A Period of Advancement: The Year in Review

“Together Pharmacy Advances” is the motto adopted by the Texas Pharmacy Association in 2017. Indeed, two years later, Texas pharmacy advanced in numerous ways thanks to TPA’s 2019 activities.

Without question, the 2019 Texas legislative session was the highlight and biggest focus of the year. From January through May, TPA worked tirelessly to advance the practice of pharmacy through focused and deliberate advocacy. The Association’s reinvigorated public affairs efforts began in earnest with record-setting participation at Pharmacy Day at the Capitol, when nearly 600 Texas pharmacists, technicians, and students demonstrated that pharmacy is a force to be reckoned with in the Lone Star State.

Armed with revamped and expanded advocacy tools, Texas pharmacy professionals met with elected officials at the Capitol and at home in their districts to promote causes that benefit both pharmacists and their patients. Many testified before House and Senate committees to lobby for legislation designed to elevate the profession, advance the practice, and protect the business of pharmacy.

Working closely with other pharmacy stakeholders as part of the Texas Pharmacy Summit, we championed about a dozen bills that addressed both professional and business issues. TPA took the lead on three of these issues—payment for services, collaborative practice, and enhanced pharmacist services—and we are proud that the first two passed! Thanks to our many member advocates and Association supporters, we achieved several of our top legislative priorities while amplifying our voice.

During the summer, hundreds of TPA members gathered in Irving for our largest Conference & Expo in five years. Centered on the theme of “Elevating the Profession,” attendees learned how to advance their practice by implementing some of the activities now allowed by Texas law, such as collaborative practice and medical billing for services. Members decided to “elevate their giving” by participating in fundraisers supporting the Texas Pharmacy Foundation, and many chose to “elevate their influence” by giving to our political action committee, PharmPAC.

Later in the year, our second annual Women in Pharmacy conference was an inspiring and educational event designed to help women—who remain underrepresented in positions of pharmacy leadership—advance their careers.

TPA advanced in other areas as well, with significant membership growth and increased financial stability. New members mean new ideas and increased vitality, which keeps our organization strong. The Association paid off its line of credit and ended the year with robust cash reserves.

Together, pharmacy advanced in 2019, and TPA was proud to be at the forefront of this effort. It takes everyone’s voice, innovation, and participation to make that happen. Thank you for your continued support. You are truly VIPs!

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garza, R.Ph. 
Chief Executive Officer

Raj Chhadua, Pharm.D. 
President
Your Voice Is Vital

Texas Pharmacy Association members made their voices heard in 2019, particularly during the legislative session, with impressive results. TPA’s elected leadership, staff members, and volunteers work hard to represent the interests of pharmacy and to educate and influence elected officials.

EFFECTIVE EFFORTS

Pharmacy emerged from the 86th Texas Legislature with some notable wins and successful defensive victories.

**PHARMACY WINS:**
- Collaborative Practice Clarification
- Payment for Pharmacist Services
- Pharmacists Recognized as a Practitioner
- Pharmacist Prescription Signature Authority under Collaborative Practice
- Pharmacy Protection from Wholesale Invoice Audits
- Mandatory e-Prescribing of Controlled Substances

**LEGISLATION BLOCKED:**
- Physician Dispensing
- Broad Telepharmacy Expansion
- Opioid Overreach

SHOWING SUPPORT

More than 30 TPA members testified and/or registered their support for pharmacy priorities during the 86th Legislative Session.

AGENCY ADVOCACY

TPA worked closely with state agencies throughout the year to promote policies that will support pharmacy.

**MEDICAID:**
TPA met regularly with Texas Medicaid to discuss pharmacist payment for services for adherence programs, long-acting injectables and flu shots, as well as ways to increase pharmacist opportunities in value-based care. TPA led the effort for regular review and oversight of the Specialty Drug List and encouraged auditing of PBM’s administration of the prescription drug benefit.

**BOARD OF PHARMACY:**
TPA continued its strong relationship with Texas State Board of Pharmacy staff and attended quarterly Board meetings, providing input regarding the Prescription Monitoring Program, possible expansion of the pharmacist-to-pharmacy technician ratio in community pharmacies, and the use of automation and technology in pharmacies.

**INSURANCE:**
TPA and the Texas Department of Insurance discussed implementation of payments for pharmacist services and how to improve what pharmacies send to TDI for MAC appeals.

THE TEXAS PHARMACY ASSOCIATION’S VOICE WAS VITAL THROUGHOUT THE BIENNIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION.
Your Innovation is Impactful

Legislative wins during 2019 opened the door to new and innovative pharmacy practice in Texas. The Texas Pharmacy Association is helping pharmacy professionals advance the practice by equipping members with tools to employ these new opportunities to help patients achieve optimal outcomes.

PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

New Texas laws enacted in 2019—championed by TPA—now allow pharmacists to be part of provider networks and to be reimbursed for services that are within their scope of practice.

Services that may be covered include medication management, administering CLIA-waived tests (like those for flu, cholesterol, and blood glucose testing), chronic disease management (like diabetes self-management), and other patient education programs.

TPA provided a road map for pharmacists to begin billing for such services, with articles and continuing education sessions focused on implementation. In 2020, the Association will offer members additional tools to help Texas pharmacists navigate the medical billing process.

LOWER COSTS, BETTER OUTCOMES

TPA supports innovative strategies to achieve cost savings for Medicaid prescription drugs. TPA recommended that Texas Medicaid can effectively control costs by focusing on transparency, oversight and accountability, medication therapy management (MTM), and value-based payment and alternative payment models.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

TPA took the lead in advocating for legislation to clarify laws regarding collaborative practice in Texas.

As a result, all pharmacists, particularly those practicing in a community or long-term care setting, may now enter into collaborative practice agreements with physicians for their patients and establish protocols to make changes to a patient’s drug therapy regimen.

Collaborative partnerships between pharmacists and physicians empower team-based care, which results in better care and better outcomes. The goal of collaborative practice is to optimize patient outcomes, improve medication adherence, reduce delays in receiving therapy, and reduce healthcare costs.
Your Participation is Powerful

Texas Pharmacy Association members participated in advocacy, education, fundraising, and service to support the profession in many ways during 2019. From the State Capitol to the board room, active and engaged pharmacy professionals demonstrated their power to make a difference.

EVENTS/EDUCATION

TPA members participated in many events during 2019 to demonstrate political strength, continue their education, and support the profession.

**Pharmacy Day at the Capitol:**
Nearly 600 pharmacy professionals, including busloads of student pharmacists, gathered in Austin on February 26 to learn about advocacy and meet with legislators.

**Conference & Expo:**
The 2019 TPA Conference & Expo in Irving, featuring nationally recognized keynote speakers and a theme of “Elevating the Profession,” attracted the largest attendance in at least five years.

**Continuing Education:**
In 2019, 750 pharmacy professionals took nearly 3,000 hours of TPA-accredited continuing education—a testament to the Association’s high-quality programming and robust catalog of online offerings.

MEMBERSHIP

More pharmacy professionals joined TPA in 2019. Many of those members volunteered their time, leading to record high participation.

**Membership Increases:**

**Volunteer Service:**
More than 125 members served on boards, councils, and committees.

TPA IS LED BY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES TO BENEFIT THE PROFESSION.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

TPA members’ financial contributions support critical pharmacy advocacy, education, and professional development.

**TPA Finances Are Strong:**
TPA met its budget, eliminated short-term debt, and maintained strong cash reserves.

**TPA’s Political Viability Depends on a Strong Political Action Committee:**
We must grow our PAC to compete against well-funded opponents as we prepare for the 2020 election and the 2021 legislative session.

**Texas Pharmacy Foundation:**
Our charitable foundation raises funds to advance the profession of pharmacy through research and scholarship.

- **$70K Raised**
- **$27K Donated**
- **13 Scholarships Awarded**