



# Washington Metropolitan Society of Health System Pharmacists Newsletter

December 2020  
Volume 9

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### President's message

As 2020 draws to a close, we hope that this message finds you well and that you were able to share some special moments with your loved ones as best as possible during the holiday season. As one year ends and we usher in another, we can reflect on the past twelve months across many fronts, viz. personal, professional, and the collective support from our networks. We can reflect on having witnessed unprecedented challenges in healthcare from the Covid-19 pandemic. We have also become increasingly aware that pharmacists have a duty to educate and assess patients to help them improve and maintain their health. The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly not provided an exception to or from this duty and, pharmacists moreover have proven to be fundamental in the support of patients and health-systems during these times.

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### January 21, 2021 WMSHP virtual seminars

We are kicking off the new year with two educational seminars.

On January 21st at 6 pm, we will have a 30-minute pre-symposium educational exhibit titled "Introducing AVSOLA™ — a biosimilar to Remicade® from Amgen" by Jeremy Farnham, INBU Senior Specialty Representative, Amgen.

This will be followed by our 1.5 hour-ACPE-approved CE presentation titled "Providing culturally competent LGBTQ + care in the pharmacy" by Charles M. Livingston Jr, PharmD, AAHIVP.

Our speaker Dr. Livingston is a Clinical Pharmacist specializing in HIV Care in Baltimore, MD. Originally from PG County, MD, Charles graduated from Hampton University - the Standard of Excellence - in 2013 and began working in retail pharmacy for a major retail chain.

*See top of page 2*

LGBTQ+ from page one

He has since transitioned into a hybrid clinical and dispensing position focused on HIV care for a non-profit organization where he provides clinical interventions, care and expertise to both people living with HIV and people without HIV who are seeking prevention services. Dr. Livingston is also an advanced pharmacy practice experience preceptor for Hampton University's School of Pharmacy and has been doing so since 2014.

The objectives of the "Providing Culturally Competent LGBTQ+ Care in Pharmacy" CE on January 21<sup>st</sup> are:

At the completion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

1. Define helpful LGBTQ+ terminology and related terms for healthcare providers.
2. Explain helpful LGBTQ+ terminology and related terms for healthcare providers.
3. Identify barriers to and disparities in healthcare for the LGBTQ+ community.
4. Explore ways in which pharmacists can provide culturally competent care to LGBTQ+ patients.

We hope all members will join us for these two presentations.



Dean Toyin Tofade, MS, PharmD, BCPS, CPCC, FFIP, of Howard University College of Pharmacy with WMSHP President Subramaniam at the FIP 2016 World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP): its message for the advancement of pharmacy**

By Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, MS, FASHP, FASCP, FCP, FFIP

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) was founded in 1912 and is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. It is the global federation of national organizations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists and is a non-governmental organization in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). With over 146 member organizations, FIP represents over four million pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, pharmacy educators and more than 170 academic institutions globally.



WMSHP President Subramaniam with FIP host colleagues at the FIP 2019 World Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

For pharmacists, FIP's vision means a dedication to advancing patient-focused, medicine-centered healthcare practices for all. FIP has expanded its focus from changes in pharmacy and the emergence of pharmacy practice as a cornerstone of the profession which led to FIP becoming a globally visible advocate of pharmacists' role in the provision of healthcare while still maintaining a focus in the pharmaceutical sciences.

The FIP has four areas of membership focus with each being interrelated based on members' practice interests and disciplines. The areas include pharmacy practitioners, pharmaceutical scientists, pharmacy educators, and young pharmacists/new graduates (Young Pharmacists Group - YPG). A member joining FIP can choose any of the FIP Sections (which are governed by the Board of Pharmaceutical Practice) based on their practice or specialty interests through which to become active, take leadership roles, and contribute to FIP's educational and program initiatives. The Sections are Community Pharmacy, Academic Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy, Hospital Pharmacy, Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Military and Emergency Pharmacy, Health, and Medicines Information and Clinical Biology. FIP members interested to connect with young pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists and seek new networks in professional innovation, friendship and support, can join FIP's YPG. FIP has six Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in pharmaceutical science disciplines led by the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The FIP organizes the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences each year during the fall in a host country. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 FIP Congress venue planned in Seville, Spain was changed to a virtual Congress meeting. Attending the FIP Congress gives an international experience to interact with the FIP membership that has evolved to become the most extensive global pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences network. The FIP Congress program includes an array of educational, social and networking opportunities with formal opening and closing ceremonies, exhibit showcases and ACPE-approved continuing education sessions.

Annual FIP Congresses are not FIP's only activity. Each year FIP holds a number of conferences usually in conjunction with other organizations which are smaller and more specialized than the annual Congress, and some are conducted in collaboration with WHO on a regional basis. The FIP is also a partner with the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF) which is the leading advocacy organization for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science students that holds its own conferences.

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*FIP article from page 3*

FIP shares an extensive number of resources and guidelines in its website intended for pharmacists on a number of pharmacy practice, disease management, and pharmaceutical science standards. FIP contributes on comments for guidance documents for WHO in pharmaceutical science and practice standards. On the Covid-19 pandemic, FIP has issued a call to action to support pharmacists that highlight measures to ensure continuity of pharmaceutical care to people worldwide so that pharmacists can play an even greater part in the fight against Covid-19.

Do you want to become involved in the world of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences? Do you want to find out more about FIP? Then, please refer to its website at: [www.fip.org](http://www.fip.org)

*WMSHP President Dr. Vaiyapuri Subramaniam is a Fellow of FIP and serves as Treasurer and Executive Committee Member of the FIP Social and Administrative Pharmacy Section. The views expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of FIP.*

*(References: 2020 VISION: FIP's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan; [www.fip.org](http://www.fip.org))*



## **Student Corner**

**Title: What is the Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacy and what do they do?**

Drashti Vasaiwala  
Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate Class of 2022  
University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

Like every other student in his/her first year of pharmacy school, I was overwhelmed with so many different organizations to choose from to get involved in. By the end of my first year, I struggled to understand the differences among all these organizations and ultimately figured out which organization would best fit my short- and long-term career interests. I always knew that I wanted to establish my pharmacy career in health systems pharmacy, so I became a member of the ASHP-SSHP organization at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Even then it took me a while to identify and understand the difference between ASHP, MSHP, and SSHP. Many are aware of what ASHP and MSHP are, but only some are aware of the roles and responsibilities of SSHP.

Most pharmacy schools in the United States have an SSHP chapter. SSHPs help introduce ASHP and the practice of health-system pharmacy, pharmacy residencies, and practice advancement to student members. Our chapter of the SSHP at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is a nationally recognized student chapter. Through SSHP, students have the opportunity to pursue their professional interests in many areas of pharmacy through participation in annual hosted events, such as the PhorCAS panel, residency panel, patient care challenge, residency shadowing series, and clinical skills competition. Also, students can practice advocacy in patient care through health fairs and grow their network through professional development events and national meetings.

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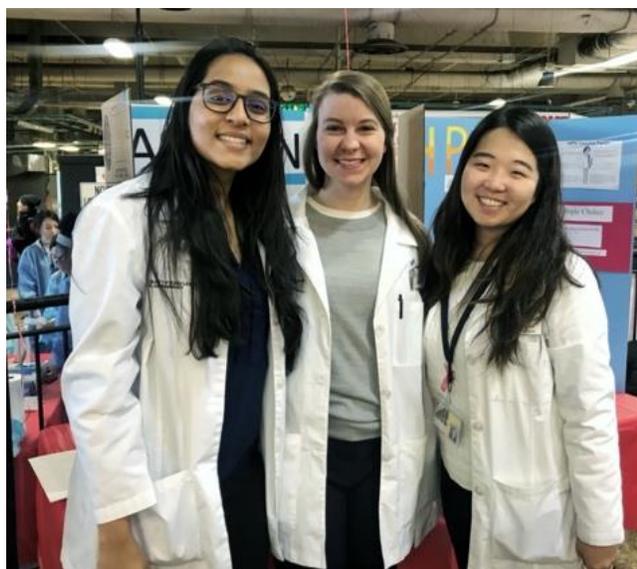
*Student corner continued from previous page*

In my first year of pharmacy school, I first became involved with SSHP by organizing fundraisers such as an Indian food fundraiser to raise money for our school's SSHP chapter. In my second year, I became the secretary of the organization. As a secretary of the chapter, my main responsibility was to prepare a newsletter each week and share it with students of all class years. I was also in charge of both local and national student membership drive and enrollment. Our SSHP chapter received an Outstanding Professional Development Project Award for the year 2019-2020. Currently, in my third year, I am serving as the ASHP liaison for our school's SSHP chapter. During this past semester, I was responsible for organizing two events which were the PhORCAS panel and SSHP Health Systems Roundtable. Due to the pandemic, I had to organize both events virtually. Nevertheless, they were successful despite some minor technological challenges and reduced participation. Our SSHP chapter achieved an official ASHP-SSHP recognition for the year 2020-2021. Below are some key highlighted events that I am proud to have been involved in through SSHP.

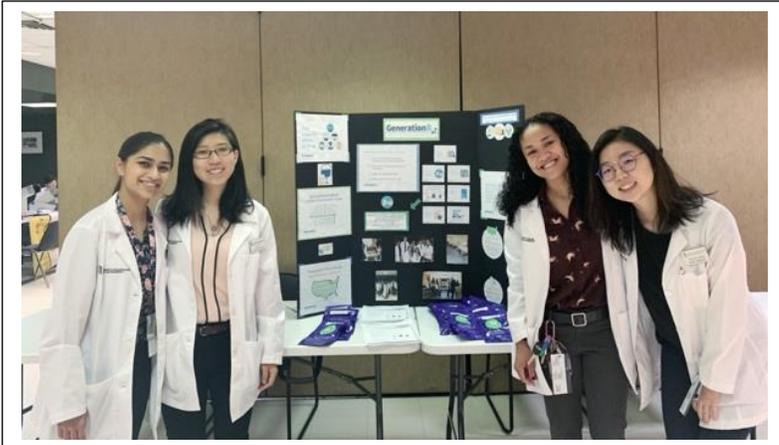


This is a picture from when we were able to visit ASHP headquarters in Bethesda, MD in my second year along with other students. We learned a lot about different programs that are offered at ASHP such as rotations, internships, fellowship, etc. We also got a chance to have a tour of the beautiful ASHP headquarters building

SSHP also participated in the Charms of Million Hearts Health Fair in Baltimore where we educated community members about coronary artery disease and its prevention.



*Student Corner continued*



Another health fair SSHP participated in was the SNMA CommUNITY Health Fair held at Lexington Market, Baltimore where we handed out mini medication disposal kits and educated people on how to properly store and dispose of their medication.

Even though we are not able to organize and attend in-person events this year, SSHP hosted as many online events as they could. Of all those events, I was able to organize a virtual SSHP Health Systems Roundtable as an ASHP Liaison for our student chapter. This roundtable had pharmacist panelists participating from different health systems backgrounds who shared their career journey with our student pharmacists.



Through participation and involvement in SSHP chapter events, I not only developed my leadership skills over the years, but also expanded my network with people from different areas of pharmacy. With those connections and shadowing programs offered by SSHP, I was able to shadow many pharmacy residents which have helped me learn and prepare better for residency after I graduate. I am excited and looking forward to organizing events next semester and being involved with SSHP throughout my career.

**Publishing Opportunities in the WMSHP newsletter**

Do you want to become a rich and famous author? Contact our editors for information on how to be published in this newsletter at [webwmshp@gmail.com](mailto:webwmshp@gmail.com)

## **Renew Your Membership**

By Tina Patel, PharmD, MBA, Secretary & Chair Membership Committee, WMSHP  
And Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, MS, President WMSHP

The WMSHP reminds you to renew your membership for the membership period that begins in January 2021.

Renewing your WMSHP membership is easy and convenient.

Please **[Complete the Membership Form + Submit Payment via Paypal](#)** from the WMSHP Membership site: <http://wmshp.org/membership-form.php>

WMSHP looks forward to having you reinvest in your WMSHP membership as a vital component to your current and future professional development.

WMSHP is proud to have you as a member of our professional society and part of the pharmacy community. Despite challenges faced in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, WMSHP has built and reinforced its mission and purpose on the value of membership by leveraging its resilience and strengths to positively influence and meet the needs of its diverse and multidisciplinary membership in health system pharmacy.

Renewal of WMSHP membership ensures uninterrupted member benefits including:

- \*Member discounts or free access to CE, web resources, webinars, informative COVID-19 updates;
- \*Access up to 12 ACPE accredited CE hours;
- \*Member access to the WMSHP newsletter;
- \*Multi-year discounted membership for employed and retired pharmacists;
- \*Opportunities in association leadership; and Networking with a professionally diverse and multidisciplinary group of pharmacists from health system pharmacy, ambulatory practice, academia, industry, community practice, and the federal government (FDA, VA, DoD, USPHS).

If you have any questions about renewing your membership, please contact us at: [webwmshp@gmail.com](mailto:webwmshp@gmail.com)  
Thank you and we look forward to your continued support as a WMSHP member.

## **FDA COVID-19 Vaccine Updates**

On December 10, 2020 and December 17, 2020, FDA released briefing documents from the advisory committee meeting on the Pfizer-BioNTech (<https://www.fda.gov/media/144245/download>) and Moderna (<https://www.fda.gov/media/144434/download>) COVID-19 Vaccines, respectively, which have since been granted Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs). These documents include a myriad of technical information of interest to pharmacists including subgroup breakdown of vaccine effectiveness by age, race, and high-risk conditions. Fact Sheets, FAQs, and additional information can be accessed at: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization#coviddrugs>.

*President's message from page 1*

Looking back, we had many opportunities to connect and communicate with each other virtually. The 2021 year will be critical for pharmacists and health care professionals alike as we expect several Covid-19 vaccines to receive regulatory approval and we look forward to coordinated efforts for vaccination. We are sadly reminded of the tragic loss of lives and among health care professionals as well during their course of duties in the front lines, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is the last WMSHP newsletter in 2020 and I would like to recap the accomplishments we achieved in 2020. First and foremost, I wish to express my profound thanks to the newsletter editorial team (CAPT. John Quinn and Drs. Tiffany Tseng and Theresa Chan) for their diligence and efforts to ensure the consistent publication of the monthly newsletter both in content and quality. We began in January 2020 with the kickoff meeting and continuing education (CE) followed by educational sessions that continued to March 2020. Since June 2020, we headed efforts by developing a new business model with a virtual educational and CE program series that we oversaw and consistently achieved through December 2020 to meet our members' needs. The Society leadership through resilience and teamwork, collaborated successfully with stakeholders to deliver benefits of WMSHP membership. We did our utmost to ensure everyone benefitted from our 11 excellent ACPE-approved continuing education (CE) sessions, nine monthly newsletter publications in 2020 and, the creative collaborations in educational programs we implemented with pharmaceutical industry and clinical faculty stakeholders by use of virtual technology to deliver a high quality of informative presentations in pharmacy, pharmaceutical science, and medical products. Your membership in WMSHP means that we belong as a collective body to a large network of pharmacists representing multidisciplinary disciplines and leadership in health-systems, ambulatory care, clinical pharmacy, community pharmacy, academia, and the federal government (VA, FDA, NIH, DoD and other agencies). In 2020, our WMSHP board members contributed and organized to provide career guidance and mentoring to pharmacy students at area schools of pharmacy, viz. Howard University and the University of Maryland at Baltimore; and our Delegates represented the Society commendably at the ASHP Summer meeting and national legislative sessions. In August 2020, I was invited by the Dean of the Howard University College of Pharmacy to join with other stakeholders to participate in discussions on strategies to advance the provider status for pharmacists in the District of Columbia and role of pharmacists and their impact in public health. WMSHP continued to ensure provision of its communication and teaching skills didactic training through the WMSHP Pharmacy Residents Teaching Certificate Program that was tailored to area PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacist residents and fellows.

As this newsletter reflects, WMSHP endeavored to ensure and oversee that pharmacy students had opportunities to contribute to articles on topics unique to their professional education and student life. **On page 4**, a P-3 pharmacy student, Drashti Vasaiwala from the University of Maryland at Baltimore, provides insights from her Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP) activities at her campus, which facilitated a channel for opportunities to become involved with patient advocacy, professional development events, and career preparation following graduation. **On page 2**, I have provided an article to introduce the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) which is the global federation of national associations of pharmacies and pharmaceutical scientists serving more than 4 million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists around the world where pharmacists can seek to become involved in international pharmacy to impact and promote the profession across borders. Also, on **page 7**, we highlight briefing documents from FDA on the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines in regard to safety and effectiveness.

I draw your attention to the article on **page 7** that provides a reminder to renew your membership or join WMSHP before January 21, 2021, or as soon as possible using the easy steps from the Society website ([www.wmsHP.org](http://www.wmsHP.org)).

*See next page*

Presidents message continued

Please check your emails regarding the upcoming WMSHP kickoff meeting on January 21, 2021, that will highlight a pre-symposium educational exhibit session on “Introducing AVSOLA™ — a biosimilar to Remicade® from Amgen” by Jeremy Farnham, INBU Senior Specialty Representative, Amgen; followed by an ACPE-approved CE virtual program session (1.5 contact hours) on “Providing culturally competent LGBTQ + care in the pharmacy” by Charles M. Livingston Jr, PharmD, AAHIVP.

Also, look out in your emails for the WMSHP election ballots to cast your vote by January 8, 2021, cob for new officers and ASHP Delegate/Alternate Delegate who are seeking election or re-election for 2021.

As our Society finishes a successful year, I ask that you continually examine the benefits of society membership. WMSHP’s objectives in getting members involved are based on the following recruitment and strategic goals:

- WMSHP gives importance to the relevance of materials disseminated to members;
- WMSHP’s commitment to members is based on standards and strategies to impact how pharmacy is practiced in the future;
- WMSHP focuses on providing benefits to members at the lowest possible savings through its membership dues structure that should be appealing to any pharmacist;
- WMSHP emphasizes the importance of social contact either in person or virtually with peers during its monthly CE and/or educational dinner meetings.
- WMSHP proposes on self-improvement and addresses quality and frequency on types of CE programs available to members to meet pharmacists’ licensure requirements;
- WMSHP believes in advancing the profession and invites input to elevate the profession
- WMSHP continually believes in promoting enthusiasm by developing it within its membership. Remember, like a smile, enthusiasm can be contagious.
- WMSHP wishes to work with each member to count up the many way’s society membership provides a positive impact and share it with members and nonmembers.

Remember, the key is to work together to disseminate the aforementioned goals to current and new members towards developing membership and expanding membership involvement.

As the WMSHP President, I thank you for supporting our shared vision to build and promote the Society as the premier pharmacists’ association in the Washington DC metropolitan area representing health-system pharmacy.

Please refer to the WMSHP announcement on *Advertising Opportunities* shown on **page 10** to find more information about the WMSHP newsletter accepting half-page advertisements from anyone for a nominal fee and who to contact if interested.

Sincerely wishing you and yours a happy, joyous and healthy New Year!

*Puri*

**Vaiyapuri Subramaniam, PharmD, MS, FASHP, FASCP, FCP, FFIP.  
President, WMSHP**

# 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.