

# Georgia Pharmacy

The Journal of the Georgia Pharmacy Association

Winter 2020/2021

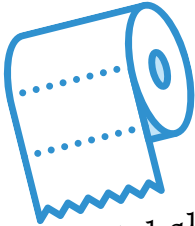
temperature checks



wear a mask!

COVID-19 POSTPONED

quarantine



Where did all the TP go?

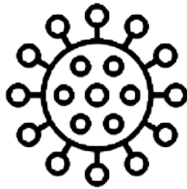


online shopping

PANDEMIC



wash your hands!



TESTING

VIRTUAL LEARNING



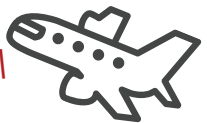
flatten the curve



SOCIAL DISTANCING



travel ban



adios

# 2020

virtual happy hour



Would not recommend.



NO SPORTS

essential workers



work from home



Home Workouts



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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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### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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From the CEO

# Thank You



BOB COLEMAN

I'm relatively sure I'm not going to hear a lot of objections when I say, "good riddance 2020!"

I find myself longing for my mom to say, "You'd better stop that, or I'll slap you into next year." And me thinking, can I get two slaps? Because I think I'd rather just skip over to 2022!

More and more, it's appearing that the safe bet is we're not going to be completely back to normal by the end of 2021. Now, please don't take that as a pessimistic statement. I don't mean it that way.

I believe things will get better and a lot of progress will be made during the year. First, there is a very high possibility that we will have not only one, but a myriad of COVID-19 vaccines become available during the year. According to the CDC, "Multiple COVID-19 vaccines are under development. As of October 13, 2020, four vaccines have begun large-scale (phase three) clinical trials in the United States." Another source reports there are more than 150 vaccines in development worldwide and the WHO is striving toward the delivery of two billion doses by the end of 2021.

Despite 49% of respondents to a September Pew Research study's results saying they definitely or probably would not get a vaccination for COVID-19 (up from 35% in August), 51% of respondents in the same survey said they definitely or probably would get a vaccination when it becomes available. Even one vaccination is a step in the right direction and as the population gains trust in the vaccines, a higher percentage will seek out immunization.

While 99% of everything related to COVID-19 is bad news, there are some bright spots. In April, under the PREP Act, HHS recognized the value of pharmacists as a key component in the response to expanding COVID-19 Immunizations. HHS again restated that value, when in August they expanded the authorization to administer vaccinations to 3 through 18 year olds. And most

**"I SPEAK FOR MYSELF  
AND THE GPHA STAFF  
WHEN I SAY IT'S BEEN  
OUR HONOR TO SERVE  
YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR."**

recently, HHS again expanded the ability to immunize, under specific conditions, to pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians. Hopefully as these doors open and pharmacy steps up to the responsibility, politicians will remember that when called upon, pharmacy answered. Pharmacists and technicians should be able to continue operating at the top of their licenses and student pharmacists should be able to apply the clinical skills they learn upon graduation.

I have faith that whoever ends up becoming the next President of the United States, (which I hope we know by the time of this writing!), he will work toward healing the divisiveness and animosity created during the campaign. America has lasted 244 years and I am hopeful that the next four or eight years will not see its demise under whoever the winner is.

Finally, I want to wish you and yours the very best for this holiday season. I speak for myself and the GPhA staff when I say it's been our honor to serve you again this year. Thank you for your membership and everything you do for your patients.

Hopefully, I'll be on the road more in 2021 and be able to see you in person (Zoom just doesn't cut it!).

Until then,  
Stay well. 🇺🇸

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

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Mary Ritchie, GPhA Director of Membership

English Coit, Norwood  
Jennifer Ellis, Evans  
Jannifer Johnson, Decatur  
Jane Killeen, Bogart  
William Lanier, Cumming  
Burgandy Payne, Delano  
Candance Rhodes, Marietta  
Kelechi Ukegbu, Locust Grove  
Jasper Watkins, Grayson  
Kendyl Weeks, Wrens

## Academy of Clinical and Health-System Pharmacists

Richard Augello, Braselton  
Benjamin Butts, Rincon  
Arielle Castex, Fairburn  
Shamika Clinton, Kathleen  
Susan Dawson, Hawkinsville  
Mattie Elam, Atlanta  
Gabriel Gherman, Carrollton

Steve Glass, Tallahassee, FL  
Allison Howard, Bainbridge  
Monica Jolly, Frankling  
Bailey Rucker, Swainsboro  
Clara Vinh, Macon  
Kim Williams, North Augusta, SC

## Academy of Employee Pharmacists

Catherine Akin, Atlanta  
Richard Blake, Sandy Springs  
Jaclyn Daniel, Albany  
Brittany DeLettre, Athens  
Evelyn Fuller, Fairburn  
Talmadge Lawson, Columbia, SC  
Margaret Leech, Newnan  
Jessica Phillips, Madison  
Kenneth Smith, Leesburg  
Emmanuel Sylvanus, Snellville  
Coriane Thomas, Simpsonville, SC

## Affiliate

Heather Kaeser, Savannah

## APT-Academy of Pharmacy Technicians

Dina Abdelmessih, Woodstock  
Lisa Agyeman, Fayetteville  
Heather Callahan, Waycross  
Jessica Casey  
Karen Davis, Lyons  
Christina Green, Atlanta  
Melissa Jones, Newnan  
Jaclyn Lilly, Hahira  
Brooke McBroom, Swainsboro  
Jessica Pipkin, Cochran  
Hannah Poole, Barnesville  
Amy Quertermous-Merrick, Acworth  
Courtney Rogers, Cochran  
Teresa Smith, Woodstock



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  
Amanda Daniels, Ellenwood  
Andrew Holt, Douglas  
Ashley London, Evans  
Lori McGinley, Jefferson  
Charles Scott, Dawson  
Krista Stone, Metter



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# CALENDAR



## DECEMBER

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

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

## JANUARY 2021

Sunday, January 24  
**APhA's Pharmacy-Based  
Immunization Delivery  
Certificate Training Program**

## FEBRUARY 2021

February 3  
**Day at the Dome (Mercer  
and South) Virtual**

February 11  
**GPhA Board Meeting**

February 23  
**Day at the Dome  
(UGA and PCOM) Virtual**



## APRIL 2021

April 15  
**GPhA Board Meeting**



## JUNE 2021

June 17-20  
**2021 Georgia Pharmacy  
Convention at the Omni in  
Amelia Island, Florida**

# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

**The Georgia Pharmacy Foundation promotes public welfare, professional development, and provides resources for pharmacists and student pharmacists in Georgia.**

Students can leave pharmacy school with the equivalent of a mortgage, without ever purchasing a home. Our scholarship programs support students and alleviate some of their financial burden.

The opioid crisis hasn't made the headlines during COVID-19, but it's still real and out there. We offer a path to be recognized as an Opioid Safety Champion.

Our PharmWell program promotes mental wellness and deals with common professional issues like burnout, drug abuse, depression, and suicide. The Foundation provides resources and free CE credits on these important mental health topics.



Be a part of the solution and join forces with the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation. Your donation will make a difference in the quality of lives of pharmacists, student pharmacists, and patients across Georgia.

To donate, go to **[www.gpha.org/foundation](http://www.gpha.org/foundation)**. Better yet, sign up for a small but consistent monthly contribution. Every dollar counts. Thank you for joining the cause.



[www.gpha.org/foundation](http://www.gpha.org/foundation)



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**Georgia Pharmacy**  
ASSOCIATION

# THE GEORGIA PHARMACY FOUNDATION WELCOMES LIZA CHAPMAN AS CHAIRMAN



The Georgia Pharmacy Foundation is happy to announce Dr. Liza Chapman as chairman, effective immediately. Liza is currently Vice President of Partnership Development for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board,


better known in the industry as PTCB. Prior to joining PTCB, Liza was the pharmacy clinical sales coordinator and residency site coordinator with the Kroger Company in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was employed for over 15 years.

Liza is a graduate of Mercer University College of Pharmacy and has been licensed since 2002. She has earned APhA certifications in diabetes, dyslipidemia, immunization delivery, and MTM, and is a certified trainer for APhA's diabetes immunization, and MTM certificate programs. Her track record as a researcher, guest speaker, and CPE instructor is extensive, and she has been published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association and has authored chapters in Introduction to the Pharmacy Profession and Community and Clinical Pharmacy Services: A Step-by-Step Approach. In addition, she has been

widely recognized as a pharmacy and community leader and has been awarded a number of honors for her work here in Georgia.

When Georgia first considered authorizing pharmacists to administer influenza vaccines under a protocol agreement with physicians, Dr. Chapman took the leading role as GPhA's spokesperson and volunteer advocate for passage of that law. Her work helped pave the way for expanding the range of immunizations pharmacists can administer in Georgia without a prescription in 2015.

For all of the above and more, Liza was recognized and became an APhA Fellow in 2017. Liza has served in various capacities within GPhA including GPhA President. By now, you should be aware that Liza is an extraordinary leader, person and role model for the pharmacy profession. Welcome back, Liza!

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Dr. Jim Bartling, who served the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation for many years. I can never fill Jim's shoes, but I am honored to have the opportunity to serve again on the Foundation board and continue the legacy that Jim created." 

—Liza Chapman, PharmD, FAPhA

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

At each Georgia Pharmacy Convention, GPhA recognizes the best of the best in Georgia pharmacy, and that means we need your nominations for the 2021 awards. They'll be presented at the 2021 Georgia Pharmacy Convention in Amelia Island, FL.

### **Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award:**

Recognizing the achievements of young pharmacists, this award has become one of GPhA's most prestigious. It recognizes an individual who, although having been in the profession for less than a decade, has demonstrated a dedication to Georgia pharmacists and patients.

### **Excellence in Innovation Award:**

This award acknowledges a pharmacist who has found new and better ways to improve the care of his or her patients — innovative and impressive solutions, techniques, or business practices for all pharmacies to consider.

### **Larry Braden Meritorious Service Award:**

The highest honor GPhA bestows on a pharmacist, this award recognizes the Georgia pharmacist who, over his or her career, has made extraordinary, invaluable contributions not only to GPhA, but to the practice of pharmacy in the state of Georgia.

### **The Bowl of Hygeia:**

Among the most prestigious awards in pharmacy, the Bowl of Hygeia is presented annually by GPhA and all state pharmacy associations to one pharmacist in each state with an outstanding record of service not only to the pharmacy profession, but to the community as well.

These are awards we offer as an association. That means that your nomination is vital to the award having the meaning it's supposed to carry. The more our members are involved in the awards process, the more expressive of the association the awards become.

Visit our awards page at [GPhA.org/awards](https://www.gpha.org/awards) for more information, and to make your nominations. Deadline for submissions is February 1, 2021.





## RUTLEDGE V. PCMA, NO. 18-540 (U.S.) From National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)

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On Oct. 6, 2020, the Supreme Court heard oral argument in *Rutledge v. PCMA*, No. 18-540 (U.S.), which draws back the curtain on some of the abuses committed by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)—or prescription-drug middlemen. At issue is whether a federal law, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), invalidates an Arkansas law that places reasonable regulations on PBMs. The Pharmacy Care Management Association (PCMA), the lobbying arm of the PBM industry, has argued that ERISA preempts Arkansas' Act 900, which ensures that PBMs compensate pharmacists fairly for the medications they dispense to patients.

In an 80-minute argument, the Justices pressed PCMA's counsel to defend its claims of ERISA preemption. Many of the Justices noted that the main effect of Arkansas' law is simply to regulate what pharmacists are paid for drugs, and Chief Justice Roberts described PBMs as having "byzantine procedures that affect drug prices."

Both the State of Arkansas and the federal government argued in defense of Act 900. They noted that PCMA's argument lacked any limiting principle, because countless State laws have some effect on cost—from medical-practice standards to wage laws—and, thus, could be said to affect ERISA plans. The Supreme Court expressly rejected that argument in its prior decision in *N.Y. State Conference of Blue Cross & Blue Shield Plans v. Travelers Insurance Co.*, 514 U.S. 645 (1995).

Following argument, the Justices will deliberate privately before issuing a written opinion deciding the case. Although there is no set timetable for a ruling, the Justices typically resolve all cases before the end of the Court's term, which is set to

conclude by the end of June 2021.

The Supreme Court case is the culmination of a years' long effort led by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and the Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) to hold PBMs accountable for their abusive practices, which have needlessly restricted patient access to life-saving medications and added billions of dollars annually in unnecessary costs that are ultimately borne by hard-working Americans.

NCPA and APA helped secure the passage of the Arkansas law that the Supreme Court is reviewing, and they have provided support to the State throughout the litigation—at the trial court, the intermediate appellate court, and now the Supreme Court. NCPA and APA also helped secure briefs from a wide range of *amici curiae* ("friends of the Court")—from the American Medical Association to AARP—defending Arkansas' law. In addition, NCPA and APA filed an *amici curiae* brief—on behalf of pharmacists throughout the country—educating the Court on abusive PBM practices.

For all these reasons, it is no surprise that nearly every State—red and blue—has enacted laws regulating PBMs. And it is also why the federal government and nearly every State—from Texas to California—argued in defense of Arkansas' law in the Supreme Court.

PBMs are middlemen who have secretly put their own interests—and record-breaking profits—above the patients and plans that they are supposed to serve. State laws like Arkansas' represent an important step in policing PBMs' abusive behavior and protecting patient access to affordable medications. [📄](#)

# COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE JOB



**TINA CHANCY, RPh**, co-owns and operates Chancy Drugs Long Term Care (LTC), in Hahira, GA, which is a closed-door independent pharmacy that services nursing homes, assisted living facilities, personal care homes, and patients that are at home but want to have their medications packaged for daily dosing. They also have five retail locations. She's been with Chancy Drugs since 1994 and at her current position for seven years. We asked Tina how her practice settings (long term care facility and independent pharmacy) have been impacted by COVID-19. She shared, "COVID-19 has definitely affected our practice. Our retail stores' doors were closed for several weeks, and we served our patients at curbside, drive-thru window, and home delivery."

"Our delivery drivers have very limited contact with our patients now and that has been difficult. Many of our patients are elderly and homebound and our drivers are the only people they see. For their safety we cannot enter their homes. It's been difficult for some of them to understand. Serving patients by curbside and drive-thru only was a huge load for our staff, but they worked hard and we continued to take care of our patients. Our doors are opened now, but many of our patients still prefer the drive-thru and curbside.

"Our staff have been masked since the beginning of all of this and before we reopened our doors, we put up plexiglass barriers, and have marked our floors with 6 foot markers to make sure our patients are socially distancing when

*"Many of the patients do not understand why their family members have not been to see them. It's really a difficult time for our elderly population." —Tina Chancy, RPh, Chancy Drugs Long Term Care*

they come in. For our elderly and hearing impaired patients, this can really be difficult. The masks really make it hard for them to communicate with us. We have temperature checks for our staff daily, and have strict hourly cleaning protocols. One of our stores participated in COVID-19 testing for two weeks. This was an added workload to our staff and pharmacists, but we accepted that challenge when the opportunity presented itself."

"In my LTC store, things have changed also. We are not allowed to enter the nursing homes or assisted-living homes. Each facility has specific protocols for deliveries, to which we have adapted. Speaking with the nurses and caregivers at these facilities, they have really been overloaded with extra-cleaning precautions and trying to keep residents and employees COVID-19 free. With families not being allowed into the facilities, the caregivers are having to take care of all the patient needs. Many of the patients do not understand why their family members have not been to see them. It's really a difficult time for our elderly population."

**ROSS HAYS, CPhT**, has worked at Monticello Drugs, in Monticello, Georgia, for ten years. We asked Ross how his practice setting (independent pharmacy) has been impacted by COVID-19.

Hays said, “Our practice changed mostly in an aesthetic sense. Mainly in how we interact with patients. (Plexiglass is the bane of my extroverted existence.) However, our workload has changed. I saw a downturn in audit instances, prescription volume, and most impacted was our over-the-counter/ merchandise departments.”

“The amount of anxiety and depression meds have definitely increased. One prime example is alprazolam. We have seen shortages on most strengths from all manufacturers. They refer to supply and demand being the primary cause of



“Plexiglass is the bane of my extroverted existence.”  
—Ross Hays, CPhT, Monticello Drugs

the shortage. We are not wearing masks at all times. However, when we are in a close proximity to patients, we are required to wear masks. We have plexiglass at our cash register, and drop off and consultation windows. Patient communication hasn’t really been impacted for me. I work in an extremely small community and we all pretty much know how to reach each other anytime.”



**RJ LACOURSIERE, PharmD**, works in the Augusta University Medical Center (AUMC) Emergency Department (ED). It is the only level 1 Trauma Center in the region, with the next closest located in Atlanta. AUMC receives trauma victims of all types and they often use opioids to treat traumatic injuries. There is an organization-wide awareness of the need for opioid safety best practices and they intentionally have reduced the amount prescribed and dispensed. We asked RJ how his practice setting (hospital emergency department) has been impacted by COVID-19. He told us he has seen a lot of changes, but not all of them are positive ones. ED patients still present for the same types of issues, including drug overdose, but recently he’s seeing the effects of quarantine.

LaCoursiere is recognized as an Opioid Safety Champion by the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation



From left to right: RJ LaCoursiere (emergency medicine pharmacist), Alicia Sanchez (pediatric emergency medicine pharmacist), Katie Weigle, and Devon Burhoe (emergency medicine pharmacists).

and is seeing the impact of isolation on drug use. He has seen an uptick of both COVID-19 and drug overdoses. “People in recovery are slipping back into addiction and have suddenly lost their support network,” said LaCoursiere. “They can’t attend 12 step meetings, like NA. We are trying to utilize virtual platforms, but it is not the same as a human connection. They are cut off from the world.” He told us, “The drug dealers are not quarantining. They are still out there, and business is good.”

There is an upside. Because of the pandemic, he is seeing new technologies emerge in response. Advances in telemedicine are taking off rapidly. There are recent studies on using lower doses of Suboxone® for induction at home to treat opioid use disorder, utilizing telemedicine and micro-doses until symptoms are under control. “It’s not great for everyone, but for some, it is a good option.” He told us that some people are afraid to come to the hospital because of the pandemic. He remarked, “We are still seeing a lot of COVID-19. A second uptick of cases. It has not gone away.”



**WE ASKED RYAN SLACK, PharmD, BS**, how his practice setting (Kroger Pharmacy Manager, Conyers, Georgia) has been impacted by COVID-19. He shared the following. “A career in retail pharmacy has never been particularly easy. It’s all retail pharmacists can do to keep up with the metrics set by our companies, expanding our role in the healthcare team, immunizing our communities, counseling patients, and, of course filling prescriptions.”

“One may argue that in an ever-evolving field such as ours, nothing should take us by surprise. COVID-19, however, has had an unprecedented effect on our day to day, unlike anything I’ve seen before. Granted, I haven’t been doing this all that

## COVERSTORY

long. But in six years in retail pharmacy, I've held every position from technician to my current role as pharmacy manager."

"For the first couple of months, while people were taking quarantine seriously, our script count decreased. We are a store that averages approximately 400 per day, and we sunk down to about 250 or so. I didn't complain about that part. What I was/am most concerned about was that my technicians, whose pay does not necessarily reflect all the hard work they do, had to continue coming to work and putting their lives at risk for little to no added incentive. Of course, our script count has since increased, and my staff and I come early and



stay late almost every day to keep up with the high demand."

"Flu shots have been off the charts this year. We started receiving requests mid-August (we normally don't recommend patients getting their flu shots until October). COVID-19 has our patients

spooked and, understandably, they don't want to battle the flu in the midst of this pandemic. COVID-19's unpredictable nature has affected our patient population in wildly different and extreme ways. While administering a flu shot last month, I discovered my patient had lost 10 family members so far to COVID-19. My level of empathy has always allowed me to relate to my patients, and gives them the trust to confide in me. Some of their experiences and stories about this virus have been so heartbreaking, they haunt me long after my shift is over."

"So yes, COVID-19 has affected us in varying ways ranging from mild inconveniences, i.e. wearing masks, to life altering loss and devastation. We make the best of our situations. I am thankful for amazing partners and technicians that are still committed to providing high quality patient care in this, our new normal."



**IZABELA WELCH, PharmD, BCPS**, (Acworth, Georgia) is a founding Clinical Pharmacist for Wellstar Population Health Management de-


"We no longer provide just health care, but (at the risk of sounding like a Wellstar commercial), the Population Health Management team

truly focuses on providing PeopleCare."  
—Isabela Welch, PharmD, BCPS, Wellstar



partment with six years in this position. Wellstar Population Health is a system-wide, multidisciplinary team consisting of outpatient-nurse case managers, social workers, analysts and doctors. Together, they are responsible for quality outcomes of patients within Wellstar Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). In her daily routine, she works with referred patients for polypharmacy reviews, cost assistance, counseling, and all medication-related challenges/questions.

We asked Isabela how her practice setting (clinical/hospital) has been impacted by COVID-19. She told us her team has been impacted in many ways. She said, "All work has moved to telephonic and virtual meetings under the current conditions. While some members of the team were furloughed, many took up the extra work that needed to be done. In addition to our normal workflow, the team became responsible for following up on all patients discharged from the eleven Wellstar hospitals with a COVID-19 diagnosis. To make things more "interesting," the team was also charged with creating and operating the COVID-19 employee hotline workflow, a 24-7 service. Considering Wellstar employs over 23,000 members, this was no small feat."

"Fortunately, by now all the furloughed employees were able to return to work. While the team members deal with their own stresses, sometimes doubling as healthcare professionals and home-school teachers, they must also be cognizant of all the stresses our elderly patients experience, often frustrated at being stuck at home without any visitors or help. We no longer provide just health care, but (at the risk of sounding like a Wellstar commercial), the Population Health Management team truly focuses on providing PeopleCare." 

# Collaborative Practice Agreements: A Legal Perspective

BY GREG REYBOLD, General Counsel and VP Public Policy, GPhA



GREG REYBOLD

## Can a pharmacist enter into a protocol agreement with a physician to perform services that fall outside the scope of practice of pharmacists in Georgia?

The Georgia code authorizes pharmacists and physicians to enter into protocol agreements to perform services that fall outside the practice of pharmacy only in three circumstances. The law has long been interpreted to restrict pharmacists from practicing outside of their scope, except within the three circumstances set forth below.

### Vaccines

Pharmacists have the ability to enter into a protocol agreement with physicians in connection with administering vaccines for Influenza, Pneumococcal, Shingles, and Meningitis subject to very specific requirements.

### Drug Therapy Modification (outside of an institution)

A physician may delegate authority to a pharmacist to modify drug therapy through a protocol for a patient under the physician's direct medical care and supervision. These protocols are subject to very specific requirements including that they be patient specific, that there is a physician diagnosis of disease, there are procedures pharmacist must follow, length of time of agreement, date in effect can't exceed two years. The requirements are so specific that this protocol is, to my knowledge, rarely used. Note, this is distinct from substituting a brand name for generic which squarely falls within the practice of pharmacy.

In addition, prior to entering into such a protocol agreement, a pharmacist should apply to the Board for a certification which will allow the pharmacist to enter into a protocol or agreement with a physician for drug therapy modification.

### Drug Therapy Modification (in an institution)

Hospital pharmacists can collaborate with members of the medical staff in an institution on drug therapy management pursuant to a protocol. This protocol is not nearly as restrictive as the protocol discussed above regarding drug therapy modification. The Georgia code defines "collaborate" to mean to work jointly with others as approved by an order from a physician member of the institution's medical staff for care and treatment of the ordering physician's patients or pursuant to a protocol established in accordance with medical staff policy.

### Collaboration with a Physician within a Pharmacist's Scope of Practice

While pharmacists should not enter into collaborative practice agreements or protocols exceeding their scope of practice beyond the parameters set forth above, opportunities may also exist for pharmacists to engage in collaborative practice with physicians within their scope of practice. By way of example, many physicians are interested in the role pharmacists can play in improving outcomes and reducing hospital readmissions via medication therapy management. It is also important to remember that the pharmacy practice act provides that it shall not be "interpreted to prohibit a pharmacist or pharmacy from being remunerated for professional pharmacy care services."

#### For more information on CPAs:

GPhA has a CPEasy "Special Teams: Preparing for the Collaborative Practice Option"

SCAN THIS FOR MORE INFORMATION



The Georgia Board of Pharmacy web address is: <https://gbp.georgia.gov/m>. In Georgia, CPAs are termed Drug Therapy Modification Protocols as part of the Georgia Rules and Regulations 480-35.

# TechU CE and Topgolf Event

BY EMILY DURHAM, MS, CPhT, FRANK BARNETT, CPhT, AND ROBBIE HOWARD, MPH, CPhT

**“WE CAME HERE AS ONE,** and we left as a family!”

This is a favorite quote from the inaugural TechU event on Saturday, October 24, 2020, in Sandy Springs, Georgia. The event was designed to bring Georgia pharmacy technicians together, to offer continuing education, to network with fellow techs from different pharmacy settings, and to energize technicians to recruit new members. Those who attended the event were treated to excellent speakers representing PTCB, GPhA legislation, educational perspectives, and from the Georgia Board of Pharmacy. After the kick-off speeches from GPhA CEO, Bob Coleman, and PTCB Vice President, Liza Chapman, PharmD, you could feel the positive energy and sense of a community were being established.

The presenters inspired, educated, and shared valuable information that is useful across the different pharmacy practice settings. The topics were relevant and relatable. The engagement was high. Greg Reybold, GPhA's VP of Public Policy, delivered an exciting tech-centered law update. Frank Barnett, CPhT, from Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, spoke enthusiastically about patient safety. Christine Cline-Dahlman, BFA, CPhT, wrapped up the day with an inspiring Medication Therapy Management presentation that provided some great advice on building a successful program.

Techs were given a unique opportunity to informally share their experiences with the presenters. It was a pleasant surprise to have Georgia board of pharmacy board member, Mike Brinson, RPh, join us for almost the entirety of the day. Mike shared his vision and passion for being a champion for

I have to say that TechU was a wonderful experience! I enjoyed meeting folks with many different backgrounds from my own. I enjoyed listening to my peers as they taught CE on patient safety and MTM. To top it all off, we all had a blast at Topgolf after class. I can't wait for round 2 of TechU!

—Tripp Justice, Business Analyst,  
Kroger Health

“I really enjoyed the TechU class. I got a lot of information from the speakers and people who attended the class. This is a great way for pharmacy technicians to learn more about the pharmacy world and different medications out today and coming in the future.”

—Denise Leftridge, Pharmacy Technician,  
Grady Health System

pharmacy technicians and graciously answered questions from the attendees. The attendees walked away knowing that we have many pharmacist and pharmacy industry leaders that are champions for Georgia pharmacy technicians.

Wrapping up the eventful day the attendees were treated to a retreat for reflection, fellowship, and networking. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of golf at the local Topgolf bar and grill. The golf outing was designed to help build collaborative relationships. The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) sponsored this Topgolf portion of the event.

On behalf of the entire Academy of Pharmacy Technician board, we are excited to have created this event for pharmacy technicians. This event would not have been possible without the support of our amazing sponsors that truly believe pharmacy technicians are crucial to the healthcare delivery process. Thank you to PTCB, Barnes Healthcare, APCI, and Gayco.

The event was a success because of the hard work of planning on the part of the APT board members and GPhA staff. The first Tech U has set a high bar for future events, designed for and by pharmacy technicians in the future. We know this event will continue to grow and create a sense of community for pharmacy technicians across the state. If you missed the opportunity, consider attending the next event. We, as pharmacy technicians, have plenty to offer, not only to the current organizations we serve, but also to the GPhA Academy of Pharmacy Technicians. <#>



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP BOARD

# Student Leadership Wants YOU!

BY SAVANNAH CUNNINGHAM AND ALEX REAVES

We are Savannah Cunningham and Alex Reaves and we are third year student pharmacists at Mercer University College of Pharmacy. We also serve as the executive directors of the GPhA Student Leadership Board (SLB). During our P1 year, we attended Day at the Dome and were exposed to the advocacy efforts that GPhA is involved in for the first time. Before the end of the day, we had cornered GPhA CEO, Bob Coleman, and convinced him to meet with us about how to get students more involved in the association—and the Student Leadership Board was born.

Since then, we have assembled a group of leaders from all four colleges of pharmacy in Georgia, comprised of students with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests in different practice areas.

We crafted "Student Central," an experience at the annual convention that included many sessions specifically for student pharmacists, as well as a fun area to hang out and network. This increased



attendance tremendously over the next two years. We helped to coordinate the two annual Day at the Dome events, encourage students to attend the region meetings, and sponsor GPhA events at each campus. We are proud of what we have accomplished and what we will continue to do long after we graduate. If you are a student reading this and feeling inspired to get involved, contact

your school's SLB representatives. Mark your calendar for Day at the Dome and the convention. If you are a pharmacist reading this, we ask for your support and encouragement. All student pharmacists look up to you and relish all opportunities to make connections. If you have the chance to attend an event with students, introduce yourself and encourage those students to get involved. Thank you to all the inspiring leaders who served the past two years. We can't wait to see what the future brings.

## Student Leadership Board



### Savannah Cunningham, Co-Exec. Director

Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: I am excited about creating and leading a Student Leadership Board to connect student pharmacists to opportunities within GPhA. I am passionate about the work GPhA does to advocate for pharmacists and the patients we care for. I look forward to continuing my involvement in my state pharmacy association throughout my career.



### Taylor Alex Reaves, Co-Exec. Director

Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: The GPhA Student Leadership Board is something that I am thrilled to create and lead in order for students to have the opportunity to become more involved with GPhA. I am excited about the future of GPhA and my continued involvement throughout my career. I hope to advance the knowledge of the pharmacy field for both students and the public through advocacy efforts.



### Emma Chandlee, Sr. Member

Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: Being a part of the legislative priority making process, and getting students involved in their future professional is important for the future of pharmacy. I want to be a voice for my future profession and an advocate for pharmacy and pharmacy students.





**Seth Harrison, Sr. Member**

Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: Being involved in GPhA is a priority for me because I want Georgia pharmacy to become even more dynamic than it is now. The two primary ways to accomplish this are through patient care and advocacy for the profession, both of which I am passionate about.



**Marlee Clements, Jr. Member**

Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: Being a member of GPhA is important to me because the opportunities that come along with being involved in this organization are vital to my success as a future pharmacist. I am so grateful to be a part of an organization that continues to fight to ensure that our profession receives the admiration and recognition that is rightfully deserved.



**Joseph Brown, Jr. Member**

Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: We live in Georgia and this is OUR pharmacy association. The national levels have a large impact on us and our patients, but the state level organizations directly impact us and only us. GPhA is what I believe the best way to have a direct impact on Georgia patients.



**Laine Frazier, P1 Liaison**

Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2024

Quote: I want optimal conditions for patients and effective involvement (in patients' lives and their community as a whole) from pharmacists. GPhA advocates for better policies for pharmacists to care for their patients, and that is why I am interested in GPhA.



**Latasha Lawson, Sr. Member**

PCOM School of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: GPhA is well-known for being active in the community and advocating for pharmacists and patients to ensure that a high level of care is maintained. I hope to see the student leadership board help to secure the future of our profession by contributing to advocating for the patients in our community.



**Laura Nguyen, Sr. Member**

PCOM School of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: As a member of the GPhA Student Leadership Board, I plan to further innovate and create opportunities for student pharmacists to raise awareness the community of the roles of a pharmacist. I believe that pharmacists are primary advocates in health care for patients, medications, and overall well-being.



**Krishna Patel, Jr. Member**

PCOM School of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: The profession of pharmacy is constantly changing, and I've always been very intrigued by the different niches in this career field. My goal is to be able to advocate for pharmacy and be involved in the changes that are soon to come through GPhA!



**Dion Blocker, Jr. Member**

PCOM School of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: GPhA has taught me how expansive the profession of pharmacy is here in Georgia and how much of an impact student pharmacists can really make here.



**Andrew Wilson, P1 Liaison**

PCOM School of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2024

Quote: GPhA empowers members through their critical role of providing networking opportunities, education, and information related to current events and legislation relevant to the pharmacy community. I joined the Student Leadership Board to provide a voice for PCOM in this great organization, foster connections with other pharmacy programs in Georgia, and create networks between PCOM students and GPhA members.



**Dylan Daniels, Sr. Member**

South University School of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2022

Quote: An organization like GPhA, that offers opportunities to network with local leaders that are national pioneers in the field of pharmacy, is a rare and unique prospect for current students.



**Genell Singleton, Sr. Member**

South University School of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2022

Quote: I want to establish connections within the pharmacy community and gain all the knowledge needed to be able to give the best patient care. GPhA will allow me to gain the necessary skills to become an effective leader.



**Shannon Barbour, Jr. Member**

South University School of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: I am eager to get involved with an organization that will provide me with leadership opportunities, chances to network with other students and pharmacists across the state, and to be an active advocate for the pharmacy profession. I view GPhA's student leadership board as a team that works together to advocate for the pharmacy profession and develop fellowship among their peers.



**Megha Patel, Jr. Member**

South University School of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: I am continually exploring avenues that will enhance my educational experience, skill set and professional contribution to the community. As a member of the GPhA Student Leadership Board, it will help me expand my horizon as a pharmacist and provide opportunity to serve as a proficient leader while serving fellow pharmacy students and the community.



**Stephen Ansel, Sr. Member**

UGA College of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: The network and education opportunities that GPhA offers are invaluable to maintaining success in the industry. The strong advocacy that GPhA excels in assures that both pharmacists and patients are treated fairly and not taken advantage of; while an established presence in the community not only helps the public but improves the perception that the public has of the pharmacist.



**Tommy Tuggle, Sr. Member**

UGA College of Pharmacy

Grad year: 2022

Quote: I find that every day there are new opportunities to learn about advances in pharmacy, and development in patient care. Participating in the Georgia Pharmacy Association Student Leadership Board affords me the opportunity to represent the voice of student pharmacists and the patients we all serve.



**Annie Bridges, Jr. Member**

UGA College of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: GPhA has helped me develop my professional character tremendously! Being able to advocate for my profession and network with pharmacists and future pharmacists is one of my favorite things about GPhA.



**Kristin DiSalle, Jr. Member**

UGA College of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2023

Quote: I am interested in being involved with GPhA because I want to help bridge the gap between pharmacists, technicians, and patients across the state. I think that it is important to communicate and work together to provide the best healthcare to the residents in Georgia.



**Valery Cepeda, P1 Liaison**

UGA College of Pharmacy

Grad Year: 2024

Quote: The mission of GPhA is to promote the profession of pharmacy and the value of pharmacy services. I believe these are important statements that every pharmacy student and pharmacist should promote in their activities. I love being a part of a group whose purpose to promote and advocate for the importance of the pharmacy profession in Georgia.

# PHARMPAC 2020

## 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 October 31, 2020.

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



**RALPH BALCHIN**  
Fayetteville



**CHARLES BARNES**  
Valdosta



**MAC McCORD**  
Atlanta



**SCOTT MEEKS**  
Douglas



**FRED SHARPE**  
Albany

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



**WILLIAM DUNN**  
Ty Ty



**ROBERT DYKES**  
Cochran



**MICHAEL E. FARMER**  
Winder



**DAVID GRAVES**  
Macon



**ANN HANSFORD**  
Athens



**LON LEWIS**  
St. Simons Island



**TOMMY LINDSEY**  
Omega



**BRANDALL LOVVORN**  
Bremen

#### Platinum Investors (\$1,200 or \$100/month)

Thomas Bryan  
William Cagle  
Hugh Chancy  
Wes Chapman  
Keith Chapman  
Dale Coker  
W.C. Conley  
Ben Cravey  
Marshall Curtis  
Blake Daniel  
Al Dixon  
Jack Dunn  
Vic Johnson  
Marsha Kapiloff  
Ira Katz  
Kenneth Kicklighter  
Jeff Lurey  
Jonathan Marquess  
Ivy McCurcly  
Amy Miller

Drew Miller  
Cassie Riley  
Houston Rogers  
Ben Ross  
John Sandlin  
Tim Short  
Teresa Smith  
Carl Stanley  
Dennis Strickland  
Chris Thurmond  
Danny Toth  
Alex Tucker  
Thomas Whitworth  
Julie Wickman

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James Bartling  
Larry Braden  
William Brewster  
David Carr  
Liza Chapman  
Mahlon Davidson

Sharon Deason  
Benjamin Dupree  
Kevin Florence  
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Johnathan Hamrick  
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Robert Ault  
Claude Bates  
James Carpenter  
Tina Chancey  
Michael Crooks  
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Marshall Frost  
Hannah Head  
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Amy Jacobs  
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 Tull  
Randall Thonton  
Carla Woodall

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Dean Arneson  
Phil Barfield  
Ashlyn Carter  
Bryce Carter  
Matthew Crist  
Michelle Cruson  
Douglass Hall  
James Harkleroad  
Phillip James  
Brenton Lake  
Rabun Neves

Katherine Woods  
Lou Woods

#### Member Investors (up to \$150)

Thomas Akins  
Karine Alleyne  
Robert Ault  
Brandon Bailey  
Lawrence Bridges  
Annsey Bryan  
Kenneth Couch  
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Brenda Owens  
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Rhett Paul  
Whitney Pickett  
Leslie Ponder  
Robert Probst  
Reginald Pye  
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Leonard Reynolds  
John Richey  
Stephen Shearer  
James Stowe  
Carey Vaughan  
Robert Ward  
Bonnie Warren  
Joseph Woodson  
Charlese Yates

Help us reach our goal for 2020! Visit [GPhA.org/PharmPAC](http://GPhA.org/PharmPAC) to find out more.



\*As of October 31, 2020



Mahlon Davidson,  
PharmPAC, Chairman

From the President

# It's Crunch Time, the 2020 Edition



**WES CHAPMAN**

It usually starts in June of even years. I look up the CPE monitor and check the totals. Six months left and I still need 7 more hours. No problem. I still have a couple of conventions to attend. Wait! This is 2020. COVID-19 2020. Needless

to say, I was going to be short. But I've got a source in my pocket, and as a GPhA member, so do you.

And CPE via GPhA doesn't require a plane ticket and/or a long day under fluorescent lighting to acquire. This year, as an association officer, I did attend the virtual convention, but due to scheduling (as is the case with real time conventions), I found myself dropping in and out of CPE presentations and thus never really attending or getting the hours I needed for re-license. Then I remembered GPhA's CPEasy. Now, at my leisure, I'm chasing down those elusive hours in custom made sessions of my choice. Click and go. It really is that easy. Want to know more about Probiotics? Click and Go. Want to know more about Therapeutic Considerations during Menopause? Click and Go. Most of these ACPE-accredited course costs are just \$20 each for GPhA members; and non-members pay \$42. ALL the CPE you need.

Which brings me to Continued Professional Development (CPD): CPD is an approach to lifelong learning. ACPE defines CPD as a self-directed, ongoing, systematic and outcomes-focused approach to lifelong learning that is applied into practice. It involves the process of active participation in formal and informal learning activities that assist individuals in developing and maintaining continuing competence, enhancing their

**"IN 2019, GPhA ISSUED 2700 HOURS OF CPE TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS. WE ARE ON TRACK TO MATCH THIS NUMBER FOR 2020, IN SPITE OF ALL THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE YEAR."**

professional practice, and supporting achievement of their career goals." One can certainly use GPhA's CPEasy in the continued development of their CPD.

Are you a CPHT that needs CPE? Almost every CPE course offered is accredited for both pharmacists and technicians and in late October of this year, GPhA offered its first ever TechU exclusively for pharmacy techs. It was a rousing success. The association looks forward to more TechU events coming soon.

Our association's continuing education is an envy of many and most state associations. In 2019, GPhA issued 2700 hours of CPE to members and guests. We are on track to match this number for 2020, in spite of all the unique challenges faced during the year. Kudos to Andi McKeever and her CPE committee along with Teresa Tatum, Director of Education for their tireless efforts. If you haven't used CPEasy yet, do so. Get those hours early and often and don't get in a crunch like yours truly. [G](#)

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



## MEDICATION OR AZERBAIJANI VILLAGE?

It's that time again — time to play everyone's favorite pharmaceutical game!

BY ANDREW KANTOR

Five of these are novel drugs approved by the FDA in 2020. Five are villages in Azerbaijan.

**Do you know which is which?**

1. Trodelvy
2. Medrese
3. Quzanli
4. Muradxan
5. Heyvali
6. Olinvyk
7. Tukysa
8. Monjuvi
9. Kalband
10. Gavreto

### Villages in Azerbaijan

1. Heyvali
2. Kalband
3. Medrese
4. Muradxan
5. Quzanli

### FDA-approved meds in 2020

1. Gavreto: To treat non-small lung cancer
2. Olinvyk: To manage acute pain in certain adults
3. Monjuvi: To treat relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
4. Tazverik: To treat epithelioid sarcoma
5. Tukysa: To treat advanced unresectable or metastatic HFR2-positive breast cancer

### Answers:

## Things We Didn't Expect to Say in 2020

Put the packages in the garage. We will wipe them down in a few days. • Hey, I've got to go. My preschooler has a Zoom meeting. • I don't care what you heard on TV. Don't drink bleach! • Ugh, I have to go to another drive-by birthday party! • Have you seen my mask? I have to go to the bank. • I'm using hand sanitizer with aloe vera as a treat. • When was the last time you washed your mask? • I'm paying out of state tuition for virtual college? • I might preemptively homeschool my 5-year-old. • They will check our temperature when we go in. • Do you think they do dine-in at that restaurant? • Look, that's my cardboard cutout in the front row. • Did you hear they had 10 people at their party? • It's not homeschooling. It is virtual learning. • She definitely fed her husband to the tigers. • Does this hand sanitizer smell like tequila? • I haven't worn pants to work in months. • Did you go to drive-in church on Sunday? • We need to wipe down the groceries. • Did you wipe the mail with a Clorox wipe? • Look! They are not social distancing. • We have to go back, I forgot my mask. • That was a beautiful Zoom wedding. • What happened to the Murder Hornets? • Will I ever wear real clothes again? • There is zero toilet paper anywhere. • I have 8 Zoom meetings tomorrow. • They are live streaming the funeral. • The groceries are on the porch. • My car gets 11 weeks per tank. • I hope there are sports this year. • Can we still get regular sick? • This mask is giving me acne. • Why aren't there any napkins? • Has this cart been sanitized? Can you pass the salt packets? • Can I borrow some toilet paper? • Did you lose another mask? • Is that fake crowd noise? I made sour-dough bread. • Pretty sure I already had it. • What happened to Skype? • You found Clorox Wipes?! • Don't touch your face. • I hate being essential. • Virtual happy hour • You went to a bar? • I am self-isolating. • Let's do a puzzle. • Virtual book club • Don't be a Karen. • It's just allergies. • What's TikTok? • Ok, Boomer. • I miss 2019.



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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!

