President’s Message

Lee Ann Cain, RPh

Thank you to everyone who attended our Summer Meeting in Pensacola Beach! What a great job our Education Affairs committee did! We had great continuing education and a wonderful venue to spend time networking, as well as a little R&R on the beach. We also want to thank Anne PolICASTRI with ASHP for joining us for our meeting and presenting on the wellbeing and resilience of our clinicians. In addition, thank you to ALL the presenters for being there and giving of your time to make our Summer Meeting the best one yet! As members, we welcome your feedback as to what you liked or did not like about the meeting. Please make sure you complete your meeting evaluations to receive CE credit and offer feedback. If anyone has any problems with this, please reach out to Steve Glass (sglass@alshp.org).

There has been a refocus on collaborative practice in the state of Alabama and Representative Elaine Beech has asked for a reconvening of the group to include APA, Auburn School of Pharmacy, Samford School of Pharmacy, AMA and ALSHP in August. We hope to push this initiative further along with this refocus and to get Collaborative Practice passed in Alabama soon.

We are working with a good group who all are focused on moving pharmacy forward in our state and know how important collaborative practice will be for rural healthcare as well as for our ambulatory settings within larger health systems.

How do you see your profession? We are seeing a decline in enrollment in our pharmacy schools across the country. As an organization we need to bring focus to how we as health system
pharmacists are seen. Our youth need to know what we do and how we make a difference in the lives of our patients. How we see our profession directly affects how others see it as well. We will be reaching out to members as we work to focus more on the perception of pharmacy and our profession. More to come!

We love seeing our members spotlighted on our social media forums. Please nominate a member who you feel is deserving of this recognition. We have many members who work in so many different areas of health system pharmacy - it is always informative and interesting to learn!

Thank you for allowing me to serve such a great organization and for all that each of you do to help us with “Advancing Pharmacy for a Healthier Alabama”.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann

Recap of ALSHP’s Summer Meeting
The Hilton Hotel in Pensacola Beach, Florida

This event was a huge success and very productive and education. We would like to thank our Educational Affairs Committee for providing us with great continuing education. Thank you to all of the presenters as well as those of you who came to learn! We hope you had an excellent experience!
Summer Meeting Fun
Summer Meeting Fun Continued
And... More fun!
Please join us in congratulating the following recipients of poster awards at the ALSHP Summer meeting:

### STUDENT POSTER SESSION

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<tr>
<th>Place (tie)</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School of Pharmacy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Lauren Hammond</td>
<td>Samford University, McWhorter School of Pharmacy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kiara Parker</td>
<td>Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Ashley Aune</td>
<td>Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy</td>
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### RESIDENT POSTER SESSION

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Clare Carter, PharmD</td>
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### PRACTITIONER POSTER SESSION

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Rebecca Maxson, PharmD, BCPS</td>
<td>Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Bradley Burk, PharmD, BCPPS</td>
<td>UAB Hospital</td>
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Social Events

Join us for our next social event at EastWest Kitchen Bar

**Topic:**
The First and Only Approved Oral TPO Receptor Agonist for Adults with Chronic Immune Thrombocytopenia

**Speaker:**
Mansoor Saleh, MD

**When:**
August 23, 2018 at 6pm

**Where:**
EastWest Kitchen Bar, 2306 2nd Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203

**Sponsored by:**
Novartis

**Registration:**
*Please reserve your seat by August 20th by contacting Lucy Whatley (256) 282-6611; lucy.whatley@novartis.com
* Meeting Code: 18-QWHJ7C-13 (16304196)

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WELCOME to the NEW PHARMACY RESIDENTS!
We learned a lot and had a great time at The Grand Bohemian

The most recent ALSHP social was held June 14th. We enjoyed a dinner and a presentation discussing KCentra® and Berinert® in Emergency Department setting (Sponsored by CSL Behring LLC). We had about 20 ALSHP members present representing institutions from all across the Birmingham area. We hope you will join us at our next social event.

Member Announcements/Committee Updates

Committee Updates

- Habitat Build Day on June 23rd was cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled. Those interested, including Auburn and Samford students, are encouraged to volunteer!
- An upcoming Habitat Build Day is scheduled for November 3 in Tuscaloosa- more details to come!!
Committee Updates: Cont. from page 8

Legislative Committee

- Alabama Board of Pharmacy Report, June 27th, 2018
  - Amendments have been made to 680-X-2.25 in which fees are increased for manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and out-of-state pharmacies. There are no changes in fees for technicians, pharmacists, and in-state pharmacies.
  - Rule 680-X-2.42 has been updated and now allows the return of all controlled substances to a facility as long as participating pharmacies comply with all DEA regulations.
    - Those registered as Collectors with the DEA must notify ALBOP in writing within 10 days.

- 340B Legislative Update
  - April 28, 2018—Representative Carter introduced bill to impose additional reporting for 340B Safety Net hospitals.
    a. DSH hospitals submit OP charity care and OP revenue for parent AND child sites – during annual recertification to HRSA
    b. Optimization Act – require additional layer of transparency to view patient mix of DSH hospitals (including Child Sites)
    c. Maureen Testoni – (340B Health legal representative) presented data: 60% of uncompensated care in the US is provided by 340B. These hospitals make up only 38% of hospitals in the US – gave examples of trauma care, opioid and substance abuse programs and HIV/AIDS treatment for underserved populations
    - 340B CE’s will have the added burden of providing data that does not represent their care.

- May 12, 2018 – Trump’s Blueprint to lower Drug Prices
  “Some hospitals that receive drug discounts under 340B (which is designed to help safety net facilities) do not provide meaningful levels of charity care to low-income and vulnerable patients, ultimately pushing up drug prices for patients with private health insurance.”
  “My administration has already taken significant steps to get drug prices under control. We reformed the drug discount program for safety-net hospitals to save seniors hundreds of millions of dollars on drugs this year alone”
  a. Blueprint will focus on 340B qualifications of patients/entities
  b. Acknowledged that HRSA had improved the audit process (200/year), but wants increased auditing and transparency
  c. Concern expressed that states do not have access to 340B prices
  d. Focus of continued examination of Medicare reimbursement as a vehicle for 340B reform.
  e. Concern that insurers, pharmacies, PBMs do not consider, address of include language regarding drugs purchased at 340B discounts.

- May 15, 2018 (Secretary of Health and Human Services)
At Azar’s request – Medicare published a chart highlighting prices of commonly used drugs with increase in prices of double digits. Azar publically commented on the possibility of folding Medicare Part B into Part D and allow broader ability to negotiate discounts.

- **May 22, 2018** – PBMs Under Scrutiny
  Trump’s Blueprint could alter PBM Contracting.
  a. Blueprint calls for any drug rebates negotiated by PBMs be passed directly on to patients using those drugs – instead of using them to reduce premiums.
  b. Azar questioned current rebate system for PBMs and wants it restructured. He stated that “hidden negotiation and wealth transfer” from manufacturers to PBMs increase drug prices.
  c. PBM Contracts – employers should check PBM contracts – frequently contracts have a provision that allows them to re-rate their contract in the event of a change in laws and regulations around rebates.

- **June 1, 2018**—HHS (Health and Human Services Administration) announced that it would push back decision to impose civil monetary penalties for drug manufacturers that knowingly and intentionally overcharge hospitals for OP Drugs to July 1, 2019
  a. Currently, 340B CE cannot check if correct 340B price is charged by manufacturers.
  b. CE cannot audit or seek litigation from manufacturers who intentionally overcharge.
  c. Manufacturers can elect NOT to participate in dispute resolution.
  d. CE must rely on HRSA to update manufacturer prices (goal was to have this available with implementation of new HRSA site) – no release date
  e. HRSA stated that it is their belief that manufacturers report if they overcharge 340B entities. (Penny buys – manufacturer reports over charging for medications with a ceiling cost of less than $0.01)
  f. HRSA believes that requiring manufacturers to comply with transparency and audits, would be “disruptive” and potentially costly.
  g. Drug manufacturers are lobbying for increased reporting for hospitals.
Getting the most out of your APPEs

As I am getting settled into my PGY1, I can’t help but reflect on the last year and remember starting APPEs last summer. I had no clue what was in store for me and how much I would learn over those nine blocks. This is a life-changing year with many new experiences and difficult transitions away from the classroom. I had received advice from many mentors and peers to make this year a success and figured some of it out as I went. Below, I have compiled my top five pieces of advice for current and future fourth-year pharmacy students to help them get the most out of their APPEs.

1. Be prepared
   Before the rotation starts, reach out to your preceptor and make sure you know when and where to be, the dress code, and any material you may need to review in advance. Once started, sit down with your preceptor to discuss the expectations they have of you and go over the syllabus, this way you can confidently show up each morning ready to begin. Also, make sure to know a few go-to resources, such as a tertiary resource on your cell phone or a quick reference guide in your coat pocket. You will be exposed to a lot of new topics that first week and will want to have a way to quickly access information to keep yourself up to speed.

2. Bring enthusiasm
   Your attitude coming in can make a huge impact on how well your rotation goes. Be excited to be there, make friends with your team, and start each day ready to learn. This will not only make the work day easier but may also present opportunities that you may not have gotten
otherwise. Remember, the days are long and may start extremely early; bring snacks and stay hydrated to keep your energy level up!

3. Ask questions
   My first preceptor told me it is okay to not understand everything - that is why we have rotations! So, do not be afraid to ask questions. You only have a few weeks to learn as much as you can about pharmacy practice in that environment - and it goes by fast. Make it a goal to learn at least one new thing every day. All your questions don’t have to be strictly clinical either. Each of my preceptors served as a mentor to me and were there for my questions regarding life, residency training, and becoming a pharmacist.

4. Stay organized
   Keeping organized will make your last year of pharmacy school go much more smoothly. Keep a planner or calendar to keep up with due dates, rotation schedules, and school events. This year goes by fast and deadlines have a way of sneaking up on you. In preparation for interviews and transitioning into being a working pharmacist keep the work you do and articles you save neat and labelled on your laptop, this makes referring to them later quick and simple. Also, keep a log of memorable interactions you have with patients and other members of the healthcare team, this will help jog your memory for those situational questions during interviews.

5. Don’t fear failure
   Finally, get out of your comfort zone! This is your year to learn as much as possible and figure out what you like (and don’t like). You are only going to get out of a rotation what you put into it so be ready to work. Be open to every new experience offered and don’t be afraid to make mistakes. You are going to be pushed this year and learn so much about pharmacy and yourself. Embrace this year, take it with all the mistakes and rough days, and don’t forget to enjoy it.
A Day in the Life Of...

A section about getting to know a little about one of our fellow ALSHP members

Ursula Ratcliff
Pharmacy Technician Student
Virginia College
(Intern at Princeton Baptist Medical Center Pharmacy)

What is your educational background and/or how did you become a pharmacy technician?

Growing up, I had a lot of interest in the medical field. I researched that Pharmacy had grown and began to look into opportunities that would place me in the field; that research brought me to Virginia College. I am completing a 50-week didactic program that ends with a 5-week externship at a local hospital or retail pharmacy. Virginia College partnered with Princeton Baptist Medical Center to allow students to rotate in their pharmacy. The college showed me to register with the Board of Pharmacy. My program director assigned me to this location. At the end of my coursework, I will be ready to sit for the pharmacy technician certification exam. Hopefully, I will be a certified technician before the end of the year.

What pharmacy area do you work in?

I work in the Central Pharmacy assisting the pharmacist with medication preparation. I’ve also worked in the IV room area and delivered drugs to the floor. I draw up oral syringes with the exact amount of medication needed for the patients, label the syringe, and obtain a pharmacist’s approval. I assist with stocking medications on the shelf from the daily wholesaler delivery. I answer the phone and assist nurses at the window. Despite reading and learning about hospital pharmacy in school, there is a lot to learn.
Briefly describe an average work day
I arrive at 8am. The pharmacy technician shifts are staggered. Some technicians work seven 10-hour days in a row (Monday-Sunday), then have seven days off. Other technicians work 8-hour shifts and every third weekend. In Central Pharmacy, I fill orders for the automated dispensing machine (Pyxis), complete cycle counts for the Pharmogistics perpetual inventory system, stock items on the shelves, and interact with the pharmacy technicians and pharmacists. Each week, my preceptor assigns me a new area in the pharmacy to learn assignments. My day ends at 2PM. I have to document all my hours for Virginia College. I also get a peer-technician evaluation weekly with a letter grade. So far, I’ve gotten all “A”s.

Describe a medication error that you were proud to catch
I can’t think of a medication error that I’ve caught. The pharmacists have been here for a long time and they know what they’re doing. We have a lot of technology that helps us not to make mistakes. For example, we use barcode scanners to wand the unit dose tablets, then a computer-generated label. If there was a mistake, the computer will flash a warning that it’s the wrong tablet. At the Pyxis machine, we have to scan the tablet for the machine to open a cubbie pocket. The nurses also use barcode scanning to give patients the medication. If a medication error happens anywhere in the hospital, my preceptor discusses it with all the pharmacy staff at AM safety huddle.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I enjoy learning about new drugs and what they do. Pharmacy is never boring. The work is always changing. It’s a challenge to keep up.

What do you enjoy most about working at your institution/organization?
There are wonderful co-workers here. This hospital pharmacy is family-oriented with a lot of comradery. Everyone is helpful. I’ve learned a lot and hope that I can find a great place to work when I graduate.

Anything else you want to add?
I really like [hospital pharmacy].
Pharmacy Humor

Available from:
https://www.google.com/search?q=hospital+pharmacy+humor&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiowteDlbcAhXG0VMKHZ7XA0AQ_AUICigB&biw=1920&bih=911#imgrc=WbuVGNHP0jPtM:

Newsletter Callouts

- Would you like to have an event added to the newsletter calendar or make an announcement? Please send us your ALSHP-related events to alshpnewsletter@gmail.com

- We would love to learn about a Day in the Life Of...... YOU!!! We want to feature a wide variety of pharmacy positions and roles in this new segment to allow pharmacists, students, and residents across the state to have an opportunity to see the variety that our profession provides. Please answer the questions in the section above and send a (optional but desired) headshot to alshpnewsletter@gmail.com- you just may be our next featured member!

- ALSHP is aware that all of our scheduled socials to-date have been in the Birmingham area. If there are other areas in the state interested in organizing a social, please contact the newsletter committee at alshpnewsletter@gmail.com. We would love to extend these events to other member areas- we just need your help to organize!