or [online](#).



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](mailto:webwmsHP@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Both print images are acceptable.