

FLORIDA X^TIMES



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Q3 2021

Message from the President

Welcome to the Fall of 2021! I know many of you were and continue to be among the frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19. As the most accessible healthcare professionals, community and ambulatory care pharmacists are well positioned to respond to this pandemic by testing eligible patients, counseling them on treatment options for symptomatic relief, reinforcing prevention measures, and administering vaccines. Hospital pharmacists also play an important role by assisting prescribers in selecting the best treatment regimens for patients, evaluating and securing investigational agents, developing criteria for drug use, and mitigating drug shortages.



Elias Chahine, PharmD
FSHP President

In addition, long-term care pharmacists are instrumental in optimizing medication management, developing policies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and administering vaccines to vulnerable residents. Pharmacists in all practice settings would not have been able to navigate this uncharted territory without the help and support of pharmacy technicians. Lastly, pharmacy faculty and preceptors had to quickly transition instruction from face-to-face to distance learning and create innovative solutions to help students progress through the curriculum.

I hope you took some well-deserved time off during this past summer to relax, enjoy your vacation, and safely reconnect with family and friends. I hope this time allowed you to rejuvenate and reflect on your personal and professional lives. There is no doubt that this past year was filled with many challenges for all of us, and we have witnessed some colleagues facing burnout. As we look to the future, I hope you are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and you are ready for a return to normalcy with the increased uptake of COVID-19 immunizations.

I am pleased to report that FSHP is growing. In addition to 11 regional societies, 6 councils (Communications, Educational Affairs, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Membership Affairs, Professional Affairs, and Technician Affairs) and 2 clinical forums (Ambulatory Care and Infectious Diseases), we have recently added the following 3 ad hoc committees:

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Executive vice-president
- Research

Message from the President continued

Our Annual Meeting was a great success. We could not have done it without our speakers, exhibitors, volunteers, members, and staff. I would like to thank all those who attended the meeting in Orlando and those who are planning to listen to the recorded continuing education sessions. Please rest assured that your support does not go unnoticed.

As we continue to collaborate with our lobbying firm Gray Robinson, we set our sights on the upcoming legislative days in Tallahassee in January. Our main focus is to advance the profession and better position pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the delivery of quality patient care. We look forward to having another successful year!

Elias B. Chahine, PharmD, FCCP, FASCP, FFSHP, BCPS, BCIDP
FSHP President

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Stephen Tan, PharmD, BCCCP



Workplace UF Health Jacksonville

Location Jacksonville, Florida

Dream Job Professional Adventurer

Alma Mater University of Florida

Stephen Tan, Pharm.D., BCCCP is a clinical specialist in both Cardiothoracic Surgery and Pediatric Surgery at UF Health Jacksonville and a clinical assistant professor of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. He also holds a clinical assistant professor appointment with Florida A&M University and Palm Beach Atlantic University. Dr. Tan also serves as adjunct faculty for Nova Southeastern University for their Physician Assistant Program.

Dr. Tan received his Pharm.D. from the University of Florida. He completed his PGY-1 pharmacy residency at UF Health Jacksonville and remained with the institution following graduation.

He is active in the Northeast Florida Society of Hospital Pharmacists. He is also an active member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) where he serves on the Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology Education Committee. Dr. Tan was selected as Preceptor of the Year by the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in 2015.

His areas of interest in practice include cardiology, critical care, infectious disease, antimicrobial stewardship, and various areas of research

Outside of his pharmacy career he loves to spend time outdoors hiking, biking, kayaking, and swimming. He enjoys staying physically active and encourages his 20month old son Hunter and wife Joann to participate with him in all his adventures.

FSHP COUNCIL UPDATES

Pharmacy Technician Council

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” - Henry Ford

We are delighted to welcome the new Technician Council. Let us start by saying thank you, to all who applied to join the council. This was so great because it showed that there is a willingness to help with the advancement of the technician as a profession. There is a lot that we will be working on as you learn what the council is about as a group and how we work within the FSHP organization. We want you to know that we are anxious to see your progress and to share in all of your successes. So, again we say welcome to all the new members.

- Sandra Barnes-NE Society
- Gail Brown-Central Florida Society
- Lelieth Grant-Central Florida Society
- Whitney Hummel- SW Society
- Elizabeth Lewallen-North Central Florida Society
- Claudia Medina-SE Society
- Patrick Powell-NE Society
- Eileen Shires
- Rachel Smith-Capital Society
- Roxana Wilson-SW Society
- Veroniya Winkfield-SW Society

Welcome Technician Council Leadership

- Shamelle Clagette-Chair
- Anessia Ellerson-Vice Chair
- Cherita Barrios-Technician Board Liaison
- Tara McNulty- Technician Board Liaison-Elect

CLINICAL ARTICLE

DRUG PRICES: DEFYING GRAVITY

Cody Joiner, PharmD

Prescription drug pricing in the United States has been continuously rising without any signs of slowing. This has put tremendous tension on the healthcare system continues to intensify. In the year 2016, pharmaceutical prices have increased by nearly ten percent while food and alcohol prices have increased only three percent. During this time, the overall inflation rate was around one percent. One reason that may contribute to escalating drug prices is the extreme control



manufacturers have on setting the price of a created drug. Not only that, they can retain the sole patent on manufacturing a drug for almost 20 years to maintain their high pricing. This patent prevents the competition from creating generically equivalent drugs that are often more affordable and obtainable for the consumer. Even if the manufacturer of the drug releases the patent and another company makes the generic equivalent, it can take the FDA years to approve it for clinical use. Some drug manufactures also claim that the excessive costs are due to the money they put into the research and development of the drug. While the overall process can be expensive, it usually doesn't equate to the bulky pricing conjured up by the manufacturing companies.

With Americans facing a ten percent or more increase in their prescription drug prices for a third straight year, the need for a solution is vital now more than ever. In most other countries, the government works with the drug manufacturer and is able to negotiate pricing and even deny coverage for drugs deemed not cost effective.

CLINICAL ARTICLE

One proposal created by senators of Maine and Missouri to speed the FDA generic drug approval process emphasizes on forcing the FDA to set an eight-month deadline for final decisions. Congress is also considering the idea of importing drugs from outside the United States. This would be a limited importing practice that would only include countries that have a very similar monitoring system as the US to avoid possibility of poor drug quality.. Proposals are also being made to increase the transparency of deals between pharmacy benefit managers and drug makers. As far as the claims of costs associated to research and development, the federal government states they assist manufacturers by providing many grants for these processes. Venture capital investments are also supplied to many companies based off long-term potential for growth.

No matter how high prices climb, people will always be forced to pay because of the need to treat life-threatening illnesses and have a better quality of life. Clinical decisions should not have to be made based on cost. If patients receive inferior medications because they are not affordable, this will increase hospital length of stay, disease progression, and mortality. The millions of dollars hospitals spent on drugs for their patients each year could be used in life-changing research and renovations. The solution will likely be a team effort by both government and the drug manufactures. The relentless increase in prescription drug pricing and complications that it causes will not stop until a resolution is found.

FSHP FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to the 2021 fellowship recipients



John A. Armitstead, MS, RPh. FASHP, FKSH, FFSHP

John A. Armitstead is System Director of Pharmacy, Lee Health, Fort Myers, Florida. John obtained an MS from Ohio State University and completed a Pharmacy Residency at Riverside Methodist Hospitals.

John has trained over 200 pharmacy residents and precepted more than 100 Doctor of Pharmacy students. He has presented nationally and internationally 130 professional topics with over 50 publications, including three book chapters.

In addition to Florida (FFSHP), Armitstead is a Fellow of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists and Kentucky Society of Health System Pharmacists. John is a Past President of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacists and the Kentucky Society of Health System Pharmacists. Active in the FSHP L&R Council, he has served as Chair of the House of Delegates for the FSHP.



Paige May, Pharm.D., BCOP, FFSHP

Dr. Paige May graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida in 2007. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with Orlando Health in Orlando, FL. Having always had a strong interest in oncology, Dr. May then moved on to her current position as an Oncology Pharmacy Specialist at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, FL. There she works with an interdisciplinary team with both the outpatient chemotherapy clinic and inpatient oncology service. Dr. May also lectures for the UF College of Pharmacy and serves as an oncology preceptor for residents and 4th year students. She has previously served on the Board of Directors for FSHP, as chair of the FSHP Educational Affairs Council and as President of North Central FSHP.



Patricia R. Louzon, PharmD, BCCCP, BCPS, FFSHP, FCCM

Dr. Patricia Louzon received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Florida (UF) College of Pharmacy in 2007. She completed PGY1 and PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residencies at Orlando Health. Dr. Louzon is currently Clinical Manager of Critical Care and the Emergency Department at AdventHealth Orlando as well as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the UF College of Pharmacy. She has served in multiple leadership roles including Board of Directors for FSHP, CFSHP President, several FSHP Councils and is a committee chair for the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM). Dr. Louzon has multiple peer-reviewed publications, has been recognized with a national ASHP Best Practice Award, SCCM presidential citations, and in addition to FFSHP, was awarded Fellowship in the American College of Critical Care Medicine in 2020 for demonstrating significant contributions in the critical care profession at regional, state, and national levels.

CLINICAL ARTICLE

I SAVE Opioid-Naïve Patients

Nisha Mathew, Pharm.D, Nicole Basile PharmD

The FDA noted initially in 2008-2010 that Fentanyl patches were considered to be the top contributor to serious adverse drug events (ADE) due to inappropriate indications. Safeguards for prescribing Fentanyl patches recommended by ISMP to prevent ADE's include the following:

- Assess & document opioid status (naïve vs tolerant) in electronic record *
- Type of pain (acute vs chronic)
- Adjustments due to age, renal, or liver impairment
- Eliminate storage of fentanyl patches in acute areas such as Emergency rooms and operating rooms

Fentanyl patches are indicated for patients who need pain management around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment, opioid tolerant, and when alternative treatment options are inadequate. Before dispensing fentanyl patches, verify patient's opioid usage and indication. If there is suspicion of a Fentanyl or opioid overdose, resources such as ISaveFL.com display a list of free Naloxone distributors per county or zip code.

Opioid Tolerant Patients When Receiving Treatment For 1 Week Or Longer

- Morphine 60mg/day
- Oxycodone 30mg/day
- Hydromorphone 8mg/day
- Oxymorphone 60mg/day





Pharmacy Week October 17th – 23rd

Look out for fun, trivia, and a special raffle on all social media platforms!



Check out the Pharm So Hard podcast!

Linked  **facebook**   **Instagram**

@FSHPofficial

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