



# 2018 - 2019 MPhA ANNUAL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES June 12, 2019

Submitted by: MPhA President Jason Varin

## PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS, A YEAR IN REVIEW

It has been an honor to serve as president of our association and to advocate for all of Minnesota pharmacy and our patients this past year. Grouped together, **Developing and Facilitating Leaders, Advocacy, Practice Skills and Abilities, and Collaboration and Connections** were our themes for the year. In my incoming presidential address to the membership, (<https://z.umn.edu/MPhAVarin2018>) I outlined why each of these areas are important for the health of our association, Minnesota Pharmacy and our patients. Regardless of your employment setting, chances are you are impacting patient care and public health directly or indirectly. MPhA serves **all** of the Minnesota pharmacy community.

A year is not a long time, however I believe that thanks to you and our many members that have contributed to our association financially through annual dues, and individuals' time and talent, we have had an exceptional year! A large part of our success was due to my partners, Past President Michelle Aytay and President-Elect Craig Else who had my back every step of the way. In addition to Michelle and Craig, the incredible group of Board directors and officers below has also contributed a tremendous amount of their time and knowledge to the thoughtful guidance of MPhA:

- Michelle Aytay, Past President, Executive Finance Committee, Hudson
- Craig Else, President-Elect, Executive Finance Committee, Fridley
- Tim Affeldt, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Finance Committee, Minneapolis
- Tony Olson, Speaker of the House, Executive Finance Committee, Duluth
- Alison Knutson, Vice Speaker of the House, Executive Finance Committee, Eagan
- Amanda Brummel, Metro Board Member, Minneapolis
- Bill Larson, Metro Board Member, Minneapolis
- Jason Miller, Rural Board Member, St. Cloud
- Reid Smith, Rural Board Member, Esko
- Ann Byre, Board Member at Large, Minneapolis
- Michelle Johnson, Board Member as Large, Mounds View
- Cheng Lo, Board Member at Large, Roseville
- Rebecca Pickler, Board Member At Large, Sartell
- Sarah Westberg, Board Member At Large, Minneapolis
- Michaela Wermers, MPSA Liaison and Board Member, Minneapolis
- Jorgen Kvaal, MPSA Liaison and Board Member, Duluth

### Ex-Officio

- Jordan Wolf, Minnesota American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (MN-ASCP) Representative
- Dana Simonson, Minnesota College of Clinical Pharmacists (MCCP) Representative
- Bruce Benson, College of Pharmacy Representative

*MPhA Mission: Serving Minnesota pharmacists to advance patient care.*

During the past year, we embarked on recruiting a permanent Executive Director for our Association. Marsha Millonig, has continued as our Interim Executive Director, and serves as the liaison with our association management team (Ewald) to ensure we have strong bridges and lines of communication. Marsha's myriad connections in the pharmacy world have facilitated many additional opportunities for partnerships. She has continued to devote a great deal of time and energy to help guide our Association this past year, and to ensure a smooth leadership transition. Marsha has been a mentor and a friend of mine for many years within and outside of MPhA. I am in awe of the tireless effort she has devoted to our profession and look forward to continuing to work with Marsha, albeit in a different capacity.

A national search was conducted and several excellent candidates applied for the MPhA EVP position. The Board formed an Executive Director Search Committee under the leadership of Molly Ekstrand and Craig Else. In terms of the Search Committee work, briefly explained:

- Search committee solicited intentionally diverse member and stakeholder feedback on the role of the new ED
- Job Description was formed, approved by the MPhA Board of Directors
- Ewald posted the open position and fielded candidates
- All Search committee members reviewed all candidates
- Behavioral interviewing questions were developed based on desired competencies identified earlier from member and stakeholder feedback
- Four candidates were interviewed on December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Molly and Craig solicited Board feedback on top 2 candidates
- Top candidate met with the MPhA Board of Directors on 12/18/18
- MPhA Executive Committee completed contractual details
- Sarah Derr joined our team in April 2019!
- All notes and materials were saved for historical needs

Due to the excellent work of the Search Committee, the MPhA Board of Directors has hired Sarah Derr to lead us into the next chapter of our organizational story, building upon our 136 year history. Sarah was an engaged MPhA student member at the University of Minnesota. She completed a residency at Fairview Pharmacy Services in ambulatory care. Following her residency, she took a leap of faith and moved to Des Moines, Iowa where she served as the inaugural Executive Fellow in Association Management at the Iowa Pharmacy Association. Prior to her return to Minnesota, she served as the first pharmacist on staff at the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, which is a CMS funded organization that focuses on innovation and healthcare advancement.

I feel fortunate that for the last three months I have been able to work with both Marsha and Sarah during the transitional overlap. I have known Sarah personally since she was a student

pharmacist and I am excited that she has returned to Minnesota. Her energy, insight and diplomacy will be most beneficial to our association.

Special thanks to our team at Ewald who executes our priorities and visions. They manage to pull all the pieces together for us incredibly well. Siri Livdahl stepped in under short notice to replace Bryan Mowry as our team's primary lead and staff director as of March of 2019. She has done an exceptional job and we are very pleased to have her on our team. Other Ewald superstars include Amanda Ewald with finance, Blake Finger with sales, Jill Tichy as our events manager, Sarah Korus as our events coordinator, Jillian Blanc and Laurie Pumper with communications, Jessica Truhler, our professional development point who guides our certificate programs, Town Halls and CE processing, and Joe Flannigan and Larry Bell with the webinars and technology.

On the financial side, MPhA saw improvements in both our balance sheet and budget performance in 2018, contributing to a profitable year. I would like to recognize and thank Tim Affeldt, who has continued to do an amazing job serving as Treasurer. I would also like to thank Doug Lobdell, our previous Treasurer for helping make the transition so painless and successful.

Our Association is strong because of our volunteer leaders. They have passion for our Association and great vision for our profession. I appreciate the varied perspectives they each bring to our table. Our Association is stronger because of our diverse practice settings, geography, and generations represented. MPhA is a member-driven organization. Members who serve on our committees do a large portion of the work that gets done in MPhA. I thank our awesome co-chairs listed below and the many committee members that have volunteered hundreds of hours of personal time to our association:

Public Affairs Committee

Jeff Lindoo

Tony Post

Professional & Organizational Affairs Committee

Anita Sharma Aderinkomi

Lee Mork

Education & Events Advisory Committee

Michelle Johnson

Rebecca Pickler

Editorial Advisory Committee should I say something like...they continue to work on.....

David Hoang

Reid Horning

Student & New Practitioner Committee

Jorgen Kvaal

Michaela Wermers

Awards Committee

Allyson Schlichte

Kati Dvorak

Member Engagement Subcommittee

Brittany Symonds

Kaylan Wilson

Each of these Committees has provided a report of the outstanding work they have done on our members' behalf this year. In light of these reports, I will try not to be redundant by telling you all that they have accomplished for our organization. I will, instead provide some thoughts on what I see as some of the highlights.

**Developing and Facilitating Leaders**

MPhA has continued to interface with our student pharmacists. We have provided several informational sessions discussing our Association and our initiatives and opportunities. We provided a session to provide insight about legislative initiatives the MPhA is championing and how the student members can help make an impact. We include student-members in all of our committees and on our Board. Pharmacist members ask student pharmacists to join them in legislative visits to help them get into a good habit of professional advocacy.

**Advocacy**

Once again we held a very successful Minnesota Pharmacy Legislative day. A record number of visits to our legislators occurred (over 100!) and a record number of legislators participated in our evening panel even though we were in the middle of a terrible snow storm. This illustrates the impact our efforts to connect with our legislators has made. While we did not get all of the legislation that we were supporting passed, it was our most productive year legislatively speaking in a number of years. Included in our successes, a motivated group of our student members, led by Rowan Mahon, effectively introduced and stewarded the idea for a Minnesota Medication Repository which has now been signed into law.

**Practice Skills and Abilities**

MPhA continues to develop means of helping keep the members of our association updated and educated on the rapidly changing and forthcoming opportunities in our profession. We held our MTM Symposium in conjunction with the Annual Leadership and Networking Event this past year and will provide this opportunity again at this year's event. We partner with APhA to provide certification programs in both MTM and immunization and participation in our MTM Certificate Program offerings exceeded expectations. Thank you to Julie Jackman, Michelle Johnson and Jordan Wolf for serving as our MTM program trainers and to Laurie Deegan at Fairview for coordinating and serving as faculty for the Immunization certificate program.

One of the innovative ways we provide information to our members and other interested parties is through our “Virtual Coffee Break” webinars. These tasty lunchtime morsels of information are free to MPhA members and discuss a wide variety of insightful and innovative topics. Past webinars have covered subjects from updates on diabetes and adult immunization guidelines, to medication recycling and meditation ( to help satisfy the 4<sup>th</sup> leg of the Quadruple Aim, if you are keeping score!) These webinars are archived for up to 3 years and accessible at any time to members/non-members. Please let us know what topics/tools are important to you to assist you in continuing to grow in the profession.

### **Collaboration and Connections**

We have had a remarkable year in terms of collaboration. We have held several “Town Halls” thanks to engaged members of MPhA joining forces with local pharmacy groups such as: member sisters Heather Bibeau and Sara Elioff ( Grand Rapids Area Pharmacists) and Sherwood Peterson for the Southeast Minnesota Pharmacist Night Extravaganzapalooza in Rochester. We have partnered with several groups on co-branded events including the Minnesota Department of Health and the MSHP Heartland Chapter. We partnered with NCPA, MPSA and Cardinal Health to provide a networking event for students and practitioners.

The value of collaboration is on full display as a founding member of the Minnesota Pharmacy Alliance (formerly the Practice Advocacy Task Force). In this group we partner with the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, MSHP, MCCP and others to advocate for the profession and our patients.

Additionally, based on existing policies in the MPhA Policy Manual, the Board of Directors publicly expressed MPhA’s support of the following organizations or coalitions:

- Patient Access to Pharmacists Care Coalition. Coalition with other state and national pharmacy organizations to support legislation recognizing pharmacists as health care providers under Medicare Part B.
- Minnesota Dental Association’s Mission of Mercy charitable dental clinic with nearly 20 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians volunteering their time for the 2-day event.
- Stakeholder coalition led by NCPA to address DIR fee reform and numerous letter sign on as part of these efforts.
- Partnership for Safe Medication Practices and their efforts to educate Federal legislators.

MPhA also has executed annual agreements with the following partners:

- Pharmacists Mutual Insurance through the Pharmacy Marketing Group providing significant discounts to members across professional liability, commercial insurance and all other insurance products.

- Pharmacy Audit Assistance Service National providing a variety of programs at discounted fees to assist members with pharmacy audits.
- The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board which provides fees for those MN Pharmacy Technicians taking the certification examination.
- The Alliance for Patient Medication Safety (APMS) PQC – Pharmacy Quality Commitment
- Tennessee Pharmacists Research & Education Foundation – OSHA Webinars

I will close by again thanking you for being a member and supporting YOUR professional association with your time and talent. I have been proud to serve as president of this association, I have been proud to be a member of MPhA since 1989 and I will continue to be a proud and active member. Our association and our profession have a bright future if WE make it so. The collective of our individual strengths and qualities is what makes MPhA an effective association. Change is **heavy**. Stay on top of change or ahead of change, or it will crush you. Let's continue to join together through MPhA to help us all remain on top of AND ahead of change.

Your pal,

Jason Varin, R.Ph., PharmD

President of the Minnesota Pharmacists Association, 2018-2019