

# S O U T H D A K O T A P H A R M A C I S T



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- 136th Annual Convention Recap
- Meet the 2022 Award Winners
- 2023 Legislature: Your Story Matters
- Three Reasons You Need an Individual Professional Liability Policy

FALL EDITION 2022



Our mission is to promote, serve and protect the pharmacy profession.

## South Dakota Pharmacists Association

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Melissa DeNoon, Director  
Melanie Houg, Assistant

# Calendar

## OCTOBER

### American Pharmacists Month

- 1-4 National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Annual Meeting | Kansas City, MO
- 10 Native American Day
- 18 National Pharmacy Technician Day
- 16-22 National Pharmacy Week
- 20 Rules Hearing, South Dakota Board of Pharmacy  
Sioux Falls, SD | 1 pm

## NOVEMBER

- 11 Veteran's Day
- 24 Thanksgiving Day

## DECEMBER

- 9 South Dakota Board of Pharmacy Meeting  
Sioux Falls, SD | 9 am - 1 pm CST
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

## SAVE THE DATE

### Legislative Days

February 7-8, 2023 | Pierre, SD

### SDPhA 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

September 15-16, 2023 | Deadwood, SD

*The South Dakota Pharmacist is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official positions or views of the South Dakota Pharmacists Association.*

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*If you are not on our mass e-mail system check our website periodically for district meetings and other upcoming events. They will always be posted at: [www.sdpha.org](http://www.sdpha.org).*





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# Director's COMMENTS

**Amanda Bacon // SDPhA Executive Director**



## **Happy Fall!**

It was absolutely outstanding to see so many of you in September at the 136 th Annual Convention. Our first in-person meeting since 2019 did not disappoint! Thank you to all of you for joining us – the feedback we've received has been fantastic, and we are already looking forward to Deadwood next year! Thank

you so much to the incredible SDPhA board which does so much work behind the scenes, the speakers who clearly brought their A-game, and the student volunteers who take so many things off my plate. A special thank you to Kaylee Ayers and Annabelle Simpson, our SCAPP student liaisons. I ask, and they just make magic happen – we appreciate them so very much!

## **PBM's Initiatives – What's Next**

If you attended convention, you heard a very detailed update from Craig Matson, our lead lobbyist on this issue. To say we have been hard at work since convention is an understatement. As we work to move forward on PBM initiatives for 2022, we have had some very productive meetings with a variety of stakeholders. We'll have more news to share when the time is right on some of the particulars, but here's what you can do – right now.

## **Talk to your legislators**

Your story matters. They need to hear from you – and sooner is better. You don't necessarily need "official" talking points from me – although those are for sure

coming. But what you need to share most, is the honest truth of your story. Bring them into your pharmacy. Show them how DIR fees work – and teach them about all the other fees for that matter. Explain what you can, and can't say when talking to a patient about their options. Your story is stronger than any set of bullet points I'm going to give you. There's a time and place for those, for certain, but what we need most is for our lawmakers to hear from their trusted pharmacist about the reality of what this means for you day in and day out. And the reality of what your patients will have to deal with if you cannot continue to operate.

They need to see and hear it from you that our hometown pharmacies continue to have to sell out to larger entities, or close altogether. The pharmacy deserts in South Dakota are growing larger, and we all know no mail-order service can replace the genuine care you provide. This is where you have to bite the bullet, and brag about yourself, and your teams for a hot minute. You are, in many cases across the state, THE healthcare provider in your community. You ARE the entry point into the healthcare system for so many who would be statistics without you. With all due respect to the shipping companies – the delivery driver (even if a patient actually sees them) cannot counsel a patient on drug interactions, take a blood pressure reading, or help someone determine a proper OTC product for any number of other conditions. YOU are the medication experts, and you ARE the trusted source and lifeline for so many in our rural areas. Our lawmakers need a clear picture of exactly that.

The next generation of pharmacists is stepping up here to assist in these advocacy efforts. We're working with SCAPP (the student organization) to pair students who have a passion for advocacy with our pharmacists across the state



to, together, have these conversations with legislators. Our students are eager to fight for future of their profession – and they’re rightfully looking to you to help lead the way. This is a fantastic opportunity to introduce them to true grassroots advocacy efforts, as well as their lawmakers so they are confident in reaching out and having future conversations. It shows our lawmakers plenty, too. It highlights a resilience and commitment to the profession and patents when lawmakers see the mentoring taking place in real time, and our future pharmacists ready to step into the role of advocating for the preservation of their calling. To get paired with a student to join you in your conversations with lawmakers, shoot me an email (SOON!) and let’s get this party started!

### Pharmacy Technician University

We set a record this year for the number of high school seniors participating in the DIAL program’s pharmacy technician course, which we assist with through TRC and Pharmacy Technician University. I know so many of you are looking for help anywhere you can find it, and this year’s class of 15 (really – FIFTEEN!) students gives me hope for what could lie ahead. Similarly, we’ve had a higher-than-average number of individuals enroll on their own to take the course which is a Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) recognized training program. The vast majority of enrollees, however, come from retail and hospital pharmacies who enroll their technicians. We are pleased to continue to make this option available for an extremely reasonable rate. Enrollment provides one year of access to the comprehensive online training program, designed for technicians of all levels that includes exam prep for the PTCE® and ExCPT exams, as well as the CSPT™ exam. To learn more, or to enroll a technician just reach out to me at the SDPhA office.

### Refill Reminder

Finally, I want to draw your attention to an article in this edition of the Journal from some of our SCAPP students reminding you to refill your own cup – and I’m not talking about your coffee or soda. I’m talking about taking care of YOU. If you’ve read my comments at all in the past two years, you’ve heard me say often we can’t pour from an empty cup. The “normal” stressors and strains of pharmacy were only compounded by the pandemic. Now as we start to move to an endemic phase, we find healthcare as a whole in a dire situation, and pharmacy is no exception. The toll of all of it is frighteningly real. Yet pharmacy remains an extremely rewarding profession. It’s why you chose it in the first place, and it’s why you’re still here.

In addition to information presented by the students, we’ll soon launch a Well-Being page geared specifically to pharmacy professionals on the resources section of our website. It’s a mission close to my heart. You’ll hear from me by email and Facebook when it’s up and ready. In the meantime – if you have resources that are helping you, and/or your pharmacy team – send them my way. I’m happy to add them to the page. Until then, take care of you. You’re a limited edition.

**AMANDA BACON**

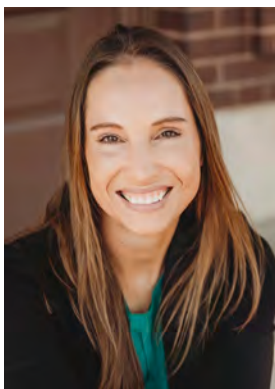


# President's PERSPECTIVE

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**Melissa Gorecki, PharmD, BCPP // SDPhA Board President**

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Happy Pharmacists Month! I hope everyone is getting to enjoy this fall and planning some kind of celebration for American Pharmacists Month. Make sure to take the time to recognize the amazing pharmacists and technicians that you work with and all the contributions they make to our profession and their help in taking care of our patients. I would like to personally thank everyone of you out there for all of your hard work these past couple years.

We were lucky enough to finally be able to gather again for the 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Brookings. It is always fun to be back in Brookings. I would like to thank SDSU Alumni Association for sponsoring the Thursday evening reception that helped us welcome our attendees and all of the SDSU pharmacy students that volunteered to keep the convention running smoothly. Our agenda was packed with some great continuing education sessions and some of us were also lucky enough to take in the SDSU Football win over UC Davis on Saturday Night. Go Jacks!

We were able to recognize some outstanding individuals for their contributions to pharmacy in South Dakota. Congratulations to the 2022 award winners:

**Pharmacy Technician of the Year:**

Michelle Kuchta and Jillian LeBeau

**Distinguished Young Pharmacist:** Courtney Feist

**Industry Salesperson of the Year:** Scott Peterson

**Bowl of Hygeia:** Cari Mack

**Hustead Award:** Diane Dady

Next year we will be in Deadwood on September 15-16. The Lodge always does a great job of hosting us and the scenery in the Black Hills can't be beat.

As always, with the changing of the fall colors comes the changing of the board members. Dana Darger will officially be off the board, although we will never take his cell phone number off speed dial. It was an honor to have gotten to serve with someone who has dedicated their life to helping improve the profession of pharmacy and care for their patients. Past President, Kristen Carter worked tirelessly for us this past year to help with our legislative efforts in Pierre. I am honored to try and fill her shoes and will work hard to advance and promote the profession of pharmacy. I am also thankful to get to continue to serve with current board members, Jessica Strobl, Andy Tonneson, and Scout Forbes-Hurd. They along with our Executive Director, Amanda Bacon, have done a tremendous job these past couple years. I would also like to welcome our newest board member, Michael Kuchta.

Our theme for convention this September was Game On. I spoke about being ready for our upcoming fight this legislative session. While our bill didn't pass last Legislative Session, we have been strategizing on how to come back stronger this time around. We will work hard to fight for fair reimbursement and transparency so that our pharmacies can continue to operate and serve the people of South Dakota. We will need all the help we can get in educating the legislators across the state. Watch your inbox for updates and on these bills and helpful talking points in the near future. Our goal is to get the word out and have these conversations with legislators BEFORE session begins this year – we know the opponents will be out early and often as well.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Association with any other issues or questions as well. SDPhA continues to monitor and engage in all issues that affect the profession of pharmacy. I am looking forward to this year and honored to be your President. Game On!

**MELISSA GORECKI**

# 2022/2023 COMMERCIAL & LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DUES CONTRIBUTIONS

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER / COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WORK CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive SDPhA email alerts regarding important pharmacy issues? ☐ YES ☐ NO

## COMMERCIAL & LEGISLATIVE FUND Memberships set by SDPhA C & L Executive Committee, 2007

### PHARMACY OR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP \$100.<sup>00</sup> Includes One Individual Membership

NAME OF PHARMACY / BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL INCLUDED \_\_\_\_\_

### CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP \$200.<sup>00</sup> Two or more stores of the same corporation

NAME OF CORPORATION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL INCLUDED \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ \$50 LEVEL ☐ \$75 LEVEL ☐ OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT DUES Circle your District

ABERDEEN – \$20.<sup>00</sup>    BLACK HILLS – \$20.<sup>00</sup>    HURON – \$10.<sup>00</sup>    MITCHELL – \$10.<sup>00</sup>    MOBRIDGE – \$10.<sup>00</sup>  
ROSEBUD – \$10.<sup>00</sup>    SIOUX FALLS – \$20.<sup>00</sup>    WATERTOWN – \$20.<sup>00</sup>    YANKTON – \$15.<sup>00</sup>

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: SD PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION, BOX 518, PIERRE, SD 57501-0518 / FAX: 605-224-1280

# South Dakota BOARD of PHARMACY

*Kari Shanard-Koenders, RPh, MSJ // Executive Director*



## **Board Welcomes New Registered Pharmacists /Pharmacies**

Congratulations to the following 54 candidates who recently met licensure requirements and were licensed as new pharmacists in South Dakota: Mason Arndt, Ayobami Balogun, Julia Beethe, Abigayle Blanchette, John Bradley, Kayla Brady, Tate Broksieck, Emma Brumfield, Breanna Brungardt, Cassidy Bruns, Shelby

Buller, Ethan Case, Ashley Coens, Ramsey DeHaan, Ashley DeSmet, Sarah Eich, Kaisa Fuerst, Quinten Glass, Nathan Graves, Lisa Greene, Hannah Haaland, Lizzy Hagen, Lincoln Haiby, Elizabeth Hinckley, Amy Hirschman, Ashley Hoffman, Kylie Horstman, Tannika Ingalls, Krinstin Joe, Autumn Klaudt, Amelia Koster, Makayla Kroepelin, Jacob Lieberg, Ethan Meide, Kaily Meyer, Sarah Mills, Dusan Mirkovic, Allie Moon, Natalie Morgan, Dani Oelerking, Mumtaj Patel, Victoria Peta, Kirstyn Polasky, Mariah Roemen, Maggie Scheffler, Grace Schwaller, Sewon Seo, Michelle Sestak, Rebecca Stark, Bridget Stewart, Jordan Thompson, Chad White, Erin Williams, and Gabrielle Zantow. Ten of the candidates were licensed by reciprocity.

There was one new SD full-time pharmacy license issued: Avera McKennan dba Avera Plaza 2 Pharmacy, Sioux Falls, License #100-2082. There were eight SD part-time pharmacy licenses issued during the period: Avantara Clark/Continued Care LTC Pharmacy South Dakota LLC, Clark, License #200-1751; Avantara Groton/Continued Care LTC Pharmacy South Dakota LLC, Groton, License #200-1750; Avantara Lake Norden/Continued Care Pharmacy Pharmacy South Dakota LLC, Lake Norden, License #200-1752; Avantara Norton/Continued Care LTC Pharmacy South Dakota LLC, Sioux Falls, License #200-1753; Avantara Pierre, Pierre, License #200-1754; Avantara Milbank/Continued Care LTC Pharmacy South Dakota Pharmacy LLC, Milbank, License #200-1755; Rolling Hills Health Care dba Continued Care LTC Pharmacy LLC, Belle Fourche, License #200-1749; and Spearfish Canyon Healthcare, Spearfish, License #200-1748. In the quarter, there were no new SD domiciled wholesale license issued.

## **South Dakota Hosts Aacp/Nabp District V by Inspector Tyler Laetsch**

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), at its 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, in June, passed a resolution recognizing Carv Thompson, pharmacist, SD Board of Pharmacy member, civic leader, legislator, gubernatorial candidate, and pharmacy owner from Faith for his many accomplishments to pharmacy during his long career and expressing their sorrow on his passing.

## **Top Ten Inspection Findings by Inspectors Carol Smith and Tyler Laetsch**

The 85<sup>th</sup> Annual American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) / National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) District V meeting was held in South Dakota's amazing Custer State Park on August 3-5, 2022. The states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota and the Canadian Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba constitute District V. This was exciting as the meeting was the first in-person annual meeting held since the start of the pandemic. There were several representatives in attendance from District V Boards and Colleges. Topics of shared interest were discussed in the three days during the conference which were led by excellent speaker presentations. Tom Johnson, PharmD., MBA, immediate past president of the American Society Health- System Pharmacists was the keynote speaker and provided a compelling presentation entitled "The Future is Now." Tom is the Vice President of Hospital Pharmacy for Avera Health in Sioux Falls, SD.

Josh Bolin, NABP Associate Executive Director and Mark Karhoff of Ten Count Consulting presented "Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) Update." Study grant presenters Darla Eastman of Drake University, Lynn Kassel of Drake University, Ally Dering-Anderson of University of Nebraska, and Christine Leong of the University of Manitoba provided an overview of their study grant findings. Diane Halverson, CPhT of the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy provided a presentation which she and her colleagues have published entitled "Tech-Check-Tech Programs in North Dakota."

After a day packed full of presentations, we were able to unwind with a meal at the amazing Sylvan Lake Lodge and a trip to Mount Rushmore where the group was able to take part in the Mount Rushmore lighting ceremony. This is truly a must-see event in our great state.



The final day was spent with round table break out groups for the colleges and boards. This followed with our final presentation by Nicole Chopski, Bureau Chief of the Idaho DOPL and Tim Frost, Deputy Director of the Idaho DOPL with a presentation titled "Permissionless Innovation: Transitioning to Standard of Care."

Along with the meaningful presentations, there were business meetings and reports by NABP President Reggie Dillard, AACP President Russell Melchert, Shane Wendel, District V representative on the NABP Executive Committee, and Lloyd Jessen, District V Secretary/Treasurer. These were followed by Howard Anderson's tribute to Ray Joubert who was the Registrar for the College of Pharmacy Professionals in Saskatchewan, who was a very active member of District V for many years and passed suddenly last year.

In summary, there were lots of great discussions and everyone left the meeting with thoughts and ideas of how to make pharmacy continue as the best profession when there are many things that are not trending the right way currently. There were two specific items that hit home for most of us, the first is the lower number of students enrolling in pharmacy programs throughout the country. Numbers are down from years past but there will continue to be a huge need for high quality pharmacists in healthcare. We discussed this and hope that everyone encourages an individual considering pharmacy as a career to join the profession. We are in a lower reimbursement time, and this is causing many issues. The second concern is the burnout pharmacist and pharmacy technicians have been facing in the workforce. We all need to take a moment to think how we can better our profession and workplace. What can we do to better the pharmacy? What can our Board of Pharmacy do to assist?

A special thanks to Lloyd Jessen for his efforts planning and preparing for the meeting. We are anxiously awaiting the next District V meeting which will be held in North Dakota in 2023.

## BOARD MEETING DATES

Please check the [Board Meetings](#) page on the South Dakota Board of Pharmacy website for the time, location, and agenda for future Board meetings.

## DIRECTORY

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# South Dakota BOARD of PHARMACY

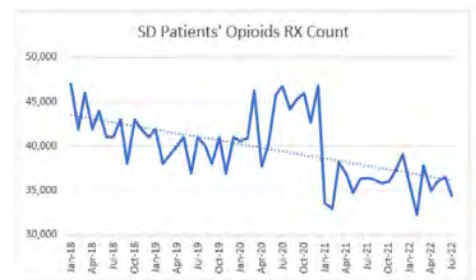
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## Rules Hearing Announced For Drug Donation Repository Program

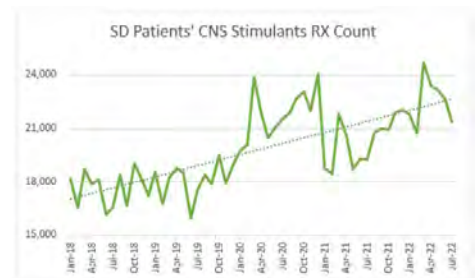
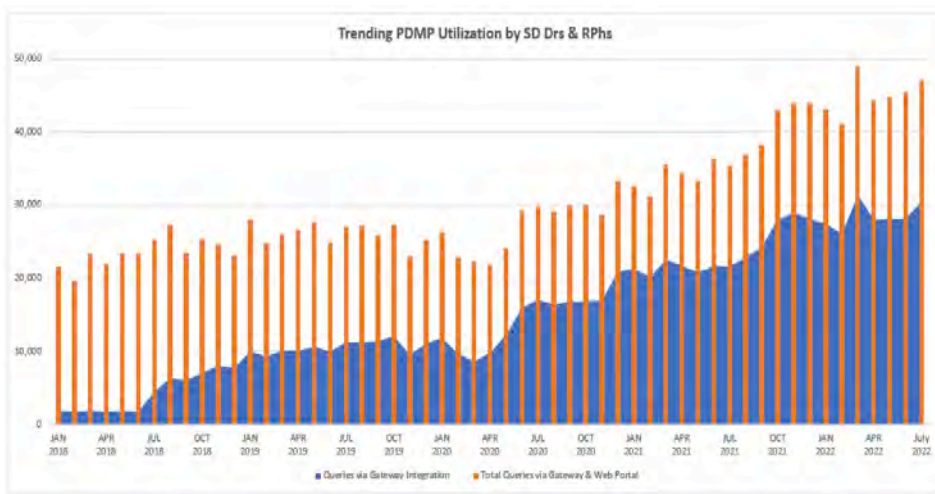
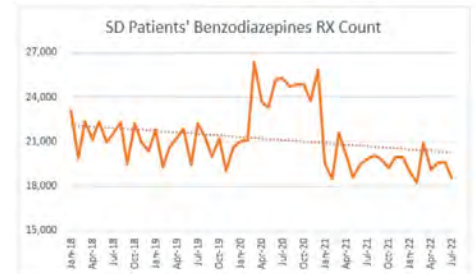
A public hearing will be held on October 20, 2022, at 1 pm at the Hamlet Professional Building, 4001 W. Valhalla Blvd., Suite 202, Sioux Falls, SD 57106, and via zoom to consider the adoption of proposed rules chapter ARSD 20:51:35. Please see the [Notice of Hearing](#) for details on how to attend in person or via zoom and/or to submit comments on the [Proposed Rules](#).

## PDMP Statistical Report by Melissa DeNoon, PDMP Director

July Top Ten Controlled Substances (CS) to SD Patients	RXs	Quantity	Days of Supply	Avg Quant/Rx
HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE/ACETAMINOPHEN	11,383	608,879	144,356	53
TRAMADOL HCL	9,020	542,480	153,871	60
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE SULF-SACCHARATE/AMPHETAMINE SULF	8,862	396,598	263,814	45
LORAZEPAM	6,000	256,131	133,868	43
ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE	5,629	197,935	197,583	35
CLONAZEPAM	5,585	302,706	164,295	54
METHYLPHENIDATE HCL	5,070	214,945	152,477	42
OXYCODONE HCL	4,282	221,729	53,710	52
ALPRAZOLAM	3,952	205,181	103,196	52
PREGABALIN	3,811	302,540	133,696	79



Opioid Prescriptions to SD Patients	RXs	% of all CS RXs	Quantity	Days of Supply
January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016	599,667	46.57%	39,437,769	9,343,889
January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017	581,550	47.00%	41,318,924	8,708,079
January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018	511,271	44.50%	33,876,217	7,532,863
January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019	475,148	42.90%	29,376,211	6,912,053
January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020	436,644	40.70%	25,700,912	6,557,407
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021	435,912	40.00%	24,660,491	6,373,108
January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022	35,859	39.30%	2,189,468	516,961
February 1, 2022 - February 28, 2022	32,347	38.20%	1,841,221	474,601
March 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022	37,869	38.20%	2,134,326	555,851
April 1, 2022 - April 30, 2022	34,937	38.00%	1,953,962	513,200
May 1, 2022 - May 31, 2022	36,047	38.40%	2,019,207	530,262
June 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022	36,601	38.90%	2,041,192	540,426
July 1, 2022 - July 31, 2022	34,395	38.60%	1,903,975	509,339



Respectfully submitted, for the Board,

**KARI SHANARD-KOENDERS**



# South Dakota SOCIETY of HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

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## Alyssa Larson, PharmD // SDSHP President

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Greetings from the South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists!

As the summer comes to a close, SDSHP looks forward to celebrating Pharmacists Month with social events both east and west river in October. We are also excited to reconvene at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas – for those planning to attend, keep an eye out for details on Dakota Night!

The preceding year has been productive and filled with several continuing education and networking opportunities, despite some ongoing limitations of COVID-19. The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual SDSHP Conference held virtually in April was a success. Board members inducted during the business meeting included Jeremy Daniel as Past President, myself as President, Khia Walser as President-Elect, Jenna Lund as Secretary, Hannah Reedstrom as Treasurer, Leah Garland and William Anderson as Board-Members-At-Large, Jodi Sterrett as Technician Board Member, and Lindsey Kimmel and Austin Manuell as Student Board Members. During the awards ceremony, Diane Dady was recognized as the 2022 recipient of the Gary W. Karel Lecture Award. In addition to the annual conference, SDSHP also hosted three virtual resident CE Conferences in February and Statewide Pharmacotherapy Forum (SPF) sessions throughout the year.

Highlights from the summer months included the residency conference and GVR Open. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual SDSHP Residency Conference took place in early July. Pharmacy residents from across the state gathered in

Oacoma for a day of networking and to learn about topics that will prove beneficial to them during the year ahead. We owe a big thank you to our outgoing resident liaison, Kathryn Brumels, for her efforts in planning and coordinating the event! The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual GVR Open Society Golf Classic was held at the Central Valley Golf Course in Hartford on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a great day to golf while also raising money to support pharmacy student scholarships and student travel to the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition in December.

During the upcoming months, SDSHP will continue to work toward goals and objectives outlined in our strategic plan for the 2022-2023 year, including expanding our capabilities for hosting live and recorded online CE and developing a state affiliate Fellowship program to recognize members who have made substantial contributions to SDSHP and the profession of pharmacy.

We encourage our members or anyone interested in keeping tabs on SDSHP-related news and upcoming events to follow us on Facebook and our (brand new!) Instagram account, or visiting us at our website ([www.sdsdp.com](http://www.sdsdp.com)). Upcoming events include:

- Pharmacy Month Social Events  
October 2022 | Sioux Falls and Rapid City
- Dakota Night Reception at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting  
December 2022 | Las Vegas
- SDSHP 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
March 31–April 1, 2023 | Sioux Falls
- Resident CE Seminars & Statewide Pharmacotherapy Sessions  
TBD

Respectfully submitted,

**ALYSSA LARSON**





# SDSU COLLEGE of PHARMACY *and* ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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## *Dan Hansen, PharmD // Dean and Professor*

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Hello from the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions! I'm excited to share some recent highlights.

We welcomed new students with strong academic backgrounds into all our programs this fall: 43 in the PharmD program, 11 in the PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences program, 5 in the MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences program, 8 in the Master

of Public Health program, 10 in the on-campus Medical Lab Science program, 17 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the AS in Respiratory Care and a total of 9 in the BS in Respiratory Care programs, 15 in the Medical Lab Science Upward Mobility program, 4 in the Accelerated Medical Lab Science program, and 3 in the Phlebotomy Certificate. It's great to see all the faces in the classrooms and hallways.

Funding for our research program continues to grow. The College was awarded the BREATHE-SD grant through HRSA – a \$1.5 million grant over 3 years. With this grant, we will be able to grow the enrollment of the respiratory care program, support students through scholarships, and help meet the workforce demand across the State of South Dakota. The College celebrated the planned gift of \$11.5 million from Kevin and Lorie Haarberg that will go toward creating a long-term endowment. This marks the largest single gift the College has ever received. More importantly, it means the work being done to repurpose medications and find new treatments for current and emerging diseases will live on long into the future.

The College partnered with Sanford and Monument Health to offer sponsorships for students in the respiratory care program.

- Beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year, Sanford will commit to sponsorships for up to 24 students in the Respiratory Care program at South Dakota State University. Students can choose to apply to either the two-year commitment sponsorship, which awards \$15,000, or the three-year commitment sponsorship, which awards \$20,000.

- Monument Health's Respiratory Care program is offering scholarships and sign-on bonuses, which are available to students in the South Dakota State University Respiratory Care program. All students in the program are now eligible to receive the Respiratory Therapist Scholarship.

This is exciting news for students, as well as for the growing Respiratory Care program at SDSU.

The annual Scholarship Banquet was held on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The College awarded 206 scholarships to 156 students amounting to \$355,468. This is a 25% increase from last year. Increasing scholarship dollars and helping to remove the financial barrier of college, has been a real focus of our fundraising efforts. It is great to see the fruits of that labor. At the event, Bill Ladwig was named the College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions' Distinguished Alumnus. Bill Ladwig has been a South Dakotan his entire life, born in Watertown in 1956, raised in Turton SD and graduated from Doland High School in 1974. He received his BS in Pharmacy in 1979 from SDSU and started his 44 year career with Lewis Drug. Bill was promoted to Chief Pharmacist in 1988, Director of Pharmacy in 1998, and SVP of Professional Services in 2002. Bill received the SDSU Preceptor of the Year Award in 1984, Hammer Award (Syringe Disposal Program) in 2000, Time Warner Innovative Practice Award (Melanoma Monday Project) in 2006, Hustead Award (SD Pharmacist of the Year) in 2011 and has served as chairman/co-chair of the SD Medicaid Committee since its inception in 2005 and also Sanford's P&T Committees. Congrats, Bill!

One Day for STATE was held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The College received 262 gifts totaling \$135,516.50 – a 29% increase from last year. These funds will make a big impact on all of the programs in our College. A big thank you to all of those who contributed.

Searches are underway for the following positions: MPH program coordinator, respiratory care instructor, director of clinical education for respiratory care, medical laboratory science instructor and a pharmacy practice faculty.

Best regards,

**DAN HANSEN**



**WELL-BEING**  
index

Have you ever wondered how your Well-Being compares to others? Consider investing six minutes in your well-being. The Well-Being Index is a brief online self-assessment, invented by the Mayo Clinic and brought to you through a partnership with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), which provides you immediate individualized feedback including tools and local and national resources to address your well-being. You can set-up the frequency you wish to assess your well-being and track your progress.

Your information and score are private and your individual score will not be shared with APhA or anyone else. You do not have to be an APhA member to participate.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW  
IN A FEW EASY STEPS:

1. Go to: [www.mywellbeingindex.org/signup](http://www.mywellbeingindex.org/signup)
2. If asked for a participation code, use APhA
3. Register (approx. 3 minutes)
4. Take the survey (approx. 3 minutes)

# South Dakota ASSOCIATION of PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

Greetings from SDAPT!

Here is an update on what SDAPT has been working on so far in 2022:

Our annual fall conference is October 1 st this year and we decided as a group that we would hold it again via zoom. With technicians on all parts of the state we determined that is a better option for us.

We have had several zoom meetings as a group and so far have secured three speakers for our annual conference and we are currently looking for about 2 more. We are open to suggestions from technician members about what they want to hear about.

We are trying to use our social media more to keep technicians in the loop about upcoming CE's they can earn at conferences.

We would like to use this opportunity to remind pharmacist members to encourage their technicians to attend and be involved in SDAPT activities.

SDAPT Members

JOHN THORNS  
DAWN JONES  
JULIE KULESZA

# SDSU's Student Collaboration for the ADVANCEMENT and PROMOTION of PHARMACY

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**Ellie Balken // SCAPP/APhA-ASP SDSU Chapter President**

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SCAPP would like to express our gratitude towards SDPhA and the pharmacists making up its membership for the continual support of our academic and professional endeavors. Our student pharmacists rely on these mentors to help set goals and discover professional passions. In addition, our strong community partnerships allow us to practice clinical skills and provide health education and

screenings to patients locally. SCAPP offers unique opportunities for student leadership and growth beyond the classroom, and we are excited to continue serving this purpose during the upcoming year.

The executive board had the opportunity to gather for our annual retreat at our advisor's lake home to discuss innovative ideas, participate in leadership development, strategically plan for the year, and strengthen connections with one another. Our team left the weekend with renewed enthusiasm and energy for the year to come! Recently, we had 46 students attend the SDPhA Convention in Brookings where we were able to interact with pharmacists from across the state and learn from the valuable education sessions throughout the weekend. For many students, it was their first in-person conference, so it was especially exciting to experience the energy and excitement after years of virtual connections.

There are many continued and new efforts taking place this semester that our students are incredibly passionate about. We had over 40 students participate in Pharmacy at the Fair in Huron and the South Dakota Health Connect

Fair in Sioux Falls, helping to advocate for the profession and provide health screenings for patients throughout the state. A new mentoring program is also underway, where P1 and P2 students are paired with a pre-pharmacy student to mentor and participate in various SCAPP events together. The chapter has been developing opportunities to gather and give back to our communities, including a recent event of creating blankets for Sanford Child's Voice in Sioux Falls. Additionally, with the launch of Operation Mental Health, we had nearly 100 participants in a collaborative 5K that occurred during Mental Illness Awareness Week to raise funds for SD NAMI. Lastly, be on the lookout for various social media posts and the digital billboards in Sioux Falls and Rapid City about American Pharmacists Month throughout October.

We recently had the current APhA-ASP President, Kennedy Erickson, travel to SDSU and interact with student pharmacists, faculty, and our chapter leaders about how to grow our local efforts. She also discussed her national theme, "Courage to Change" with our members and her message inspired our chapter to adopt the theme "Fearlessly You" for the upcoming year. These themes remind us to be courageous in our actions and boldly chase our personal and professional aspirations while staying true to our values.

It is my hope that our members live fearlessly this year as they learn, grow, expand their perspective, and positively impact the community. We challenge each of you to do the same this year and look forward to our growing partnerships with the incredible pharmacists of SDPhA!

Respectfully,

**ELLIE BALKEN**



# REFILL REMINDER: You are due for Mental Health Self-Care

*by Kaylen Hoffbeck and Parker Roerig*

*SCAPP Operation Mental Health, South Dakota State University  
Pharm.D. Candidates 2025*

The pharmacy profession can be stressful, from completing 6 to 8 years of higher education to managing chaotic workplaces and everyday responsibilities of being a pharmacist. Pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare professionals to the public. Patients turn to pharmacists for recommendations, guidance, and answers regarding medications, health conditions, and so much more. Pharmacists often give pieces of themselves when helping patients, but that can take a toll on their mental health. This, however, can lead to burnout without them even realizing it.

Every day, pharmacists help patients who suffer from mental illnesses, but who helps pharmacists cope with their own? There is a huge stigma that discourages healthcare professionals from speaking about their mental health challenges. This stigma prevents pharmacists from finding the help they need, leaving them to face their struggles alone. Recently, there have been studies showing that pharmacists have higher suicide rates than the rest of the general population.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically increased burnout in the profession as pharmacists were the frontline healthcare professionals for patients. Concerned and panicked, patients raced to pharmacies for COVID-19 tests, over-the-counter remedies, face masks, and overall information about the virus. Pharmacists were tasked with juggling challenges such as medication/supply shortages, inadequate staffing, health screenings, and staying up to date on new information. They also put their own health and safety on the line when working closely with patients who may have been exposed to the virus. When the new COVID-19 vaccines were released, pharmacies were overwhelmed with people waiting to be immunized. They also experienced increased harassment and verbal abuse from patients who were frustrated and upset about the pandemic. Trying to manage all of these issues while not being respected by the public, led to worsening mental health and feeling unappreciated for all their hard work. Along with all of these issues, pharmacies were facing financial burdens. This continues today as pharmacists can prescribe medications to treat COVID-19, but are not reimbursed for providing the extra service.

Pharmacists are so focused on taking care of patients, they often forget to take care of themselves. We personally know many pharmacists who do not take a full lunch break (or have a lunch break at all) because they are so busy and do not have time to eat. Recently they also have taken more time out of their day to prepare for the additional responsibilities that have been added since COVID-19 began. This prevents them from having a break and spending time with family, which is a much-needed remedy after a long day. All these factors along with the mental strain of everyday tasks done in the pharmacy, can severely affect their mental health. Decreased mental health can lead to decreased job satisfaction which is correlated with reduced productivity, quality of care, and increased medication errors. It is time for pharmacists to prescribe themselves a high dose of self-care for their own mental health.

Since October is American Pharmacists Month (APhM) as well as World Mental Health Day being held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, South Dakota State University's Student Collaboration for the Advancement and Promotion of Pharmacy (SCAPP) will be emphasizing both. SCAPP's Operation Mental Health and the APhM/Spring Awards Committee will be encouraging everyone to 'Thank-A-Pharmacist' to show they recognize and appreciate all the hard work and dedication of pharmacists. Whether they are a family member, friend, co-worker, professor, preceptor, or just your local pharmacist, we ask everyone to say thank you to show pharmacists are supported and appreciated for all they do.

Thank you!

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*If you or someone you know is struggling with a mental health concern, please call the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) at 1-800-950-NAMI (6264). If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988.*



# 136<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION SOUTH DAKOTA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

## 2022 AWARD WINNERS



### **Michelle Kuchta** **SDPhA Pharmacy Technician** **of the Year (co-winner)**

Kuchta started at Yankton Rexall in 2008. She was a quick study – willing and eager to take on new tasks and moved quickly to obtain her certification. She always filled in wherever she was needed – from regular filling and normal day-to-day operations to getting unit doses ready for the assisted living and group homes.

She never complains, and meets each task head on. She is always looking to do the job well, and more efficiently – and steps up to do any and everything that's needed – from payroll to organizing the liquor department (that's called a complete hometown drug store!) and will always cover shifts in the gift shop or elsewhere. She treats everyone who walks through the door like they are family – including those who provide relief services in the pharmacy from time-to-time. She's known for repeatedly going out of the way for co-workers, shoppers and she puts the health and well-being of every patient she works with above all.



### **Jillian LeBeau** **SDPhA Pharmacy Technician** **of the Year (co-winner)**

Jillian LeBeau is described as a natural leader, who always has a positive attitude. LeBeau joined the Inpatient Pharmacy Team at Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center five years ago. Her positivity is contagious, and she has adapted quickly to the many changes COVID has brought to

the practice – even helping draw up more than 10 thousand COVID vaccines for the Aberdeen community while helping complete all the other duties with in the facility. Jillian has also taken on expanded technician roles – collecting medication histories from patients and reconciles those med lists with facility lists. She also helps process prior authorizations from retail/community pharmacies for our clinic providers. On top of all this – Jillian sits on the Sanford Aberdeen Blue Crew. That committee is focused on employee recognition with representatives from every department in the facility. Jillian has been the pharmacy representative for the last 4 years. She makes it a point to attend every meeting whether she is working or not.



### **Scott Peterson** **Outstanding Industry** **Salesperson of the Year**

This industry representative has been extremely supportive to South Dakota's pharmacists, so much so, that we may have worn him out – he retired just a few weeks ago. Even when many sites were not receiving salespeople in person due to COVID, Scott Peterson was well known

for reaching out to make sure everyone had what they need to administer vaccine by ensuring they were connected to the Vaccine Medical Director at Pfizer. He always made himself available as a resource when needed. Peterson is also always extremely mindful of everyone's time – focusing on bringing things to the forefront of meetings that are most valuable for our patients. He always comes prepared with resources we can actually utilize, and works hard to make sure sites are ready with the most updated information on current recommendations. Finally – he goes out of his way to remember the details and make

a personal connection. It's the little things he does so well, that go such a long way, and will be missed in his retirement.



**Courtney Feist**  
**2022 SDPhA Distinguished Young Pharmacist**

Courtney Feist's entire history has a myriad of stories of dedication, hard work and perseverance, starting with overcoming severe scoliosis which required major surgery – to becoming a collegiate athlete for SDSU in cross country and track. Completing pharmacy school while being a double

sport collegiate athlete is no easy feat, but even after that, she kept choosing to do the hard work. After residency, she started with Lewis Drug and Sanford in a unique position of a community pharmacist embedded in a clinic setting. She continues in this position – working to elevate the profession by developing clinical programs and collaborative practice agreements. She is now a preceptor for the residency she previously completed and has worked with residents to begin billing for Medicare annual wellness visits, continuous glucose monitoring, and other services while educating Lewis Drug staff pharmacists. Feist took training to become an APhA faculty trainer in Medication Therapy Management, Diabetes Care, and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Management. This allows her to train other pharmacists to obtain these certifications. Not only is she a stand-out in the profession, but she is also dedicated to community and professional service. She is an active member of SDPhA and Rho Chi and she does numerous community service projects.



**Cari Mack**  
**2022 Bowl of Hygeia Award**

The "Bowl of Hygeia" Award is presented annually on behalf of APhA and NASPA by participating pharmacy associations in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the ten Canadian provinces. The recipients are selected by their respective associations for their outstanding record of community Service.

Cari Mack has impacted her community, patients, and family members across her years of service. She has a drive and passion for giving back as much as she can to all those around her. The 1985 graduate of the Pharmacy College at SDSU has stayed deeply

connected with the college and the university as a whole, serving on the SDSU Council of Trustees – assigned to College of Pharmacy, and many other committees. She's a multiple term President, among many other offices of the Redfield Chapter P.E.O. – a philanthropic organization promoting educational opportunities for women, and for 15 years served as a religious education teacher at St. Bernard's parish in Redfield. All of that is addition to a pharmacy career that any of us would be proud to have. Rexall Pharmacy in Redfield is where you will find her most – she also works part time and provides 24-hour call for Community Memorial Hospital in that community. She is a proud wife of 36 years, mom to six – two of whom are also pharmacists.



**Diane Dady**  
**2022 Hustead Award**

The Hustead Award recognizes contributions or service during a career or significant accomplishments during a short period of time that impact the profession in a positive manner. Diane Dady began her career as a Staff Pharmacist then St. Mary's Hospital in Pierre, now Avera St. Mary's in 1980.

Since 1984, she's been part of a bedrock of the Mobridge community as co-owner of Dady Drug until 2019, and where you will still find her part-time as a staff pharmacist. At the same time she was working in family pharmacy, we was also making a mark in the hospital pharmacy realm – she has worked at Mobridge Regional Hospital since 1986, and has served as Director of Pharmacy for since 1992. Her contributions to South Dakota Pharmacy are many. An active SDPhA member throughout her career, she served as a district president for a decade. And while she has been on so many different and boards throughout her pharmacy career – she has left a positive impact on each one – it's difficult to find anyone in this room who has not been touched by her work for the profession. She cites serving on the SD Board of Pharmacy as potentially her favorite contribution to the pharmacy profession – sitting on the board from 2011-2020, and president form 2016-2020. She holds her pharmacy career with pride and it shows.



# 50-YEAR PHARMACIST

**Lyle Boes** – Sioux Falls, SD

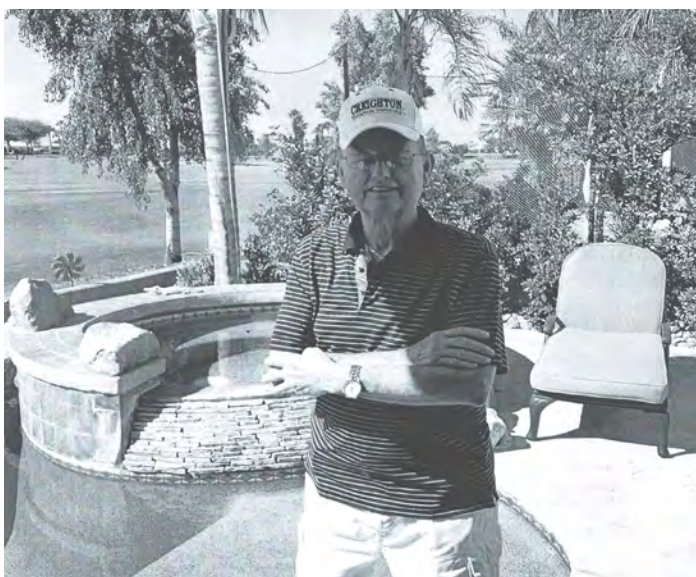
**Jacquelynn Cunningham** – Glendale, AZ

**Mary Curtis** – Ipswich, SD

**Thomas Gebhart** – Arvada, CO

**Bruce Lundgren** – Sioux Falls, SD

**Bruce Patterson** – El Paso, TX



**Lyle Boes** presently owns a business in La Quinta, CA. (unrelated to pharmacy) but does maintain a permanent residence in South Dakota.

## SOME CAREER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Passed Pharmacy Boards in 5 states. Registered pharmacist in each state.
- Owner, independent pharmacy in Sioux Falls more than 30 years.
- First to implement a fully stocked “compounding pharmacy” to the upper Midwest, compounding pharmaceuticals that were sold nationwide.
- Initiated compounds, estrogen and progesterone, oral and topical, 1986
- Introduced “sterile injectable drugs” done in my retail pharmacy setting, 1986
- FDA approved manufacturer and distributor, 10 years
- Instructor at SDSU “University Week for Women” 9 years
- Workman’s Comp, Consultant Pharmacist, 3 years



After graduation from SDSU, I did a pharmacy internship at Midway Hospital in St. Paul, MN for a year. That followed with passing the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy examination in 1972. I remember that fellow classmate John Roche was also there.

Shortly after I got a call from classmate Julie Stevens, advising me that South Dakota Board of Pharmacy would be doing board examination if enough people were interested. Enough signed up to include classman Bruce Lundgren.

In July 1972, I began my commitment to the U. S. Army which turned into a career. At that time approximately 40% of all Army pharmacists were from South Dakota, North Dakota or Minnesota. My assignments included Yuma Proving Ground, AZ; Fort McArthur, CA; Thailand, Italy, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX; at University of Minnesota for graduate studies, Walter Reed, Washington, DC; Fort Belvoir, VA and Ft Bliss, El Paso TX. A couple of highlights was closing the Army Pharmacies at Fort McArthur and Thailand and teaching pharmacology to Physician Assistants to include Donald Hohman who was one of the Iranian hostages.

After retirement from the Army I remained in El Paso, Texas and became a staff pharmacist at Sierra Medical Center. Additionally, I became interested in consulting at some of the nursing homes in El Paso which also expanded to consulting at surgical centers. About 5 years ago I retired from full time work but currently do part-time consulting at two surgical centers.

I spend most of my time now on typical retirement activities such as traveling, UTEP sports, and following the Jackrabbits from a distance. I did see the SDSU football team go against Sam Houston State; a game that lasted 20 seconds too long missing a chance for the national FCS championship.

Very truly yours,  
**Bruce Patterson**



# PHARMACY TECHNICIANS UNIVERSITY

## THE BEST-IN-CLASS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

### FAQS

#### *What is Pharmacy Technicians University (PTU)?*

A comprehensive online pharmacy technician training program, designed for technicians of all levels that includes exam prep for the PTCE® and ExCPT exams, as well as the CSPT™ exam. PTU is engaging, self-paced, and interactive!

#### *What does it cost?*

SDPhA is committed to providing this program at the most reasonable rates possible. For more information: [sdpha@sdpha.org](mailto:sdpha@sdpha.org)

#### *Why should I use PTU?*

You will get:

- Easy-to-use and interesting course materials like videos and slides
- Modules divided into short parts you can complete at your own pace
- Knowledge checks and learning activities to help you remember what you learned
- Web-based training for access from any Internet-connected computer
- Thorough exam prep for PTCE®, ExCPT, and CSPT™ exams

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## PHARMACY TECHNICIANS UNIVERSITY

### THE BEST-IN-CLASS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PHARMACY TECHS

Take the headache out of technician training with the No. 1 provider of online learning. Simplify the educational experience, improve efficiency, and help reduce medication errors with Pharmacy Technicians University (PTU).



### TRAINING PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Flexible offerings to meet state training requirements across all of your locations
- Fast track to certification, which allows increased staffing ratios for technicians in some states
- Easy-to-use administrator dashboards for managing staff training progress
- PTU 101 provides training program options with fewer hours for completion to limit impact on productivity
- PTU National Standards Entry- and Advanced-Level programs meet new guidelines

pharmacy  
technicians  
university<sup>®</sup>



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Today, pharmacy technicians are increasingly important members of the pharmacy team. Skilled pharmacy technicians are critical for the economic and efficient function of a pharmacy. However, training requirements for pharmacy technicians change often and are becoming more complex, creating a shortage of qualified pharmacy technicians.

#### Pharmacy Technicians University (PTU) offers:

- Programs ranging from 95 to 605 hours of didactic, simulation, and experiential learning
- The highest quality technician training resources in a variety of learning modalities
- The first online tech training program that supports or exceeds the requirements for technician training in 50 states, including Washington, D.C.



## WHY TECHNICIANS LOVE PHARMACY TECHNICIANS UNIVERSITY:

**Current Course Curriculum** reflects the latest industry trends and complies with state and national regulations.

**Practice Skills with Feedback Features** that allow techs to observe, practice, and demonstrate techniques.

**Experienced Instructors** review tech demonstrations and provide one-to-one feedback.

**Motivating Scenario Simulations** give techs context for active learning and problem solving via "real-life" scenarios that facilitate appropriate information transfer and recall.

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### PTU 101, PTU ENTRY-LEVEL NATIONAL STANDARDS, AND PTU ADVANCED-LEVEL NATIONAL STANDARDS PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING FOR:

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- Health and wellness institutions such as long-term care and physical therapy centers

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- "Right-sized" curriculum, program components, and practice setting-specific courses
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Rev 10/19/21

# Pharmacist Consult: An Update on Parkinson's Disease Prevalence and Treatment

## Accreditation Information



The South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. The Universal Activity Number for this program is 0063-0000-22-026-H01-P / 0.15 CEU.

*It is the policy of the South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions that all sponsored CPE programming present evidence-based information that is professionally objective and non-commercial / non-promotional.*

## Course Authors

**Kayla Kniefel**, Pharm.D.

**Scout Forbes-Hurd**, Pharm.D.  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist  
College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions

## Credit Information

- **ACPE Universal Activity Number:** 0063-0000-22-026-H01-P
- **Credits:** 1.5 hour (0.15 CEU)
- **Activity Type:** Knowledge
- **Target Audience:** Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
- **Course release date:** 3-16-2022
- **Expiration date:** 3-16-2025
- **Cost:** \$8.50

To receive 1.5 Contact Hours (0.15 CEUs) of continuing education credit, participants will read the provided article, answer the test questions, and complete the course evaluation. A test score of 75% or better is required to earn continuing pharmacy education credit. If a score of 75% (9/12) is not achieved on the first attempt, participants can complete one retest at no additional charge. Credit upload to a participant's eProfile account will be completed within 2 weeks following successful completion of this course.

## Disclosure Statement

The author and developer of this course have had no relevant financial relationships with any commercial entity having a vested interest in this material.

## Course Development

This course was developed under the guidance and review protocols of the Office of Continuing Education, South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

## Pharmacist Learning Objectives

1. Summarize the epidemiology and pathophysiology of Parkinson's Disease.
2. List risk factors and protective factors for the development of Parkinson's Disease.
3. Identify medications that can cause drug-induced parkinsonism.
4. Name the different classes of Parkinson's medications and specifically identify which class agents fall into.
5. Identify appropriate monotherapy agents for the initial treatment of Parkinson's disease.
6. List agents that are contraindicated for use in Parkinson's Disease patients.
7. Counsel patients on the importance of adherence to Parkinson's medications.

Ready to Learn? [Register for the CPE course.](#)

# PHARMACY & THE LAW

BY DON. R. MCGUIRE JR., R.PH., J.D.

*This series, **Pharmacy and the Law**, is presented by Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company and your State Pharmacy Association through Pharmacy Marketing Group, Inc., a company dedicated to providing quality products and services to the pharmacy community.*

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## Do Employed Pharmacists Need an Individual Pharmacist Professional Liability Policy?

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Most employed pharmacists believe their employer's insurance policy protects them in the event of a professional liability claim. This is usually correct. The fact that it is not always correct is reason enough for pharmacists to consider buying their own individual professional liability policy. There are three factors, which when considered together, show the need for a pharmacist to obtain their own coverage.

**1. Control** – The employed pharmacist has no control over the coverage purchased by their employer. During my years as an employed pharmacist, I never saw my employer's policy. I worked on their word that I was covered. I did not know what the coverage limits were, what services the policy covered or even if employed pharmacists were insured under the policy. If limits are too low or if the policy does not cover certain services, such as immunizations or MTM, the employed pharmacist is potentially left exposed. If this lack of control was not enough, the employee does not know if/when the policy lapses or if the employer fails to pay the premium. The worst time to find out these things is when you are facing a claim. While the typical individual professional liability policy is secondary or excess, it can drop down to provide primary coverage for the pharmacist when the employer's policy is missing or inapplicable.

**2. Coverage** – The typical employer's policy only provides the pharmacist with professional liability coverage for acts within the scope of their employment. In other words, the pharmacist is only covered while they are at work. For a pharmacist who volunteers at a senior center or a church, provides advice to friends and neighbors, or occasionally moonlights, their primary employer's policy does not cover them in these situations. An individual policy, on the other hand, covers the pharmacist 24 hours a day regardless of when or where they provide pharmacy services. It is also possible that the employer's policy may choose to not cover the employed pharmacist if

the pharmacist violates the employer's policies or procedures. The additional protection provided by the individual's policy allows the pharmacist to give back without worrying about their personal exposure.

**3. Target** – There is one additional concern often expressed by risk managers and employers. That is that the existence of an individual professional liability policy makes the employed pharmacist a target for the plaintiff's attorney. Our experience has shown this not to be true. The trend is that plaintiffs' attorneys are naming the individual pharmacists as defendants many more times today than they were 20 years ago. A good plaintiff's attorney will bring all potentially liable persons into the suit. Most often, this happens even before the existence of the individual pharmacist's policy is known. We have even had cases where the individual policy was not discussed until two or three years into the litigation process. While I believe this target idea is a myth, even if it is true, it is outweighed by the other considerations above. The ease of application and low cost of individual professional liability coverage make this choice even easier for the employed pharmacist. It provides an extra layer of protection over and above that carried by their employer. If there is a problem with the employer's coverage for the employed pharmacist, the pharmacist's individual coverage can provide the missing, and much needed, protection. This is especially important when it comes to the cost of defending lawsuits. Even winning a lawsuit can be expensive. Every pharmacist should take steps to protect their own career and reputation.

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© Don R. McGuire Jr., R.Ph., J.D., is General Counsel, Senior Vice President, Risk Management & Compliance at Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company.

*This article discusses general principles of law and risk management. It is not intended as legal advice. Pharmacists should consult their own attorneys and insurance companies for specific advice. Pharmacists should be familiar with policies and procedures of their employers and insurance companies, and act accordingly.*



# FINANCIAL FORUM

*This series, **Financial Forum**, is presented by PRISM Wealth Advisors, LLC and your State Pharmacy Association through Pharmacy Marketing Group, Inc., a company dedicated to providing quality products and services to the pharmacy community.*

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## Do Our Biases Affect Our Financial Choices?

**Even the most seasoned investors are prone to their influence.**

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Investors are routinely warned about allowing their emotions to influence their decisions. However, they are less routinely cautioned about their preconceptions and biases that may color their financial choices. In a battle between the facts and biases, our biases may win. If we acknowledge this tendency, we may be able to avoid some unexamined choices when it comes to personal finance. It may actually "pay" to recognize blind spots and biases with investing. Here are some common examples of bias creeping into our financial lives. Letting emotions run the show. An investor thinks, "I got a great return from that decision," instead of thinking, "that was a good decision because \_\_\_\_\_." <sup>1</sup>

How many investment decisions do we make that have a predictable outcome? Hardly any. In retrospect, it is all too easy to prize the gain from a decision over the wisdom of the decision, and to, therefore, believe that the findings with the best outcomes were the best decisions (not necessarily true). Putting some distance between your impulse to make a change and the action you want to take to help get some distance from your emotions. <sup>1</sup>

Valuing facts we "know" and "see" more than "abstract" facts. Information that seems abstract may seem less valid or valuable than information that relates to personal experience. This is true when we consider different types of investments, the state of the markets, and the economy's health. <sup>2</sup>

Valuing the latest information most. In the investment world, the latest news is often more valuable than old news. But when the latest news is consistently good (or consistently bad), memories of previous market climate(s) may become too distant. If we are not careful, our minds may subconsciously dismiss the eventual emergence of the next bear (or bull) market. <sup>2</sup>

Being overconfident. The more experienced we are at investing, the more confidence we have about our investment choices. When the market is going up,

and a clear majority of our investment choices work out well, this reinforces our confidence, sometimes to a point where we may start to feel we can do little wrong, thanks to the state of the market, our investing acumen, or both. This can be dangerous. <sup>3</sup>

The herd mentality. You know how this goes: if everyone is doing something, they must be doing it for sound and logical reasons. The herd mentality is what leads many investors to buy high (and sell low). It can also promote panic selling. The advent of social media hasn't helped with this idea. Above all, it encourages market timing, and when investors try to time the market, they frequently realize subpar returns. <sup>4</sup>

Sometimes, asking ourselves what our certainty is based on and reflecting about ourselves can be a helpful and informative step. Examining our preconceptions may help us as we invest.

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### Flu Shot Season Is Here - What Is Needed for Audit?

COVID-19 has forced a significant increase in the number of vaccinations pharmacies do daily. With this increase also comes additional audits. PAAS National® frequently sees PBMs audit for all vaccinations, including influenza. Now is the time to check that you have all documentation in place for this year's flu shot season.

#### What you will need for an audit:

##### 1. Order

- A signed order from an authorized prescriber or
- A signed protocol that is up to date and includes specific vaccination(s) to be administered
  - When using a protocol, create a placeholder prescription with all prescription elements

##### 2. Vaccination Information Statement (VIS)

- Required to be given to patient prior to each administration
- Be sure you have the most current VIS forms

##### 3. Vaccination Administration Record (VAR)

- Name of vaccine administered
- Lot and Expiration Date of vaccine given
- Site of administration (i.e. right arm)
- Signature or initials and title of person administering
- What VIS form was given
- Form can be used as proof of receipt on audit

VAR and VIS forms, and information regarding what the CDC requires for health care providers to record, can be found on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/)<sup>1</sup>.

#### PAAS Tips:

- Check dates and vaccines on your protocols to ensure they are up-to-date
- Have current VIS forms printed for each vaccine you administer
- Have VAR forms printed and educate all staff on how to complete the forms
- All vaccines should be submitted using days' supply of "1"
- All vaccines administered with protocol should be submitted with origin code of "5" (pharmacy created)
- Be sure correct quantity is billed, typically 0.5 mL, may need to consult with software vendor for guidance
- Keep vaccine documents stored in a system that makes access easy in case of an audit

**PAAS National® is committed to serving community pharmacies and helping keep hard-earned money where it belongs. Contact us today at (608) 873-1342 or [info@paasnational.com](mailto:info@paasnational.com) to see why membership might be right for you.**

**By Trenton Thiede, PharmD, MBA, President at PAAS National®, expert third party audit assistance and FWA/HIPAA compliance.**

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#### References:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/document-vaccines.html>



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### NCPDP Updates DAW Code Definitions to Encompass Interchangeable Biosimilars

In the August 2022 version of the [National Council for Prescription Drug Programs \(NCPDP\) Telecommunication Version D and Above Questions, Answers and Editorial Updates<sup>1</sup>](#), there is new guidance in section 3.1.3 regarding interchangeable biosimilar products and Dispense As Written (DAW)/Product Selection Code (408-D8) field in anticipation of the DAW code definition updates which should go into effect October 15, 2023. With more interchangeable biosimilar products set to hit the market later this year, it is important to understand how to appropriately use these DAW codes to prevent future audit issues.

Section 3.1.3 of the NCPDP document starts by outlining the FDA definitions of a biosimilar product, interchangeable product, and reference product. It goes on to state that when a prescriber indicates DAW 1 on a prescription, substitution of the product as written is not appropriate and when the prescriber does not indicate DAW 1 on a script, DAW 0 or DAW 2-9 could be appropriate. The chart below was included in the NCPDP document to aid pharmacies in determining appropriate DAW codes to bill.

Prescribed Drug	Substitution Allowed Substitution Not Allowed	Dispensed/Billed Drug	DAW Code (408-D8)
Reference Product	Allowed	Interchangeable Biosimilar	0
Reference Product	Not Allowed	Reference Product	1
Reference Product	Allowed	Reference Product	2-9
Interchangeable Biosimilar	Allowed	Interchangeable Biosimilar	0
Interchangeable Biosimilar	Not Allowed	Interchangeable Biosimilar	1
Interchangeable Biosimilar	Allowed	Reference Product	2-9

While this chart is useful, you may be asking yourself – What does this all mean?! Let us go through several examples.

#### Example #1 – The pharmacy receives a script for Lantus Solostar® (DAW 1) from the prescriber.

Since the script was flagged “Dispense as written” by the prescriber, the pharmacy must dispense the prescribed reference product, Lantus Solostar® and should utilize DAW 1 in field 408-D8 on the claim.

#### Example #2 – The pharmacy received a script for Lantus Solostar® (DAW 0) from the prescriber.

Since Lantus Solostar® has an authorized interchangeable biologic (Semglee®), and both Lantus Solostar® and Semglee® have interchangeable unbranded biologics there are some additional considerations that must be made before determining the proper item to bill:

(1) State regulations regarding the substitution of interchangeable biologic agents. Many states require the least expensive biologic agent to be dispensed. To find a link to your applicable state regulation, you may reference the [Cardinal Health website<sup>2</sup>](#). This may mean looking at your inventory to see what you have in stock and trying to bill the least expensive product first, then following the PBM claim messaging if the claim rejects.



- a. If the interchangeable biosimilar is dispensed instead of the reference product, DAW 0 is appropriate.
  - b. If the reference product is dispensed, due to a formulary preference, DAW 9 would be appropriate.
- (2) Patient Preference. Though the prescriber allows for substitution, the patient may prefer to stay with the reference product prescribed, in this case that would be Lantus Solostar®. DAW 2 would be appropriate for this claim.

### **Example #3 – The pharmacy received a script for Semglee®, the interchangeable biosimilar for Lantus Solostar®, (DAW 1) from the prescriber.**

Since the script was flagged “Dispense as Written” by the prescriber, the pharmacy must bill Semglee® as prescribed and a DAW 1 would be appropriate on this claim.

### **Example #4 – The pharmacy received a script for Semglee®, the interchangeable biosimilar for Lantus Solostar®, (DAW 0) from the prescriber.**

If the claim is billed for Semglee®, DAW 0 would be appropriate. If instead the patient wishes to be on (or stay on) Lantus Solostar®, then DAW 2 should be used on the claim for Lantus Solostar®. If Semglee® is not available from your supplier and Lantus Solostar® is available, DAW 8 could be utilized when billing the claim for Lantus Solostar® to signify that the interchangeable biosimilar was unavailable from your wholesaler—for this scenario, be sure to keep record to prove Semglee® was unavailable in the event the claim is audited. This could be a copy of an invoice showing Semglee® was out of stock, or a screen shot of your wholesaler’s website showing it was unavailable.

### **Example #5 – The pharmacy received a script for insulin glargine 100 units/mL (DAW 0) from the prescriber.**

Insulin glargine encompasses several different insulin products, include reference products Lantus Solostar® and its unbranded equivalent, Semglee® and its unbranded equivalent, Basaglar®, and Rezvoglar™. Pharmacy staff should consider clinical context, patient history, formulary preference, and cost of the medication when determining the correct product to bill and may need to contact the prescriber’s office for additional clarification. If Lantus Solostar® (the reference product) is billed due to formulary preference, a DAW 9 would be appropriate and if Lantus Solostar® was billed due to the patient requesting brand, DAW 2 would be appropriate. If an interchangeable biosimilar was billed, DAW 0 would be appropriate.

### **PAAS Tips:**

- [PAAS Audit Assistance members](#)<sup>3</sup> can view the PAAS’ on-demand webinar: [Understanding Interchangeability with Prescription Biologics](#)<sup>4</sup> (recorded 8/17/22)
- Remember to have visible documentation for all claims billed with a DAW code other than zero to support the use of the medication dispensed and DAW code utilized on the claim
- Refer to the “interchangeable” column on the [Insulin Medication Chart](#)<sup>5</sup> and the [Biologic Injectable Medication Chart](#)<sup>5</sup> located on the PAAS Portal for Audit Assistance members, to find FDA-approved interchangeable biologic agents
- Utilize the FDA [Purple Book](#)<sup>6</sup> – a searchable, online database of biologic products (remember to look for matching card colors which signify interchangeability)

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- Eligible students must plan to practice in one of the following settings:
  - an independent or small chain community pharmacy, or
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