

NEWSLETTER

GULF COAST SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

What an exciting time it is to be part of the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists! As we step into the 2025-2026 year, we are filled with gratitude for our thriving community of nearly 450 members whose passion, dedication, and expertise continue to shape the future of pharmacy in our region. Together, we are not only advancing our profession, but also uplifting one another, mentoring the next generation, and making a meaningful impact on the patients and communities we serve.



Niaz Deyhim, PharmD, MS, BCPS

We are especially thrilled to welcome our newest organizational members – Houston Methodist Willowbrook, HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood, and University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). Their partnership reflects the growing strength and reach of our society, and we look forward to the fresh ideas, collaboration, and opportunities these institutions bring.

This past year reminded us just how vibrant and engaged our membership is. Under the leadership of Immediate Past-President Chibuokem Amuneke-Nze, PharmD, MBA, we proudly hosted our 20th Annual Residency Graduation – a momentous occasion honoring the hard work, resilience, and accomplishments of our resident graduates across the Gulf Coast area. We also gathered for our 3rd Annual Game Night at Saint Arnold's Brewery, planned by our Senior Director Alan Luu, PharmD, MS, BCPS, where over 100 members came together for an evening of connection, camaraderie, and fun. From raffle prizes to laughter shared, it was a true reflection of the spirit of GCSHP. Most inspiring of all, the evening raised nearly \$500 for the GCSHP Student Leadership Scholarship, ensuring that we continue to invest in the bright future of our student pharmacists.

We are also eager to continue support our area residents throughout the year with monthly Resident Grand Rounds, providing an invaluable platform for learning and collaboration, with the first event of the residency year in October 2025. Special recognition to the leadership behind our resident programming, our New Practitioner Ambassador, Michael Toraño, PharmD, MBA, MS, BCPS, CPHQ, and Tyler England, PharmD, MS, whose collaboration has been instrumental in coordinating and supporting all of our resident-focused events and initiatives. Their dedication ensures that our resident members have meaningful opportunities for growth, learning, and connection. A residency social event to welcome residents to the area is also being planned for the Fall.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our community celebrated Juneteenth with Karaoke Night at Bar.Kor.D., a lively evening of music and joy with our members. In August, we kept the energy going with a membership social at Cidercade Houston, where our pharmacy students came together to unwind over arcade games and good company. Thanks to the support of our attendees, GCSHP was able to donate \$80 in proceeds to our local food bank alongside Houston Restaurant Weeks. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our Membership Chairs, Faith Rutherford, PharmD, BCPS and Rochelle Akpaffiong, PharmD, MBA – HCM, DPLA, for their dedication in planning these wonderful events that keep our members connected and energized.

Looking ahead, we are excited to reconvene our Dinner with a Pharmacist program for students, providing them the chance to engage with practicing professionals in a meaningful way. In addition, we are launching a brand-new Dinner with a Technician series to inspire and support our technician students and colleagues as they grow in their careers and explore opportunities within pharmacy.

As we continue into this exciting year, we are proud to announce the return of our 3rd Annual Seminar, led by our outstanding Annual Seminar Committee Chairs, Prem Oommen, PharmD, MBA and Leslie Joseph, BS, RPhT, ILM. This 1-day event will be held at the Westin – Texas Medical Center and promises to be an inspiring gathering for pharmacy professionals in the Greater Houston area. The Annual Seminar will feature a wide variety of continuing education (CE) opportunities accredited for both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Alongside CE programming, participants can look forward to preceptor development, exhibits, raffles, and countless opportunities to connect with colleagues and industry leaders. Please be sure to mark your calendars – the official program agenda of topics and speakers will be available soon! A special kudos goes to our Education Team – Divya Srinivasan, PhD, RPh, Gordana Isajloska Jasmak, RPh, BCPS, DPLA, and Sherrie M. Myers, RCPHt – for their exceptional efforts in coordinating both our monthly industry dinners and shaping the educational programming for our Annual Seminar. Their hard work and dedication help ensure that every GCSHP member has access to high-quality learning and professional development opportunities.

Finally, we are proud to continue our tradition of service at the Annual City of Houston Mayor's Back to School Fest, where we partnered with the University of Houston College of Pharmacy to precept student pharmacists with health fair efforts, including blood pressure and glycemic checks. This initiative reinforces the value of giving back to our community while empowering the next generation of leaders in pharmacy.

As we look forward, we are especially excited about the work of our amazing committees – including Pharmacy Technician, New Practitioner and Student, Legislative, Membership, and Annual Seminar. These groups are the heartbeat of our society, driving forward initiatives that directly engage our membership with value-added activities, resources, and opportunities to make an impact.

Embarking on the year ahead, our goals are ambitious yet inspiring: to strengthen engagement, expand educational programming, celebrate achievements, and continue advancing the voice of health-system pharmacy across the Gulf Coast region. We are confident that, together, we will make this another remarkable year for GCSHP.

Here's to a year filled with growth, connection, and impact – we cannot wait to see all that we will accomplish, together.

With gratitude and excitement,

Niaz Deyhim, PharmD, MS, BCPS

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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

GCSHP RESIDENCY GRADUATION

Hosted at the TMC Innovation center, PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents across Houston were recognized for a successful completion of their programs. Dr. Alison Gulbis, PharmD, BCOP, FASTCT, Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services at MD Anderson Cancer Center was the keynote speaker.



CIDERCADDE MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

Members brought out their competitive side at Cidercade. GCSHP donated \$80 to the Houston Food Bank based on how many members attended the event! This event kicked off the academic year and we wish our student members the best!



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



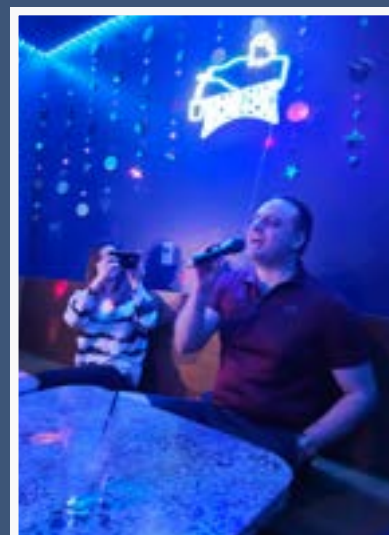
GCSHP ANNUAL GAME NIGHT

Over 100 members gathered for our Annual Game Night at Saint Arnold's Brewery. The event raised \$500 for the GCSHP Student Leadership Scholarship!



JUNETEENTH KARAOKE NIGHT

Members, including many board members, sang their hearts out at our karaoke event on Juneteenth, filling the evening with joy and song!



UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL CHAPTER EVENTS

INDUSTRY DINNER

**Staphylococcus aureus Bacteremia:
Providing Rapid Bloodstream clearance**
by Innovia Specialty Therapeutics at Perry's
Steakhouse and Grille

SEP 25TH @ 6:30PM

[RSVP HERE](#)

NEW PRACTITIONER SOCIAL

Pickleball social at Bumpy Pickle
Join us to network, share experiences, and
make new friends! Food and fun included!

SEP 26TH 6 – 8 PM

[RSVP HERE](#)

VOLUNTEER EVENT

**MD Anderson's Boot Walk to End
Cancer** at TMC Helix Park

NOV 15TH 7 AM – 12 PM

[RSVP HERE](#)

STAY IN THE LOOP!



Check the GCSHP website for regular
updates on upcoming events!

[CHECK HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Each month you can tune in virtually to an ACPE-accredited CE program from a local pharmacy resident provided without charge as part of your membership benefits!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2025-2026 Grand Rounds dates! Invitations will be sent via email at a later date.

RESIDENT GRAND ROUNDS

October 22nd

Sadika Eslaminejad, PharmD
Serotonin Syndrome
MD Anderson Cancer Center

November 12th

Mar Medina, PharmD
Painfully Aware: Treating Pain
Without the Usual Suspects
Michael E. DeBakey VA
Medical Center

December 17th

Mealis Taouk, PharmD
Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Houston Methodist Hospital
TMC

January 21st

Chuong Pham, PharmD
Beta Blocker Use in MI
HCA Clear Lake

GCSHP 3RD ANNUAL SEMINAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH 7:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

GULF COAST SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR – FALL 2025

DATE/TIME: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 – 7:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
LOCATION: THE WESTIN HOUSTON MEDICAL CENTER/MUSEUM DISTRICT
ADDRESS: 1709 DRYDEN RD, HOUSTON, TX 77030



SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

****All events are accredited for both Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians.****

PROGRAM AGENDA

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 7:00 - 8:20 am | Registration, Breakfast CE 1 & Exhibitors
<i>Sponsored by Pharmacy Times/PTCE</i> |
| 8:20 - 8:30 am | Welcome, Announcements, & Introduction
<i>GCSHP President Niaz Deyhim, PharmD, MS, BCPS</i> |
| 8:30 - 9:20 am | CE Session 2 (Joint): Human Trafficking
<i>Claire A. Latifolahi, PharmD, MS; Kerri Taylor, MS & Sarah Kubes, PharmD, BCPPS</i> |
| 9:30 - 10:20 am | CE Session 3: Cracking the J-Code
<i>Michael Toraflo, PharmD, MBA, MS, BCPS, CPHQ</i> |
| 9:30 - 10:20 am | CE Session 3: Complicated People and Emotional Fitness
<i>Divya Varkey, PharmD, MS</i> |
| 10:30 - 11:20 am | CE Session 4 (Joint): Pharmacy Workflow with Technological Innovation
<i>Sapana Desai, PharmD, BCPS & Meghan Thibeaux, PharmD, BCPS</i> |
| 11:30 - 12:15 pm | CE Session 5 (Joint): USP 795 and 800 Update
<i>Matt Martin, PharmD, BCSCP</i> |
| 12:20 - 2:00 pm | Lunch CE 6, Exhibitors, Raffles & Leader-Buyer Breakout w/ Vendors
<i>Sponsored by Takeda & Kedrion Biopharma, Inc featuring Dr. Jerry Siegel, PharmD</i> |
| 2:05 - 3:05 pm | CE Session 7: Automatic Dispensing Cabinets
<i>Thomas Roduta, PharmD, MS, BCPS & Steven Cooper, CPhT</i> |
| 2:05 - 3:05 pm | CE Session 7: Student-New Practitioner Career Development Panel |
| 3:10 - 4:05 pm | CE Session 8 (Joint): Texas State Board of Pharmacy Law Update
<i>Compliance Officer Terri Burrows, PharmD, JD</i> |
| 4:10 - 4:30 pm | Closing Remarks and Raffle Drawing
<i>GCSHP President-Elect Prem C. Dommen, PharmD, MBA, RPh</i> |

This is a great opportunity to learn from one another while obtaining CPE at the same time.
We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Seminar!

**Early Bird Admission
Fees (Valid until
October 26th):**

GCSHP Members:
RPh: \$30 per person

Student/Resident/
CPhT:
\$15 per person

Non-Member
RPh:
\$50 per person

Student/Resident/
CPhT:
\$30 per person

UPCOMING EVENTS

TSHP SPECIALTY SEMINAR



SEP 27TH 8 AM - 5:30 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TSHP ANNUAL SEMINAR



APR 24 - 26, 2026

GALVESTON, TX

TSHP STATEWIDE EVENTS

ANNUAL SEMINAR SPEAKER REQUEST

TSHP is seeking educators and experts in pharmacy to speak at our 2026 Annual Seminar.

DUE SEP 30TH

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

NOMINATIONS FOR TSHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board positions for which they are seeking nominations are the TSHP President-Elect Designee and the TSHP Secretary-Elect

DUE NOV 15TH

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

GET INVOLVED

DINNER WITH A PHARMACIST

Initiative partnering the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists with local pharmacy schools to expose pharmacy students in a small-group setting (typically 5-10 students) to pharmacists from various backgrounds, specialties, and institutions. It is a chance for students to network and ask questions to help decide on a career path.

[PHARMACISTS SIGN-UP HERE](#)

PUBLISH YOUR WORK WITH TSHP

Do you have research, important information, or other stories you'd love to get published?

TSHP has several outlets for publication including TJHP, Section Newsletters, TSHP bulletin, and Poster Competition

TJHP is a member benefit and is published digitally two to three times per year.

[READ CURRENT ISSUE](#)

TSHP SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarship applications for undergraduate and graduate students are now open through December 1st.

Application process is easier than ever with the ability to apply to all or some scholarships with a single application

[APPLY HERE](#)

CLINICAL CORNER

COMPLICATED URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS (cUTI) CLINICAL GUIDELINES FOR TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT: INFECTION DISEASES SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S (IDSA) 2025 UPDATE

WRITTEN BY:



ADAM CAMPOS
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
PHARM D CANDIDATE 2026



MELODY RICHARDS
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
PHARM D CANDIDATE 2026

SPECIAL THANKS TO
HANHNHI DUONG PHARM D,
BCPS, BCCP FOR PRECEPTING
THIS REVIEW

In July 2025, the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) released its first comprehensive clinical practice guidelines for the management and treatment of complicated urinary tract infections (cUTIs), addressing a long-standing gap in guidance. These new guidelines are intended for use in both inpatient and outpatient settings and expand upon prior recommendations that were limited to uncomplicated cystitis and pyelonephritis in women. Notably, the updated guidance provides a clinically meaningful classification of uncomplicated versus complicated UTIs (urinary tract infection) and introduces a structured, stepwise approach to empiric antibiotic selection for cUTI. It also includes recommendations on the appropriate timing for transitioning from intravenous to oral therapy and outlines optimal durations of treatment.

These guidelines **narrowed the definition of complicated UTI and broadened the definition of uncomplicated UTI**, allowing for a greater population to be classified as uncomplicated UTIs and be treated as such, including males and immunocompromised individuals that have infections confined to the bladder without systemic symptoms. Complicated UTIs encompass infections that extend beyond the bladder and are accompanied by systemic symptoms and include pyelonephritis and UTIs with systemic systems associated with indwelling catheters. Please note, these guidelines do not apply to those with bacterial prostatitis, epididymitis, and orchitis

Old Classifications Narrow Definition of Uncomplicated UTI			
Uncomplicated UTI	Acute cystitis in afebrile nonpregnant premenopausal women with no diabetes and no urologic abnormalities	➔	
Acute Pyelonephritis	Acute kidney infection in women otherwise meeting the definition of uncomplicated UTI above		
Complicated UTI	All other UTIs		
		New Classifications Broader Definition of Uncomplicated UTI & Clearer Definition of Complicated UTI	
Uncomplicated UTI		Uncomplicated UTI	Infection confined to the bladder in afebrile women or men
Complicated UTI		Complicated UTI	Infection beyond the bladder in women or men. Includes: pyelonephritis, febrile or bacteremic UTI, catheter-associated, prostatitis* (*Not covered by these guidelines)

CLINICAL CORNER

Process to Guide Empiric Antibiotic Choice for cUTI

A Four Step Approach

Step 1: Severity of Illness

Selection of empiric antibiotic therapy be initially guided by the severity of illness, specifically by whether the patient is in sepsis or not. *See "Potential Empiric Antibiotics for cUTI" below for specific agent details

Preferred IV Agents in cUTI Without Sepsis:

Third or fourth generation cephalosporins, piperacillin-tazobactam, or fluoroquinolones

Preferred Agents in cUTI With Sepsis:

Same agents as without sepsis with addition of carbapenems as an option

Step 2: Patient Specific Risk Factors for Resistant Uropathogens

Avoid antibiotics to which the patient has had a resistant pathogen isolated from the urine previously, typically within the past 6 months

Avoid fluoroquinolones if the patient has been exposed to that class of antibiotic in the past 12 months

Step 3: Patient Specific Considerations

Patient-specific factors (risk of allergic reaction, contraindications, or drug-drug interactions, etc.) should be considered when selecting empiric therapy

Step 4: Antibigram Use

For patients with sepsis assumed to be caused by cUTI, use local, recent, and relevant-to-the-patient antibiograms to guide empiric therapy

No such antibiogram recommendations are made for cUTI without sepsis to tailor empiric selection

Potential Empiric Antibiotics for cUTI

Condition of the Patient	Preferred	Alternative
Sepsis with or without shock ^{***}	Third or fourth generation cephalosporins, [*] carbapenems, [*] piperacillin-tazobactam, fluoroquinolones [§]	Novel beta lactam-beta lactamase inhibitors, [*] ceftiderocol, plazomicin, or older aminoglycosides [¶]
Without sepsis, IV route of therapy	Third or fourth generation cephalosporins, [*] piperacillin-tazobactam, or fluoroquinolones [§]	Carbapenems, [*] newer agents (novel beta lactams-beta lactamase inhibitors, [*] ceftiderocol, plazomicin), or older aminoglycosides [¶]
Without sepsis, oral route of therapy	Fluoroquinolones [§] or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole	Amoxicillin-clavulanate or oral cephalosporins

Use the Four-Step approach above to choose among these antibiotics

^{*}Difficult-to-treat resistant pathogens may require use of drugs not listed here (e.g., colistin); refer to IDSA Antimicrobial Resistance guidance.

[†]Third and fourth generation IV cephalosporins include: ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, cefepime, and ceftolozone.

^{***}Sepsis is life-threatening organ dysfunction related to infection, identified by SOFA score of 2 or higher. Screening tools such as qSOFA or SIRS may be useful for presumptive identification. In sepsis with shock, in step 4 choose an antibiotic for which the susceptibilities of the most relevant organisms are at least 80%. In sepsis without shock, in step 4 choose an antibiotic for which the susceptibilities of the most relevant organisms are at least 80%.

[§]The fluoroquinolones approved for UTI currently include ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin.

[¶]The carbapenems currently include imipenem-cilastatin, doripenem, meropenem, and etrapenem.

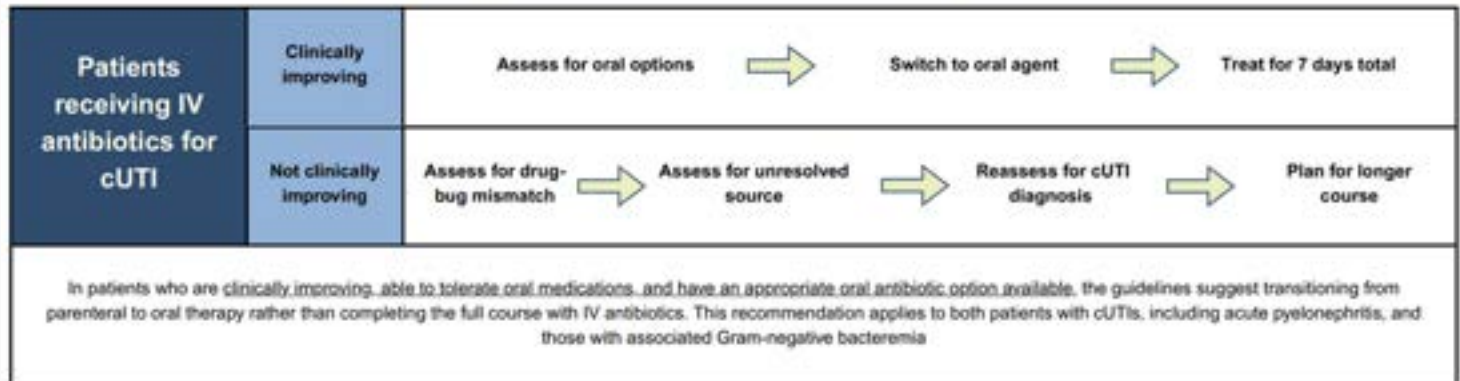
^{††}The novel beta lactam-beta lactamase inhibitors currently include ceftolozane-tazobactam, ceftazidime-avibactam, meropenem-vaborbactam, and imipenem-cilastatin-relebactam.

^{¶¶}Older aminoglycosides include gentamicin, amikacin, and tobramycin.

CLINICAL CORNER

Timing of Intravenous to Oral Antibiotics Transition for cUTI

Change to PO from IV is recommended rather than completing full IV course



Duration of Antibiotics for cUTI

Shorter course (5-7 days) recommended over longer course (10-14 days)

cUTI and Clinically Improving on Effective Agent	cUTI with associated Gram-negative bacteremia and clinically improving on Effective Agent
5-7 days of fluoroquinolone OR 7 days of non-fluoroquinolone	7 days

Effective Agent: agent achieves therapeutic levels in the urine and relevant tissue and is active against the causative pathogen
Patient Population: most studies excluded patients with indwelling urinary catheters, severe sepsis, immunocompromising conditions, abscesses in the urinary tract, chronic kidney disease, bacterial prostatitis, complete urinary obstruction, or undergoing urologic surgical procedures.

REFERENCES:

TrautnerBW, Cortes- PenfieldNW, GuptaK, etal. Complicated urinary tract infections (cUTI): clinical guidelines for treatment and management. Infectious Diseases Society of America; July 17, 2025. Updated July 17, 2025. Accessed July 26, 2025. <https://www.idsociety.org/practice- guideline/complicated- urinary- tract- infections/>

STUDENT SECTION

UHCOP SSHP Kicks Off the Year at the Mayor's Back to School Fest

WRITTEN BY JEREMY NINAN, PHARMD CANDIDATE

On August 2, 2025, our UHCOP SSHP officers joined thousands of families at the annual Mayor's Back to School Fest at the George R. Brown Convention Center. This large-scale community event brings together thousands of Houston families to prepare students for the year ahead, offering free school supplies, health screenings, and educational resources. This year marked our first time hosting three interactive booths: MyPlate Nutrition, Medication Safety, and Pharmacy Career Awareness.



Our MyPlate booth reached 100 attendees, promoting healthy eating habits from an early age to help prevent heart disease, stroke, and obesity later in life. Children built their own balanced meal using stickers and drawing materials, while our volunteers shared tips on incorporating fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, and protein into everyday meals. Parents and kids learned how to prepare meals together that can make food more enjoyable and encourage healthier lifelong habits.

STUDENT SECTION

UHCOP SSHP Kicks Off the Year at the Mayor's Back to School Fest

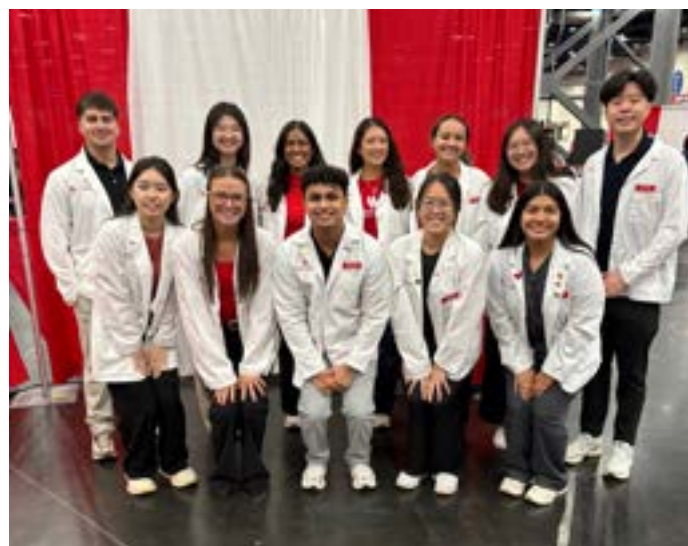


The Medication Safety booth, which welcomed 92 attendees, provided FDA-backed guidance for parents on safely administering medicines to their children during the school year. Flyers highlighted key tips such as dosing based on weight and age, avoiding medicines for children younger than the labeled age limit without consulting a physician, and always using the provided measuring device rather than household utensils.

Officers engaged parents by walking them through the flyer's contents and answering questions to ensure the information could be applied effectively at home.

At the Pharmacy Career booth, 88 attendees had the chance to imagine themselves as future healthcare professionals.

Wearing a pharmacist's white coat, they learned about the pharmacist's role in patient care, medication safety, and the broader healthcare system. The experience sparked curiosity and inspired many to consider careers in the medical field.



This event not only allowed SSHP to serve the community but also highlighted the diverse impact pharmacists have on public health, such as promoting nutrition, ensuring safe medication practice, and inspiring the next generation of healthcare leaders.

MEET THE OFFICERS

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



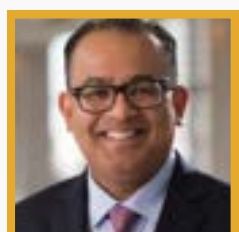
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Niaz Deyhim, PharmD, MS, BCPS
Pharmacy Administrative Specialist at
Houston Methodist Hospital



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MS, BCPS
System 340B Manager at Memorial Hermann
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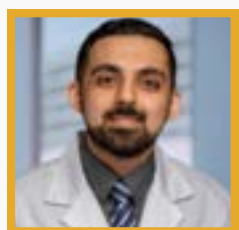
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Region Manager of Pharmacy Reimbursement
for the Mountain Region of CommonSpirit Health

MEET THE OFFICERS

2025-2026 MEMBERS AT LARGE



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