2019 CONVENTION BLOW-OUT ISSUE

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9 CONVENTION 2019

The Georgia Pharmacy Convention on Amelia Island was a smashing success, but don’t take our word for it — take our pictures instead. We’ve got 11 pages of them. See anyone you know? (And you can see even more pics at GPhAconvention.com/2019photos.)

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Georgia Pharmacy is the official publication of the Georgia Pharmacy Association.

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Georgia Pharmacy is distributed as a regular membership service, paid for with membership dues. Single issues are $10 domestic and $20 international. Practicing Georgia pharmacists who are not members of GPhA are not eligible for subscriptions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Georgia Pharmacy is distributed bi-monthly by GPhA, 6065 Barfield Road NE, Suite 100, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. Periodicals postage paid at Atlanta, GA and at additional mailing offices.

POSTAL
Georgia Pharmacy (ISSN 1075-6965) is published bi-monthly by GPhA, 6065 Barfield Road NE, Suite 100, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. Periodicals postage paid at Atlanta, GA and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Georgia Pharmacy magazine, 6065 Barfield Road NE, Suite 100, Sandy Springs, GA 30328.
From the CEO

Convention by the numbers

Welcome to the post-convention edition of Georgia Pharmacy magazine! If you attended convention this year, and according to registrations 320 of you did, then you already know what a great time it was, and I hope you will enjoy this reminder. On the other hand, if you were part of the GPhA members who had to work (why else would you miss convention?), then we hope you enjoy participating in the event through the pages of this issue. We also hope you can plan to attend next year!

IF YOU BUILD IT....

There was no single reason attendees cited for choosing come to Amelia Island. In fact, the reasons are just about equally split into thirds:

- 32.5%: Completing CPE requirements
- 32.5%: Networking with other pharmacists
- 30%: Being able to mix learning and networking with a family vacation and/or recreation

In a time when many state conventions are struggling with attendance numbers, GPhA members showed up to represent in a big way this year.

We had 40% more attendees versus 2018 when we were in Nashville and 8.4% growth over 2017 when we were in Amelia Island.

A significant portion of the growth we experienced this year came from our student members — attendance was up 119% over last year! (A shout out to the Student Leadership Board for all their fantastic work. Great group that speaks well for the future of pharmacy!)

Another good sign was that the number of pharmacists attending was up 44% over 2018, equaling the numbers attending in 2017. Only 17% of respondents to the post-convention survey came alone; 61% attended with their spouse or significant other.

So, where do attendees work? In what contradicts the impression that GPhA is only about independent pharmacy, many readers might be surprised to learn, that less than half (41.5%) of respondents (excluding student attendees) reported themselves as a pharmacist in an independent pharmacy.

And here are stats I’m sure many in other industries would envy:

- 41.5% of respondents reported attending convention 11 times or more;
- 19.5% 6 to 10 times;
- 26.8% 2-5 times; and
- 12.2% as their first time (again, excluding students).

Our congratulations go out to the University of Georgia Bulldogs and Dr. Kelly Smith on their win in the inaugural Pharm-a-Sea sandcastle building competition! Votes were really close right up to the part where ... well, let’s just say someone planned really well! I can’t wait to see how this event evolves in the future. How about a lumberjack competition in Asheville?

Finally, thank you to everyone. That’s my way of trying not to leave anyone out. Convention takes a lot of time, money, and effort of everyone’s part. So to all the people who presented, planned, sponsored, displayed, implemented and most of all to those that attended, please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks.

So, grab your favorite libation, sit back and enjoy the 2019 convention through the pages of the magazine.

Bob Coleman is chief executive officer of the Georgia Pharmacy Association.
Teens who use opioids for the high (as opposed to using them for pain management) are more likely to start using heroin by the time they graduate high school — so finds a new survey out of the University of Southern California.

Chew on these numbers:
- Teens who previously used opioids: 10.7% chance to use heroin before graduation.
- Teens who currently use opioids: 13.1% chance to use heroin before graduation.
- Teens who never used opioids: 1.7% chance to use heroin before graduation.

Wait, what?

When you first read it, it seems backwards: "Legalizing pot tied to less teen marijuana use." But the results of the study — which looked at 1.4 million adolescents — actually make sense.

It seems that in the states where recreational marijuana is legal (11 so far, plus D.C.) teen marijuana use dropped after legalization for a simple reason: Legalization killed the black market, so teens weren’t able to get it any more. When pot is sold in licensed stores, of course, you need proof of age to buy it.

Every year, Australia gives us a preview of our upcoming flu season (and a chance to prepare the hopefully-correct vaccine). Right now, it’s looking pretty bad Down Under — "particularly unusual" according to the country’s National Centre for Immunization Research.

That doesn't bode well for us.

Some other phrases being used to describe what’s happening there: “off the charts” (chair of the division of infectious diseases at Queen’s University) and “horror season” (the West Australian newspaper).
QUICK HITS

Ankles and opioids

A sprained ankle can hurt, but so can a lot of things. The difference: A lot of docs are prescribing opioids for those sprains. Guess what? “8.4 percent of these individuals were still filling a prescription for an opioid three months after the original diagnosis.”

Three months? That’s one heck of a sprain. Even worse, opioids aren’t recommended for ankle sprains in the first place.

MEDTRONIC INSULIN PUMP RECALLS

Medtronic’s had a rough time of it lately. First the FDA sent out a warning that some of the company’s MiniMed insulin pumps (the model 508 and many of the Paradigm series) were hackable and were thus being recalled.

Interestingly, the same “cybersecurity risks” are what make those pumps hackable in a good way, with patients creating their own artificial pancreases, leading to an underground market for those very pumps. (Check out openAPS.org or #wearenotwaiting on Twitter if you want more info.)

Then, on the heels of that warning, came another — a full-blown recall of the 600-series MiniMed pumps ... but for a completely different reason. Apparently the buttons can get stuck while flying because of changes in air pressure. Those models (620G, 630G, 640G, and 670G) have physical buttons that can temporarily become “unresponsive” when atmospheric pressure goes up or down quickly, typically during takeoff and landing.
Ah, the funkiness of the U.S. healthcare system, where, it turns out, that Medicare Part D enrollees may pay more out of pocket for generic specialty generic drugs than for their brand-name counterparts. Why? Rebates and the “doughnut hole” — the gap before catastrophic coverage kicks in. Patients in the doughnut hole get discounts on brand-name drugs, but those discounts are considered out-of-pocket spending. More OOP spending means being eligible for catastrophic coverage (and its lower co-pays) faster.

IT’S NOT SUPPOSED TO WORK THAT WAY

HPV VACCINE THROUGH AGE 45

Although the human papillomavirus vaccine has been recommended for preteen girls and boys to protect against various cancers, a new recommendation out of the CDC says people up to age 45 could benefit from it. And, like just about every other vaccine, the HPV vaccine turns out to work great in the real world, according to researchers who looked at records of 60 million people — rates of cervical disease are falling, which will start to cut the rate of cervical cancer.

WELCOME, JOHN KING

Doraville police chief John King was sworn in as acting insurance commissioner by Governor Kemp, either filling in or taking over for Jim Beck, who is currently suspended. Of note: Born in Mexico, King is Georgia’s first statewide Hispanic official. A former member of the National Guard, he saw combat in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and later put his life on the line as an Atlanta police officer.
IMPORTANT: NEW IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENT

If you provide immunizations in Georgia, you must provide your patients with a document from the DPH “on the importance of having and periodically seeing a primary care physician.” That very document was just updated — get the new version at GPhA.org/immunizationtemplate.

**Georgia’s hep A problem**

First there was an outbreak in the metro Atlanta and Augusta areas. Then two warnings were issued — one for people who ate at Willy’s Mexicana Grill in Cartersville, and one for those who ate at Wendy’s in Lawrenceville. Both restaurants had employees with hep A handling food, according to the DPH.

At press time there were more than 214 reported cases in the state, especially along the I-75 corridor from Tennessee through Georgia and into Florida.

**LifeScan glucose meter recalls**

If diabetics didn’t have enough to worry about with those Medtronic recalls, the FDA has released its once-secret database of medical device malfunctions and injuries. One revelation:

Over the past 20 years, LifeScan glucose meters had more problems that any other medical device on the market, period. Common problems included displaying incorrect messages, losing power, or being damaged before customers started using them, according to the database.

Other devices with lots of issues: dental implants, surgical staplers, and breast implants.

**UTIs get tough**

Treatment for urinary tract infections, once common, is no longer routine; more and more strains have become resistant to antibiotics. It’s bad enough that the New York City Department of Health has released an app for physicians and nurses that details which strains are resistant to which drugs. A third are already resistant to Bactrim, for example, and even ampicillin is no longer considered the standard treatment because so many strains of UTIs are resistant to it.

The emerging new standard of treatment is culture first, prescribe second — once the particular strain is identified.
SHOUT-OUTS

Mercer University Rho Chi Classes of 2020 and 2021

NEWS FROM MERCER: RHO CHI SOCIETY

The Rho Chi Society is an academic honor society that recognizes academic excellence while advocating critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy. Students are eligible for induction after completing three semesters within the College of Pharmacy. Rho Chi consists of the top 20 percent of each class. The society encourages high standards of conduct and fosters fellowship among its members. Furthermore, the society has a vision to achieve universal recognition of its members as lifelong intellectual leaders in pharmacy.

The members of the Gamma Alpha chapter at Mercer have worked diligently within the community to uphold our mission and standards. Each member of Rho Chi is required to host both individual and group tutoring sessions, and members consistently state how rewarding it is helping other classmates better understand certain topics and to succeed. Rho Chi members are active within a multitude of other organizations, meaning that multitasking and prioritization is a necessary skill for each member.

This semester, the Gamma Alpha chapter welcomed 27 new members. We are excited to welcome more members into the society to contribute to upholding our values and standards and to excel academically while helping others along the way.

STONE NAMED TO BOARD OF PHARMACY

Congratulations to GPhA past president Dean Stone of Metter, who was just named to the Georgia Board of Pharmacy by Governor Kemp!

SHOUT-OUT TO UGA’S HAWKINS

Congrats to Anthony Hawkins, clinical assistant professor at UGA’s College of Pharmacy — he was named the college’s Teacher of the Year.

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HIGH-FIVE ASHISH!

Shout-out to GPhA member Ashish Advani — he appeared on Fox5’s Good Day Atlanta to talk about supplements, and how pharmacists can help determine which ones are helping, which aren’t doing anything, and whether they’re OK to take together.
These are the newest members of GPhA’s President’s Circle — people who recruit their fellow pharmacists, technicians, academics, and others to become part of the association. Recruit a member and join!

SILVER LEVEL:
Claude Bates; Monroe
Tracy Dabbs; Douglasville
Melanie Defusco; Kennesaw
Joe Ed Holt; Valdosta
Joshua Kinsey; Atlanta
Ann Lavoie; Thomaston
Wallace Partridge; Evans
Ken Smith; Perry

PHARMACISTS
Asa Albritton; Ringgold (ACHP)
Lisa Anderson; Dallas, Ga. (AEP)
Gabriel Aligwekwe; Snellville (AEP)
Tara Ayers; Vestavia (AEP)
Sonja Bennett; Hahira (AIP)
Kat Buescher; Valdosta
Derek Chapman; Peachtree City
Tenzing Dolkar; Augusta
Alexandra Guthart; Evans
Brittney Hall; Douglasville (AEP)
Michael Hanichen; Atlanta (ACHP)
Christyn Hicks; Macon (AEP)
Kimberly Johnson; Atlanta (AEP)
Derrick Jones; Jackson (AEP)
Swathi Krishnaprasad; Richardson, Tex.
Sarah Layson; Calhoun (AEP)
Phong Ly; Albany (ACHP)
Patrick Mains; Greenville, S.Car. (AEP)
Lori McLean; Albany (AEP)
J’Saun McLeod; Smyrna (AIP)
Jacob Mouchet; Tallapoosa (AIP)
Chika Nnedu; Montgomery, Ala. (AEP)
Amanda Page; Peachtree City (ACHP)
Purvi Parikh; Marietta (AEP)
Jaymin Patel; Kennesaw
Kinal Patel; Kennesaw
Deven Patel; Smyrna
Harnish Patel; Savannah (AEP)
Christopher Patterson; Blairsville (AIP)
Joelle Potts; Savannah
John Quinlan; Claxton
Preetal Raja; Aventura, Fla. (AEP)
Jung Jung Shang; Decatur
Colt Smith; Crawford
Richard Van Sant; Cumming
Jordan Walker; Statesboro (AEP)
Tyler Whittaker; Dallas (AEP)
Celestena Williams; Miami, Fl.
Alex Will; Ambrose (AIP)
Rise Wood; Cedartown (AEP)
Desiree Wright; Hephzibah
Samuel Young; Atlanta (AEP)

TECHNICIANS
Virginia Bias; Lilburn (APT)
Rebecca Black; Mansfield (APT)
John Cravey; (APT)
Ashley Orosz; Cumming (APT)
Stacey Patterson; Jackson (APT)
Stacie Turnipseed; Acworth (APT)

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Another successful convention under our belts: more pharmacists, more students, more courses, more vendors, more fun on Amelia Island.

Dancing at the President’s Bash, filling the classrooms, building sandcastles at the beach, connecting with old friends and meeting new people ... it was a four-day extravaganza.

Go on, turn the pages, find yourself and your friends, and enjoy our pictorial review!

*Photos by David Burghardt, Savannah Cunningham, Andrew Kantor*

You can see plenty more pictures from the convention at [GPhAconvention.com/2019photos](http://GPhAconvention.com/2019photos)!
Ira Katz of Marietta (left) receives the 2019 Bowl of Hygeia for his years of service to the profession and his community.

Joshua Kinsey of Atlanta (left) was named the 2019 Outstanding Region President.

Jonathan Sinyard of Cordele (left) is presented with the 2019 Pharmacist Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award by Hutton Madden.

After a blockbuster victory in the legislature, GPhA thanked its legislative champions (left to right): Vice President of Public Policy Greg Reybold, Georgia state representative Ron Stephens, lobbyist Cindy Shepherd, pharmacists Charlie Barnes and Jennifer Shannon, and state representative David Knight.
McKesson’s Hunter Deneke presents Chris Thurmond with the 2019 McKesson Leadership Award.

Smith Drugs’ Kay Newham prepares to present Chris Thurmond with the 2019 Smith Drug Visionary Award.

GPhA CEO Bob Coleman presents Ben Ross with a certificate of appreciation for being a Gold Member of the President’s Circle.

Jack Dunn receives the 2019 Excellence in Innovation Award from incoming president Chris Thurmond.

Rita Short receives the Pharmacist’s Mate award.

Georgia State Representative Ron Stephens (right) accepts the 2019 Larry L. Braden Meritorious Service Award on behalf of Bruce Broaddrick.

NCPA President Bill Osborn presents Chris Thurmond with the 2019 NCPA Leadership Award.

Outgoing president Tim Short congratulates his successor, Chris Thurmond of Athens, who had just taken the oath of office as 2019–20 GPhA president.

The Passing of the Gavel: Past President Jack Dunn, Jr. (2011–12), hands the gavel of office to Robert Hatton (2012–13) as part of the annual passing the mantle of office toward newly inaugurated President Chris Thurmond (not visible).

The incoming region presidents were sworn in. Left to right: Sujal Patel, Andrew Holt, Joe Ed Holt, Neal Hollis, Blake Daniel, Bryce Carter, Stephanie Kirkland, Nikki Bryant

Incoming president Chris Thurmond gives his inauguration speech
AT THE PODIUM

PharmPAC Chair Mahlon Davidson

Tina Chancy of Chancy Drugs

U.S. Representative Buddy Carter

Georgia State Representative Ron Stephens

Georgia State Representative David Knight

2017-18 GPhA President Liza Chapman and immediate Past President Tim Short
EVENTS

Fun in the very hot sun
Our first annual Pharm-a-Sea sandcastle building contest had teams compete from Georgia’s pharmacy schools, the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation (for which it raised money), the Head family, and NCPA.

Clockwise from right: teams from Mercer University, PCOM, and UGA. (UGA won the event this year — go Dawgs!)

Keynoters

Terry Waston

Lucinda Maine

Tracie Lunde

Sylvia Adams and Tracy Dabbs won the DrawDown prizes on Thursday and Friday; with them is Georgia Pharmacy Foundation Chair Jim Bartling.

The annual AIP luncheon was, as usual, packed with pharmacist-owners from across the state.
A splendid time was had by all
From packed classes to big buffets, dancing at the bash and chatting with Expo Hall vendors, pharmacists, techs, students, and their families made the most of the convention.
The 2019 convention saw a big increase in student-pharmacist turnout over last year, with all four of Georgia’s pharmacy schools represented.

It was a perfect opportunity for networking, taking advantage of student-only events, and getting a start on their careers ... but there was also plenty of time for fun.

And thanks to the Student Leadership Board and Walgreens, we debuted our “Student Central” space and offered professional head shots this year.
INVESTING IN PHARMPAC IS INVESTING IN YOUR PRACTICE.

2019 PHARMPAC INVESTORS

The following pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, students, and others have joined GPhA’s PharmPAC for the 2019 calendar year.

The contribution levels are based on investment through July 15, 2019.

Diamond Investors ($4,800 or $400/month)

Ralph Balchin
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KEITH CHAPMAN
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AL DIXON
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Claude Bates
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Marshall Frost
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Got a concern about a GPhA program or service? Want to compliment or complain? Drop a note to info@gpha.org.
From the President

Lesson from history

Convention is over and it always makes me a little sad to see it end. The 2019 Georgia Pharmacy Convention was held at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation in mid-June and many of your fellow GPhA members and friends were able to witness much of what GPhA has to offer: quality education, opportunities for networking, reunion with old friends, the making new friends and of course, a tremendous amount of fun and entertainment. I attend many pharmacy conferences and conventions, but I will attest to the fact that the GPhA convention is always at the top of that list. The GPhA staff just knows how to do it right.

If you were not at this year’s convention, you may have missed one of the pinnacles of human history, my inaugural speech. It was equated by some with the invention of the wheel, putting a man on the moon, and the introduction of the iPhone. Perhaps “these people” are prone to hyperbole, but the first foray into my presidential year was simply a reflection on the principles upon which GPhA was founded and a call to action to be an active member in this great association.

The Georgia Pharmacy Association began back in 1875, when a group of pharmacists got together to:

“...consider the organization of a pharmaceutical association, binding each other with closer ties of friendship and to promote interest in the junior members of the fraternity and exciting the spirit of emulation and ambition; the interchange and dissemination of scientific researches; the framing of laws to be enacted that will result not only in the protection of the profession but the public in general.”

As I told those gathered in the general session, this legacy may have begun in 1875, but it still thrives today.

**Friendships:** I encourage those members that have been involved with GPhA for years to seek out and engage those who are either new to the association or simply may be introverts like I was back in the day. I also encourage newer members, whether students or young practitioners, or simply new to GPhA, to get out of your comfort zone. Be willing to be uncomfortable now for the amazing benefits of GPhA friendships.

**Fraternity:** I encourage our elder members to seek out and develop relationships with young practitioners. I implore these young practitioners to seek out relationships with these elder members. They have immense knowledge and skills, while remaining tremendously friendly and helpful. GPhA can offer you a great opportunity to be mentored by some amazing and innovative pharmacists.

**Education:** GPhA serves its members through quality education and training. Experts in many fields and areas gather to discuss, teach, and encourage new knowledge and techniques to improve patient health. Take advantage of more than just online continuing education to check off for license renewal. GPhA provides its members personal interactions that allow for this interchange and dissemination of knowledge and ideas.

**Advocacy:** If there is a single pillar on which GPhA can unequivocally stand proud, it is legislative affairs. And thank goodness. As much as we may want to remain neutral, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but our profession is under constant attack from entities internal and external. No practice setting is immune — hospitals, retail, consulting, industry, and academia are all affected. GPhA stands firm in the protection of the rights and privileges of all pharmacists in all practice settings.

In conclusion, **get involved.** Encourage your fellow pharmacists to join us. United we are better. United we are stronger.

Chris Thurmond is GPhA’s 2019–2020 president and owner of Village Drug Shop of Athens. Write to him at vildrug@bellsouth.net.

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**POSTSCRIPT**

CHRIS THURMOND

Convention is over and it always makes me a little sad to see it end. The 2019 Georgia Pharmacy Convention was held at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation in mid-June and many of your fellow GPhA members and friends were able to witness much of what GPhA has to offer: quality education, opportunities for networking, reunion with old friends, the making new friends and of course, a tremendous amount of fun and entertainment. I attend many pharmacy conferences and conventions, but I will attest to the fact that the GPhA convention is always at the top of that list. The GPhA staff just knows how to do it right.

If you were not at this year’s convention, you may have missed one of the pinnacles of human history, my inaugural speech. It was equated by some with the invention of the wheel, putting a man on the moon, and the introduction of the iPhone. Perhaps “these people” are prone to hyperbole, but the first foray into my presidential year was simply a reflection on the principles upon which GPhA was founded and a call to action to be an active member in this great association.

The Georgia Pharmacy Association began back in 1875, when a group of pharmacists got together to:

“...consider the organization of a pharmaceutical association, binding each other with closer ties of friendship and to promote interest in the junior members of the fraternity and exciting the spirit of emulation and ambition; the interchange and dissemination of scientific researches; the framing of laws to be enacted that will result not only in the protection of the profession but the public in general.”

As I told those gathered in the general session, this legacy may have begun in 1875, but it still thrives today.

**Friendships:** I encourage those members that have been involved with GPhA for years to seek out and engage those who are either new to the association or simply may be introverts like I was back in the day. I also encourage newer members, whether students or young practitioners, or simply new to GPhA, to get out of your comfort zone. Be willing to be uncomfortable now for the amazing benefits of GPhA friendships.

**Fraternity:** I encourage our elder members to seek out and develop relationships with young practitioners. I implore these young practitioners to seek out relationships with these elder members. They have immense knowledge and skills, while remaining tremendously friendly and helpful. GPhA can offer you a great opportunity to be mentored by some amazing and innovative pharmacists.

**Education:** GPhA serves its members through quality education and training. Experts in many fields and areas gather to discuss, teach, and encourage new knowledge and techniques to improve patient health. Take advantage of more than just online continuing education to check off for license renewal. GPhA provides its members personal interactions that allow for this interchange and dissemination of knowledge and ideas.

**Advocacy:** If there is a single pillar on which GPhA can unequivocally stand proud, it is legislative affairs. And thank goodness. As much as we may want to remain neutral, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but our profession is under constant attack from entities internal and external. No practice setting is immune — hospitals, retail, consulting, industry, and academia are all affected. GPhA stands firm in the protection of the rights and privileges of all pharmacists in all practice settings.

In conclusion, **get involved.** Encourage your fellow pharmacists to join us. United we are better. United we are stronger.

Chris Thurmond is GPhA’s 2019–2020 president and owner of Village Drug Shop of Athens. Write to him at vildrug@bellsouth.net.
ICYMI

This year’s Miss Virginia — a future pharmacist — won in part with her talent portion: performing a science demo of catalytic decomposition. Now she’s off to the Miss America competition.

“I am more than Miss Virginia,” she said. “I am Miss Biochemist, Miss Systems Biologist, Miss Future PharmD looking toward a pharmaceutical industry career.”

Tide Pods update

In case you’re wondering, yes, kids are still eating those delicious Tide Pods. The annual “number and rate of exposures” for kids under 6 (who make up 91 percent of Pods consumers) has gone down a bit — 18.0 percent since 2015 — but they’re still trying to eat ’em..

Deze kop is in het Nederlands

The Dutch are nothing if not innovative, and they’ve come up with a way to help citizens spot drug labs: Giving them “perfume” that smells like MDMA so they’ll learn to recognize it.

“(Police) are offering samples to the public, to get them familiarized with the smell of the drug, so that when they casually walk by a drug lab producing the illegal substance, they can notify authorities about it.”

Horns and hard art

The headline: “Horns are growing on young people’s skulls. Phone use is to blame, research suggests.”

The reality: It’s true — people are developing actual bone spurs on the backs of their skulls. And, while phone use might not be the only culprit, it’s certainly the main reason for “sustained aberrant postures.”
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Contact Kenna Little at GPhA today to get started.

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Edition Date: 07/2018
Looking to grow your pharmacy with enhanced services, but not sure where to start? Look no further.

The NCPA Innovation Center’s Enhanced Services Boot Camp is a one-day intensive course designed to help you navigate operations and management of an enhanced service business. Hear pharmacy owners share how they are doing it and give real-world coaching on the operations and management of a re-engineered pharmacy.

On site registration begins @ 7:30am

For more information, please contact V at vbwhigham@gpha.org