

Georgia Pharmacy

August/September 2020

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AWARDS**

**PBM REFORM:
GEORGIA IS
RAISING THE BAR**

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TO TECH U**



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NORMAL**

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Georgia Pharmacy

The Journal of the Georgia Pharmacy Association

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From the CEO

Changes in Latitudes

“It’s these changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes, Nothing remains quite the same. With all of our running and all of our cunning, If we couldn’t laugh we would all go insane.”



BOB COLEMAN

You may have heard the old joke; if you don't like the weather wait five minutes, because it will change. While on a phone call recently, I joked with the caller that these days it feels like we are living life in five-minute increments. Wear masks...don't wear masks...use hand sanitizer...hand sanitizer may contain methanol...stay home...the bars are open...vaccines take two years to develop...we could have vaccines in December... COVID-19 stats are going in the right direction... well, maybe not. And, the list goes on.

Upon reflection, I think Jimmy Buffett was a man ahead of his time when he wrote the words above. Nothing seems to remain the same these days!

As I write this, due to the explosion of COVID-19 cases in Florida, GPhA was forced to go to a virtual convention, so GPhA staff are in the process of shifting our traditional convention format and all it entails over to a virtual format. We were all very disappointed that we were unable to hold our convention in Amelia Island, as the Board recognizes how important it is for GPhA members to have the opportunity to network; renew old friendships and make new ones as well. The GPhA convention is the perfect opportunity for that. But, looking for the silver lining, while going to a virtual format may not have the same opportunities to engage as a traditional format, it does open the convention and annual member meeting up for more members to attend as well as providing a greater degree of flexibility to deliver the programming.

Pins and Needles Time

Hopefully, by the time you read this prescript, Governor Kemp has signed our legislative initiatives into law. It was truly an unprecedented year with Session being suspended on March

13 and not reconvening for over two months on June 15. Up to the suspension and thanks to legislators, our lobbying team and GPhA member communications to your Senators and Representatives, we found our initiatives moving forward with opposition from the usual suspects — an army of lobbyists (estimated to be over 30). Unfortunately, the suspension gave our opposition time to regroup and when session reconvened, not only with an army of PBM contract lobbyists, but also op-eds in newspapers, as well as advertising in favor of PBM's on the internet and talk radio commercial spots!

Again, through the amazing efforts of Representatives Knight, Cooper, Hatchett, England, Smith, Newton, Burns, Holmes, Stephens, and House Speaker Ralston, and Senators Burke, Watson, Jones, Hufstetler, Tillery, Mullis, and Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan, as well as our incredible legislative team, we prevailed and both the House and Senate passed our 2020 legislative initiatives. For more specifics on the legislation, please visit the GPhA website and click on the 2020 Legislative Session Wrap Up banner.

Member Survey

When asked, almost 95% of GPhA members responded they either strongly agree or agree with the statement, “Overall, I am satisfied with my GPhA membership.” Thank you to all GPhA members that completed the 2020 Member Survey. We'll be sharing more results with you in the next edition of the magazine, so be sure to look for it.

In the meantime, laugh more and stay well, 📺

Bob Coleman is Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Pharmacy Association.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome our new members and recognize the President's Circle. Thank you for your support.

By **Mary Ritchie**, GPhA Director of Membership

Maddox Burnett; Athens
Mardhia Dayisi; Fayetteville
Danny Postell; Ball Ground
Griffin Reynolds; Bainbridge
Bharat Sinojia; Braselton

Academy of Clinical and Health-System Pharmacists
Shelly Blanton; Midland

Academy of Employee Pharmacists
Dean Arneson; Savannah

Umer Ashraf; Blue Ridge
Chinh Chau; Riverdale
Lisa Dunn; Smyrna
Thomas Giovinazzo; Snellville
William Hill; Atlanta

Heba Kaldas; Augusta
Beth Knight; Stockbridge
Simon Oduro; Powder Springs
Sonal Patel; McDonough
Laurie Renshaw; Roswell
Cotton Satterfield; Americus
Geoffrey Turner; Macon
Megan Wilson; Bogart

AIP-Academy of Independent Pharmacists

Trey Thompson; Newnan

APT-Academy of Pharmacy Technicians

Hannah Carpenter; Reynolds
Beth English; Reynolds
Victor Fishman; Kennesaw
Katie McCook; Preston
Constance Nestler; Macon



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

Nikki Bryant; Preston
Matt Crist; Macon
Jonathan Knight; Reynolds
Ben Ross; Statesboro
Mitch Terry; West Columbia, SC

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CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2020 GPHA'S CONVENTION/ANNUAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

SEPTEMBER

September 10-12
**Georgia Pharmacy
Virtual Convention**

Friday, September 25
**Ready, Aim, Phire! A Sporting
Clays Event Benefitting GPhF**

Sunday September 27
**APhA's Delivering Medication
Therapy Management Services
Certificate Training Program**

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 4
**NACDS Community Pharmacy
based Point-of-Care Testing
Certificate Program**

October 23-25
**GPhA Board of Directors Retreat
& BoD Meeting in Savannah, GA**

Saturday, October 24
**Tech-U CE and Topgolf
Event for Pharmacy
Technicians**

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 8
**APhA's The Pharmacist
and Patient-Centered
Diabetes Care Certification
Training Program**

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6
**APhA's Pharmacy-Based
Immunization Delivery
Certificate Training Program**

Thursday, December 10
**GPhA's Board of Directors
Meeting**



 **Georgia
Pharmacy**
CONVENTION 2020

Virtual Sept. 10-12

Emory: Phase III of vaccine trial

Woodruff Health Sciences Center



EMORY UNIVERSITY IS TAKING PART IN Phase III of a nationwide clinical trial designed to evaluate an investigational vaccine for COVID-19.

Emory administered its first dose of the vaccine at the Hope Clinic of Emory Vaccine Center this week. Hundreds of adult volunteers 18 and older will ultimately be enrolled at three clinics: Emory Children's Clinic, the Hope Clinic of Emory Vaccine Center, and Grady Health's Ponce de Leon Center.

"We're excited to be part of this next critical study in seeking a vaccine to combat COVID-19," says Evan Anderson, principal investigator for the trial at Emory Children's Clinic, as well as associate professor of medicine and pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

"As the death toll from this pandemic continues to rise, it becomes even more urgent that we find a safe and effective vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Having this trial take place at Emory gives Atlanta-area residents the opportunity to participate in a study that, if successful, has the potential to help stem the tide of this disease."

The experimental vaccine, mRNA-1273, was co-developed by researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, and biotech company Moderna, Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Emory University was one of three sites that took part in a Phase 1 study of the same vaccine.

Early results from that study found the vaccine was generally well tolerated and generated an immune response among participants.

The new larger study (expected to enroll about 30,000 people at more than 80 sites) is designed to test whether the investigational vaccine can effectively prevent COVID-19 infection or prevent severe symptoms and death associated with infection. Participants will be randomly assigned to receive either the tested vaccine or placebo, given in two injections spaced 28 days apart.

People taking part in the study will be monitored for safety through regular clinic visits. Additionally, they will be tested over two years to see who becomes infected in the course of their daily lives.

Nadine Rouphael, MD, associate professor of medicine (infectious diseases) at Emory University School of Medicine, is principal investigator for the study at the Hope Clinic, where she is interim director.

Colleen Kelley, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine (infectious diseases) at Emory University School of Medicine, is principal investigator for the study at the Ponce de Leon Center.

The study is supported by Emory's Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU), which is part of NIAID's Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium (IDCRC) and the COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN) supporting this trial. Emory has been a VTEU site since 2007. The consortium is co-led by co-principal investigators David S. Stephens of Emory University School of Medicine, and Kathleen Neuzil of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Stephens is professor and chair of Emory's Department of Medicine and vice president for research of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

Additional information about the trial design is available at clinicaltrials.gov using the identifier NCT04470427. This trial at Emory was supported in part by the NIAID grant UM1AI148576.

To view original article, https://news.emory.edu/stories/2020/08/coronavirus_phase3_vaccine_trial_launches/index.html [f](#)

Investing in PharmPAC is investing in your practice.

The following pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, students, and others have joined GPhA's PharmPAC for the 2020 calendar year.

The contribution levels are based on investment through July 15, 2020.

DIAMOND INVESTORS (\$4,800 or \$400/month)



RALPH BALCHIN
Fayetteville



CHARLES BARNES
Valdosta



MAC McCORD
Atlanta



SCOTT MEEKS
Douglas



FRED SHARPE
Albany

TITANIUM INVESTORS (\$2,400 or \$200/month)



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Macon



ANN HANSFORD
Athens



LON LEWIS
St. Simons Island



TOMMY LINDSEY
Omega



BRANDALL LOVVORN
Bremen

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(\$1,200 or
\$100/month)

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DALE COKER
W.C. CONLEY
BEN CRAVEY
BLAKE DANIEL
AL DIXON
JACK DUNN
VIC JOHNSON
MARSHA KAPILOFF
IRA KATZ

KENNETH KICKLIGHTER
JEFF LUREY
JONATHAN MARQUESS
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DREW MILLER
CASSIE RILEY
HOUSTON ROGERS
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TIM SHORT
TERESA SMITH
CARL STANLEY
DENNIS STRICKLAND
CHRIS THURMOND
DANNY TOTH
ALEX TUCKER
THOMAS WHITWORTH
JULIE WICKMAN

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SHARON DEASON
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KEVIN FLORENCE
KERRY GRIFFIN
JOHNATHAN HAMRICK
ROBERT HATTON
MICHAEL ITEOGU

STEPHANIE KIRKLAND
GEORGE LAUNIUS
EUGENE MCDONALD
LISA MCDONALD
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SUJAL PATEL
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DARYL REYNOLDS
ROBERT ROGERS
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DAVID STANLEY
JAMES THOMAS
WILLIAM TURNER
CHUCK WILSON
HENRY WILSON III

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Claude Bates
James Carpenter
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Ed Dozier
Marshall Frost
Hannah Head
Joe Ed Holt
Jason Jones
Susan Kane
Laura Ko

Willie Latch
Michael Lewis
Lauren Lindsey
Ashley London
Hilary Mbadugha
Donald Piela
Bill Prather
Terry Shaw
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Jonathan Sinyard
Renee Smith
Richard Smith
Austin Till

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\$12.50/month)

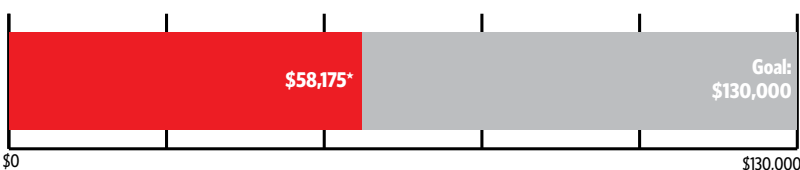
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Ashlyn Carter
Bryce Carter
Matthew Crist
Michelle Cruson
James Harkleroad
Phillip James
Brenton Lake
Rabun Neves
Katherine Woods
Lou Woods

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Guy Cox
Bill Dunaway
Kenneth Kicklighter
Roy McClendon
Lisa McDonald
Robert Probst
Thomas Rawls
Bonnie Warren

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Visit GPhA.org/PharmPAC to find out more.



David Graves, Macon,
PharmPAC chairman

*As of July 15, 2020

IN MEMORIAM



BRUCE LAMBERT BROADRICK, SR.

Bruce Lambert Broadrick, Sr., 68, of Dalton, Georgia, departed this life peacefully at his home on Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Frank M. Broadrick, Sr. and Mary Anne Lambert Broadrick.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Mary Mauldin Broadrick; his children, Bruce (Bucky) L. Broadrick, Jr. (Ashley), Maggie Broadrick Atkinson (Brad) and Emily Broadrick (fiancé Ryan Grass); grandchildren, Bruce L. (Bo), Mary Susan, Caroline and Ruthanne Broadrick, Ethan Smith and Brodie and Sawyer Atkinson; brothers, Frank M. Broadrick, Jr. (Melanie) and Mike J. Broadrick (Holli) and brother-in-law, Marshall R. Mauldin (Adrienne).

Bruce was born on Sept. 17, 1951 and spent his entire life, besides his years at the beloved University of Georgia, serving the community of Dalton as a pharmacist and as a State Representative. Bruce was a third generation healthcare professional following the footsteps of his grandfather, Dr. George L. Broadrick and his father, Frank Broadrick, RPh. Bruce was the owner of his late father's pharmacy (Frank's Pharmacy)

for 35 years until the pharmacy's closing in 2009, was a past president of Georgia Pharmacy Association (1995-1997), was vice-chair of the Whitfield County Board of Health, and served as a Georgia State Representative from 2012-2017. Bruce's greatest satisfaction in life was serving as a pharmacist and being a husband, father, and "Papa Bruce" to his seven grandchildren. In a letter he wrote in 2009 Bruce said, "pharmacy continues to be my daily focus. Going home at the end of the day knowing I made a difference in a patient's life is my satisfaction."

The family would like to thank RossWoods Adult Day Services and the staff and caregivers of Community Hospice in Dalton.

Private graveside services will be held on Saturday, July 18, at West Hill Cemetery with Rev. Brian Clark officiating. Social distancing and masks will be encouraged.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Dalton First United Methodist Church, 500 N. Thornton Ave. Dalton, GA 30720 or to the Friendship House, P.O. Box 794, Dalton, GA 30722 or Whitfield County MedBank, 800 Professional Blvd. Dalton, GA 30720. [Facebook](#)

What is sporting clays?

A good description is golf with a shotgun. The Big Red Oak Shooting Preserve is a premier sporting destination and is a favorite of those who love the outdoors. The preserve has the legacy of seven generations on 2500 acres of primeval hunting land. It's located just 60 miles south of the Atlanta airport in Gay, Georgia.

<http://www.gpha.org/ready-aim-phire/>

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-  Aim Steady (Station Sponsor) \$1,500
-  Together A-Gun (Single Team Entry) \$800
-  Give it a Shot (Single Player Entry) \$200

Grab a Buddy!

Get Outside!

Have Some Fun!

Friday, Sept. 25, 2020

1:00 – 1:30 pm Check-in and Instruction
1:30 – 4:00 pm Sporting Clays Competition
4:00 – 5:30 pm Auction / Raffle, BBQ, and Beer



A Sporting Clays Event Benefitting the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation



Ready.
Aim.
Phire!

A Sporting Clays Event Benefitting the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation



<http://www.gpha.org/ready-aim-phire>

Sign Up Today! Shooters and Sponsors Wanted!

Friday, September 25, 2020, 1:00-5:30 pm

PBM Reform, Transparency, & Patient Protections – Georgia Raises the Bar



Left to right: Greg Reybold; Atlanta pharmacy owner Thomas Jusu; Monticello pharmacy owner David Leech; Heather Breen, MS Society; Jason Jones, pharmacy owner in Douglasville and candidate for Georgia State House. On the right side of Governor Kemp: Senator Burke with his wife, son, and grandson; David Knight.



GREG REYBOLD

While problematic PBM practices and their impact on patient care and rising drug costs continue to gain attention nationwide, solutions remain elusive. Enter Georgia, which has proven to be fertile ground for innovative public policy solutions that unapologetically look to tackle PBM practices head on. From MAC pricing in 2015 to the Pharmacy patient protection act in 2018, to preconditions to the CVS-Aetna merger in 2018, to the nation's first anti-steering bill in 2019; Georgia and its General Assembly have consistently chartered new paths forward putting it front and center of the national fight against harmful PBM practices. Despite the impact of COVID-19, including a major disruption in the legislative session, 2020 proved to be another landmark year in Georgia.

The changes are so vast that they are too numerous to list here but you can visit the GPhA

website's advocacy page for a full update on Georgia's new laws. In the meantime, keep reading for highlights of Georgia's 2020 legislative session.

Finally, while GPhA played a central role in crafting and advocating for these reforms, GPhA is proud that that it was far from alone in fighting for this legislation as other associations and patient advocacy groups joined the fight.

HB 946 & SB 313

These bills, both receiving Majority Caucus support, were sweeping in their scope tackling, amongst other things, licensure, oversight, fines, transparency, and significant patient protections. Below are a few highlights of the many noteworthy provisions.

NADAC Reporting: NADAC may not be a perfect benchmark, but it is far more transparent than a trade secreted reimbursement methodology. The law will now require that PBMs report drugs paid 10% above and 10% below NADAC every 4 months with taxpayers having access to these reports via a public website.

Spread Pricing: According to reports prepared by Myers & Stauffer, approximately \$90 million dollars in spread pricing was paid to PBMs in Georgia's Medicaid managed care program in 2018 and 2019 combined. What we don't know is how many tax dollars were paid to PBMs via spread pricing at the county and city level. We likely will never know the answer to that question looking backwards but spread pricing has been prohibited for PBM contracts with the state (not just in Medicaid managed contracts) as well as counties and municipalities. The days of taxpayers paying more for drugs than pharmacies are reimbursed is over. That is a win for all of Georgia.

Drug Reimbursement & Patient Outcomes: For the last several years the pharmacy world has focused on the egregious practice of PBMs imposing retroactive fees on pharmacies, and for good reason. Not only is it unfair and untenable for pharmacies but this practice can lead to patients and payors paying based on the amount a pharmacy is reimbursed at the point of sale and not the amount a pharmacy was actually reimbursed when post adjudication fees are imposed.

As a result, there have been great efforts at the state and federal levels to prohibit retroactive fees. This is explicit on this year's legislation.

But we didn't stop there. Rather, we dug deep and took on the underlying issue itself which is PBMs tying reimbursement for ingredient drug costs to opaque patient outcome metrics. As long as this is allowed, pharmacies, patients and payors will continue to suffer, whether money is held back at the point of sale or is taken retroactively. This legislation not only prohibits retroactive fees, it prohibits tying patient outcomes to reimbursement for a drug.

PBM Surcharge: While this provision did not garner significant attention throughout the legislative session, GPhA believes it will prove to be consequential in reigning in steering, point of sale and retroactive fees that continue despite state law prohibitions. Put simply, Georgia has enacted a first in the nation surcharge on PBMs that continue to engage in these harmful practices. If they engage in the practice of steering or imposing point of sale or retroactive fees, PBMs will be subject to a 10% surcharge on all claims they administer in the state of Georgia.

HB 918 – PHARMACY STEERING & AUDITS

This bill strengthens Georgia's first in the nation anti-steering law by removing several exemptions, closing loopholes, prohibiting steering via monetary penalties on patients and


payors, and PBM cross referral arrangements. This law applies to pharmacies affiliated with PBMs and these provisions are mirrored on the PBM side in the bills discussed above.

In addition, this bill makes several exciting changes to Georgia's Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights including a prohibition on recoupment except in cases of fraud, overpayment, and misfills. It explicitly provides that when a patient receives the correct drug in the correct dosage and quantity pursuant to a prescription drug order then no misfill shall be found to have occurred.

MEDICAID CARVE OUT STUDY

Following the introduction of HB 947 by Representative Knight and getting sufficient money appropriated in the budget, The Department of Community Health has engaged Navigant, a Lighthouse Company and DCH's Medicaid actuary to conduct a study on the fiscal impact of carving out Rx benefits from the Medicaid managed care program and putting those benefits back into fee for service. Navigant is the same company that conducted the study of West Virginia's carve out and found savings of approximately \$50 million in the first year following the carve out.

HB 991 – VETOED BY GOVERNOR KEMP

HB 991, which was introduced by House Majority Caucus Chair Hathchett and co-sponsored by Rep. Knight and a who's who of other house leaders, would have created the Healthcare Transparency and Accountability Committee to oversee state healthcare contracts. Despite near unanimous support, this bill was vetoed by Governor Kemp. Governor Kemp cited concern regarding the possibility the committee could be acting in an executive capacity. GPhA was disappointed with the veto and believes HB 991 would have given the General Assembly access to valuable information to assist in making responsible decisions as it appropriates billions of dollars. In a joint statement issued by House Speaker Ralston and Lt. Governor Duncan, they indicated an interest in taking the bill up in a special legislative session should one be called, noting that HB 991 provides "critical oversight to taxpayer dollars." With a strong commitment to transparency from the leadership of both chambers, let's mark this one as "to be continued." 

Be a Part of Something Bigger Than Yourself

“Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere.”

— President T. Roosevelt, 1908

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT YOU ONLY GET OUT OF

something what you put into it and that's never truer said than when dealing with a membership Association. Since its founding in 1875, GPhA has stood the test of time based on the participation and involvement of its members. The litmus test is actually pretty simple; the more involvement by an Association's membership, the stronger the Association.

GPhA is blessed to have a membership with a very high satisfaction rating. As noted in the prescript, almost 95% of GPhA members are satisfied with their membership. In addition, over 90% would recommend GPhA membership to another Georgia Pharmacist.

So, how does one go about getting involved and thus getting the most out of their GPhA membership?

It's not difficult...don't wait to be asked... volunteer!

The path to involvement can be as simple as being on a committee or even running for office. Let's take a look at some of the ways you can get involved.

COMMITTEES

GPhA has a number of committees you might consider:

- Legislative Policy Committee - Options and implications for Board consideration and action regarding public positions and endorsements regarding legislative and regulatory issues.
- Nominating Committee - Fulfillment of the nominations/elections process as stipulated in the Bylaws
- Audit/Investment Committee - Directs work of outside auditors, to use management time as needed for administrative support, and incurs costs as budgeted for matters related to the audit.
- Bylaws Committee - preparation and/or review of proposed Bylaws revisions and implications for Board consideration.
- Membership Linkage Committee - Develops mechanisms and plans for Board approval and implementation to ensure active linkage between the Board and GPhA's membership and key constituent groups, ensuring the Board is well informed about member perspectives and values, and that the membership is informed of the Board's work on their behalf.
- Insurance Committee- Assumes all responsibilities and acts on behalf of the Board in all matters relating to any benefit offered to members of the Georgia Pharmacy Association, Inc. that constitutes an "employee welfare benefit plan" under Section 3(l) of ERISA and in all matters relating to insurance products and services offered by or through the Association.
- CPE Advisory Committee - Charged with providing high-quality, evidence-based educational activities that are: responsive to GPhA member interests and needs; accessible to all parts of the state; taught by pharmacy professionals and other recognized experts in formats that are attractive to adult learners; and, designed to improve the lives of patients and practice of pharmacy in all its settings.



REGION PRESIDENTS

Region Presidents promote activities to increase membership, create interest in the mission of Association and implement Association Policy. There are 12 Region Presidents, each serving a 2 year term.

ACADEMIES

Each of GPhA's Academies (Academy of Independent Pharmacy, Academy of Employee Pharmacists, Academy of Clinical and Health-System Pharmacists and the Academy of Pharmacy Technicians) has an elected Board of Directors and bylaws to follow.

Terms on these boards vary from two to three years and the number of meetings vary from as few as one to as many as 3 times a year. Serving on a Board is an excellent way to get to know the inner workings of the Association and can be a rewarding experience for board members. It's also a great stepping stone to prepare members to join the GPhA Board of Directors.


GPHA

The GPhA Board of Directors is comprised of eleven voting members. Three voting members are elected to Academy Board Seats, with the 8 remaining seats being "at large Board seats." Officers of the GPhA Board are the current President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President. Members of the GPhA Board of Directors serve 3-year terms. The Board currently meets 6 times a year. The GPhA Board oversees all of the various facets of the Association and provides the overall direction to the GPhA staff to take through the Board's annual planning meeting. The CEO of the Association reports to the Board.

LEADERSHIPGPHA

LeadershipGPhA is changing and more information will become available later this year. It is currently envisioned to be a one day program with content on the Association, leadership, management interrelating with peers in a Board environment.

So, what's the next step?

Again, simply, contact GPhA and let us know your area of interest. Send an email to Diane Coleman, Governance Manager at dcoleman@gpha.org or call her at 404-419-8173 and express your interest to serve the Association. We're anxious to hear from you! 

Region Presidents

Congratulations to our 2020 Region Presidents!

Please join GPhA in welcoming our newly elected 2020 Region Presidents. We thank them for volunteering their service. We will rely on their wisdom and leadership across the state of Georgia in the upcoming two years.

INCOMING REGION PRESIDENTS

Region	2020 President
2	William Posey
4	Loren Pierce
6	Wendell Hutchings
8	Andrew Holt
10	Lori McGinley
12	Matthew Burnette

We also want to recognize our current and outgoing Region Presidents. We thank them for their service. With their leadership, we have achieved great things. Their effort and dedication made a difference to the people of the State of Georgia.

Region	2020 President
1	Neal Hollis
2	Joe Holt
3	Nikki Bryant
4	Blake Daniel
5	Bryce Carter
6	Matt Crist
7	Sujal Patel
8	Andrew Holt
9	Suzanne Davenport
10	Cassie Riley
11	Robert "Bobby" Newsome
12	Stephanie Kirkland

2020 Fall Region Meetings

Our region meetings across Georgia are an important place where pharmacy professionals from each region gather. It's a time for fellowship but also a key component in developing a cohesive voice in our state.

As you know, our spring meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions. Due to continuing concerns, the fall meeting will be held virtually.

The virtual meeting will include:

- A critical run-down of changes to laws and regulations that impact your pharmacy practice and patients
- One hour ACPE-certified CE credit

Don't miss out. This information is important and will affect you. We look forward to the upcoming GPhA virtual region meeting.

2020 GPHA AWARDS

MAL T. ANDERSON OUTSTANDING REGION PRESIDENT AWARD

The Mal T. Anderson Outstanding Region President Award recognizes a pharmacist who demonstrates a strong commitment to the association, works hard to promote the association to current and prospective members, answers questions, secures sponsorships, runs region meetings, and more. It honors a person who has done the most to advance their region. We are proud to present the 2020 Mal T. Anderson Outstanding Region President Award to Sujal Patel, PharmD, of Guardian Pharmacy, in Kennesaw, Georgia.

ACADEMY OF EMPLOYEE PHARMACISTS OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Academy of Employee Pharmacists recognizes one outstanding member each year for their contribution to their industry and service to their community. The AEP is proud to recognize William Haung, PharmD, MS MTM, Atlanta, Georgia, as its 2020 Outstanding Member of the Year.

BOWL OF HYGEIA AWARD

Established in 1958, the Bowl of Hygeia Award recognizes a pharmacist who possesses outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in their communities. Today, the Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards. The bowl represents a medicinal potion and the snake represents healing. The Bowl of Hygeia plaque in the GPhA offices displays recipients starting in 1961. We are proud to present the 2020 Bowl of Hygeia Award to Drew Miller, RPh, of Wynn Pharmacy, in Griffin, Georgia.

OUTGOING GPHA BOARD RECOGNITION

In gratitude for their time, dedication, and leadership, we recognize outgoing board of directors, Ashish Advani, PharmD, of InpharmD, in Atlanta, Georgia, and Kevin Florence, PharmD, of ADD Drug Store, in Athens, Georgia. Thank you.

PHARMACISTS MUTUAL DISTINGUISHED YOUNG PHARMACIST AWARD

Created in 1987 to recognize achievements of young pharmacists in the profession, the Pharmacist Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award's purpose is twofold: first to encourage new pharmacists to participate in association and community activities and second to recognize an individual for involvement and dedication to the pharmacy profession. Pharmacists Mutual is delighted to present Austin Tull, PharmD, BCPP, of Cherokee Custom Script Pharmacy, in Canton, Georgia, with the 2020 Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award.

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AWARD

The Excellence in Innovation Award is a national award coordinated by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA), and generously sponsored by Upsher-Smith Laboratories to recognize and honor a qualified pharmacist who has demonstrated significant innovation in their respective practice, method or service resulting in improved patient care and/or advancement of the profession of pharmacy. We are proud to present the 2020 Excellence in Innovation Award to Nikki Adams Bryant, PharmD, of Adams Family Pharmacy, in Preston, Georgia.

NCPA PHARMACY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Since 1898, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) is the voice for independent pharmacy, representing 22,000 pharmacies and employing more than 250,000 individuals nationwide. Wes Chapman and GPhA are strong allies in our fight to bring reform to practices that are strangling independent pharmacy today. NCPA is honored to present the 2019-2020 NCPA Leadership Award to Wes Chapman, RPh, of Chapman Healthcare Pharmacy, in Vidalia, Georgia.

MCKESSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

McKesson has a long history of supporting Georgia pharmacies and partnership with the Georgia Pharmacy Association. It's a valued relationship that has been nurtured over many years. This

honor is bestowed on incoming Board Presidents as the leadership torch is passed. In 2020, McKesson recognizes Wes Chapman, RPh, of Chapman Healthcare Pharmacy, in Vidalia, Georgia, incoming Board President, and thank him for his service.

SMITH DRUG VISIONARY

In 1943, James Smith had the vision to begin what has become the Smith Drug Company of today. It takes not only a leader, but someone with a clear vision and direction of the future in order to succeed in business today. Smith Drug is proud to present the 2020 Smith Drug Visionary Award to Wes Chapman, RPh, of Chapman Healthcare Pharmacy, in Vidalia, Georgia.

PRESIDENT'S PIN

The President's Pin is presented to our Board of Directors departing President in honor of their service. This year we honor Chris Thurmond, PharmD, of Village Drug Shop of Athens, in Athens, Georgia, and thank him for his leadership.

RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN PHARMACY:

Marshall Curtis, RPh, Augusta, Georgia

Danny A. Toth, RPh, Lagrange, Georgia

Jim F. Anderson, RPh, Tifton, Georgia

James M. Carpenter, RPh, Union Point, Georgia

Hewlette Dennis Cook, RPh, Dalton, Georgia

Raymond J. Covey, RPh, Gray, Georgia

**Ruth Whitlow Mitcham, RPh, MS Pharm,
Lexington, North Carolina**

Sam Massey, RPh, Columbus, Georgia

Earl Henderson, RPh, Chula, Georgia



Chris and Deborah Thurman

PHARMACISTS MATE AWARD

It's no secret that pharmacists put service above self every day. But when a pharmacist becomes GPhA President that service grows exponentially. To be successful, the GPhA President needs the support of family and friends, but most importantly of their spouse. Chris and Deborah have been married for 25 years and have two children. We'd like to recognize and thank Deborah Thurmond for her service to GPhA.

In Chris' words,

"We were already married before I started pharmacy school, so she has been with me through my entire professional career. Her support for both my pharmacy work, as well as my professional service and leadership to the profession, has been nothing short of amazing. She has willingly taken the brunt of so many of my professional obligations, especially with family responsibilities. She has allowed me the opportunity to build pharmacy businesses, as well as serve in the leadership of groups and associations, all without even a hint of frustration or exasperation. She has traveled with me to countless conventions and trade shows and graciously stood by while pharmacy conversations took over. She has been a tremendous asset to my pharmacy career, and it helps that we really are each other's best friend. For anyone that has met her, there is no doubt that I married well above my pay grade, and most of my pharmacy friends like her best, and I don't blame them. In addition, for anyone that knows me, she has been able to put up with me - not an easy task." 📺

BACK TO SCHOOL

THE NEW NORMAL



Annie Bridges

UGA plans to return to campus in the fall with a hybrid approach. Each class will be divided into three groups and each group will report to in-person class for one week, every three weeks, then remain home for two weeks online. Face masks are required at all times inside buildings on the campus. With these accommodations, I am comfortable attending class with my group. Although I would like things to return to normal, I am certain this will ensure safety while learning. I believe I will be a better pharmacist attending 1/3 of classes in the classroom, rather than completely online instruction. The experience required to become a successful pharmacist cannot be taught completely online. Pharmacists are much more than a drug reference resource. We are communicators, problem-solvers, leaders, and much more than can be taught through a computer screen. —Annie Bridges, Pharmacy Student, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy



Laura Nguyen

COVID-19 has brought unprecedented changes to our school, such as transitioning to a virtual platform and postponing student activities. Initially, I felt discouraged attending school online, because many events and opportunities had been rescinded. As we continue with online education, I realize the importance of being positive in the face of uncertainty. Maintaining a positive outlook helped me be more resilient, creative, and innovative during a trying time.

PCOM provided us with an outline of how we will be continuing our education, with an emphasis on flexibility on changes that may occur.

- Majority of virtual classes
- Smaller classes on campus (students groups of 15 to maintain social distancing)
- Temperature checks, masks required, hand sanitizer stations, and safety training on COVID

I am cautious in reporting to a live classroom. I am confident that our school will address concerns and provide reassurance.

—Laura Nguyen, Pharmacy Student, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Georgia



Seth Harrison

COVID-19 has presented a challenging campus situation. One of the challenges is reopening schools. Currently, Mercer University plans to reopen in the fall. Going back to school in the fall makes me a little anxious with COVID-19 cases increasing.

Mercer has implemented plans to ensure the safety of every student.

- Temperature checks every morning before class
- Masks required
- Students split into different classrooms to allow six feet social distance
- No food services on campus

All of these steps help me feel as safe as possible. During these strange times, I also want to keep a good perspective on returning to campus. I know the university is doing everything it can to make campus a safe learning environment. In doing so, it helps me pursue my career.

—Seth Harrison, Pharmacy Student, Mercer University College of Pharmacy



Dylan Daniels

Returning to campus amidst COVID-19 concerns is a complex issue each university should handle with the foremost care for both faculty and students. At South University, efforts are currently underway to continue instruction fully online with accommodations for laboratory activities to take place on campus with appropriate measures. These measures will include checking individual temperatures upon entry into buildings, social distancing procedures, and consistent mask-wearing at all times. I believe that South has made wise and prudent decisions that suitably address growing concerns of COVID-19 while keeping the education of students and safety of all stakeholders as a primary decision factor. While I would be comfortable reporting daily to a live classroom (assuming that accommodations such as social distancing and mask-wearing are enforced), I respect the university's decision and value the importance that they place on our collective well-being throughout this process.

—Dylan Daniels, Pharmacy Student, South University

SEND A TECH TO TECH U!



Emily Durham, MS, CPhT, is the Chairperson of the Academy of Pharmacy Technicians (APT) Board of Directors.

Emily Durham joined the Academy of Pharmacy Technicians (APT) in 2019 and serves as Chairperson of the APT Board of Directors. Under her leadership, the Tech U initiative was born. Its mission is to provide education and networking opportunities to mentor pharmacy techs and facilitate their career progression. Tech U's charter is to create specific technician-centered



Emily Durham with Earl Marbut, RPh at the Forsyth Pharmacy, Suwanee Georgia. "This was my first real job as a Pharmacy Tech and he taught me everything I needed to know about pharmacy," Mrs. Durham shared.



content such as continuing education and speakers.

Ms. Durham told us why it's important for pharmacy owners to sponsor their techs to attend Tech U. Foremost is the technician-centered education. "We want to give technicians the tools they need to implement programs that will benefit their pharmacy practice. In addition, the goal is to empower technicians to augment their value in all pharmacy practice settings," said Durham. Also important is the networking opportunity. "When techs connect with their peers and share ideas, everyone wins. Their creativity can benefit your business." Your sponsorship is also a great way to reward performance.

We appreciate the event sponsors, Pharmacy Technician Cer-

tification Board (PTCB), Barnes Healthcare Services, American Pharmacy Cooperative, Inc. (ACPI), and Gayco Healthcare. We look forward to seeing all the GPhTs at the event.

To learn more and register, visit <http://www.gpha.org/techU/>.

TECH U EDUCATION AND GOLF EVENT

Saturday, October 24, 2020 • 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If you have not been there, Topgolf is a mix of real and digital golf. You use real golf clubs (men's and women's clubs are available) and microchipped balls that track and score your shot in its progression to distance and accuracy targets. Sponsor a Tech at Tech U!



Pictured above is a typical booth at Topgolf. You can see the green target range in the background. Due to COVID-19 precautions, each booth is separated by a clear plastic shield to help socially distance (red line near center).

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Keep in touch

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GPhA'S MEMBER SERVICE PARTNERS

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medicationsafety.org
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compliance software
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Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

ptcb.org
(800) 363-8012

SoFi

sofi.com/gpha
Student-loan refinancing
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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.



Georgia Pharmacy
ASSOCIATION



The entrance to the Big Red Oak Shooting Preserve.



A beautiful lake at the Big Red Oak Shooting Preserve.



Teresa, Michelle, and Patricia (GPhA) scouting the Big Red Oak Shooting Preserve.



Pictured is a typical sporting clays station. A marks the sporting clay trajectory.

Ready. Aim. Phire! A Sporting Clays Event

WE MADE OUR SECOND scouting visit to the Big Red Oak Shooting Preserve and met “Big” Mike Bashaw, the preserve manager. You can tell Mike loves the preserve and is proud of its development over the past 20 years under his leadership. First, he showed us the new pavilion and renovated restrooms. The pavilion has a state of the art sound system and is ready for any event, from weddings to corporate events. This is where the BBQ dinner and awards reception will be held after the shoot. He enjoyed teaching us all about sporting clays and gave us a tour of the preserve. We visited all 12 Ready. Aim. Phire!

stations on the Quail course, as well as the two other advanced courses and game release hunting areas.


C'mon and Give it a Shot!

Trade in your white lab coat for your favorite camo and join your pharmacy friends from across the state for a little friendly competition – shooting style.

Ready. Aim. Phire! will be held Friday, September 25, from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm at the Big Red Oak Shooting Preserve in Gay, Georgia (about one hour south of Atlanta). You can sign-up as a single shooter, a team of four, sponsor a shooting station, or go all the way to Top Gun! It

will be a great day of shooting, capped off with a raffle, BBQ, and beer.

Supporting a great cause, Ready. Aim. Phire! is sure to be a favorite annual event for years to come. Visit www.gpha.org/ready-aim-phire/ to get signed up before the event is full. We can't wait to see you there!

Proceeds from Ready. Aim. Phire! benefit the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation (GPhF). GPhF supports student pharmacists with scholarships, offers continuing education (CE) and other resources to stay mentally well, and gives pharmacists a path to become a Champion for Opioid Safety. Learn more at www.GPhA.org/foundation. 

From the President-Elect

Gratitude

“Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance.”

—Eckhart Tolle



WES CHAPMAN

I thought I'd take the offer of this communication space to express an opinion on various pharmacy-related issues, yet skip the “be strong during this trying time” voice, and take a moment to reflect on thoughts of gratitude and pride. With all the challenges

our industry faces, such a suggestion might elicit a chorus of boisterous objection claiming otherwise. Please allow me to vocalize a brief set of possible places for our thankfulness and gratitude. While we are all keenly aware of the following observations let's take the opportunity to remind ourselves that:

We are professionals. Pharmacy isn't our pastime or hobby. We all undertook arduous educational challenges, and upon completion, were rewarded with degrees and licenses issued by our universities and boards. It's not the job you DO...it is HOW you do the job. No one really cares about how much we know until they know how much we care, and I believe that pharmacists extol this sentiment on par if not above any other medical professionals.

We are philanthropists: If you are reading this I hope it is through your membership in GPhA. You and your fellow members understand the commitment to volunteerism and benevolence. Whether you give to the association's foundation (<https://www.gpha.org/foundation/>) and/or volunteer your time for association initiatives, you know the importance that such investments possess.

We keenly recognize necessity not just in our practice settings but in the communities and profession we serve. Your curriculum vitae likely includes various time, financial and energy contributions to your local community. T-ball coaches, education mentors, vestry members, city council members, civic club members are among the hats worn by pharmacists throughout our nation.

WE ARE PHARMACISTS. No matter your practice setting, we are among the most honored positions in healthcare. Our place of caring yields an abundance of appreciation amongst our patients and peers. Our point of existence between our patients and their physicians gives us a unique place of responsibility where we can all take pride in everything we have learned and can apply to the well-being of those who ask for our trust. Most of us “love our patients as ourselves”.

I am humbled and honored to serve my patients and community. My “journey” through the association's board of directors and the leadership role I share wouldn't have been near so easy if it weren't for those who have beaten the path for us to follow. I would submit that if those leaders were asked the basis of their reward, they would no doubt answer in words of gratitude and thanks. I look forward to seeing you soon and to thank you all for your professionalism and friendship. 📧

Wes Chapman is the incoming Board President of the Georgia Pharmacy Association.



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Contact Ruth Ann McGehee at GPhA to get started.



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Ruth Ann McGehee | Georgia Pharmacy Association | P (404) 231-5074 F (404) 237-8435



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AIP MEMBERS GET IT

They get help

- ✓ Help working with Medicare and Medicaid
- ✓ Help with audit relief
- ✓ Help with MAC appeals
- ✓ Help buying and selling a pharmacy

They get benefits

- ✓ Audit relief (AIP efforts saved members more than \$320,000)
- ✓ Services specifically for compounding pharmacies
- ✓ Free business consultations with pharmacy experts
- ✓ Access to the comprehensive AIP Pharmacy Manual, which offers extensive material about buying, selling, and managing a pharmacy — including information about regulatory issues and agencies

They get connections

- ✓ Connections to other independent pharmacies throughout the state
- ✓ Partnerships with OTC and nutritional supplement companies
- ✓ A chance to learn and network at AIP's fall and spring statewide meetings
- ✓ Access to telehealth and chronic care management resources through CriticalKey

With AIP, independent never means alone.

No other state association in the country has an organization like the Georgia Pharmacy Association's Academy of Independent Pharmacy. We are proud to represent our members and our profession!

