



# Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

March 2023  
Volume 1

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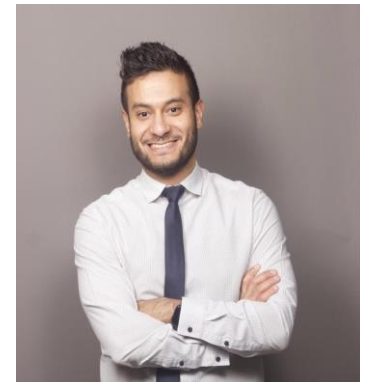
Message from the WMSHP President  
Dr. Meenakshi Shelat

Greetings fellow WMSHP members! Looking forward to serving as WMSHP President this year to ensure we provide quality educational seminars, support our current and future leaders, optimize communication with a revamped new website [wmshp.org](http://wmshp.org), and advocate for our profession's essential value in patient care. Special thanks to my mentors as well as those in my life who taught and showed me what true leadership means, with or without the titles.

As President-Elect, I worked to learn, support, and accomplish the goals of leading our regional affiliate - which is also not a nominal responsibility. Thanks to our Immediate Past President, Dhakrit (Jesse) Rungkitwattanakul and the entire 2022 Executive Board of Directors. As President, welcoming our 2023 Executive Board of Directors: President-Elect Mohammed Aldhaeefi, Secretary Matthew Levit, Treasurer Victoria Ly, Board members John Quinn and Michelle Eby, and ASHP Delegates Carla Darling, Sumit Dua and Sue Carr. We look forward to working with you all - our fellow colleagues as well as students in the DC area.

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## Welcome New WMSHP Officers



Dr. Mohammed Aldhaeefi  
President Elect

### Dr. Mohammed Aldhaeefi

Dr. Mohammed Aldhaeefi currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the College of Pharmacy Howard University and a Coronary Intensive Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist. Dr. Aldhaeefi earned his Doctor of Pharmacy from the Medical University of South Carolina. After earning his PharmD, Dr. Aldhaeefi completed his Post-Graduate-Year one Pharmacy Residency and Critical Care Post-Graduate Year-Two at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Affiliated Hospital in Boston.

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Dr. Aldhaeefi's research interests include heart failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and diabetic ketoacidosis. He hopes that his tenure will be active with numerous events that interest the members.



**Victoria Ly  
Treasurer**

Dr. Victoria (Vicki) Ly is a board-certified cardiology Clinical Specialist Pharmacist at Medstar Washington Hospital Center. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 2000.

Upon completion of pharmacy school, she went on to complete her Pharmaceutical Care Fellowship program at Medstar Washington Hospital Center. She has over 23 years of experience with CCU, cardiology IMC and cardiology patients as well as being Preceptor to countless pharmacy students and PGYI Residents. Dr. Ly has been a long-standing member of WMSHP as well as in WMSHP leadership. She was WMSHP 2011 Secretary and 2014 President. She now serves as WMSHP Treasurer for 2023-2024 and hopes to bring WMSHP to new financial heights.



**Matthew Levit Secretary**

Hi, my name is Matthew Levit, I currently practice as an Oncology Clinical Pharmacist at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. In my previous leadership roles, I served on the Maryland Pharmacist Association's New Practitioner Network Committee, where I

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**From previous column Matt Levit**

advocated for new graduates to continue their involvement in CEs, professional networking, resume/interview training as well as student mentorship. I also served as Secretary for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's SSHP chapter as well as Alumni Relations for the PDC-Iota Student Chapter. I helped streamline newsletter and event communication to members as well as served as a liaison to alumni who wanted to keep an active role in our organization. I am very meticulous with timely communication and therefore, I feel that my role as Secretary will allow me to utilize my previous leadership experiences as well as my tireless dedication to student mentorship, CEs, and professional networking to grow our organization and contribute to the variety of activities for this upcoming year. Thank you again and I look forward to serving as your Secretary.



**Michelle Eby  
Board Member**

Michelle received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland. She has served as a pharmacist at FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

for 10 ½ years. She began her career as a staff pharmacist at Holy Cross Hospital. She was a clinical oncology pharmacist at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center for 7 years. Michelle served as a Senior Clinical Research Pharmacist at the National Cancer Institute for 8 ½ years. She spent 2 years developing research protocols in the Regulatory Compliance and Human Subjects Research Protection Branch at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.

Michelle has brought energy and ideas to the WMSHP Executive Board for several years.

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**Michelle Eby from previous page**

She has received multiple service awards in recognition of her contributions for the growth and promotion of WMSHP. Michelle has an extended history with WMSHP. She has been a Delegate, Treasurer, Legislative Committee Chair, Membership Committee chair, and served on the program committee. She looks forward to the opportunity to broaden the society’s appeal to new members by improving WMSHP educational programs.



**Sumit Duo  
ASHP Delegate**

Hello, my name is Sumit Dua. I received my PharmD from Howard University in 2007 and completed a PGY1 residency at Medstar Washington Hospital Center in 2012. I was first introduced to WMSHP as a student and have participated

in many WMSHP meetings and events throughout my pharmacy career. Currently, I am a Clinical Pharmacist in internal medicine at Medstar Washington Hospital Center. I also spent some time working as an Ambulatory Care Pharmacist for the Indian Health Services in New Mexico. Over the years, I have participated in many WMSHP events including organizing Continual Education Programs and helping with the annual picnic. I have enjoyed and benefited from many of the events sponsored by WMSHP and have decided to run for the Delegate position to actively support the views of the organization and serve as the voice for our constituents. I bring many years of professional experience as an inpatient and ambulatory care pharmacist and look forward to the opportunity to represent our society nationally.



**Sue Carr  
Alternative ASHP Delegate**

I am Sue Carr and represent WMSHP as an alternate delegate

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**From previous column Sue Carr**

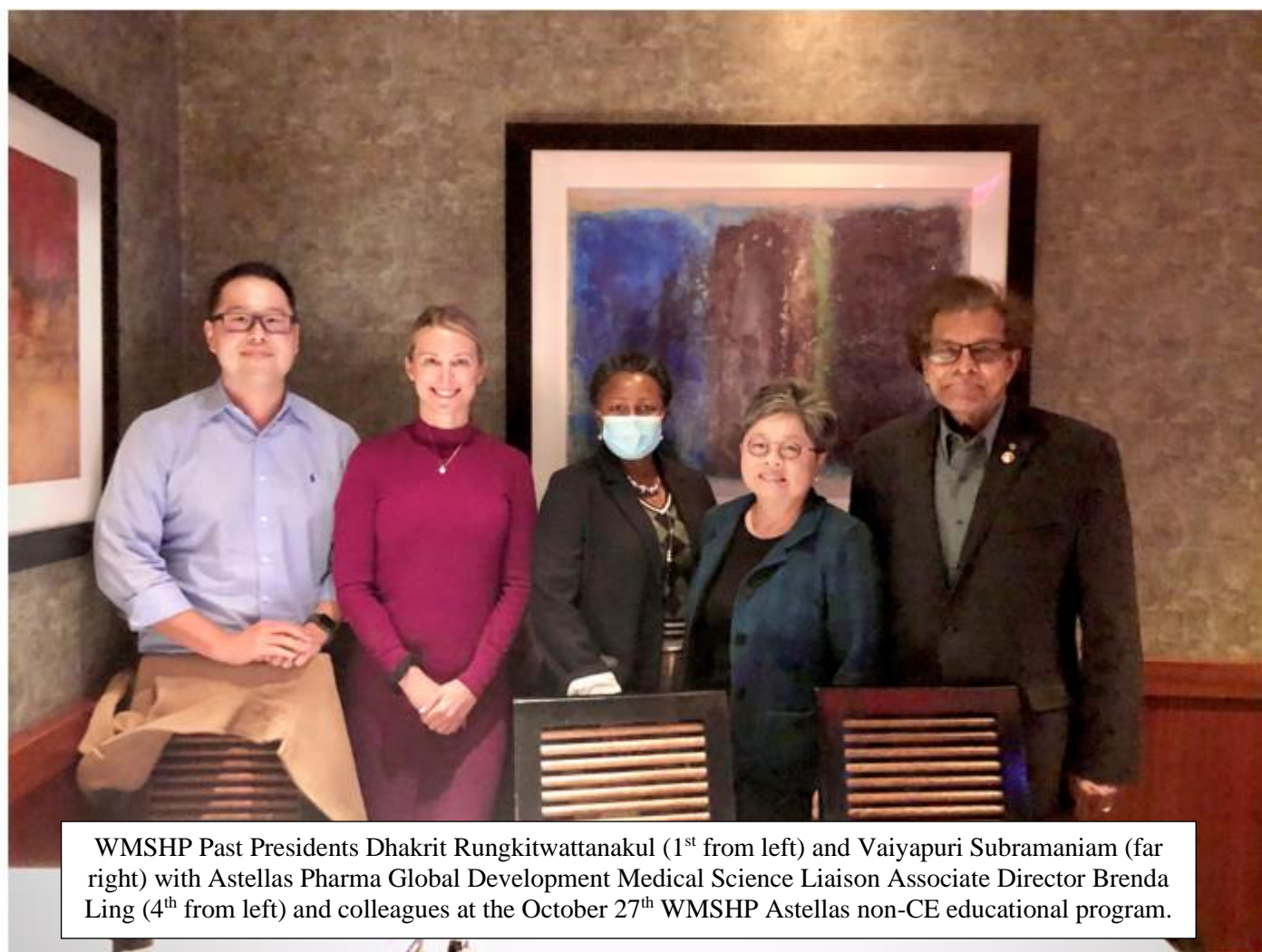
I have served as a retail pharmacy manager at CVS for 17 years, followed by 17 years as a decentralized clinical pharmacist at both Shady Grove Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital. I worked in many areas of the hospital including the ICU, ER, NICU, and Oncology. Currently I am building a medical device to improve the process for preparing intravenous medications packaged in glass ampoules. The medical device will decrease risks to both patients and healthcare providers. My entrepreneurship experiences, business education, and leadership skills along with my passion for improving healthcare, are my reasons for serving WMSHP. I have been a member of WMSHP for over 25 years and served as an alternate delegate this past year. I have learned a so much as an alternate delegate providing positive feedback and I would like to continue my journey. It is my honor to support WMSHP by attending the ASHP Regional Delegate Conferences (RDC) and summer meeting. As an alternate delegate, I hope to bridge the gap between the biotechnology community and hospital pharmacies.



On October 19<sup>th</sup> at Maggiano’s Little Italy Bill Howard from Novo Nordisk hosted a seminar entitled “A Closer Look at Obesity: Recognizing Obesity as a Heterogeneous and Chronic Disease.” Pictured above: William Howard (Novo Nordisk Medical Science Liaison) with speaker Christine Kessler, NP.



WMSHP members attending the October 27th WMSHP and Astellas Pharma Global Development seminar on “Vasomotor Symptoms Associated with Menopause” at the Seasons 52 restaurant in Rockville, MD.



WMSHP Past Presidents Dhakrit Rungkitwattanakul (1<sup>st</sup> from left) and Vaiyapuri Subramaniam (far right) with Astellas Pharma Global Development Medical Science Liaison Associate Director Brenda Ling (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and colleagues at the October 27<sup>th</sup> WMSHP Astellas non-CE educational program.



On November 10<sup>th</sup>, WMSHP and Aurinia Pharma hosted an event at Maggiano's Little Italy titled "LUPKYNIS, the first and only FDA-approved oral treatment for adult patients with active lupus nephritis."

From left to right WMSHP members Beatrice Lam and Dominic Solimando; Christian Harriott from Aurinia Pharma and Dr. Donald Thomas, the speaker from Arthritis and Pain Associates of Prince Georges County.



WMSHP Past Presidents from left to right, Dhakrit Rungkitwattanakul and Vaiyapuri Subramaniam catch up at the November 10<sup>th</sup> seminar



Christian Harriott from Aurinia Pharma



Tejona Johnson-Moore  
Howard Student Editor

## Interviewing Howard University's College of Pharmacy, Second Year Students Pertaining to Immunizing the DC Community

It's that time of year again! As the seasons are changing and the sickness rate is constantly increasing, the people of the DMV community are in need of healthcare professionals to provide vaccinations to keep them healthy! Howard University's College of Pharmacy has integrated becoming immunization-certified into its curriculum for their second-year pharmacy students. This will give the students earlier exposure in ensuring that the community is protected from getting sick. In early October 2022, some students who were already immunization-certified had the opportunity to volunteer at Howard University's Hospital to administer COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to patients. Roughly 50 patients were vaccinated.

One of the P2 students stated, "After administering the immunizations, I gained a deep appreciation for what pharmacists do in the community. COVID-19 vaccines are crucial to reducing the incidence of infected individuals, which can ultimately save lives. Every day pharmacists can contribute to saving lives!"

P2 Student #1: **Takaija Smith** (Practiced giving injections)

1. **What are you most excited about regarding giving immunizations?** I am most excited to learn how to give immunizations that I can utilize at work.
2. **What are you most fearful of pertaining to giving immunizations?** I am most afraid to give subcutaneous injections because the injection needs to be more precise.
3. **Any tips for anyone learning to give immunizations?** One tip that I would give to students is to not be nervous! Learning how to correctly inject and treat patients can be really fun!
4. **How will learning about giving immunizations further your career/education?** Learning how to give immunizations can lead to more opportunities for me and allow me to inject more patients and provide care.

P2 Student #2: **Widny Nazaire** (Volunteered at Howard University's Hospital to give Immunizations to the DC Community in October)

1. **Why did you volunteer to give vaccines to the DC community at Howard University's Hospital?** I volunteered at Howard University Hospital because I wanted to gain the experience of what it meant to be a pharmacist serving in the community. I was able to vaccinate people that looked like me and come from the same background I came from.
2. **What was one thing that you enjoyed about giving immunizations?** The one thing I enjoyed the most about giving immunizations is the fact that I faced my fear of actually injecting vaccines. I was very shaky at first. I didn't believe in myself because I thought I was going to mess up. After giving the vaccination, I was glad I was able to gain the confidence to do it.
3. **What is one insight that you gained from giving immunizations to the DC community?** One useful insight I gained from giving immunizations to the DC community is that in order to be a successful well rounded health care professional, it is imperative to serve in the community you are part of. This allows you to understand the needs of the people that live there and use your healthcare expertise to help them.
4. **How will learning about giving immunizations further your career/education?** I believe giving immunizations will further my career/education because I plan to work in industry pharmacy where vaccination and immunizations are probably not a focus area, but if there is a need elsewhere where giving immunizations is needed, I will be trained and ready to take on the task.



Howard Student LaNish Potts



Howard Student Takaija Smith



Howard Student Harry Hooker III



Howard Student Rhoda Takyi

## Continued from page 1 Presidents article

On January 25<sup>th</sup> Paul Walker, an exemplary leader, clinician, and educator in our profession, currently serving as ASHP President, gave inspiring introductory remarks and installed our new Executive Board of Directors. Following the installation ceremony, James Cummins, Chief, Preclinical Microbicide and Prevention Research Branch at NIH presented an excellent continuing education session on exciting new therapies for the HIV/AIDS population. January 2023 marked the official launch of our new website, which is a complete redesign. Users can now log in and set up their own individual usernames and passwords - this will help us automate, improve membership renewal steps, optimize communication and connect with our active membership. Note: we will have “rolling membership” with user-friendly options for you to choose (No longer Jan 1st through Dec 31st). Registration for CE events will be easier. Events and newsletters, as well as photos will be visible in a slideshow. We appreciate your patience - contact us if you have questions/concerns we can help resolve in March/April.

We are actively planning live and virtual seminars - stay tuned for communications. Programs are also visible at <https://wmshp.org/events>. This is a great time to join/renew and reconnect with your colleagues at our live events and/or enjoy continuing education from home with our seminars via Zoom in different formats (to help support work/life balance).

See you all virtually at our Saturday April 22nd multiple CE program event via Zoom - we have some incredible speakers with topics: Medication Safety, HIV-associated Lymphoma, Acute Coronary Syndrome, and Chagas Disease/ Cardiomyopathy. Register early for in-person dinner events, such as on March 8th. More to come with all those we work with, including Pharmacy Times and Industry sponsors!

Feel free to introduce yourself at events or <https://wmshp.org/Contact> to get actively involved.

Meenakshi Shelat, PharmD, BCOP  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Hematology/Oncology at NIH Clinical Center  
WMSHP President 2023  
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ASHP Policy Week - September 2022  
Paul C. Walker, PharmD, FASHP - ASHP President 2022-2023  
Meenakshi Shelat, PharmD, BCOP - WMSHP President 2023



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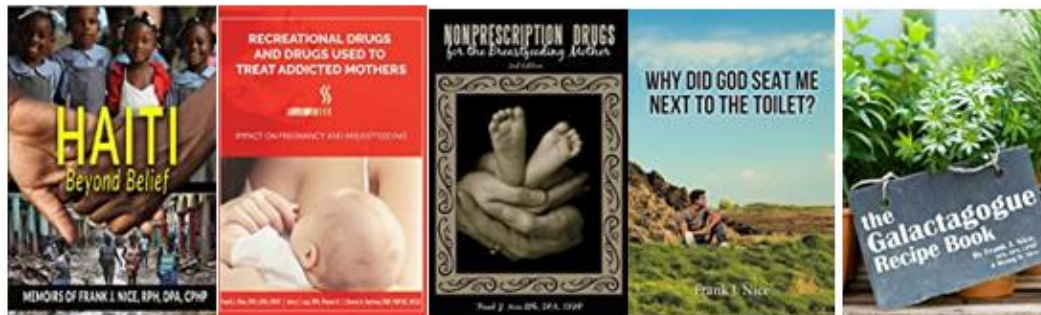


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## **Advertising Opportunities**

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.