



Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

March 2024
Volume 1



Message from the WMSHP President

Hello, colleagues and WMSHP members. I am honored to serve as the WMSHP President for this year. Providing high quality continuing education sessions, pharmacy advocacy, and students involvement, are a priority to me for this year. Thanks to our Immediate Past President, Meenakshi Shelat, for her leadership and dedication this past year to the WMSHP. I also want to welcome to the 2024 Executive Board of Directors: President-Elect Matthew Levitt; Secretary Tiffany Tseng; and Treasurer Victoria Ly; the Board Members: Ashok Ramalingam and Michelle Eby; and President Emeritus: Vaiyapuri Subramaniam. We look forward to collaborating and working with pharmacy colleagues in the DC - Maryland – Virginia. On behalf of the WMSHP Executive Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you all for our two upcoming WMSHP virtual continuing education events on [March 20th on Pericarditis Management by Vicki Ly, PharmD, BCCP](#) and on [April 3rd on Glomerular Diseases by Dhakrit “Jesse” Rungkitwattanakul, PharmD](#). We also have two non-CE dinner programs at Maggiano’s on [March 27th on All-Nebulizer Management Strategy by Teravance Biopharma](#) and on April 17th on next generation echinocandin antifungal Once-Weekly REZZAYO™ (rezafungin for injection) by Melinta Therapeutics.

Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (ECAPS) H.R. 1770/S. 2477 and Provider Status Recognition

Last month on February 29, 2024, over 140 groups, including WMSHP as an affiliate of ASHP, [urged Congress to enact the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act \(ECAPS\) \(H.R. 1770/S. 2477\)](#) bipartisan legislation to ensure senior access to essential pharmacist services such as tests (COVID-19, flu, RSV, and strep throat), vaccines (COVID-19, flu, pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B), and treatments (COVID-19, flu, RSV, and strep throat) by creating Medicare Part B direct reimbursement mechanisms. These diversely representative groups united to advocate for equitable access to community pharmacy services on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries, rural communities, patients living with chronic and complex conditions, caregivers, and others with limited access to health care via passage and enactment of ECAPS, which [was first introduced in the U.S House of Representatives on March 23, 2023 and in the U.S. Senate on July 25, 2023](#).

A day later, effective March 1, 2024, similar collaborative efforts by various pharmacy organizations, including Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, [succeeded in granting pharmacists provider status and allowing them to bill Pennsylvania Medicaid](#) for rendered services in alignment with [Pharmacy Practice Act and amendments](#) per Act 80 of 2020 and [State Board of Pharmacy regulations](#) as reported by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA). **See Page 2**

WMSHP Executive Board

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Provider Status Recognition from Page 1

This was also made possible by the acknowledgment by PA Medical Assistance of pharmacists' scope of practice and impact on patient outcomes by seeking a state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to add licensed pharmacist services to Other Licensed Practitioner (OLP) benefit. Now pharmacists licensed in PA who are enrolled with PA Medicaid and individual Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) can provide services in all outpatient settings where they have the ability to bill medial claims (i.e., community pharmacies, ambulatory clinics, medical offices, etc.). The [Provider Enrollment application and a recording of the training from 2/15/2024 is available on the PA Department of Human Services \(DHS\) website under 10-Midlevel Practitioner](#). This recognition underscores the crucial role pharmacists play in healthcare delivery, particularly in underserved communities.

Welcome New WMSHP Officers and Delegates

WMSHP is resuming more in-person CE events. If you see any of our new Officers at an event, do not be afraid to introduce yourself as they would like to get to know you. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the society, such as serving on a committee, please talk to one of our Officers or drop us a line at webwmshp@gmail.com. There are always opportunities to become more involved and strengthen your professional network outside of your institution. Below are photos and WMSHP ballot biographical sketches of our Officers which also outlines their vision for the society.

President Mohammed Aldhaeefi (see photo on page 1)

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. Following his Pharm.D., 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. Dr. Aldhaeefi's research interests include heart failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and diabetic ketoacidosis management.

"I currently serve as the faculty advisor for the Society of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP) at the College of Pharmacy at Howard University, which I am planning to utilize and enable smooth access to SSHP students at Howard and other universities to gain an early understanding of the pharmacy profession and foster leadership as this is stated in the WMSHP goals, "leadership, education, and resources." the number of continuing education hours provided to our members."

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Welcome New WMSHP Officers and Delegates

Additionally, those students will serve as future leaders at WMSHP to enhance and keep WMSHP growing. Moreover, I serve as the Executive Committee Member and Course Director at the Pharmacy and Acute Care University (PACU) online platform. I am aiming to utilize this platform to increase



President Elect Matthew Levit

"Hi, my name is Matthew Levit, and I am interested in running for the 2023 Executive board position as President-Elect with WMSHP. I currently work as a Hematology/

Oncology Clinical Pharmacist at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD.

In my previous leadership position, I served as the WMSHP Secretary where I helped communicate information about events happening in the WMSHP community and maintain the WMSHP membership roster.

I also helped plan WMSHP CE events with assistance from the President and President-elect. In previous roles, I served on the Maryland Pharmacist Association's New Practitioner Network Committee, where I 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 when I was a pharmacy student.

I am very meticulous with timely communication and have experience planning events with WMSHP over the past year. Therefore, I feel my role as President-Elect 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 next year. Thank you again and I look forward to serving as your President next year."

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Welcome New WMSHP Officers and Delegates



Secretary Tiffany Tseng

“My name is Tiffany Tseng and I have been a member and volunteer with WMSHP since 2019. I am a 2014 Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) graduate from the University of Florida with 8+ years of cross-functional experience in global regulatory medical writing, project management, clinical

research, and clinical pharmacy across therapeutic areas within industry, CROs, federal hospitals and institutions (DOD/NCI/NIH/VHA), and community pharmacy.

I would be honored to continue my service to and leadership in professional development/engagement and continuing education for the WSHMP DMV pharmacy community through timely and representative documentations and circulations, contributing my organizational, professional, and academic background and interests. Thank you for your continued involvement, contributions, and support to our team and the professional community!”



Treasurer Victoria Ly

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 2024-2025 and hopes to bring WMSHP to new financial heights. Vicki hopes to strategize WMSHP financial goals by increasing our society's income with ideas and to maintain financial stability throughout her tenure.

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Welcome New WMSHP Officers and Delegates



Board Member Michelle Eby

Michelle received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the from the University of Maryland. She has been a pharmacist at FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research for 10 1/2 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 Advisory Board for several years. 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.

Michelle Eby is honored to accept the nomination of WMSHP Advisory Board member. She considers this an opportunity to use her knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to further the strategic goals of WMSHP including increased membership and outreach to new practitioners. She looks forward to the opportunity to broaden the society’s appeal to new members by improving WMSHP educational programs.



Board Member Ashok Ramalingam

Dr. Ashok Ramalingam holds a BS in Pharmacy, MS in Pharmaceutical Technology and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Pharmacology with 4 years of postdoctoral research fellowship from Johns Hopkins School Medicine and NIH. He is a licensed

hospital pharmacist in the state of Washington DC, Maryland & Virginia and is very passionate about pharmacy profession and voluntarily helps people in the community through various non-profit organizations. His professional interest is to promote quality of care through enhanced

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Welcome New WMSHP Officers and Delegates

Board Member Ashok Ramalingam (continued)

patient safety and information systems. He has won numerous awards and honors for academic and professional excellence. He has previously served in many WMSHP executive board as the President, treasurer and ASHP council member in the ASHP Council on Pharmacy Management. If elected to WMSHP Board member I will continue to promote efficiency in society operations and bring value for our professional membership.



ASHP Delegate Sue Carr

I am Sue Carr and have been nominated to represent WMSHP as a delegate. I have worked 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 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 running. 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 would be my honor to support WMSHP by attending the RDC and ASHP summer meeting. As a delegate, I hope to bridge the gap between the biotechnology community and hospital pharmacies.



ASHP Delegate Kelley Mullican

Dr. Kelly Mullican is a Clinical Coordinator at Kaiser Permanente, overseeing numerous Pharmacy-led programs including Medication Adherence, Diabetes Management and Dermatology Adherence and Management.

Dr. Mullican is a graduate of UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and completed her residency training in Ambulatory Care at Atrium Health and UNC Hospitals.

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Welcome New WMSHP Officers and Delegates

ASHP Delegate Kelley Mullican (continued)

Prior to her role as Clinical Coordinator, Dr. Mullican was a Primary Care Clinical Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente and sought to improve patient health outcomes through collaboration with patients, physicians, and other healthcare team members.

Dr. Mullican's service to the pharmacy profession and to ASHP began as a student over 10 years ago in UNC's SSHP chapter. Currently, she serves as Chair of ASHP's Ambulatory Care Clinical Practice Advancement SAG.

As a selected delegate, Kelly plans to encourage policies which are in the best interest of WMSHP members and supports Pharmacy Practice advancement.



ASHP Alternate Delegate Joann Lee

I plan to fulfill all the requirements in serving as the alternate delegate. I hope to add value, dedicate my skills, and experiences to support the WMSHP mission

in promoting the pharmacy profession. I have benefited through continuing education programs offered by WMSHP with great company and food over the years. I am ready to give back so that WMSHP can continue to offer valuable programs and build a cohesive community of pharmacists.

WMSHP- Request for Healthcare Participants.

Editors note: Many members know longtime member and WMSHP delegate Sue Carr the owner of CarrTech corporation which produces a new all in one filter/needle device used to filter glass ampoules. [Click here](#) for a video on this product.

CarrTech is looking for healthcare professionals that have experience using glass ampoules. I am currently enrolled in a National Science Foundation I-Corp program and am looking for volunteers to help me understand the eco-system at the hospital level. It would take just a few moments for me to interview you about your job and some of the pains that you are experiencing. Thank you in advance and I can be reached via E-mail: sue@carrtechcorp.com

Sue Carr RPh- President
CarrTech Corp
<https://www.carrtechcorp.com>



WMSHP welcomes the new Howard College of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Ranti Akiyode. Past WMSHP President Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD and WMSHP Board member John Quinn, R.Ph M.S. welcome the new Dean of the Howard College of Pharmacy. Read more about the new dean here: <https://thedig.howard.edu/all-stories/ranti-akiyode-pharmd-appointed-dean-howard-universitys-college-pharmacy>.

On November 14, 2023, Dr. Subramaniam also was invited by his colleague Dr. Indiran Pather to speak to his pharmaceutical science students on “Sterile Compounding - Pharmaceutical Compounded Sterile Preparations: Regulatory and Practice Perspectives of USP <797> and USP <800> standards.”



Maryland License Renewal

For those that need to renew their Maryland Pharmacist License before it expires April 30, 2024, this is a reminder that effective as of 04/01/2022, law was passed to require a one-time continuing education credit in Implicit Bias. Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 1-225, all health practitioners must attest to completing an implicit bias training program approved by the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program on their first license renewal after April 1, 2022. For a list of approved programs, visit:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mhhd/Documents/MHHD%20Implicit%20Bias.pdf>

RSV Vaccination Updates

Below are the links to the CDC/ACIP recommendation for the RSV vaccine for older adults (60 years and older) as well as the prescribing information for each vaccine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7229a4.htm>

Pfizer: <https://www.fda.gov/media/168889/download>

GSK: <https://www.fda.gov/media/167805/download>

Additional CE News

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) J-7 (Education & Training Directorate) Continuing Education Program Office (CEPO) is continuing their Clinical Communities Speaker Series (CCSS) on **April 4th, 2024, 8:55 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)** featuring "Evidence-Based and Promising Practices in Pediatric Care for Military Children and Youth." This free live event offers up to **6.5 Continuing Education/ Continuing Medical Education (CE/CME)** credits. This activity is designed to meet the educational needs of Pharmacists, Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacy Technicians, Physician Assistants, Optometrists, Social Workers, Audiologists, Speech Language Pathologists, Psychologists, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Technicians, Registered Dietitians, Dietetic Technicians, Athletic Trainers, Case Managers, Certified Counselors, Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapist Assistants, Kinesiotherapists, and Healthcare Executives. This activity is also approved for other health care professionals who support/care for U.S. active-duty service members, reservists, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, National Guardsmen, military veterans, and their families.

Register here:

<https://www.dhaj7-cepo.com/content/2024-apr-ccss>.

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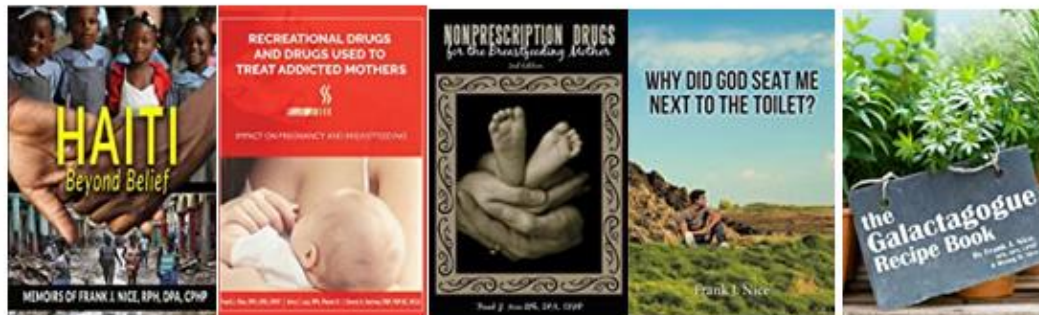


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Advertising Opportunities

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 by the 15th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Both print images are acceptable.