



Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

July/August/September 2021
Volume 6



Member Spotlight

Marilyn Farinre, PharmD is a Service Chief at NIH and current WMSHP Board member.

Q. You are at NIH - how did your pharmacy journey bring you there and what are your responsibilities?

I was burned out in the fall of 2017 and I walked away from a position as an Assistant Director of a Hospital Pharmacy to focus on myself and my family. After a few months of rest, I was ready to get back to work but it was important that my next job be fulfilling and allow for a good balance between my personal and professional life. I reached out to trusted mentors and a few conversations led to opportunities in public health. The idea of working to improve the health of communities energized me and I began the process of finding the right position.

I have always known about the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but I knew very little about the Clinical Center – the world's largest hospital dedicated to clinical research. When I learned the many ways the hospital, known to many as the "house of hope," facilitates the life-changing research of the institutes, I knew that I wanted to be part of this extraordinary organization.

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Message from the WMSHP President

Greetings!

I hope you are all having a good summer so far. It seems like we need to navigate COVID news better as the pandemic is changing quickly with a surge in COVID cases. We have to digest the fact that COVID-19 is not disappearing anytime soon.

In fact, [DC Health through emergency rulemaking](#), has now mandated that identified licensed health professionals must complete 2 CE hours on COVID-19 vaccines, including, but not limited to, COVID-19 vaccine safety, best practices for counseling patients about COVID-19 vaccines, and COVID-19 vaccine efficacy and effectiveness, on or before September 30, 2021. Thankfully, organizations such as [pharmacytimes.org](#) have created programs such as a [COVID-19 Vaccination Curriculum](#) that can help meet such requirements.

As for WMSHP, we are forced to recalibrate our regular member activities again, while still planning to offer a few in-person CE and non-CE activities based on member interest. see page 7

Member spotlight from page 1

I got my wish in the summer of 2018 when I was offered a job and I remember feeling proud to be joining the team of doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and staff bringing hope to patients struggling with rare and deadly diseases.

I am currently the Service Chief of Pharmacy Operations and I oversee inpatient and outpatient pharmacy services. I am responsible for compounding services for sterile and non-sterile, hazardous, and non-hazardous pharmaceutical products; dispensing services that encompasses medication preparation, repackaging, and distribution; satellite services that focuses on specialized, ambulatory infusion care; inventory management; medication therapy management; and pharmacy automation that ensures safe and efficient use of medications across the hospital.

Q. Who was it that inspired you most along your path?

I am forever inspired by those who never give up, who never stop fighting, and who overcome adversity and triumph over seemingly impossible situations. My greatest inspiration is my daughter - she motivates me every day and reminds me to love, laugh, and be grateful.

Q. What are your goals and challenges for both the short and longterm?

My main goal is to grow as a leader by being self-aware and taking steps to prioritize my development. I want to be a positive role model to inspire the next generation of female leaders and challenge them to break barriers, be innovative, and confidently take a seat at the table.

Q. What advice do you have for young students and practitioners as they try to organize and navigate their career paths?

Do not let fear stand in the way of your success. Use failure as a catalyst for growth and always be true to yourself.

Remind them to:

- Be curious and explore
- Be open to new possibilities
- Never take no for an answer
- Network, network, network

Q. A fun fact about yourself that some of your co-workers may not know?

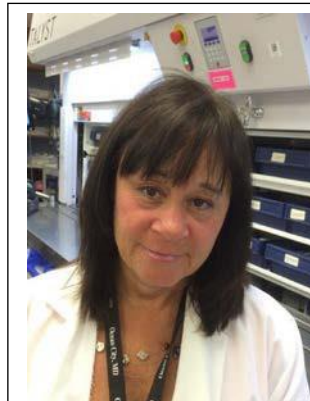
I used to be an avid runner and have completed over fifty races including the Marine Corp marathon, twelve half-marathons, and a Spartan mud run.



Our member spotlight this issue is Marilyn Farinre PharmD. She is a Service Chief at NIH and current WMSHP Board member

Sue Carr Interview on BioBuzz

Many members have met Sue Carr R.Ph at our meetings during her retail and hospital career. Recently, Sue founded her own company, CarrTech, which has developed an innovative filter needle technology. We are reprinting an interview she recently gave to BioBuzz.



You can also see the article at

<https://biobuzz.io/5-questions-with-sue-carr-rph-president-and-founder-carrtech-llc/>

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Sue Carr Biobuzz interview from page 2

“5 Questions With...” is a weekly BioBuzz series where we reach out to interesting people in the BioHealth Capital Region to share a little about themselves, their work, and maybe something completely unrelated. This week we welcome [Sue Carr](#), RPh, President and Founder, [CarrTech, LLC](#).

Sue Carr RPh is President and Founder of CarrTech LLC, a medical device company. CarrTech has developed, patented, and prototyped an all-in-one package one needle filter device to increase safety and compliance while reducing time and waste. Sue has over 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry in retail management and clinical hospital pharmacy, specializing in ICU, ER, Oncology, and NICU.

Sue is Vice-Chair of the Membership Committee in WMSHP (Washington Metropolitan Society of Health Care Professionals) and an active member of ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists). Sue has attended Incubators, accelerators, leadership cohorts, and received numerous awards, including “Spotlight Pharmacist of the Year” from her peers at WMSHP. Sue saw a problem with the current system of filtering injectable based ampoules and came up with an innovative solution called FROG (Filter Removal of Glass). CarrTech’s mission is to improve healthcare by making medication preparation safer.

1. Please introduce yourself to our audience with a look back at your education, training, and career.

I am currently a licensed pharmacist, but have chosen to follow my passion of improving health care. After graduating from Florida State University with a BS in Psychology, I moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where I graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy with a B.S. in Pharmacy. During that time, I worked as a pharmacy technician for a local hospital, when I first noticed a complicated and unsafe way of filtering medications packaged in glass ampoules.

I suggested to my director that there must be a better way. He challenged me to invent a better way. After graduating, I moved to northern Virginia and worked for the mogul retail pharmacy CVS for 17 years as a pharmacy manager. Soon after receiving reciprocity for a Maryland pharmacy license, I moved to Maryland and opened a new CVS in the small rural town of Poolesville. I managed the pharmacy for over 10 years and raised 2 wonderful boys. I really enjoyed getting to know my customers and helping them with their medication inquiries.

Luckily, one of my customers from CVS was a patent attorney, and he helped me receive my first patent. I then met with a large medical device company who introduced me to a company of brainiac engineers in North Carolina. They helped me build an all-in-one filtering device, then secured my second patent. I filmed my first video describing my invention, which gained acceptance by the Innova Personalized Health Accelerator. My team and I additionally completed the I-Corp program at George Washington University and the EDGE program through Frederick Innovations Technology (FITCI).

2. Tell our readers about the founding of CarrTech and what the company is working on.

CarrTech LLC was founded in March of 2012 once I received my first patent. I had to remain silent until receiving my second patent in 2017, which took a while. I officially formed our company in 2018 with John Nazzaro RPh and Terri Lopatka RPh. They both had worked with me at Shady Grove Hospital and shared the same concerns about the practice of filtering medications stored in ampoules.

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They saw CarrTech's vision from day one, and I am grateful to them both. We conducted user studies and timed the current method of filtering glass ampules using both a filter needle and a hypodermic needle and compared it to my invention, FROG (Filter Removal of Glass). We were not surprised that FROG takes half the preparation time. We conducted a lot of research and realized that FROG significantly reduces needlestick injuries, which validated our value propositions of a safer, easier, quicker, and greener way of filtering medications. CarrTech is working with Gilero LLC, a medical device design company that built the original prototypes for us. We are now 6 months into preparations for FDA review and anticipate submission for a 510(k) Class II medical device in early 2022.

3. Where do you see CarrTech in 5-10 years?

CarrTech anticipates market penetration of our first product by Q2-Q3 of 2022. After we receive FDA approval, we can use FROG as a predicate device for other needle sizes and gauges which will allow for scaling. CarrTech has a few more products to launch but awaiting patents before we will reveal our other products. We will start locally and scale up over time. One of our missions is to provide safer ways of ampule preparations globally, especially the underrepresented nations that need the FROG the most.

4. From a Pharmacist's point of view, what do you see as the biggest gaps in the BHCR, and how would you address them?

The most prominent thing I have noticed is the lack of communication between the health systems and the Biohealth community. When attending my first Bio Health Capital Region Forum at Astra Zeneca, I was surprised to see that the hospitals and healthcare community were not very well represented. I learned so much about new therapies and new treatments that I would never have known about as a healthcare provider in the hospital. I think there needs to be more representation from thought leaders in the hospitals with the BioHealth Community for increased awareness and communication.

5. If you hit the lotto tomorrow with enough money to support yourself forever. What would you do?

I would continue to invest in CarrTech to ensure FROG is available and used throughout the world. I would then be able to continue work on other projects to improve healthcare. CarrTech greatly appreciates all the support and mentorship we receive and would like to pay it forward to other startups. I have dreams of taking a vacation someday and lying on a beach to rest my brain. I would also like to travel around the world and volunteer my services in Africa and other nations. I want to make a difference in the quality of lives. I would have more time to enjoy being with my family and friends. I enjoy music, dancing, boating, and play a little guitar and piano. Fun fact, I spent a day by the pool with Adam Sandler and his kids while visiting a friend in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



Michelle Eby, PharmD,
CCRP, WMSHP ASHP
Delegate



Kong Kit Wong, PharmD,
BCACP, WMSHP ASHP
Delegate

Title: June 2021 House of Delegate: A Change in Vaccine Terminology



ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists) is an organization made up of pharmacists who seek to provide optimal patient care in hospitals, health systems, ambulatory clinics, and other healthcare settings. The organization’s nearly 58,000 members include pharmacists,

student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians. Kong Kit Wong, PharmD, BCACP and Michelle Eby, PharmD, CCRP serve as WMSHP Delegates for the House of Delegates (HOD) of ASHP. Delegates represent WMSHP, discuss and vote on ASHP professional policies within HOD to express the Society’s stance on important issues related to pharmacy practice and medication use in society.

Recently both Delegates attended the virtual 73rd session of the ASHP HOD and participated in a two-day online meeting that took place on June 6, 2021, and June 8, 2021. During the session, the delegates considered 23 policy recommendations submitted by HOD delegates and ASHP Councils. ASHP Councils initiate ASHP policies on professional issues. Hot topics this year involved vaccinations, in particular vaccine hesitancy. The Council on Therapeutics Policy recognized vaccine hesitancy as a notable barrier to universal administration of vaccines.

Continued on page 6.

Source: Council on Therapeutics

To recognize the importance of vaccination to public health in the United States; further,

To affirm that members of the pharmacy workforce are integral members of the interprofessional team to promote disease prevention and health equity through vaccine confidence and access; further,

To foster education, training, and the development of resources to assist healthcare professionals in building vaccine confidence; further,

To promote pharmacy workforce engagement with patients, healthcare providers, and caregivers, and to educate patients on the risks of vaccine hesitancy and the importance of timely vaccination.



In recent years, vaccine hesitancy has led to low vaccination rates and the inability to reach herd immunity. Per ASHP, “vaccine hesitancy is complex and context specific, varying across time, place, and vaccines, and is influenced by factors such as complacency, convenience, and confidence.” Hesitancy is particularly concerning with the emergence of COVID19 and the current pandemic among those who are not vaccinated against COVID-19. During the meeting, Delegates discussed that vaccine hesitancy has a negative impact on public health. Pharmacists play a crucial role in addressing vaccine hesitancy to prevent disease and are positioned to increase education with vaccine-hesitant patients to reduce hesitancy. After discussion at the HOD meetings, a change in terminology was made from “vaccine hesitancy” to “vaccine confidence.” By making this change, the word confidence is intended to bring an environment of trust between patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers. It also strengthens confidence in the vaccines, the vaccinators, and the whole health care system. Becoming confident in our vaccines leads to an increase in people getting vaccinated which leads to healthier public health.

Immunizations are important because it can prevent and protect us and our patients against vaccine- preventable diseases. Vaccines have caused a significant decrease in diseases and illness for not only adults, but also for infants, children, and the elderly. Even though getting vaccinated is a choice to be determined by individuals, we, as pharmacists, should take part in vaccine confidence by educating and helping patients make clinical decisions to get vaccinated.

Pictures from the 8/31/2021 WMSHP program on influenza by Dr. Ferdaus Hassan, Medical Science Liaison of Sanofi Pasteur/US Medical Affairs. This non-CE event was held at Seasons 52, North Bethesda, MD. The topic of the presentation was ‘Influenza Vaccination and Amelioration of Disease.’



WMSHP President
Ashok Ramalingam, RPh, PhD



Speaker Ferdaus Hassan, Ph.D
Medical Science Liaison (DC/MD/VA)
Sanofi Pasteur,US Medical Affairs



WMSHP President Elect
Dhakrit Rungkitwattanakul, PharmD



WMSHP Past Secretary Mary Li, PharmD and WMSHP
Past President Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD



WMSHP Picnic Coordinator Gururaj Bykadi, PhD, RPh

From President message on page 1

It was great to see many of you at our recent in-person scientific educational non-CE session and dinner program on influenza by Dr. Ferdaus Hassan, Medical Science Liaison of Sanofi Pasteur/US Medical Affairs. This non-CE event was held at Seasons 52, North Bethesda, MD. The topic of the presentation was ‘Influenza Vaccination and Amelioration of Disease.’

I hope to continue seeing most of you in our next virtual CE programs. Don’t forget to get your FREE COVIDvaccination as well as renew your annual membership to get most value for your money. Please refer to the WMSHP website for information (www.wmshp.org).

Sincerely,

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



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