

# Georgia Pharmacy<sup>®</sup>

June/July 2021

# THE WORLD OF PET MEDS

Inside:

**MAHLON DAVIDSON  
TO BE INSTALLED  
AS GPHA BOARD  
PRESIDENT**

**PHARMACISTS ON  
THE FRONT LINE**

**A SINE DIE TO  
REMEMBER**



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## Georgia Pharmacy

The Journal of the Georgia Pharmacy Association

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

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Bob Coleman

**President and Chair of the Board**  
Wes Chapman

**President Elect**  
Mahlon Davidson

**Immediate Past President**  
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Media kit and rates available  
upon request.

### 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

# Never a Dull Moment



BOB COLEMAN

Who knew that a bill that simply allowed pharmacists and nurses under the protocol to administer all ACIP approved vaccinations would attract the attention of anti-vaxxers, Q-Anon supporters, a US Congresswoman, and internet personalities resulting in thousands of emails being received by legislators at the State Capitol? We are not sure this is a fact, but we've heard that SB46 may hold the record for a bill being sent back to committee for further consideration! Thanks to those of you who contacted your legislators, the bill passed. Read more about this year's General Assembly in Greg Reybold's article on page 14.

GPhA has constantly pushed for more pharmacies to receive the vaccines so they can offer COVID-19 immunizations. While mass immunization centers have some benefits, a recent survey would indicate that they are not the answer to overcoming the problem of "vaccine hesitancy." The survey conducted in late February and released by National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) in March, showed that 4 in 10 people would go to their local pharmacist as their first or second choice to be vaccinated. Only 4% of respondents said they would prefer an immunization at a mass event. NCPA CEO, Doug Hoey stated, "Pharmacies are being underutilized. Millions of Americans would prefer to get immunized by a local health care provider, like their pharmacist. Community pharmacies have the capacity and the ability to vaccinate many more people than they are currently able to because of the supply and pharmacy allocation issues."

I am hopeful that our continued efforts to increase availability of the vaccines through the federal and state governments will allow even more doses to be available in the future.

We were all saddened to learn about the failure of Indy Health. An incredible amount of


effort was behind this venture and its failure, for whatever reason, created a good bit of anxiety for patients in the plan, the pharmacists in the five states in which it operated, as well as its investors.

We couldn't be more excited and looking forward to seeing members at the beach on Amelia Island during the 2021 Georgia Pharmacy Convention, June 17-20. Hopefully, you have your suitcase, sandals, and beach attire ready, and are preparing for four days of education, engagement, news, and just plain FUN!

If you were at the convention in 2019, you'll remember the Blonde Ambition band. They were so good (members kept telling me we'd really "raised the bar"), we decided to bring them back for an encore performance.

I believe that pharmacists are unsung and often underappreciated heroes. So, who better to talk about pharmacists and their role as heroes than noted speaker, Kevin Brown? Kevin is the author of *The Hero Effect*. You don't want to miss this keynote speaker.

Wondering how PBMs grew in power to be where they are today? Is there a solution? Then don't miss hearing Matt Stoller, noted media personality, former Senior Policy Advisor and Budget Analyst to the Senate Budget Committee, current Director of Research at the American Economic Liberties Project, and author of *Goliath: The 100-Year War Between Monopoly Power and Democracy*.

And, of course, we have a full slate of great CE speakers and topics to keep you busy during the day! If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late. You can still register online, call the office, or walk up at the convention. We'd love to see you there! 

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

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Mary Ritchie, GPhA Director of Membership

Farideh Azadi, Greensboro  
Joni Coleman, Macon  
Wayne Harris, Hampton, VA  
Osarihieme Igbinoba-Okojie,  
Stone Mountain  
Lisa Luke, Atlanta  
Tiffany Mond, Mableton  
Brooke Myers, Lenox  
Hannah Njoh, Leesburg  
Abigail Otumi, Midland, TX  
Thomas Owen, Milledgeville  
Elizabeth Riley, Norcross  
Stephanie Rogers, Roswell  
Jared Swain, Douglas  
Aster Tekle, Lawrenceville  
Connie VanOrman, Demorest  
Katisha Wilson, Marietta

## Academy of Clinical and Health-System Pharmacists

Abimbola Agbaere, Lilburn  
Heather Allis, Woodstock  
Ben Amosah, Clemmons, NC  
Amy Behimer, Marietta  
Megan Boudouin, Atlanta  
Van Bui, Stone Mountain  
Jacinda Byrd-Smith, Stone Mountain  
Jesse Crosby, Decatur  
Andre Derilus, Marietta  
John Dilks, Lawrenceville  
Hannah Dobbs, Beaufort, SC  
Kelley Dube, Evans  
Eti Ebong, Atlanta  
Michael Fano-Schultze, Roswell  
Meera Gupta, Atlanta  
Annamarie Gurule-Ferguson,  
McDonough  
Camille Haile-Selassie, Marietta  
Toya Harris, Lilburn  
Vanessa Hoeksema, Ball Ground  
Ghassan Hourani, Medford, NJ  
Leigh Jackson, Albany  
Alessia Jankowski, Brookhaven  
Lecha Johnson, Atlanta  
Kamilah Jones, Atlanta  
Michelle Kim, Duluth  
Hyuna Kim, Lawrenceville  
Han Le, Duluth  
Stephanie Long, Marietta  
Julia Lvovich, Atlanta  
Atul Manocha, Smyrna  
Karen Markham, Dallas  
Kristen McGraw, Atlanta  
Jaleesa Myers, Lawrenceville  
Dipa Naik, Marietta  
Dina Nakhleh, Kennesaw  
Annie Nguyen, Cumming  
Stephanie Owens-Gillesson,  
Jonesboro  
Naureen Patel, Newna  
Elizabeth Patrick, Atlanta  
Sara Penna, Tucker  
Thu-Kim Phan, Lilburn

Krystina Reynolds, Duluth  
Jourber Romilius, Duluth  
Tonya Rozo, Canton  
Zahra Shaghghi, Marietta  
Sangita Sharma, Johns Creek  
Kinjal Sidhpura, Suwanee  
Nicole Thomas, Covington  
Nicholas Tomlinson, Cedartown  
Christopher Tran, Duluth  
Marlon Tyner, Ellenwood  
Eric Vaughn, Marietta  
Misha Watts, Savannah  
McLisa Willis, Smyrna  
Linda Yang, Alpharetta  
Suha Zein, Marietta

## Academy of Employee Pharmacists

Valerie Born, Hillsboro  
Naji Chilazi, Peachtree Corners  
Angela Desai, Atlanta  
Lisa Douglas, Loganville  
Cierra Goodwin, Stone Mountain  
Charity Graham, Snellville  
Donnetta Herold, Evans  
Jessica Latham, Richmond Hill  
William Linder, Jesup  
Brenda Nelson-Porter, Newnan  
Purvi Parikh, Marietta  
Mounika Pisati, Johns Creek  
Brandy Ridley, Lake Park  
Mylene Serna, Powder Springs  
Margaret-Grace Sisson, Blue Ridge  
David Stancil, Kennesaw  
Gordon Thomas, Athens  
Maria Thurston, Tucker

## APT-Academy Independent Pharmacists

Christina Brown, Tifton  
Iroemeha Ike, Social Circle  
Clem Okpala, Fayetteville

## APT-Academy of Pharmacy Technicians

Nakeysha Adams, Snellville  
Jasmine Adkins, Conyers  
Amiri Alexander, Douglasville  
Karina Alisiswanto, Johns Creek  
Alexandria Allen, Atlanta  
Kyrsten Andry, Powder Springs  
Peter Ansah, Fairburn  
Mitchell Arthur, Dalton  
Elizabeth Asibey, Lawrenceville  
Jonathon Aspinwall, Waycross  
Jennifer Barnes, Jackson  
Joseph Bean, College Park  
Rashunda Bell, Vidalia  
Maria Bennis, Jonesboro  
Chelsea Booker, Conyers  
Britnie Brown, Roopville  
DaMonica Brown, Dunwoody  
LeVette Brown, Norcross  
Bianca Brown, Marietta

Tiffany Brundage, Lithonia  
Amber Bullington, Leesburg  
Laurie Burmeister, Woodstock  
Madison Bussler, Dallas  
Ashley Butts, Duluth  
Kelley Calhoun, LaGrange  
Reatta Carter, Lithonia  
Deborah Clark, Stone Mountain  
Khalilah Colson, Atlanta  
Nichaela Copeland, Austell  
Jessica Cribbs, Brooklet  
Shamica Cuff, Lithia Springs  
Sierra Dean, Cordele  
Jessica Desantiago, Ashburn  
Andrea Dietze, Sandy Springs  
Sage Dombrowski, Acworth  
Kendra Edwards, Lithia Springs  
Valerie Ellison, Manchester  
Brittany Elrod, Dallas  
Margaret Evans, Norcross  
Hilary Evans, Kennesaw  
Shawnette Fewes, Smyrna  
Cardasha Ford, College Park  
Kelli Fryer, Tifton  
Elizabeth Garcia, Glennville  
Kayla Garland, Hampton  
Susanne Gazaway, Dalton  
Rebecca Godwin, Gray  
Melodi Graham, Hahira  
Brenda Hallenbeck, Marietta  
Mary Head, Atlanta  
Camikka Higginbotham, McDonough  
Ryan Hill, Leesburg  
Patricia Hogan, Acworth  
Marissa Jackson, Marietta  
Amber Jeffords, Warrenton, SC  
Tierra Joell, Lawrenceville  
Brittany Johnson, McDonough  
Jami Kay, Griffin  
Nicholas Kelley, Gainesville  
Cassandra Klobetanz, Locust Grove  
Tabitha Laster, Rome  
Mark Savonce Lawrence, Covington  
Jessica Lewis, Grantville  
Cody Lohr, Carrollton  
Eugenia Lowe, Macon  
Elizaberte Maime, Smyrna  
Kimberly Malak, Acworth  
Ingrid Marquez, Forest Park  
Cynthia Mccown, Snellville  
Chelsee McFarlane, Stone Mountain  
Chelsea Meyers, Locust Grove  
Melissa Miller, Dunwoody  
Kimberly Mims, Atlanta  
Dhaval Mody, Smyrna  
Hailey Moore, Douglasville  
Tiffany Morgan, Marietta  
Kelly Nguyen, Lawrenceville  
Somkenechukwu Onyeka, Suwanee  
Rushana Paige, Stonecrest  
Cindy Pena, Loganville  
Christi Prince, Fort Valley  
Robert Rhodes, Dacula



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!

Frank Barnett, Nashville  
Katherine Bell, Tate  
Amanda Daniels, Ellenwood  
Chad Dunn, Ty Ty  
Jimmy England, Valdosta  
Neal Hollis, Statesboro  
Ashley Kunkle, Albany  
Jennifer Lamb, Covington  
Rasheeda McNeal, Hampton  
Amy Miller, Gainesville  
Dean Stone, Metter  
Cathy Stull, Leesburg  
LaShawn Tent Oneal, Decatur  
Andrew Wilson, Alpharetta

TeraAnn Hicks, Lawrenceville  
Lakisha Robertson, Marietta  
Denicia Rose, Morrow  
Banafshah Samimi, Marietta  
Hannah Sanchez, Kennesaw  
Katlyn Sanford, Ellijay  
Ryan Hill, Leesburg  
Rickie Schillaci, Jasper  
Shannon Schroedter, Douglasville  
Chantemeekki Scott, Hampton  
Emily Sexton, Winterville  
Jonathon Smith, Mount Airy  
Kimberly Smith, Brinson  
Jean Smith, Ranger  
Brittany Stento, Atlanta  
Jennifer Stewart, Lakeland  
Jeremy Stewart, Woodstock  
Brittany Stripling, Leesburg  
Gabriel Tatum, McDonough  
Tim Taylor, Covington  
Amanda Tedford, McDonough  
Lance Terrell, Atlanta  
Vernon Thomas, Atlanta  
Shantell Thompson, Bronx, NY  
Dominique Trice, Atlanta  
LaToya Trull, Austell  
Ashley Tucker, Fitzgerald  
Farah Virani, Marietta  
Armetta Walker, Jackson  
Taneisha Warren, Austell  
Jemeisha Webb, Griffin  
Lori Wells, Monroe  
Tyler Whitlock, Duluth  
Alice Williams, Leesburg  
Lessie Wilson, Lagrange  
Angelica Winfield, Acworth  
Megan Worley, Cartersville  
Ebony Zellner, Powder Springs

# CALENDAR

## JUNE 2021

June 17-20

**2021 Georgia Pharmacy Convention at the Omni in Amelia Island, Florida**

## AUGUST 2021

August 29

**APhA's Delivering Medication Therapy Management Services:**

A Certificate Training Program for Pharmacists

## SEPTEMBER 2021

September 19

**APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery:**

A Certificate Program for Pharmacists

September 24

**Ready. Aim. Phire!** A sporting clays event benefitting the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation.

## OCTOBER 2021

October 3

**Community Pharmacy-based Point-of-Care Testing Certificate Program**

## DECEMBER 2021

December 5

**APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery:**

A Certificate Program for Pharmacists



*It's not too late! Walk-ups are welcome.*

# Mahlon Davidson Next President GPhA



**ATLANTA (February 11, 2021)**

The GPhA Board of Directors will install Mahlon Davidson as president at the Georgia Pharmacy Convention in June 2021. He will replace Wes Chapman, RPh, as GPhA Board President. Davidson grew up in Camilla, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in 1982, with a specialty in diabetes management. Davidson has been practicing in Conyers/Covington area for the past 33 years (Big B Drugs and Kroger). He is a UGA preceptor and enjoys working with students. He resides in Oxford, Georgia, with Peaches the cat. He has two sons, Nick (an attorney) and Blake (a geologist). His second love after pharmacy is fishing.

Davidson has been an active member of GPhA since 1985 and has a long list of achievements. In 1997, Davidson served on the Pharmacy Practice Act Revision Commission, representing employee pharmacists. Davidson was instrumental in founding the Academy of Employee Pharmacists, serving as chairman from 2002-2003. He

was named Employee Pharmacist of the Year in 2003. He has served two terms as GPhA's Region 5 President and was recognized as the Mal T Anderson Outstanding Region President in 2004. He chaired the Pharmacy Membership Linkage Committee 2016-2017. Davidson is a gold-level contributor to PharmPAC and was formerly chairman of its board from 2019-2020. "GPhA offered me the ability to shape my future. It gave me the chance to sit around with pharmacists from different work settings and discuss what changes were needed in our profession," said Davidson.

We asked Davidson why he went into pharmacy and he shared that his mother was a type 1 diabetic and because of it, he had many interactions with their local pharmacy. Through his frequent encounters, he realized the importance of the relationship to his mother's care and well-being. "Our small-town pharmacy was the first-line entry to our local healthcare system," he said. "I wanted to be that important piece of my own patient's healthcare system. I get up every day with the intent to make a positive impact."

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# Jonathan Sinyard Next President Elect GPhA



**ATLANTA (February 11, 2021)**

The GPhA Board of Directors will install Jonathan Sinyard as president elect at the Georgia Pharmacy Convention in June 2021. He will replace Mahlon Davidson as President Elect, who will assume the board presidency. Sinyard has served on several committees and graduated from LeadershipGPhA in the 2015 inaugural class. He was elected to an at-large board of director seat in 2016 and again in 2019. Sinyard is a graduate of University of Georgia College of Pharmacy (2009). He hails from Cordele, Georgia, where he lives with his wife Michelle and their two daughters, Caitlin and Bailey Grace.

When asked why he chose the profession of pharmacy, Sinyard said, "I've always been very interested in the field of healthcare. I began working in a pharmacy during the summer after my first year of college and loved it. I thoroughly enjoyed the face to face interactions with patients and being able to help them. The relationships that we build with our patients as we serve them is what keeps me engaged in retail pharmacy even to this day."

Sinyard works at Adams Drug Store, Cordele, Georgia. He began working during the summer of 2004, continued

as an intern through pharmacy school, and was hired as a full-time pharmacist upon graduating in 2009. He later purchased the pharmacy in 2019. "My store has been in business for 70 years and we've got second and third generation patients that we serve. It is such a blessing to be able to serve our community with state-of-the-art pharmacy services, while still retaining the level of service that they have come to expect," he shared.

When asked why he is passionate about GPhA leadership, Sinyard said, "I love the networking and advocacy that GPhA offers. It's always great to go to GPhA events, because it feels more like catching up with old friends rather than a "work meeting." It's great to have those relationships in the pharmacy world, because when I have a question, 9 times out of 10, there's a GPhA member that's got the answer I'm looking for. I also can't say enough about the advocacy work that GPhA does on behalf of its members. The world of pharmacy is an ever-changing landscape, and it's great to know that we have someone on our side fighting for ALL pharmacists in Georgia."

When he first got involved with GPhA as a student in college, it was for the networking with other students and practicing pharmacists. Over time, he said, "it has blossomed into so much more than that." [G+](#)

## THE FIRST FEMALE GPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT LEAVES A LEGACY



**FRANCES GRICE LIPSCOMB, AUGUST 29, 1931 - FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

**FRANCES GRICE LIPSCOMB**, age 89, of Dahlonega, Georgia, passed away on February 26, 2021. She was the daughter of Charles and Gladys Grice and was born in Geneva, Alabama on August 29, 1931. Frances graduated from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in 1953 and was one of three women in her graduating class. While at UGA, she served as the President of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. After graduation, she initially worked in a local Dahlonega drug store (Lipscomb Drug Company) that her father-in-law, Doc Lipscomb, owned and operated with her then-husband, George. Frances later moved to Atlanta to help establish the Georgia Med-



icaid program. She spent the rest of her career working to expand Medicaid and presided over the Pharmacy Division until her retirement in 1995.

Frances was the first female president of the Georgia Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) Board of Directors, serving in 1984-1985.

She was a member of Epworth United Methodist Church where she was active with the Suzie Bowen Circle, the Food for Friends Ministry, the Adult Choir, and the Suzanna Wesley Sunday School class. She was also a volunteer at the Good Samaritan Center in Jesup, Georgia.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Gladys Grice, and her younger sister, Mary Ann Pollard. She is survived by her four daughters, Laura (Larry) McKinley, Melinda Lipscomb, Nancy Lipscomb, and Lisa Lipscomb, as well as her grandson, Brent (Milly) Cole and her granddaughter, Alex (Travis) Harrison. Additional survivors include her three great-grandchildren: Randi, Sam, and Willa.

A private service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Epworth United Methodist Church at 675 South Third Street, Jesup, Georgia, 31545.

To share a memory of Mrs. Lipscomb or a condolence with the family visit [www.andersonunderwood.com](http://www.andersonunderwood.com). To plant memorial trees in memory of Frances Lipscomb, go to their website and visit the Sympathy Store.

### **Sharon Sherrer (former GPhA Board President) on Frances Lipscomb**

I met Frances Lipscomb during the first years of my career. She was the pharmacy “face” of Georgia Medicaid. She traveled Georgia and met with and listened to pharmacists in order to better understand how to make sure any Medicaid benefit would effectively utilize and reimburse pharmacies for their services. She was diligent in her task and proved true to her promises. She quickly won the admiration and respect of the pharmacists of Georgia.

Frances was the first female elected to a leadership position for the Georgia Pharmacy Association. She was elected as second vice-president in 1982 and proceeded through the leadership chairs and served as president for the 1984-1985 year. Just as she worked in her position at the state, Frances was diligent and committed to the pharmacists of the state of Georgia.

Frances was very comfortable in a board room, and most times, she was the only female in the room. She was professional, dedicated, and delightful. From my years as a young female member of GPhA I have several remarkable memories of Frances. One of my earliest memories was of Frances at the installation banquet the night she was installed as president. She was sitting at the head table and appeared quiet and reserved.





When she was introduced to give her acceptance speech as president, she stood up with tears in her eyes and a quiver in her voice. She looked around the room and told us she had a speech prepared to deliver but she could not do it and promptly sat down. She immediately received a large round of applause from the audience. We did not need a speech to know and appreciate the woman that stood before us. She had already proven herself as an effective leader, and we knew she was ready to lead our association.

She was also a delight as a mentor and a friend. I had the privilege of serving with Frances on many committees and activities for the association. As the dynamic of admissions to pharmacy schools changed to be predominantly female, the leadership of the association identified a need to make membership more appealing to the new graduates. They formed a “Commission on Women” to address issues unique to the many young women entering the profession of pharmacy. Frances was chosen to lead the commission. As we sat through our first meeting Frances got that look on her face...the smile and the dimples with the sparkle in her eye...and she exclaimed, “Can you believe that? They have formed a Commission on Women, and they are abbreviating it as COW. They have named us the COWS.” She saw humor in so many situations and made us all feel welcome, important, and many times entertained. Within the year the commission completed its charge and made recommendations that are still in effect today.

On the night I was installed as president in 2007 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, I walked into the president’s reception and saw Frances standing there waiting for me. She had retired many years earlier, and I had not seen her in years. She came up and gave me a big hug and told me she could not miss the night for my installation as the second female president of the Georgia Pharmacy Association. We stood there holding hands with tears in our eyes. Words were not adequate to express the feelings and the awe I had that night with my mentor standing there with me as I assumed the presidency. That evening she gave me a gift of a coronation photo album with a queen’s crown on the outside. Her

note inside read, “May your reign be filled with accord, accomplishment, and accolades!” As my mentor and friend over the years, that describes the way she taught me to practice pharmacy – with harmony, purpose, and with my colleagues, in an ongoing effort to better our abilities to care for our patients.

She will be missed by many, and I for one am blessed to have known her – she truly made my life better and more rewarding by being a part of it.

**Liza Chapman (former GPhA Board President and Georgia Pharmacy Foundation Board President) on Frances Lipscomb**



I am so very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be part of an elite group of women. Frances Lipscomb, Sharon Sherrer, and Pam Marquess have truly led the way for women in the profession of pharmacy to achieve great accomplishments. Having the three of them as examples and mentors has certainly allowed me to try and pave the way for other ladies of our great profession that may have the desire and will to assume leadership roles within GPhA. My hope is that I have positively influenced other aspiring leaders to step up in the way that Frances, Sharon, and Pam did for me.

**Pam Marquess (former GPhA Board President) on Frances Lipscomb**

Frances Lipscomb was a pioneer in the profession of pharmacy. Her footprint in leadership left a legacy for all future female leaders. I have found Frances inspirational to my professional journey and am forever thankful for her sacrifice, professionalism, and encouragement.



**Wes Chapman (current GPhA Board President) on Frances Lipscomb**

I didn’t know Frances well, but well enough to remember her being the caring pharmacist that many of us strove to be. Her kindness and compassion and gentle spirit were qualities that all people, not just pharmacists, should aspire. ☒

# THE WORLD OF PET MEDICATIONS

BY JANN JOHNSON, PharmD, RPh, J<sup>3</sup> Consulting President and Scientific Content Expert

**S**tudies have shown that the bond between people and their pets can increase fitness, lower stress, and bring happiness to their owners. Some of the health benefits of having a pet include:

- Decreased blood pressure
- Decreased cholesterol levels
- Decreased triglyceride levels
- Decreased feelings of loneliness
- Increased opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities
- Increased opportunities for socialization

Do you treat your pets like family members? Whether your pet is a dog, cat, bird, hamster, pig, peacock, ferret, fish, reptile or other, it stands to reason that as pet parents, we need to pay it forward. One means of doing so is to continue to focus on the pet's well-being by enhancing medication awareness.

## THE FDA CONNECTION

A little-known fact is that the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) approves and regulates new animal drugs. Additional provisions relate to reporting severe drug reactions, animal generic drugs, over-the-counter (OTC) medications, and leftover medication disposal.

## HOW DOES AN ANIMAL DRUG GET APPROVED BY THE FDA?

The company must prove that the drug is safe and effective for a specific use in a specific animal species. If the drug is for food-producing animals, e.g., cows, chicken, the company must also prove that it is safe for people to eat food from treated animals such as meat, milk, and eggs.

If the drug company decides the drug meets the requirements for approval, the company submits a New Animal Drug Application (NADA) to the FDA. For a generic animal drug, it is called an Abbreviated New Animal Drug Application. The application includes all the information about the drug and the proposed label.

The benefit of the FDA's drug approval process is the assurance that an approved animal drug is safe, effective, and high-quality. The drug company has shown that the drug is safe and effective in a specific animal species when used according to the label.

A prescription animal drug can be dispensed only by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian. Veterinarians can also legally prescribe an approved human drug in animals in certain circumstances. This is called an extra-label use, meaning to use an approved human or animal drug in a way that is not listed on the drug's label. It is sometimes called off-label because the use is "off" the label.

## NOT YOUR TYPICAL FDA ORANGE OR PURPLE BOOK

Most FDA-approved animal drugs are included in a publicly available list of approved animal drug products. This list is called the Green Book for short and the FDA updates it in its entirety every month.

There are more similarities than not between our world and that of our pets. This includes common ground regarding medication classes and medical conditions.

You may be familiar with pet medications for fleas, ticks, and worms. Did you also know though that veterinary pharmaceutical medications include analgesics, antibacterials, antidepressants (for behavioral disorders), antiemetics,



Author Jann Johnson, PharmD, Rph, and Buddy

“Is it safe to give my pet a pain reliever for people, such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, or acetaminophen? The answer is no.”

—Jann Johnson, PharmD, RPh

antihistamines, and anti-inflammatories? Our pets may also need treatment for asthma, diabetes mellitus, gastric ulcers, heart failure, hypothyroidism, hypertension, idiopathic epilepsy, inflammatory bowel disease, and skin allergies.

### **MEDICATION ERRORS**

Unfortunately, this scenario really happened. A dog owner gave his 15-year-old dog his own medicine. It was a mistake. The owner did not read the bottles carefully before giving the medication. The dog was given 800 mg of ibuprofen and 10 mg of cyclobenzaprine. This elderly dog had kidney disease. The dog was taken to the veterinarian. Treatment included activated charcoal to help prevent the medicine from entering the bloodstream; sucralfate to coat the stomach and prevent stomach bleeding from the ibuprofen;

“There are more similarities than not between our world and that of our pets. This includes common ground regarding medication classes and medical conditions.”

—Jann Johnson, PharmD, RPh

and intravenous fluids. Blood was drawn to check for kidney and liver damage. The dog did develop some liver damage but recovered without more treatment. The dog was discharged home to the family.

Statistics are equally as shocking. Nearly 50 percent of all phone calls to the Pet Poison Hotline are regarding pets that ingest medications intended for people, both over the counter and prescription. Topping the helpline’s list of the top 10 people medications most frequently eaten by pets are nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen and naproxen.

Is it safe to give my pet a pain reliever for people, such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, or acetaminophen? The answer is no. When you see your dog or cat limping or showing other signs of pain, it may be common to think about giving him or her an OTC pain reliever for people. However, a pain reliever for people is not a good alternative to a pain reliever approved for animals.

These medications may not be safe and effective in dogs because the drugs may last longer, be absorbed faster by the stomach and small intestine, and reach higher blood levels. These differences may lead to toxic effects in dogs such as stomach problems, as well as liver and kidney damage.

We must be even more careful with cats. Cats are more sensitive than dogs to the side effects of NSAIDs because they are not able to break down the drugs as effectively. Also keep in mind that acetaminophen is fatal to cats in that their liver cannot safely break down this medication.

Medication errors in both humans and pets have a lot in common. A recent statement from the FDA listed some of the reasons for pet errors they have investigated including prescription confusing abbreviations, wrong drug dispensed, wrong label instructions, label instructions not followed, drug-drug interactions, and human drugs administered to animals before veterinarian consultation.

The important thing is to prevent medication errors. There are tried-and-true tips for humans. The list for pets is similar:

- Ask the pharmacist about the medicine (what it should look like and how it should be given).
- Follow the label instructions.
- Do not give human medicines (including OTC medications and weight loss medicines) to pets unless confirmed by the veterinarian.
- Keep all medicines out of reach of children and pets. Many dogs can quickly chew a bottle open to get to the medication inside.
- Do not let pets come in contact with or lick your skin where medical creams may be.
- If your pet gets into medicine or anything else that might be poisonous, call for help right away. Do not wait.
- An immediate trip to the animal emergency room is the only choice if your pet is having trouble breathing, having seizures, or will not respond to you.
- If you have a question about a medicine or product that your pet swallowed, call Poison Control.

### A CHALLENGE: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) represents one of the most important human and animal health-threatening issues worldwide. Antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance are complex issues. Antimicrobial resistance (including antibiotic resistance) occurs when a microorganism develops the ability to resist the action of an antimicrobial that previously affected it. Basically, the microorganism develops the ability to survive and reproduce despite the presence and dose of the antimicrobial.

In human medicine, antimicrobials are approved for disease treatment and prevention, and in some cases, physicians can prescribe and use antimicrobials without restrictions as to dose and duration of treatment. In veterinary medicine, antimicrobials used in food-producing animals are approved for disease treatment, control, and prevention. Veterinarians are leaders and stewards in preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics for animals and people. They implement practice-level stewardship activities, including documenting antibiotic use data, examining use practices, and

“More veterinarians are needed to work in food supply veterinary medicine, making sure food is safe from farm to fork.”

—Jann Johnson, PharmD, RPh

serving as an educational resource for clients. They engage veterinary diagnostic labs to provide antibiograms to help determine which antibiotics will effectively treat infections.


This work with food producers to keep the animals healthy also involves vaccinations, parasite treatment, good nutrition, and good management practices. More veterinarians are needed to work in food supply veterinary medicine, making sure food is safe from farm to fork.

### COMPOUNDING: BALANCING THE PROS AND CONS

Safe and effective medicines are important tools for veterinarians. While approval by the FDA provides guarantees of safety and effectiveness, an approved drug is not always available to treat an animal condition. In these instances, veterinarians need access to compounded medicines; however, current lack of regulation of compounding can put animals at risk.

Simply put, compounding is any manipulation of a drug beyond that described on the drug label. Veterinary drugs should only be compounded based on a licensed veterinarian's prescription and to meet the medical needs of a specific patient. Manipulation might include mixing, diluting, concentrating, flavoring, or changing a drug's dosage form.

Compounding is usually necessary when an animal is suffering from a medical condition and there is no FDA-approved human or veterinary product available and medically appropriate to treat the patient. The decision to use a compounded preparation must be medically necessary and made within the confines of a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship.

Whereas in most cases our pets may not physically resemble us, their medication journey resembles ours in a number of areas: FDA/CVM, The Green Book, classes of medications, medical conditions, medication errors, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and compounding. 

## AMANDA MOON, VETERINARY PHARMACIST AT UGA



**AMANDA MOON**, PharmD, RPh, FSVHP, Staff Pharmacist, University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital (UGA VTH) has been working in human pharmacy since 1999. She started at a local pharmacy, where she worked for three years, while working on her undergraduate degree. She was accepted in the UGA College of Pharmacy and completed her PharmD in 2016.

Moon is a GPhA pharmacist member and is also a member of the Society of Veterinary Hospital Pharmacists (SVHP). It is an international organization that has been extremely informative and helpful. Its mission is to enhance the exchange of educational materials and ideas among veterinary hospital pharmacists.

Moon has always been interested in veterinary medicine. She once considered going to Veterinary school but ended up in pharmacy instead. While at UGA, she had a 5-week veterinary pharmacy rotation at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), back when the old teaching hospital was on the main campus. Moon said, "I enjoyed rotating in the small animal, large animal, pharmacy, neurology, and exotics. One of my favorite memories was getting to assist with emergency cases in the small animal section of the old teaching hospital and going on a site visit where we examined a bobcat for exotics. I was the timekeeper for the bobcat's anesthesia. My role was to let the team know when we reached a certain period and we needed to get out of the enclosure before the bobcat woke up. I felt particularly important!"

She loves her job at UGA. "I am fortunate to work with amazing and talented pharmacy staff, veterinary faculty, residents, interns, staff members and students." She also works extensively with Dr. Heather Lindell Tally, BSPH, PharmD, DIVCP, FSVHP. Dr. Lindell Tally is the Assistant Director of the UGA Veterinary Pharmacy at the CVM and is on faculty at the College of Pharmacy, respectively. "She has provided much guidance to me in the realm of veterinary pharmacy." Moon is happy to learn and apply clinical hospital pharmacy to animal patients. For her, it's the best of both worlds. "Coming from human community practice to an animal hospital and academia, I am fortunate to see and learn new things every day. Because it is such a different area of medicine, I decided to pursue an Associate Degree

for Veterinary Technology in my free time," said Moon. This degree is comparable to an associate degree in nursing in the human medicine world. She thought it would be helpful for her role at the UGA VTH, but she also enjoys reading and studying. "I guess I am just a nerd in that respect," she shared.

Now that the new teaching hospital is open, she is amazed at how much UGA's veterinary program has grown and progressed to be a world class center for veterinary education. The research conducted not only benefits animals, but the



human medical world, too. Many medications and techniques developed in animal medicine, benefit the human world in ways many of us never know. A few examples are a common medication for chronic dry eye, battlefield suture technique training, and a specific saliva test for COVID-19. These have been developed in part at UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital cares for more than 30,000 animals each year and operates similarly to a human specialty medical center. While it is part of the College of Veterinary Medicine, the hospital is a self-sustaining unit, meaning it must charge for the services it offers. All patient care is provided by a team of board-certified faculty members, residents, interns, senior veterinary students, and veterinary nurses. Thanks to support from the state of Georgia and many generous donors, the hospital's new building has allowed it to expand its service offerings and enhance its students' educational experiences—ensuring a bright future for the field of veterinary medicine.

**To donate:** <https://vet.uga.edu/giving>. 

# CPE Available at Convention

## Thursday, June 17

8:00 am - 9:00 am	<b>Annual Law Update</b> Presented by Greg Reybold, General Counsel & VP of Public Policy, Georgia Pharmacy Association	<b>Expanding Use of SGLT2                  Inhibitors: Considerations for                  the Pharmacist</b> Presented by Lydia Newsome, PharmD	
9:10 am - 10:10 am		<b>Trends in Antibiotic Resistance</b> Presented by Rachel Musgrove, PharmD, BCIDP	
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	<b>Current Thoughts on the                  Use of Medical Marijuana</b> Presented by Randall Tackett, PhD	<b>Penicillin Allergy? Assessment                  and Intervention Strategies for                  Successful De-labeling</b> Presented by Chris Bland, PharmD	<b>Smoking Cessation</b> Presented by Damien Fisher, PharmD, AE-C

## Friday, June 18

8:00 am - 9:00 am	<b>2021 Annual Bloodborne                  Pathogen / OSHA Update</b> Presented by Christine Klein, PharmD	<b>Cardiogenic Shock                  Management</b> Presented by Andrea Newsome, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM	<b>Functional Medicine</b> Presented by Sonia Thomas, PharmD, BCOP
9:15 am - 10:15 am	<b>Overview of Hepatitis C                  Treatment</b> Presented by Tara Koehler, PharmD, MPH, BCACP	<b>Updates on Atrial Fibrillation                  Guidelines</b> Presented by Blake Johnson, PharmD, MPH, BCACP	<b>Battle of the Bulge: Up-                  dates in Obesity                  Management</b> Presented by Kimberly Barefield, PharmD, MHA, BCPS, CDCES
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>New Drug Update 2021: A                  Formulary Approach</b> Presented by Rusty May, Pharm.D., FASHP	<b>Treatment of the Hospitalized                  Patient with Diabetes:                  Hyperglycemic Crisis and                  Other Scenarios</b> Presented by Robin Southwood, RPh, PharmD, BC-ADM, CDE	<b>Hot Shots: An                  Immunization Update</b> Presented by Johnathan Hamrick, PharmD





## Saturday, June 19

8:00 am - 9:00 am	<b>Well-being for Pharmacy Staff</b> Presented by Maria Thurston, Pharm.D., BCPS	<b>Continuous Glucose Monitoring: Pardon the (Un)interruption</b> Presented by Grace Simpson, PharmD, BCACP, CDTM	<b>Chronic Care Management</b> Presented by Olivia Bentley, PharmD, CFTs, AAHIVP and Mandy Irvin
9:10 am - 10:10 am	<b>Don't Be Blinded by the 'Lytes</b> Presented by Anthony Hawkins, PharmD, BCCCP	<b>Clinical updates in HIV prevention and treatment strategies</b> Presented by Kenric Ware, PharmD, MBA	<b>Remote Patient Monitoring</b> Presented by Olivia Bentley, PharmD, CFTs, AAHIVP and Mandy Irvin
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Elevating Your Emotional Intelligence</b> Presented by Sharmon Osae, PharmD	<b>Guideline Updates for the Treatment of Pneumonia in Adults (CABP, HABP, &amp; VABP)</b> Presented by Bruce Jones, PharmD, FIDSA, BCPS	<b>Collaborative Practice Agreements</b> Presented by Jimmy England, RPh and Amanda Gaddy, RPh
3:15 pm - 4:45 pm	<b>GDNA/Board of Pharmacy Panel (invited)</b>		

## Sunday, June 20

8:30 am - 10:30 am	<b>COVID-19 Best Practices and Updates, an Interactive Panel Discussion</b> Moderated by Erin Dalton Panelists include Sabrina Croft, Allison Presnell, and Patrick Chancy		
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Note: On Sunday, June 20, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Omni in Amelia Island, there will be a separate course for pharmacists on immunization, APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery: A Certificate Program for Pharmacists. This is not included in the convention registration and you will need to register separately. Visit <http://www.gpha.org/immunization-2021> to find out more and to register.

**2021 Georgia Pharmacy Convention**  
GROW | PLAY | CONNECT

# A Sine Die to Remember

BY GREG REYBOLD, GPhA Vice President of Public Policy and Association Counsel



For any viable bill still seeking passage through the General Assembly, Sine Die, legislative day 40, is a stress-filled proposition. For Senate Bill 46, a crucial public health bill which sought to authorize pharmacists and nurses to administer all ACIP recommended vaccines to adults pursuant to a protocol agreement with a physician, it felt as though it had to cross an ocean filled with rip tides, storms, and sharks, all in one day.

Yet somehow, working in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, GPhA, bolstered by an army of pharmacists fighting for the health of their patients, navigated those treacherous waters, and crossed the finish line with literally minutes to spare.

But why the treacherous waters for a common-sense health care bill that would increase access to care and allow DPH to share data with the CDC? In the final days of session, SB 46 came under fire from a barrage of misinformation on social media.

- The bill mandated vaccines. **False.**
- The bill eviscerated federal HIPAA privacy protections. **False.**
- The bill paved the way for vaccine passports. **False.**
- The bill was a gift to Democrats by Republicans as an appeasement after the election bill that was signed into law. **False.**
- The bill would allow providers to administer vaccinees to children against their parents' will. **False.**

As a result of this misinformation, Georgia representatives received hundreds to thousands of emails and phone calls in opposition to the SB 46.

Armed with truth, Georgia's pharmacists answered GPhA's call to action and reached out to legislators to set the record straight about what this bill does and does not do. That effort helped keep SB 46 in the game going into legislative day 40 but before the floor vote, concerns still lingered and so the bill was sent back to the Rules Committee yet again (this happened several times in the final weeks of session). Ordinarily, going back to Rules on day forty would be a death blow. But not this time.

Instead, House leadership, DPH, and GPhA worked on changes to the bill by narrowing who DPH can share information with, limiting it to



The Georgia Capitol at 1:00 a.m. after the close of the 2021 legislative session.





House Majority Whip Trey Kelley Presents Substitute in Rules on Day 40.



Senator Dean Burke Champions SB 46 on the Senate floor.



Senator Jeff Mullis Helps Seal the Deal and Fight Back Opposition to SB 46.



Representative Sharon Cooper Champions SB 46 on the House Floor.

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its subsidiaries, and adding language explicitly stating that patients or their parents/guardians can request an exemption from Georgia's vaccine registry. From there, the changes were finalized by legislative council.

At approximately 7 p.m., the Rules Committee met, presided over by Chairman Richard Smith, and House Majority Whip Trey Kelley presented the substitute to SB 46. Representatives Kelley and Cooper answered questions about the changes and addressed concerns.

Through Rules, SB 46 then had to get to the floor for a vote and receive the requisite number of votes needed to pass (90). After an agoniz-

ing day of waiting, at approximately 9:45 p.m., SB 46 was presented on the floor by Representative Sharon Cooper who spoke passionately and eloquently on its behalf.

Even with the changes made, disinformation on SB 46 was so great that concerns remained on both sides of the political isle. One representative took to the well to speak out against it.

This was followed by Representative David Knight who proceeded to urge members to read the bill, debunking false claims that the bill mandated vaccines and pointing out that the bill's privacy protections were more stringent than federal HIPAA privacy protections.

With Representative Knight ceding the well,



Representative David Knight Sets the Record Straight on SB 46's Privacy Protections.

it was time for the moment of truth, the floor vote. SB 46 passed the House with a vote of 109-56. But it wasn't over yet. Because the substitute included language from two other bills (not dealing with vaccines or pharmacy) the bill needed to go back to the Senate for an agree.

With the hour late, and time ticking down, word came that there was opposition in the Senate with certain senators who didn't want to agree to the House substitute for reasons unrelated to vaccines. Champions of the legislation, including Senator Ben Watson, Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, and the Bill's author, Senator Dean Burke, worked feverishly to ensure the bill was heard before time ran out.

And then, with mere minutes before adjournment, SB 46 was presented by Senator Dean Burke, the Bill's author who explained the changes made in the House and asked the Senate to agree to the House substitute.

In keeping with the challenges of the day, the action was not over as another senator rose in opposition, asking his colleagues to oppose the

House substitute for reasons unrelated to the underlying vaccine bill itself. With the Bill's fate hanging in the balance, Senate Rules Chairman Jeff Mullis stood up and spoke in favor of the House substitute helping to secure its passage on the Senate floor (Senator Mullis' firefighter helmet on the podium is a story for another day – ask me at the GPhA Convention in June).

And, at 11:55 p.m., with a vote of 38-11, SB 46 passed the Senate. It now goes to Governor Kemp's desk for his consideration.

To say that day forty was a dramatic day would be an understatement. As the day seemed at times to spin out of control, I thought back to Rudyard Kipling's poem "If," a copy of which my father gave to me on Christmas morning in 1992. There are several lines in the poem which resonated throughout the day, but it is the poem's final line that seemed most apt as the clock wound down:

*If you can fill the unforgiving minute,  
with sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!*

When the chips were down, and the prospects bleak, Georgia's pharmacists and Georgia's pharmacy champions in the General Assembly refused to surrender, fighting against immense odds and a seemingly unending torrent of misinformation to pass this bill. It was indeed a sprint to the finish and a legislative session to remember. 📌

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**Legislative updates are available to members 24/7/365 at <http://www.gpha.org/category/legislativeupdates/>.**

**Learn more about Senate Bill 46 at <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59079>**

## Georgia Pharmacists Get'R Done!

# Innovation Compounding VaxGeorgia.com Covid-19 Event

**ON MARCH 19**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Innovation Compounding pharmacy, located in Kennesaw, GA, expanded its COVID-19 vaccine efforts to distribute 1,169 doses of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine in a single day.

Organized by the pharmacy's registered nurse (RN), Joelle Hodges, the VaxGeorgia.com Covid-19 Event was made possible with the support of a workforce of 80 plus volunteers from the community, including Mercer College of Pharmacy, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), Bullard Elementary School, and North Metro Church in Marietta.

"Since late 2020, our team has had a plan in place to safely administer vaccines to thousands of people from the convenience of their vehicles. Today, we are proud to see the plan come to life and hope the success of this event leads to more opportunities to vaccinate and protect Georgia," said Shawn Hodges, PharmD, President and CEO.

In an effort that few small business owners can manage, Hodges was joined by Innovation Compounding staff (Mitchell Bell, Pharm D, Sunny Virdi, Pharm D, Jeanhie Kim, PharmD, Shawn Crane, CPhT, Emily Durham, CPhT, Pate Brunner, Pharmacy Analytics Manager, and Brittany Brown, Marketing Director) for the event's entire duration—from setup to breakdown.

Bad weather forecasts hung over the event for much of the week, but the sun shone brightly for all eight hours of the clinic. Participants pulled up in large numbers from morning until the early



Left: Jeanhie Kim, Pharm.D, Sterile Pharmacist. Right: Shawn Hodges, Pharm. D., owner, and Bryan Thompson, Sr. Director, Business Development.

afternoon, filling nearly all of the parking lots that surround the North Metro Church campus.

"It was an incredible honor to take part in vaccinating. My undergraduate degree is in Global Health from Arizona State University, so this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to marry my love for public health and patient care," said Emily Durham, CPhT, and Director of New Business Development at Innovation Compounding. Weeks before the event, Durham finished her training at National Pharmacy Technician Association (NPTA) and was excited to join nurses and pharmacists in providing vaccines.

"Honestly, I am not sure how many I personally vaccinated, but my guess is over 50 people," Durham reported.

To date, Innovation Compounding has administered nearly six thousand vaccines to residents of multiple counties across the state. As of this writing, Georgia Department of Public Health's Daily COVID-19 Vaccine Status Dashboard reports that a total of 5,429,851 vaccines have been administered in Georgia.

"This is a critical step in advancing the role of pharmacy technicians, and it's an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with Georgia providers who are answering the call to immunize. Events like this offer pharmacy technicians a well-deserved seat at the table in pharmacy and healthcare," said Durham. [📍](#)



Blake Sears, PharmD, and volunteer Petra Correa.



Emily Durham, CPhT, Director, New Business Development and Junior Community Volunteer.

## Georgia Pharmacists Get'R Done!

# Lily's Pharmacy Steps Up

**IN MARCH, JEN SHANNON**, PharmD, co-owner of Lily's Pharmacy, stepped up to answer the CDC's call for vaccination distribution. Jen used social media to gear up for a series of vaccination clinics. On March 10, she posted on Facebook and Instagram, "We are here asking for some help! Let us know if you are able to volunteer some time to help us run our COVID-19 vaccination clinic! We are expecting an imminent shipment and are calling in support to help show the country how the little guys in the community pharmacy get the 'village' involved! Email us at [owners@lilyrx.com](mailto:owners@lilyrx.com) if you can help in any way!"

The response they received was astounding. The clinics began on March 15 in their pharmacy parking lot, as people were guided into socially distant parking spaces to wait for their vaccinations. On March 16, Jen posted, "When you are asked to do 800 COVID-19 vaccines a week by the CDC, your whole community steps up to the challenge! Thank you to Johns Creek Fire Department, our AMAZING volunteers (Becky, Kim, Rebecca, Sim, Mike, Alex, Chris, Donna, and Becky) - man that's a lot of Becky's! We can't wait



Above: Johns Creek Fire Department and March 15 volunteers. Right: Donna George (Jen's mother) and Jen Shannon.



to do it again in a few days and help everyone feel a little safer and get back to normal life!"

"I got my vaccine at our local small pharmacy! They had it for teachers before any of the big pharmacies." Rachel Hohenstein Sieker posted March 10.

At the second clinic on March 23, Jen's mother, Donna George, a nurse, helped Jen administer vaccinations. Jen posted, "We vaccinated our 800th

patient today! How blessed we are to have so many amazing volunteers."

March 25 was a stormy day in Johns Creek, full of tornado warnings and rain. But the vaccination show must go on and volunteers worked tirelessly, despite the weather. In a heartfelt video post from Mike and Jen, they thanked their family, staff, and volunteers and gave a major shout out to their friend Alex, from Roswell FD who jumped

in to help in the chaos when he saw the panic in Jen's face. "1200 vaccines in two weeks...we are on a mission!" said Jen Shannon.

It's a family affair with lots of action, Jen posted "Giving a huge shout out to our traffic directors, a.k.a. our dads! These two are keeping this process running smoothly and have been standing in the rain and cold for you!"

To date, Lily's Pharmacy reported vaccinating 5000 people, but plans to vaccinate 10,000 by mid-May. How wonderful when a community comes together to do something big. 🇺🇸



Alex George, Jen Shannon, Michael Shannon.



March 23 volunteers in front of Lily's Pharmacy.

## Georgia Pharmacists Get'R Done!

# Lula Pharmacy on the Front Line

**LULA PHARMACY** along with the City of Lula, is taking on the Covid-19 pandemic. On Sunday March 21, the staff of Lula Pharmacy and dozens of volunteers met up on a chilly pre-dawn morning and transformed the Lula Train Depot into a highly functional Covid-19 vaccination clinic. All day long, pharmacists, students from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, local medical and nursing programs, and the cheerful local and family volunteers, worked to immunize 600 patients with their first dose of Covid-19 vaccine. For over nine hours they moved lines of vaccine seekers, their encouragement accented by the blasts from train whistles passing by the depot, headed toward or away from Atlanta and places up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

Owner pharmacists Karen Bowling, RPh, and Amy Miller, RPh, directed the clinic which ran as smooth as the locomotives streaking by on the tracks just yards away. The crowd was cheerful and upbeat as they moved through the various stations. (How about that for a railroad themed day?) While no one was happy to be getting needed, they seemed genuinely glad to do their part to break the hold that COVID-19 has on our lives. "Most were happy to get the vaccine. Only one or two were hesitant," commented Bowling.

Social distancing, temperature testing, and the obligatory waiting period after the shot were all part of the protocol for the day. Folks filled out the



Volunteers at the Train Depot Vaccination Clinic in Lula, Georgia.

needed paperwork outside then came into the building where their "ticket" was verified, and copies of insurance cards made. Once people were checked in, they just turned around and a volunteer steered them to one of eight vaccinators, who worked with great efficiency to both immunize and instruct all who visited them, doing their best to allay any concerns about after effects and side effects.

After several weeks of planning, days of preparation, and a long day of implementation, a tired but cheerful group parted ways, leaving the depot until April 11, when they will come roaring back into the station and do it all again for dose two!

Amy Miller, RPh, had this to say at the end of the day, "This was a day I will always think of as a highlight of my pharmacy career. We served a community of our friends and neighbors, and with the help of our volunteers, pulled it off with no hitches. A special thanks goes out to Lula Mayor Jim Grier and to City Manager Dennis Bergin, who made it possible to use this great historic facility. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the UGA Pharmacy College PharmDawgs, a great group of students and professors who gave up their day to help. They include faculty members Ashley Hannings and Andrew Darley along with P1 students Dani Warren, Phuong Nguyen, Merrie Barnett, and P2/P3 students Maddie Marsh, Han Dang, Amelia Clary, Gabby Bachner, Briggs Hightower, Sarah Adam, and Lill Hill. We look forward to the second shot clinic April 11...ALL ABOARD!" 📍



PharmDawgs fighting Covid-19.

## Georgia Pharmacists Get'R Done!

# Premier Drugstore in Douglasville is Giving Shots in Arms



COVID-19 vaccination clinic held at Tito's Lounge in Douglasville, Georgia, conducted by Premier Drugstore team, owner Bryan Green, PharmD.



Tito's Lounge owners, Laciaana Arrington, RN, and Daniel Arrington, and best friend Sheila Taylor, RN, all played a big part in the vaccination clinic.

**BRYAN GREEN, PharmD**, and owner of Premier Drugstore in Douglasville, Georgia, and his entire team have been busy. Really busy. For more than six weeks, they have been giving shots in arms. They have been coordinating COVID-19 vaccination clinics with local partners, like Tito's Lounge (Douglasville), St. John AME Church (Fairburn), and The Path Church (Atlanta), with volunteers such as Douglasville City Councilman, Sam Davis. Together, they have vaccinated more than 3,000 people in the community to date.

"I want to give a big shout out to Tito's Lounge and Premier Drugstore for providing this valuable community service. I got my first shot this morning and it was a breeze," posted Wayne Bennett, a Douglasville community member.

Green uses social media to promote the vaccination clinics. With almost 1400 followers on Facebook, he's been getting the word out with messages like,

"We're live at Tito's Lounge today until 5:30 pm with Moderna COVID vaccines! Stop by and see us!" He even created messages in Spanish to make sure he was reaching people, such as "Campaña de Vacuna." During the event, Douglasville City Councilman, Sam Davis stood on the street with a big sign to get people's attention.

Green is also vaccinating without appointments

at his drug store. He posted on Facebook, "We're doing a walk-up clinic this Tuesday 4/6/21, for Moderna COVID vaccines from 9:30 am until 5:30 pm with a lunch break from 1:00 to 1:30 pm. No appointment is necessary, and we have 1st and 2nd doses! We will be at the pharmacy. We only have the Moderna vaccine and it's available for anyone ages 18 and up. If you received a Moderna first dose before March 12, then you are due for the 2nd dose. We'll see you at 9:30 am!"

"Great job Premier. You make Douglasville look good. Appreciate all your help," posted Betty Mixon, Douglasville community member.

"I love seeing this! Your community outreach is amazing," posted Robin Lindsey Newman, Douglasville community member.

An astute marketer, Green's using social media to gain customers. "We would love to be more than just your COVID vaccination headquarters! Check out our other services. We offer the full retail pharmacy experience plus we do compounding, medication delivery, hospice delivery and have a full line of CBD products! We accept all insurance plans and we also have a competitive cash plan for those who are uninsured," he posted on March 26, 2021, on Facebook. 📺



Daniel Arrington, Tito's Lounge owner, Susan Littlefield, Douglasville Chief Assistant City Attorney (there to get vaccinated), Bryan Green, Pharm D, Premier Drugstore, and Sam Davis, Douglasville City Councilman.



Douglasville City Councilman, Sam Davis, promoted the vaccination clinic with a street sign, encouraging people to come. "We are bringing the community together."

## Georgia Pharmacists Get'R Done!

# Richmond Hill Pharmacy Vaccinations

**BY MARIAH CONGEDO** Reprinted with permission of WTOC-TV  
<https://www.wtoc.com/2021/01/24/richmond-hill-pharmacy-vaccinate-people/>

**RICHMOND HILL, GEORGIA,** January 2021, Richmond Hill Pharmacy staff say they've gotten two shipments of the Moderna vaccine so far and by the end of next week they're on track to have vaccinated 200 people.

"The people who have been fortunate enough to receive it so far have been very excited about it. We've been excited here at the pharmacy to give it. It feels kind of like you're making history a little bit," said John Mark Carter, a pharmacist at Richmond Hill Pharmacy.

Carter says they're following the Department of Public Health's phases, which means right now they're vaccinating essential healthcare workers, people 65 and older, and direct caregivers. "Right now, we have a list that's larger than the quantity of vaccines that we have," said Carter.

Carter says in each shipment they've been given 10 vials, which means each shipment has 100

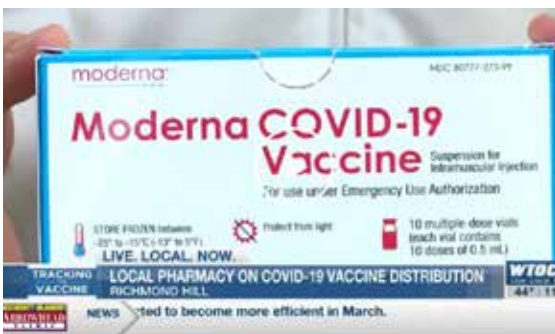


John Mark Carter, PharmD, Richmond Hills Pharmacy, administers the COVID-19 vaccination.

doses of the vaccine. He says one vial is good to vaccinate 10 patients. "We're working on an appointment-based model as far as giving the vaccine because once we open that vial up we have to use the entire vial within six hours. So, we're trying to work with appointments only that way we don't waste any doses," said Carter.

The pharmacy has a special, private area where patients are getting vaccinated. Carter says right now they're getting a shipment every week and a half to two weeks, but those who need their second doses are assured by the DPH that they'll get it on time. "It feels good as a local, independent pharmacy to be able to provide that service to patients because I feel like as a local place we can give more personal attention here and be there if any need arises," said Carter.

Right now, the pharmacy staff say they're not putting anymore names on the waitlist, but they hope to open it back up, to do so, in the next two weeks. "We are definitely hoping that the next shipment could be 200-300," said Carter. "However, they said to expect about the same as right now, but they said it could increase in the future." 📺



WTOC-TV interviewed John Mark Carter about vaccination efforts.

## VETERINARY PHARMACY AT PCCA

BY SAVANNAH CUNNINGHAM, Student Pharmacist, Mercer



I grew up with a veterinarian father, so loving animals is in my blood. I worked at his vet clinic throughout high school and was raised with an assortment of animals from dogs and cats to chickens, donkeys, and horses.

When I decided to become a pharmacist, I knew that incorporating care for our furry friends would be an important part of my career. Luckily, there is a niche in pharmacy specifically for veterinary patients, and lots of opportunities to get involved.

In my first year of pharmacy school, I discovered PCCA, the Professional Compounding Centers of America, which offers a veterinary pharmacy compounding online course spanning 10 weeks covering a multitude of important topics and differences in animal treatment along with a two day in-person compounding boot camp to make all the dosage forms that are specific to animals. We made giant horse treats, fruit flavored suspensions for birds, and transdermal creams meant to be applied to a cat's ears.

The College of Pharmacy at Mercer University also offers an elective course that is taught by a



Savannah Cunningham, student pharmacist, with Scarlett Macaw, at PCCA.

local veterinarian, Abigail Huggins, DVM. This course was a semester long and covered legal and regulatory issues that are specific to veterinary pharmacy, drugs that are only used in animal patients, and disease states that

are important for pharmacists to understand when filling medications for animals. It was so helpful to hear from the perspective of a veterinarian what is most helpful for pharmacists to understand when dealing with the unique needs of animal patients.

If you are interested in practicing in veterinary pharmacy or just passionate about your own fur baby and want to understand how to take care of them better, how can you learn more and get involved? First, join veterinary specific organizations such as ACVP (American College of Veterinary Pharmacists) and SVHP (Society of Veterinary Hospital Pharmacists). ACVP offers compounding courses at their headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee for those interested in more hands-on expertise. As a student pharmacist, you can seek out a veterinary pharmacy focused rotation during your fourth year to get more experience. You can also look for a pharmacy intern job at an independent compounding pharmacy that focuses on veterinary medicine.

Residencies focusing on veterinary medicine are also available at locations that have veterinary colleges with large hospitals such as North Carolina State. A full list of available residencies can be found on SVHP's website.

We all love our pets and want them to be as healthy as possible. Most of us working in the community setting have likely encountered more than a few prescriptions from our local veterinarian offices. To be the best pharmacists possible, it's important to be well educated on the unique differences between animal patients and humans, and luckily there's plenty of resources to make that possible. 📺



ROBERT BLAYLOCK, DVM, BEN BLAYLOCK, DVM, AND SAVANNAH BLAYLOCK CUNNINGHAM, STUDENT PHARMACIST, WEARING HER DAD'S LAB COAT.



# VETERINARY PHARMACY AT UGA


BY KRISTIN DISALLE, Student Pharmacist, UGA



I have always been an animal lover, and one of my favorite parts of working in a community pharmacy is when dog owners bring their pets through the drive through, so I can say hello and give them a treat.

When I decided to pursue pharmacy as my career, I really didn't think that I would have any interaction with animals. I was surprised the first time I saw a prescription for a dog at work. It was written for what I thought of as a "human drug," which made me curious as to how animals are able to take the same drugs as humans. I wanted to know more about how these medications were used in our pets, and whether they worked similarly, or if they were used for completely different indications. So, when I discovered that UGA offered a veterinary pharmacy elective, I was so excited to register. This is an online course taught by both a veterinarian (Spencer Tally, DVM), and a veterinary pharmacist (Heather Lindell, PharmD).

This course gives student pharmacists insight to how veterinary pharmacy is unique and even offers students the chance to shadow a veterinarian. I am learning about species from dogs to horses, and even exotic pets, like birds. Although I am only about halfway through this elective, I have learned so much already. I feel much more confident about what is safe to give my dog, and what is not. I also am educated on over-the-counter products for pets, and what benefits different ingredients provide for animals. Finally, when I do see a veterinary prescription in my community pharmacy, I have a much better grasp as to what is "normal" for animals, and what these drugs are used for in our pets.

I would encourage any student pharmacist with a passion for animals to take this course. Even if I do not pursue veterinary pharmacy, I have learned valuable information that will help me in any pharmacy setting, and with my own pets throughout my life. 



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The contribution levels are based on investment through March 31, 2021.

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\*As of March 31, 2021

**2021 GOAL!**

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**Georgia Pharmacy**  
ASSOCIATION

# Bailey Wood, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine



**FOR AS LONG** as she can remember, Bailey Wood wanted to be a vet. Born and raised in Atlanta, she completed her Bachelor of Science at Auburn and went on to complete her Master of Science. Vet schools are very competitive, and Auburn is no exception, with

500 people applying for 10 at large slots available for out of state residents. In the spirit for overcoming obstacles, she found a different path that led to her dream job. She saw an ad for St. George's University, Grenada, West Indies, and she applied. She was accepted and embarked on her educational adventure. "Sure, it's beautiful there, but it's still a third world country and the travel can be difficult. And it was expensive." She eventually transferred to Oklahoma State to complete her DVM. She's happy she took a path less traveled to achieve her goals. She has been a vet for nine years and is an associate partner at Roswell Veterinary Associates, working mostly with cats and dogs, and not many exotics (which require compounding).

"Animals take many of the same medications as humans, but animals metabolize the medicines differently. And our doses are different, more than the actual drugs themselves are different," said Wood. "Anti-inflammatories are very different. They are all COX Inhibitors. We just have a lot of veterinary specific anti-inflammatories." Human medicines, like Tylenol®, Advil®, don't do well in the animal intestinal tract. They cause vomiting, diarrhea, and ulcerations.

There are many "off-label" uses of human drugs. The most common class of shared drugs is anti-biotics. Wood said, "A lot of the veterinary-specific formulations are a means to get the pet to take the medicine – like making a liquid or flavored tablet to chew, because they won't swallow a pill. Many medications are very bitter. We don't do compounding here, but there are local compounding pharmacies that we can script to. Or there are national ones that will ship to us. Our main compounded drug is metronidazole (for infections). We've had that compounded into a liquid for pets."

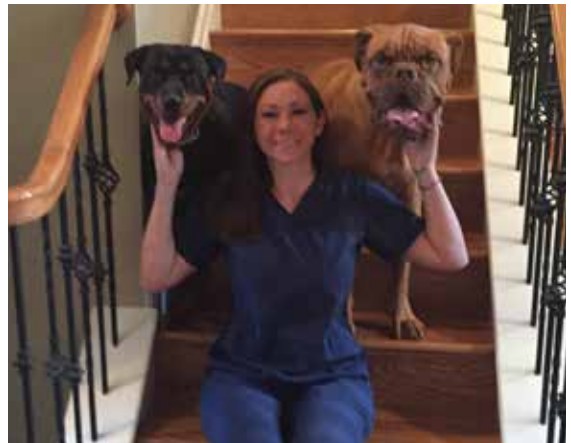
"Intestinal side-effects (vomiting, diarrhea) are the

most common side-effect we see with any oral medicine," said Wood. "It's more common with anti-biotics. Often, we will also give them pro-biotics, so we don't get that shift in the flora." There is a lot of recent research on pro-biotics and their benefit.

When asked about using CBD products, as an alternative to medications like Prozac®, Wood said there are some regulated chews they sometimes use but is wary, because there is not a recommended dosage coming from true pharmaceutical research. She said it's difficult for her practice to recommend products without data. "We are staying out of the CBD realm, for now," she said. Wood told us they have been giving a product with the ingredient tryptophan for anxiety.

We asked her about the absolute medication "no-no's" for pets. Her first thought was, never give your pet your own medications, without first calling your vet. She continued with no ADD/ADHD medications and no illegal drugs. "People are afraid to tell us in the case of illegal drugs. Just be honest. We are trying to help your pet."

We asked her about which foods can be dangerous, she told us grapes and raisins can be harmful. They are bad for their kidneys. Second on the list was chocolate, especially dark chocolate. Like coffee, it's a stimulant. It can be problematic, especially with children around the house, to keep wrapped candy away from pets, especially around the holidays, like Easter and Halloween. Wrapped candy, such as Hershey's Kisses,



is often ingested foil wrapper and all, which means they are eating the harmful chocolate and a foreign body. The degree of harm is proportionate to the animal's body weight. Another problem is sugar-free gum. The body sees it as sugar, but it can't metabolize it. It can lead to hypoglycemia and liver trouble. Luckily, they can give the animal apomorphine, which makes them vomit before they absorb it.

Woods took a full year of pharmacy courses on drugs, where they act, what to prescribe, withdraw times, etc. Veterinarians are regulated by the State Veterinary Board, the USDA, and the DEA. They can prescribe certain drugs, but must get a special license from the DEA to prescribe controlled substances and non-steroidal class drugs. Generally, medications are dispensed by body weight and severity of condition. Vets use Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook as a resource. Veterinary Emergency Rooms also put out a drug book.

We asked her the scope of her practice and she told us they do almost everything including some surgeries but refer out for oncology and orthopedics. She believes it's better to have someone who has done a complex procedure hundreds of times, instead of once or twice. She often refers to Blue Pearl in Sandy Springs, Georgia, which has every type of specialist possible. She explained an orthopedic example of a cruciate tear. This is different from humans, which usually occurs because of a sports injury. In animals, it typically occurs from wear and tear, and often affects two joints. The corrective procedure is very different, too. The procedure is not arthroscopic and involves a make-shift ligament on the outside of the joint, unlike the human procedure.

"Our recent concern with COVID, is that people have been home with their pets full-time, and when they return to work and the kids go back to school, their pets will be alone and will experience separation anxiety. We haven't gotten there yet." Woods predicts we will see a lot of behavioral issues, like destruction, digging, and chewing. She tells clients to keep regular schedules and practice leaving the house alone, so the pets can get used to being alone. "We can treat the anxiety with medicine if it's severe."

COVID-19 has impacted her practice. Instead of opting for curbside service, which isolates the clients and puts higher risk on the vet techs when transporting the animals. They opted to run two separate shift groups on alternative days. They initially closed the exam rooms and saw one patient/owner at a time in the waiting area for more distance possible. Now they have opened their exam rooms and follow masking, social distancing, and sanitizing procedures. Like all of us, she looks forward to a time when things get back to normal. 📺

## What to Expect When Calling ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org)

We understand that we're in a unique and challenging time, but the ASPCA is still always here for you and your furry friends—even when we may seem far apart. When a pet gets into something they shouldn't, it can be a scary time for pet parents. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) is staffed by veterinary toxicology experts who are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, who are specialized in helping pet parents and their furry friends when emergency situations involving potentially toxic substances arise. We recommend that if you ever suspect that your pet has ingested something potentially toxic, you contact APCC at (888) 426-4435 or your local veterinarian immediately to determine next steps.

If you choose to call APCC first, you'll be connected with a veterinary staff member who will gather vital information to create a case and plan on how to help your companion.

**ASPCA ANIMAL  
POISON CONTROL  
888-426-4435**

**Step One:** Information About Your Pet: You'll be asked a series of questions about your pet including their breed, age, weight and health history. This can be important information because some breeds are prone to certain health conditions that might change our recommendations. For example, dogs with flat faces can have breathing issues that may prevent us from instructing you to make your pet vomit at home.

**Step Two:** Information About the Toxin: Having as much information on what your pet was exposed to as possible is incredibly helpful. You will be asked questions about the product package, the strength of ingredients and the amount your pet was exposed to; so, having the product close at hand is always a plus. It's important to let us know if your pet is showing any clinical signs such as vomiting, not eating or acting lethargic. If you have tried any home treatments, you should also mention this to your APCC caseworker.

**Next Steps:** Once the experts have gathered all the information that they need, they can come up with a treatment plan to help your pet through either home or vet care.

**At Home Care:** If your pet's case is something that can be managed at home, your caseworker will walk you through whatever you may need to do. They will give you any instructions you may need or symptoms you should monitor your pet for.

**At the Veterinary Clinic:** If your pet ingested something potentially life-threatening or something that cannot be managed at home, we will recommend you go to your local veterinary clinic where we will work with your veterinarian and give them treatment recommendations to get your pet the best care possible.

**End of Your APCC Call:** Once you've been given all of the information you need, you'll receive a case number and a call-back number. If you have any questions or concerns, you can always call back anytime. If you need to take your pet to the clinic, just give the clinic the case number and the call back number, have them call APCC and they can take it from there!

If your pet was exposed to anything that they should not be; whether they ate it, it got on their skin, they inhaled it, or something got into their eyes, you can call your veterinarian or you can get in touch with the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center by calling (888) 426-4435.

\* There is a \$75 fee for our service because we do not receive any outside funding. That \$75 allows us to keep our doors open and have veterinarians, technicians, and assistants available to you 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

# GPhA Fur Babies



Mary and Pete Nagel and Malachi



Ruth Ann McGehee and Emmylou



Veruschka "V" Betancourt-Whigham, Hershey, and Coco



Wes Chapman and Kat (aka Toonces)



Steve Phillips and Princess



Liza Chapman and Brick



Greg Reybold, with Max, Jack, and Charlie



Ashton Sullivan, Sophia, Bella, and Puck

# GPhA Fur Babies



Jessica Southerland and Hank



Amanda Gaddy and Luke



Jeff Lurey and Mac



Tracey Lunde and Sophie Rose





Andrew Kantor and Urban



Teresa Tatum and Barley



Michelle Turkington and Lacey



Ashley London and Dora

From the President

# Are you caring for your pet, or is your pet caring for you?



WES CHAPMAN

Of the dozens of pets that have set foot, or in this case, paws in my life, no bond has been as meaningful as the long-standing relationship that I have with “KittyCat.” Well, that is her fancy name. Her real name is “Kat,” as some 18 years ago I

didn’t intend to get attached to the little scruff of a kitten, and thus didn’t label her with a proper name. Born of a feral mother in the horse stables where my daughter trained, the tiny calico was a find for an employee whose child wanted a kitten and whose child subsequently showed allergic signs to dander. I volunteered to “get rid of it” for her and the rest as they say, is history. Kat has been my constant companion and is one of the most canine felines I’ve had the joy of caring for.

So, now to the health-related points of this article. Studies have shown:

- Pet owners are less likely to suffer from depression than those without pets.
- People with pets have lower blood pressure in stressful situations than those without pets. One study even found that when people with borderline hypertension adopted dogs from a shelter, their blood pressure declined significantly within five months.
- Playing with a dog or cat can elevate levels of serotonin and dopamine, which calm and relax.
- Pet owners have lower triglyceride and cholesterol levels (indicators of heart disease) than those without pets.
- Heart attack patients with pets survive longer than those without.
- Pet owners over age 65 make 30 percent fewer visits to their doctors than those without pets.



Wes Chapman and “Toonces” the driving cat.

Veterans, children, and students are just a few groups who have shown that people can experience less stress with the presence of a pet. A 12-month study of veterans with PTSD symptoms who were involved in a therapeutic dog ownership program revealed that participants experienced decreased symptoms of post-traumatic stress along with increased feelings of self-compassion.

Children often have less developed emotional and physiological responses to stress, as well as reduced cognitive coping mechanisms to self-regulate their stress response. In a study of children between the ages of 7 and 12, it was found that perceived stress during a novel stressor is moderated in the presence of a dog.

University students are another group who experience a good deal of stress. In a study on pet therapy, students experienced a statistically significant decrease in stress markers when interacting with therapeutic animals.

Pet therapy may also benefit the workplace. Stress is a leading contributor to employee performance and morale. Researchers examined how the presence of dogs impacted worker stress throughout the course of a workday. They found that dogs in the workplace may buffer the impact of stress and make the workplace more satisfying for those with whom they come into contact. (Hey Bob, do I hear barking from the GPhA office?)

Kat is pushing 18 years old and still chases and fetches her velvet mice with the childlike vigor of her younger years. I take pretty good care of her, but even more so, she takes wonderful care of me. 🐾

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



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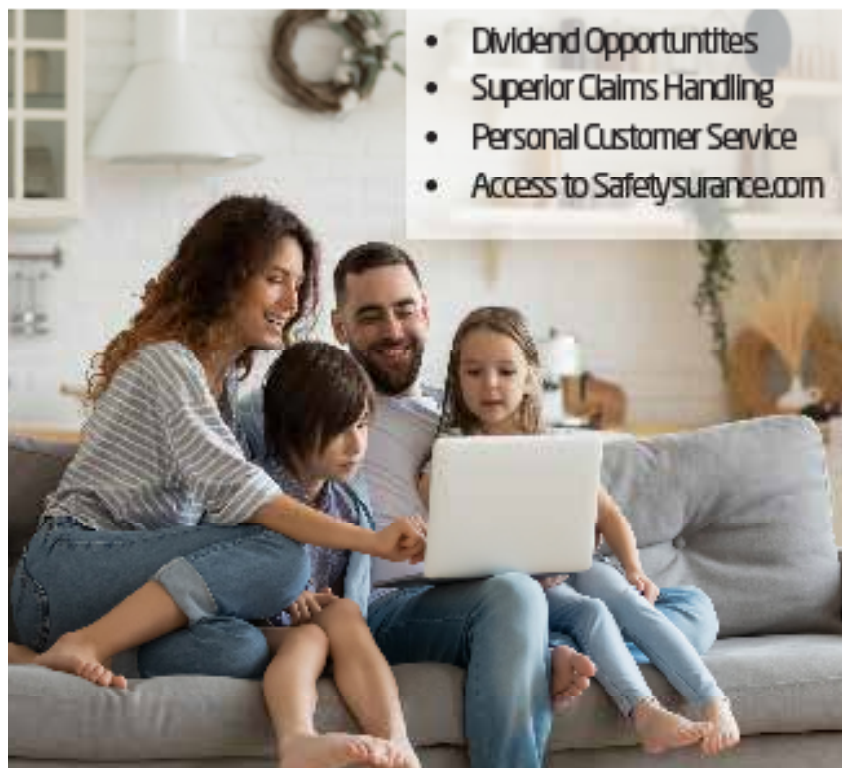
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# AIP MEMBERS GET IT

## 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!



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