

The Independent News

An official publication of GPhA's Academy of Independent Pharmacy
The mission of AIP is to ensure the economic viability and security of independent pharmacy, and to
advance the concept of pharmacy care designed to enhance patient quality of life and positive outcomes.

2020-2021

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Member Services Representative

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Chairman's Message

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 5/6

First let me start off with what a fantastic convention we had at Amelia Island Plantation & Resort. It was wonderful to finally be able to meet face-face with colleagues again.

The convention was a huge success by all standards. The energy level at the trade show was extraordinary. It appeared that all of the vendors who participated during the trade show were very happy working with our members. I can't wait till next year when many more of us will be able to attend.

I want to thank the GPhA staff for all their hard work getting the 2021 convention together. Bob and the entire staff were fantastic, and our very own Verouschka did an incredible job with the vendors. The CE programs were exceptional, the trade show was super, and Kevin Brown and Shannon Miller, the guest speakers during the General sessions, were inspiring.

Please mark your calendars for next year's convention at Amelia Island, JUNE 9-12, 2022.

Let me take this time to congratulate newly elected Mahlon Davidson as our GPhA President and Board Chair, Immediate past President Wes Chapman, and our GPhA President elect Jonathan Sinyard. Congratulations to Jonathan as this year's well-deserving recipient of the Joe Mengoni AIP Pharmacist of the Year. Also, congratulations go out to our new GPhA Board of Directors members, Drew Miller and Ben Ross.

I want to recognize Laird Miller as this year's recipient of the coveted Bowl of Hygeia award. I have referred to Laird as Mr. AIP for his dedication and 11 years as AIP chair and his many years on the AIP BOD. Laird has recently resigned from the BOD, and to honor Laird, we chose to name the Board Chair recognition plaque as the Laird Miller AIP Board of Directors Chair award. Thank you, Laird for all those years of service and leadership. You have been so instrumental in making AIP what it is today in supporting independent pharmacies.

I also want to thank Carolyn Florence as she has decided to retire from the board. Thank you, Carolyn for your many years of service and being a strong role model for us all. Your voice will continue to be heard as son Kevin will be the incoming AIP chair as soon as I leave or get thrown off, whichever comes first.

While the last 15 months have been difficult for most of us, I am proud to be a part of a profession that stepped up to begin the task of vaccinating our patients. We, the independent pharmacists, are the most readily accessible healthcare provider and should be recognized by Congress with such distinction. Pharmacists are seen by consumers/patients as highly respected health care providers and it's time we get this recognition as a professional partner in the health care arena.



Ira

MAY/JUNE 2021



Save The Date:

◆ AIP Fall Meeting October 24, 2021 Macon Marriott & Centreplex, Macon, GA

Members Please Be Aware

When emailing AIP regarding pharmacy issues please include your name, pharmacy name, address, phone number and NPI#.

AIP Member in the NEWS



IHS Pharmacy & Gifts Metter, GA

Dean and Krista Stone were featured in the April edition of America's Pharmacist. They are participating in the NCPA Innovation Center/CPESN Community Pharmacy Fellowship. Be sure to grab a copy and read all about it.

"The pharmacy profession has moved even closer to being recognized as a valuable provider in a patient's health. I believe our pharmacy team is at a tipping point and this is an awesome opportunity to belp us advance to the next level in patient care."

Batt's Drug Company Hawkinsville, GA

The staff at Batt's Drug Company received this extraordinary package over the summer. They believe this is the original handwriting of the founder of their pharmacy, Mrs. Batts from 1914. Below are the details.

"I am a historian and when my grandma passed away at age 98 after living over 60 years in Indiana, I was gifted the responsibility of going through her things. I can promise you, 98 years collects a lot of things, but when so fun to research and study the history of where she traveled and how she lived her life. My grandma was born in 1919

in Hawkinsville, Georgia. I see that this prescription shows that it was issued in 1914 and the only Mrs. Miller I know would have been my great grandmother. I looked up Bates Drug Co. and I see that you are still in business or at least the address is still there. I don't know if you want this or not, you can toss it. But I thought since it has withstood traveling through many different states, residences, and the little paper box has still held it's own after 107 years, it just need to go back home. "



FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021 | \$2.00 | AJC.COM

Suspect arrested in stabbing of pregnant woman, B1

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

It's Worth Knowing What's Really Going On

Georgia passes up millions of doses



As demand for vaccinations wanes, thousands of shots are in danger of expiring in weeks.

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What's behind the latest round of rising prices?

Many of the increases not expected to but a contract of the co

And managed and the labor of th

Alpharetta man faces Capitol riot charges

Alpharetta resident Kerdn Douglas Croek Little Five Points Pharmacy Atlanta, GA

Extra! Extra! Read all about it.

Ira Katz made the cover of the AJC this morning in a story about expiring vaccines. Read all about it at the link below.

http://ow.ly/7T0k50F8bTA

AIP MSR GENE SMITH RETIRES

Gene Smith, our AIP Member Service Representative in NW Georgia retired on June 16th. Gene has been a valued member of our AIP staff since 2004. His warm smile and positive personality will be missed. Melissa Reybold, who works mainly in NE Georgia, will now start calling on pharmacies in NW Georgia.

We have come to trust Gene's sage advice over the years and will truly miss him. People like Gene with their vast experience and knowledge of our profession are hard to find.

We wish him all the best on his retirement.

Chairman's Message— Continued from Page 1

Provider status will be our next victory.

It was a great year for us in this year's General Assembly. We have the strongest anti-PBM legislation in the country and we have Mr. Greg Reybold to thank. You have done an outstanding job with advocacy for our profession, and we support your dedication and work.

I want to encourage all independent pharmacy owners to join the 100% club. All you have to do is enroll your staff pharmacists and technicians in GPhA. We have the strongest state pharmacy association in the country, and we need to keep it that way by increasing membership in GPhA.

Lastly, I want to give thanks to our supreme leader, Mr. Jeff Lurey, and our member service representatives, Rhonda Bonner, Charles Boone & Melissa Reybold. We wish Gene Smith all the best as he has recently retired. Also, I want to recognize Amanda Gaddy who has helped save many of you thousands of dollars from unscrupulous PBM audits. And of course, where would we be without our V. V was recognized at our AIP luncheon during convention for her 20 years of service as AIP Member Services Manager as well as convention coordinator. We love you V.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you a program from one of our partners, Ortho Molecular. It's titled, Metabolic Health: Using Nutrition to Enhance Your Patient's Health. Please check out the link. This is a fantastic opportunity to improve our patients overall well being.

https://ompi.wistia.com/medias/7w4e2taz4u

Be well and stay safe. As always, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chair.

Ira

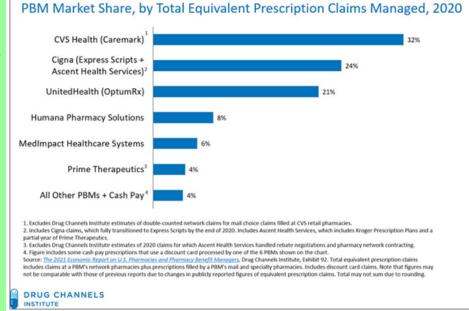
LAND OF THE GIANTS

The market share chart shown below comes from our new <u>2021 Economic Report on U.S. Pharmacies and Pharmacy Benefit Managers</u>.

We estimate that for 2020, the big three PBMs—CVS Health (including Caremark and Aetna), the Express Scripts business of Cigna, and the OptumRx business of UnitedHealth Group—processed about 77% of all equivalent prescription claims. The top six PBMs handled more than 95% of total U.S. equivalent prescription claims.

This concentration helps plan sponsors and payers, which can maximize their negotiating leverage by combining their prescription volumes within a small number of PBMs. The 2020 figures reflect the significant business relationships among the largest PBMs that have further concentrated market share.

The largest PBMs operate with different overall business strategies and structures. For our most recent company analyses, see Sections 5.2. of the new 2021 pharmacy/PBM report.







94 million reasons pharmacists are heroes!

Back in the fall, I said that community pharmacists are the X-factor to making sure that millions of patients get a COVID-19 vaccine. The latest highlights released by the CDC about the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program reported that through June 24, nearly 94 million doses have been administered and reported by retail pharmacies across programs in the United States! When pharmacies that only received vaccine from their state are factored in, that number will be meaningfully higher.

NCPA told federal and state officials repeatedly — and it's come true — that the rollout of the vaccines would not be successful without involving community pharmacists.

Other highlights of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program:

- A total of 21 retail pharmacy partners are participating in the program, with more than 41,000 locations participating and administering doses nationwide. This includes long-term care pharmacies.
- Overall, 42 percent of the doses administered through the program have gone to a person from a racial or ethnic minority group (among people with known race or ethnicity).
- Many pharmacy partners are conducting pop-up clinics to increase access to vaccination nationwide.

The importance of community pharmacists has never been more obvious. But pharmacy owners need help to make sure we can be here for the next public health emergency. To continue spreading the word, I recently sent a welcome letter to newly confirmed CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. In that letter NCPA asked for her help with:

- The immediate elimination of retroactive pharmacy direct and indirect renumeration fees.
- The retention of pharmacist patient care authorities and flexibilities provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The requirement of detailed Medicare Part D reporting requirements on pharmacy performance measures.
- The development of Part D plan guidance for medical-at-home services provided by LTC pharmacies.

We met with Brooks-LaSure and her colleagues in December as part of the Biden Health and Human Services transition team, and we again made the point that community pharmacies need relief from oppressive pharmacy DIR fees and that community pharmacists would be pivotal to the success of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. We now know that last statement was backed up 94 million times and counting. Pharmacists have made the difference in overcoming the pandemic. They truly have been the X-factor.

P.S. "How sweet it will be to again interact in person!" That's a quote from NCPA President Brian Caswell, RPh. "Log off. Go live." is the tagline for NCPA's Annual Convention in Charlotte, N.C., Oct 9-12. This will be one of the first live pharmacy meetings in the industry — we're thinking of it as a "Hero's Welcome" celebration for community pharmacists. Learn more and register at ncpa.org/annual-convention.

If you change wholesalers please be sure to let us know. **Please contact** Verouschka **Betancourt-**Whigham "V" vbwhigham@ gpha.org 404-419-8102. **Thank You**



Friday. September 24, 2021 Big Red Oak Shooting Preserve, Gay Georgia Sign up today! gpha.org/ready-aim-phire



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AIP Fall Meeting

Sunday, October 24, 2021
Macon Marriott & Centreplex
Macon, GA

SAVE THE DATE

- CE Programs
- Legislative Update
- Network with Colleagues
- Meet with Partners

Tentative Agenda

8:00-9:00 am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00-11:00 am CE Programs

11:00-12:00 pm Meet with Partners

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch

1:00-3:00 pm CE Programs

3:00 pm Adjourn

HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND THIS YEAR'S AIP FALL MEETING

Registration: (For Planning Purposes Please Fill Out and Return)	
Member's Name: Nickname	_ PLEASE
Pharmacy Name:	FAX
Address:	
E-mail Address (Please Print):	BACK TO
Will you be joining us for lunch (12-1pm)? Yes No; # of additional Staff/Guests:	(404) 237-843
Names of Staff/Guests:	



GPhA Convention and AIP Wholesaler Appreciation Luncheon

It was great to finally get to meet in person again at this year's convention. AIP members were in attendance and many of our AIP partners were exhibiting. There were interesting CE programs and great general sessions. There were many AIP highlights throughout the 4 days and here are just a few.

Laird Miller was awarded the distinguished Bowl of Hygeia by GPhA President and AIP member Wes Chapman during one of the general sessions. Amy Miller and Tina Chancy both received service awards. Drew Miller and Ben Ross were elected to the GPhA board and sworn in. Jeff Lurey received his 50 Years of Pharmacy Recognition Plaque. The AIP Compounding Section also had a breakfast sponsored by PCCA. It was extremely well attended.

Over 80 members gathered on Saturday for fellowship and a great lunch at the AIP Wholesaler Appreciation Luncheon. Jonathan Sinyard was awarded the 2021 Joe Mengoni AIP Pharmacist of the Year Award. An AIP update was given by Jeff Lurey, NCPA President Brian Caswell and Congressman Buddy Carter both said a few

2021 Joe Mengoni AIP Pharmacist of the Year



This year's Joe Mengoni AIP Pharmacist of the Year is Jonathan Sinyard. He is a 2009 University of Georgia College of Pharmacy graduate. He began working at Adams Drug Store in Cordele, GA during the summer of 2004 and continued as an intern through pharmacy school.

He was hired as a full-time pharmacist upon graduating and later purchased the pharmacy in 2019.

Jonathan has served on several GPhA 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. He is currently President Elect and will assume the GPhA board presidency in 2022. He is an active member of Penia Baptist Church where he serves as a Sunday School teacher. He is also involved in several local organizations such as Kiwanis Club and sits on the board of directors for his local Colony Bank branch and health department.

He hails from Cordele, Georgia, where his lives with his wife Michelle and their two daughters, Caitlin and Bailey Grace. Please congratulate our 2021 Joe Mengoni AIP Pharmacist of the year, Jonathan Sinyard.



words. Laird Miller and Carolyn Florence were presented with plaques thanking them for their service to the AIP Board. Jeff Lurey and Ira Katz also presented Verouschka Betancourt-Whigham "V" with a plaque for her 20 year anniversary with GPhA. The luncheon could not be complete without thanking our wholesalers for all their support to AIP and our members.

AIP members and their families enjoyed the many amenities that Omni amelia Island offered. They also had fun exploring the exhibit hall and speaking with all the vendors. Many attended their college alumni event, the PharmPAC event, mingled with students, and the Georgia Pharmacy sand castle contest on the beach. The last night of convention ended with dinner and dancing at the President's Bash. Fun was had by all.





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FEDERAL PREP ACT AUTHORITY PREEMPTS STATE LAW

Dear Colleague:

Due in large part to the hard work of public health partners and colleagues across the country, the United States has been able to significantly decrease the number and scale of COVID-19 outbreaks. Since January 2021, large-scale vaccination administrations, effective testing strategies, and non-pharmaceutical interventions have resulted in lower rates of COVID-19 and its complications.

During this phase of the response, we are aware of changes in the status of emergency declarations at state, tribal, local, or territorial levels. As we monitor potential public health impacts of these changes, we want to provide a reminder that the federal public health emergency (PHE) declaration and the Declaration, as amended, authorized by the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act are still in effect.

Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act)

The PREP Act allows the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue a declaration that extends liability protections to entities and individuals who manufacture, distribute, or administer covered medical countermeasures against a public health threat or emergency. In March 2020, the Secretary issued a PREP Act Declaration covering COVID-19 tests, drugs, and vaccines providing liability protections to manufacturers, distributors, States, Local, Tribes, and Territories (SLTT), licensed healthcare professionals, and others identified by the Secretary (qualified persons) who administer COVID-19 countermeasures. This declaration will be in place through 2024.

As a reminder, for jurisdictions that have ended or are considering ending public health state of emergencies, under the PREP Act Declaration, as amended, state and local authorities may not prohibit or effectively prohibit "qualified persons" (such as pharmacy interns and technicians) from ordering and administering covered countermeasures. The PREP Act contains an express preemption provision the PREP Act and the Declaration, as amended, are still applicable regardless of state laws and regulations. Qualified persons identified/covered by PREP Act to administer vaccines will still be covered regardless of whether a state has an emergency declaration in place.

A current fact sheet on the PREP Act can be reviewed by clicking on the link below: PREP Act Fact Sheet: Expanding the COVID-19 Vaccination Workforce (phe.gov).

See also: <u>Use of PREP Act to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines and ACIP Recommended Childhood Vaccinations</u>

HHS Public Health Emergency Declaration

The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) has declared a public health emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §247d). The PHE for COVID-19 was originally declared on January 31, 2020 and has been renewed every 90 days since. The current PHE was renewed effective April 15, 2021 and will be in effect for 90 days. Correspondence from the Acting Secretary to Governors earlier this year, indicated that the PHE will likely remain in place for the entirety of 2021, and when a decision is made to terminate the PHE or let it expire, HHS will provide states with 60 days' notice prior to termination.

Among other things, the PHE determination provides for the ability to streamline and increase the accessibility of healthcare, such as the practice of telemedicine. It allows under section 1135 of the Social Security Act, in conjunction with a Presidential Declaration under the National Emergencies Act or Stafford Act, the Secretary to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule requirements. The goal is to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that, in an emergency area during an emergency period, sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals receiving Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP and that providers that furnish such items and services can be reimbursed for them and exempt from sanctions, absent fraud or abuse. Required reporting of SARS-COV-2 test results to the HHS Secretary, as provided under section 18115 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is also dependent upon an active PHE.

State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Emergency Declarations

As of July 2, 2021, we are aware that 17 states have ended COVID-19 emergency declarations, however it is challenging to understand the full impact ending emergency declarations can have on a jurisdiction's response.

The legal impact of emergency declarations varies across jurisdictions. Emergency declarations can expressly authorize or direct specific response activities and may also trigger statutes, regulations, and policies/plans (e.g., procurement rules, emergency response plans, etc.) that rely on the presence of a declared emergency. For example, state COVID-19 emergency declarations may have implications for regulatory requirements for laboratory testing, depending on state laws and regulations. Our partners, including ASTHO, NEMA and NGA, are tracking the status of state emergency declarations nationwide. Additionally, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has also published a helpful tool, "Expiring State COVID-19 Emergency Declarations: Effects on Federal Aid (congress.gov)" that outlines the interplay between state and federal emergency declarations. Regardless of jurisdictions' decisions, the federal declarations of a public health emergency (both the PREP Act and Declaration, as amended, and the PHE declaration) remain in place.

Within CDC, we are working across the response and with our Office of the General Counsel and Public Health Law Program to provide information to our programs on potential impacts.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support the nation's response to COVID-19.

Margaret (Peggy) Honein, PhD, MPH Incident Manager

COVID-19 Emergency Response
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Margaret St. 4



KEEP INDEPENDENTS INDEPENDENT

Please don't forget, if you have a desire to sell your pharmacy or if you have an interest in buying a pharmacy, please contact Jeff Lurey at 404-419-8103. We have been quite successful during the past several years at keeping independents independent. We maintain a list of pharmacists who want to buy additional pharmacies and we also keep a list of young pharmacists who want to own a pharmacy. All information is kept strictly confidential.



AIP MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the concept of pharmacy care. To ensure the economic viability and security of Independent Pharmacy; To provide a forum for Independent Pharmacy to exchange information and develop strategies, goals and objectives; To address the unique business and professional issues of independent pharmacies; To develop and implement marketing opportunities for members of the Academy with emphasis on the third party prescription drug program/benefit market; To provide educational programs designed to enhance the managerial skills of Independent Pharmacy Owners and Managers; and, To establish and implement programs and services designed to assist Independent Pharmacy Owners and Managers.



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AIP would like to thank our partners and endorsed vendors that supported the Association by exhibiting at this year's GPhA Convention.



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