



GULF COAST SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

Spring 2022 Newsletter

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VOLUME

01

ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings GCSHP Membership!

As we wind down the 2021-2022 year, I would like to sincerely thank everyone for such an outstanding year. This past year of my presidency has been an exciting one!

This year, we were finally able to meet once again in person and begin to reconnect! Our Board of Directors did an excellent job creating social endeavors, while adhering to the ever-changing COVID-19 rules and regulations. Our member social at The West Alabama Icehouse was a success with over 30 members in attendance. Our dutiful education chairs also coordinated many in-person educational dinner programs with the gracious help of our industry sponsors. Residents in the Houston area also contributed to our membership's continuing education opportunities with our Residency Grand Round series. Student engagement was also renewed this year with GCSHP hosting several events including a "Road to Residency" presentation and University of Houston and Texas Southern University Residency Mentoring Socials.

However, the year is not over, and we still have many exciting events in store for our membership! We are also eager to meet in person once again at the TSHP Annual Seminar in Round Rock, Texas in May!



Jordan Burdine, PharmD, MBA, BCPPS
GCSHP President 2021-2022

On June 2, 2022, GCSHP will be hosting the 17th Annual Houston-Area Residency Graduation to support the programs and accomplishments of our Houston area residents. The participants include over 40 PGY1, PGY2 specialty, and fellowship programs within the greater Houston area. We anticipate over 100 pharmacy professionals will participate in the event. On July 21st, GCSHP will also be hosting our annual Casino Night in-person at St. Arnolds Brewery and we would love to see you all there!

On behalf of the GCSHP Board, I would like to thank all our members for their continued dedication and support to our organization. It has truly been my honor to serve this organization and I am looking forward to the amazing opportunities that lie ahead for this organization and health-system pharmacy!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Join us in congratulating the newly elected individuals to serve on the GCSHP Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 term!



REBA FORBESS

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Reba Forbess graduated with her PharmD in 1997 and her PhD in Pharmaceutics in 1999 from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN. Reba currently works at Houston Methodist Willowbrook, where she established an Admission Medication Reconciliation Program in 2013, and as a clinical pharmacist at HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood. Her current professional interests include medication reconciliation, transitions of care, patient assistance, and pharmacy technician development. Reba has served on the GCSHP Board of Directors since 2016, starting as a Member-at-large and moving into the Membership Chair position in 2017. She also currently serves as Chair of the TSHP Membership Council and as a member of the TSHP Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, Transitions of Care Certificate Program Task Force, and Board of Directors.



CHRISTOPHER MURRAY

DIRECTOR II

Dr. Christopher Murray received his PharmD with a minor in Leadership Studies from Hampton University in 2008. He also completed a Health-System Pharmacy Administration & Leadership residency at Duke University Hospital while obtaining an MS in Health-System Pharmacy from the University of North Carolina. Following completion of residency, Chris served as a Pharmacy Operations Manager for Duke Hospital and then the Market Director of Pharmacy with CHI St. Luke's Health Memorial in the East Texas market. Currently, he serves as the Market Director of Pharmacy at CHI St. Luke's Health in the North & South Houston market. Chris values mentorship and has mentored many student pharmacists in addition to implementing preceptor programs at many sites. His professional interests include pharmacy leadership, mentorship, and medication safety. Chris is looking forward to continued involvement with TSHP and GCSHP.



AMANDA BECK

TREASURER

Dr. Amanda Beck has dedicated her early career to serving her profession and her patients. Her passion for serving the community began as a student pharmacist and has continued for the last seven years, including in her current service as the GCSHP Treasurer and TSHP Annual Seminar Committee Member. Amanda is currently a pharmacy manager at Houston Methodist Hospital and manages perioperative services and controlled substance operations for the medical center location. She also serves as the Residency Program Coordinator for the hospital's 2-year Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership (HSPAL) residency, in conjunction with The Houston Program. Amanda received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of the Incarnate Word and completed a 2-year HSPAL residency at Houston Methodist Hospital, along with a Master of Science in Pharmacy Leadership & Administration from the University of Houston.

EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

GCSHP is continuously monitoring the environment and public health authority recommendations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We are safely returning to in-person events; join us at the next one!



STEAK 48

INDUSTRY DINNER

HOSTED BY ALEXXION

Financial Considerations for
Complement-Mediated Disorders

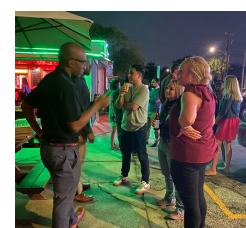


KIRBY ICE HOUSE

MEMBER SOCIAL

HOSTED BY GCSHP

Networking, drinks, pizza and fun!



EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

On March 22nd, the SSHP chapters of University of Houston and Texas Southern University Colleges of Pharmacy collaborated together to kickstart the transition back in person and held the annual 17th Residency Mentoring Social. They were joined by UHCOP Assistant Dean Dr. Nancy Ordonez, TSU Dean Rashid Mosavin, and GCSHP President, Dr. Jordan Burdine to welcome the students. Dr. Thani Gossai, Director of Pharmacy at Houston Methodist Clear Lake, was the enthusiastic keynote speaker of the evening who spoke about mentorship in pharmacy. Over fifty students and fifty residency program directors and residents around the Houston area were in attendance for the interactive social. Students were able to make connections with various program directors and residents throughout the evening. Students from both colleges were motivated and grateful for the opportunity to meet the programs in person and to learn more about residency programs.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Residency Graduation

June 2nd, 2022
Location & Time TBA

8TH ANNUAL

CASINO Night

July 21st, 2022
6:30-9:30 PM
Saint Arnold Brewing Company



UPCOMING EVENTS

TSHP ANNUAL SEMINAR

May 13-15, 2022

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center
Round Rock, TX



*Online registration open now! Join your friends and colleagues
as we celebrate the reconnection of our Texas pharmacy community.*

Visit the [TSHP Annual Seminar website](#) for more information!

UPCOMING EVENTS

GCSHP MONTHLY MEETINGS & RESIDENT GRAND ROUNDS

Each month, you can tune in to our general membership meetings for updates and opportunities to get involved! Each meeting is followed by an ACPE-accredited continuing education program from a pharmacy resident.

Visit <https://gcshtx.org/upcoming-events.html> for more information!

Date	Topic
May 12, 2022	tERROR Free Chemotherapy: Reducing Chemotherapy Errors by Using a Standardized Approach
June 9, 2022	Euglycemic Diabetic Ketoacidosis and Sodium-Glucose-Cotransporter-2 Inhibitors

TSHP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & SPECIALTY SEMINARS

Joining GCSHP includes membership to TSHP and all its exclusive opportunities! Don't miss out on the upcoming programming:

April 23, 2022: 31st Annual Frontiers in Pharmacy (El Paso)

April 30, 2022: Medication History Certificate Program

May 11-12, 2022: Alcalde Southwest Leadership Conference

Visit <https://tshp.org/page/education> for more information!

RESIDENT RECOGNITION

RESIDENT GRAND ROUNDS

Thank you to the following Houston-area residents who participated in our Resident Grand Rounds series this year so far!



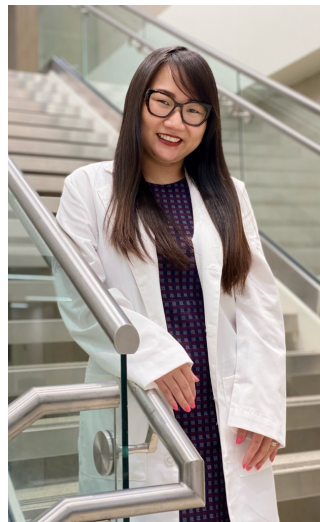
CAITLIN LABAY

Houston Methodist
Hospital



JOY NWOKE

Baptist Hospitals
of Southeast Texas



NHI NGUYEN

University of Texas
Medical Branch



YAZMIN GARZA

University of Texas
Medical Branch



KEVIN CHAN

HCA Healthcare
Clear Lake



KHALIL FORD

HCA Healthcare
Clear Lake



PARTH PATEL

HCA Healthcare
Clear Lake



RHEA SOLTAU

Memorial Hermann
The Woodlands

STUDENT CLINICAL CORNER

Pharmacoeconomics Pushing Changes in C. diff Guidelines

By: Michael McSpadden, PharmD Candidate

Preceptor: Joy Speaks, PharmD, BCPS

Clostridioides difficile infections (CDI) remain a major concern in the hospital setting. Each instance of hospitalization for CDI is expected to cost on average of \$8,911 to \$30,049. Studies put the rate of recurrent CDI somewhere between 15 to 35 percent. Given that this accumulates to an estimated cost for CDI in the United States at 5.4 billion dollars yearly, a large focus of care has been to reduce the rate of recurrent CDI as well as its spread from patient to patient within the hospital system.

Prior to fidaxomicin's release, only oral vancomycin had specific FDA approval to treat CDI. The treatment of choice historically has been oral vancomycin, not just for its effectiveness and good safety profile, but also for its low cost. As with many newly developed medications, fidaxomicin faces an uphill battle in acceptance until an adequate level of use leads to more data in evidence-based medicine. While fidaxomicin was approved in 2011, its reception has been reserved, though lately it's picked up steam.

The Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) has long been the authority on CDI treatment guidelines and have recently published a focused update for treatment in adults, the focus of which is on two newer medications. One as mentioned is fidaxomicin, which has similarities to vancomycin and some inherent advantages over it.



Both have very little systemic absorption, limiting their side effects, and maintain high therapeutic levels concentrated in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. This makes them very effective in cases of CDI. IDSA's new update suggests use of fidaxomicin for both first time and recurrent CDI, but still emphasizes that vancomycin remains an acceptable treatment. Though the clinical evidence supporting this recommendation only shows similar clinical cure and mortality rates, fidaxomicin has shown to have superior initial clinical response without subsequent recurrent symptoms. Where fidaxomicin is thought to have the therapeutic advantage is its narrower spectrum compared to vancomycin. While this may initially seem to be a disadvantage, it is thought to be less disruptive to the flora balance of the GI tract and leads to faster restoration of the normal flora.

STUDENT CLINICAL CORNER

Pharmacoeconomics Pushing Changes in C. diff Guidelines

The second agent of the focused update is bezlotoxumab, approved in late 2016. It is a monoclonal antibody whose only use is as an adjunct to oral antibiotics in CDI treatment due to its sole therapeutic effect of binding to C. difficile toxin B. It has no direct effect on the organism itself. IDSA suggests using bezlotoxumab in addition to standard antibiotics for a recurrent CDI episode, specifically when a patient has had CDI in the last 6 months. They also emphasize that those with multiple risk factors for CDI could benefit even more from this treatment option.

As an IV administered monoclonal antibody, it crosses into the GI lumen where epithelial damage occurs and binds to toxin B; how this exactly affects a sustained response is not well-known yet. One potential explanation is the long half-life of bezlotoxumab of 18-19 days, dosed only once at 10mg/kg and can be detected for up to 3 months from administration. Given its release into the lumen only at areas of damage, it may allow for the GI tract to heal more effectively, preventing recurrence. Several large studies were referenced for the new CDI recommendations; MODIFY I/II, EXTEND among others. It was consistently shown that use of the newer agents had greater clinical benefits over risks.

Cost and value of care are an important consideration for the new recommendations. The IDSA panel found the treatments costs to be similar between the two agents, and in some cases, more cost effective than oral

vancomycin. Treatment with fidaxomicin in one study evaluated showed a cost of \$14,442 per patient compared \$14,179 for vancomycin, a very similar overall cost of treatment. When evaluating certain subgroups such as cancer patients and those with concomitant antibiotic use, fidaxomicin provided clear savings. Bezlotoxumab was found not to be cost effective in first occurrence CDI treatment, thus limiting the recommendation to only recurrent CDI diagnosis.

The largest value in the new treatments comes from quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) comparison. For first time occurrence CDI, use of fidaxomicin had an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of \$32,000 to \$52,000 per QALY gained compared to vancomycin. Similar value was found in the use for recurrent CDI cases. While a large change in usage is yet to come, when prices for these medications fall and become widely accepted, the value of these agents is already here. Looking toward the next change in care now and knowing some of the evidence behind it, prepares us as professionals. So that we can take advantage of the evolutions in standards of care for CDI, as soon as they occur, to the benefit of our patients.

1. Dharbhamulla N., et al. Journal of Clinical Medicine Research, 11(1), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.14740/jocmr3531w>
2. Nanwa N, et al. American Journal of Gastroenterology, 110(4), 511–519. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ajg.2015.48>
3. Zhanel G, et al. Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology, 26(6), 305–312. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2015/934594>
4. Bien J, et al. Therapeutic Advances in Gastroenterology, 6(1), 53–68. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1756283x12454590>
5. Johnson S., et al. Clinical Infectious Diseases, 73(5). <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciab549>

STUDENT COLUMN

Two Students' Two Cents on a Health-System Pharmacy Observership Program

By: Catherine Vu and Alexis Nguyen, PharmD Students
Program Coordinator: Kathryn Pidcock, PharmD, BCPS

The Houston Methodist Hospital Summer Observership Program is a comprehensive 6-week program that exposes students to the various fields of hospital pharmacy practice through daily clinical shadowing, while allowing them to expand their professional networks and work on clinical and quality improvement research projects. The students of the 2021 Summer Observership Program attended multidisciplinary patient safety meetings, learned about new ongoing projects from pharmacy managers and administrative specialists, and built upon their professional development through CV/Letter of Intent workshops, mock interviews, and one-on-one meetings with pharmacy leaders. Here we have the 2021 Houston Methodist Summer Observers and current P3s at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy, Catherine Vu and Alexis Nguyen, recount their personal experiences of their summer spent at Houston Methodist Hospital Texas Medical Center.

"This program afforded me the incredible opportunity of learning from leading clinical and administrative pharmacists practicing in the world's largest medical center. I attended interdisciplinary rounds with pharmacists making recommendations to physicians, nurses, social workers, and more. I was inspired by the numerous pharmacists I shadowed practicing at the

top of their license and demonstrating to me first-hand the indispensable role our profession has on the patient care team. Although pharmacy practice will never be without its traditional roles, Houston Methodist expands the cognitive functions and opportunities of the profession with pharmacists leading the forefront of medicine. From the oncology pharmacy team establishing the department's first collaborative practice agreement to the pharmacists working intimately with physicians and social workers on the hospital's unique psychiatric consult service, Houston Methodist elevates the pharmacy profession, and in turn, inspires their students to do the same." -Alexis Nguyen, PharmD Student from the University of Houston



Alexis Nguyen (left) and Kathryn Pidcock (right)

STUDENT COLUMN

Two Students' Two Cents on a Health-System Pharmacy Observership Program

"Each day spent at Houston Methodist Hospital was a new and exciting learning experience. I received invaluable professional development opportunities while observing how pharmacists can impact patients' lives. As I met with various administrative and management specialists, it depicted the systematic and operational importance of excellent leadership in pharmacy, as well as the value of pharmacists and their services. Every pharmacist I met regarded patient safety and care as their highest priority, which reminded me of why I chose to pursue pharmacy. The Summer Observership allowed me to apply and deepen my knowledge of concepts from school, explore my pharmacy field interests, and expand my research skills through various projects. Seeing how Methodist continues to drive innovation through technologically and academically leading medicine while exemplifying the spirit of lifelong learning showed me the potential our pharmacy profession has to gain in the future." -Catherine Vu, PharmD Student from the University of Houston



Catherine Vu (left) and Kathryn Pidcock (right)

Applications for the Pharmacy Student Observership at Houston Methodist open each year in October. For more information, please visit <https://www.houstonmethodist.org/education/pharmacy/student-observership/>

LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP)

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

By: Catherine Vu, President



In Fall 2021, the University of Houston College of Pharmacy SSHP chapter provided students with a variety of professional development, volunteering, and learning events to increase their knowledge of residency programs and to prepare them for their future in pharmacy.

In October, we hosted our annual Residency Workshop where 5 residents from different fields shared their insight on how to prepare for residency and what a typical day is like for a resident. We also had Dr. Oluwatoyin A. Kuloyo from Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center share her views on the “perfect residency candidate” from the perspective of a Residency Program Director.

For pharmacy week, we shared various social media posts highlighting pharmacy technicians, residents, clinical pharmacy specialists, pharmacy professors, and directors of pharmacy. This year, we chose to highlight the most impactful patient experience from each realm to depict the influence of pharmacy in different areas of patient care. In addition to the events advancing our medication safety and antibiotic awareness initiatives, we hosted volunteering opportunities such as our Second Bloom event, which consisted of repurposing wedding flowers for patients at Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital.

In October, SSHP held our joint annual Networking Workshop with AMCP, IPhO and SCCP. In this workshop, we had 3 different guest speakers share tips on mentorship and networking. We incorporated interactive activities during this workshop, which allowed students to practice their communication skills and receive immediate feedback from our guest speakers.

For our last major event of the semester, UH SSHP hosted our annual Residency Showcase over Zoom on November 5th. This year, we had over 70 programs participate and approximately 400 pharmacy students across all Texas schools that signed up to attend. This event was a huge success as students were able to speak to different programs, both in- and out- of- state. Students were able to network with residents and program directors, learning about each of the programs virtually.

We hope everyone had a great semester and we look forward to the next semester!

LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP)

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



By: Destiny Riddle, President

In an effort to maintain student engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, we as a chapter have conducted several events on the topic of pharmacy practice residency. Our first meeting was geared towards key points to consider when choosing a residency program with emphasis on how to make effective financial decisions in the process. Our second meeting discussed the importance of well-being and resilience both in school and in the workforce. One of our key events for this semester focused on informing students on efficient ways to research residency programs, strategies for developing a competitive pharmacy residency application, and utilizing Midyear to their advantage from recent TSU graduates. We hosted a residency insight program in collaboration with GCSHP that focused on the topic of reasons to pursue residency, what to look for in a residency program and how to make the most of our experiences. As the semester progressed, our attendance steadily increased. We volunteered at Project C.U.R.E. as an organization to close out the semester.

In the Spring, we are anticipating the Residency Mentoring Social in collaboration with the University of Houston College of Pharmacy, mock interviews and volunteer opportunities for students.



LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP)

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

By: Sharon Halliburton, Vice President



At the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP) strives to continually represent the ASHP mission by facilitating the professional development of its members, with resultant goals of optimizing patient care and advocacy. With these professional efforts in mind, TAMU SSHP has utilized its resources to benefit patients in our local communities, as well as catalyze student development this year.

Starting with our membership drive early in fall 2021, SSHP expanded our positive impact to the incoming class of 2025. Our fall semester featured monthly meetings of our local SSHP chapter, which was illuminated by the bright perspectives of our guest speakers. Both guest speakers devoted their time to sharing their valuable perspectives, inspiring many attendees in the process.

Fall 2021 also carried several local events for TAMU SSHP, beginning with the local clinical skills competition, which enabled its participants to utilize their clinical knowledge to collaboratively solve patient cases. SSHP hosted PAI 2030 shortly afterwards, which was a week of events and resources dedicated to the advancement of the pharmacy profession. Enriched with brilliant guest speakers and impactful infographics, PAI week highlighted the collaborative impact we can have on advocating for this profession

The fall semester was also illuminated by the consistent efforts of the SSHP committee chairs, who hosted numerous educational meetings and gave back to the community through service-learning activities, such as health screenings at the Kingsville Farmer's Market. The fall semester concluded with the virtual TAMU SSHP mock residency interview event in November, which allowed P4 students to practice interviewing prior to ASHP Midyear, equipping them with personalized feedback from experienced faculty and staff.

Following a vibrant and educational fall semester, TAMU SSHP plans to continue on a similar trajectory as we navigate the spring 2022 semester. The executive committee has already initiated plans to create effective, resource-filled general meetings for the spring semester.

Although TAMU SSHP has thrived throughout this academic year, our spectrum of impact would not be possible without the continual support of our TAMU SSHP organization advisors and the GCSHP executive board, both of which we are sincerely grateful for. By working collaboratively, we are able to empower one another to embody the ASHP mission and flourish as pharmacy professionals, all with the ultimate goal of positively impacting the lives of countless patients.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022



PRESIDENT

Jordan Burdine, PharmD, MBA, BCPPS



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Thomas Roduta, PharmD, MS



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Laura Blackburn, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM



DIRECTOR 1

Christina York, PharmD



DIRECTOR 2

Telyssa Anderson, PharmD, MBA, BCOP



TREASURER

Amanda Beck, PharmD, MS



RECORDING SECRETARY

Chibuokem Amuneke-Nze, PharmD



COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

Niha Zafar, PharmD



NEW PRACTITIONER AMBASSADOR

Niaz Deyhim, PharmD, MS, BCPS

MEMBERS AT-LARGE

2021-2022



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Reba Forbess, PhD, PharmD



EDUCATION CO-CHAIR

Natalie Finch, PharmD, BCPS



EDUCATION CO-CHAIR

Mohammad Qasim Adil, PharmD, BCPS



INDUSTRY CHAIR

Rick Ulasewich



TECHNICIAN CHAIR

Samantha Hanner



SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR

Noor Zaidan, PharmD



WEBSITE CHAIR

Alan Luu, PharmD



NEWSLETTER CHAIR

Joy Speaks, PharmD, BCPS



STUDENT SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

Catherine Vu - University of Houston



Destiny Riddle - Texas Southern University



Sharon Halliburton - Texas A&M University



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