

NoDak Pharmacy *Journal*

Volume 38, No. 2 April 2023



Happy Easter!

**We hope
to see you
in Minot at
the NoDak
Pharmacy
Convention!**

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2023 Calendar

APRIL:

- April 11:NDSHP April Education Meeting - Virtual
- April 20-22:Annual NoDak Pharmacy Convention – Minot, ND
- April 22-25:NACDS Annual Meeting – Palm Beach, FL
- April 25:NDSHP Acute Care Pharmacy Networking Meeting – Virtual
- April 26-27:NCPA Congressional Pharmacy Fly-In – Alexandria, VA

MAY:

- May 4:Charles Peterson Retirement – 3:00-5:00 pm – NDSU Alumni Center
- May 12:NDSU PharmD Hooding Ceremony – 10:00 am – NDSU Festival Concert Hall
- May 13:NDSU Commencement – 2:00 pm – FargoDome
- May 9:NDSHP Journal Club Meeting – Virtual
- May 23:NDSHP Networking Meeting - Virtual

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NDPhA JOURNAL SUBMISSION POLICY

The ND Pharmacists Association is pleased to accept submissions for the Journal. Submissions should be reasonable in length due to space considerations. In order to ensure the quality of our publication, editing for grammar, spelling, punctuation and content may occur. Articles, photos, and advertising should be submitted in electronic form.

To submit, please email NDPhA at: mschwab@nodakpharmacy.net

**The deadline for the Next Issue is:
JUNE 9TH, 2023**

NORTH DAKOTA PHARMACY JOURNAL

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NDPhA President's Message

Greetings to all,

The 138th Annual Nodak Pharmacy Convention is set for April 20-22nd in Minot. I hope everyone considers attending this important event. Take the time to meet with colleagues, learn something new and take a breather from your day to day routine. I promise you won't be disappointed if you attend.

An agenda for the convention is provided at www.nodakpharmacy.net. Among the social activities provided, one can also pick up 12 hours of continuing education. It is a great opportunity to learn something new and to network with colleagues. If you have never been to a convention, please consider coming this year. It is always a great way to spend a weekend. I know I always come away refreshed and impressed with my ND pharmacy colleagues.

I hope everyone that registers will consider sponsoring an NDSU student. The students will be presenting posters and be around for Saturday and Saturday nights

activities. These bright young minds are the future of ND pharmacy and they bring some youthful enthusiasm to the event. Thanks in advance to anyone who chooses to sponsor a student.

I look forward to seeing old friends and making new friends in Minot. I hope we all can make it to support the group of pharmacists from Minot and the surrounding areas that have put the convention together. See you in a few weeks.

Randy Habeck, Pharm.D.



SAVE THE DATE *NoDak Pharmacy Convention*

The 138th Annual NoDak Pharmacy Convention will be April 20-22, 2023 in Minot, ND at the Sleep Inn. For room reservations, call the hotel directly at 701-837-3100 and reference the "ND Pharmacy Convention". Agenda, registration form, and student auction donation form can be found on pages 5-7. Make sure to register for the early bird rate while you can!



North Dakota Board of Pharmacy..... May I Help You?

By Mark Hardy, PharmD – Executive Director

The Board is embarking on an uncharted course and that is to replace the rock of our operations. Eileen Heidrich, the Board's Executive Assistant, who has announced her retirement.

Eileen Heidrich has been a mainstay for the profession of pharmacy in North Dakota. Through the Executive Directors employed by the Board of Pharmacy, including Al Doerr, William Grosz, Howard Anderson, Jr and now myself, Eileen Heidrich has faithfully dedicated her talents to the mission of the Board. Eileen has served the Board for over 43 years! Her attention to detail and commitment to her duties has afforded the outstanding service that the profession and the public have been accustomed to receiving.

Eileen was born and raised in Bismarck. Eileen is married to her husband, Harry, of nearly 50 years. Together they have 2 daughter, Andrea and Bonnie. Eileen has been blessed with four grandchildren, to which are her treasures.

We are all familiar with Eileen's consistent greeting when calling the Board office. You should also know the consistent wonderful job she did to uphold the mission of the Board of Pharmacy. Behind the service of the Board members and its Executive Directors for nearly 4 decades stands one individual whose dedicated service is so critical to the Board of Pharmacy and that is Eileen.

Consistent to her tenure, she will work to ensure a smooth transition to our new Executive Assistant, Bonnie Balkowitsch. Bonnie is a very talented individual which we know will be a wonderful replacement for a legendary figure in the profession, Eileen!

Feel free to extend your well wishes and congratulations to Eileen on a long and enjoyable retirement.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Minot at the convention!



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NoDak Pharmacy Convention Agenda

DATE/TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER	ACPE CODES	CEU
THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2023				
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Registration			
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	ONE Program Welcome Social			
FRIDAY APRIL 21, 2023				
7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Registration			
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast			
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Psychotropic Pharmacology in a 21st Century Behavioral Health Epidemic	Michael Rayel, M.D.		0.1
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Navigating DSCSA	Josh Bolin		0.1
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Break			
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Updates in Acute Stroke Management. The increasing role of tenecteplase and the important role of chronic medication management.	Mike Peterson Jerilyn Alexander		0.1
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	DEA Update	Erin Payne		0.1
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM	Vendor Fair			
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch			
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Emerging Treatment of Macular Degeneration and other Eye Disorders	Darren Hill, M.D.		0.1
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Lifestyle Medicine	Stefanie Meyer		0.1
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Vaccine Update	Lynde Monson		0.1
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Ice Cream Social			
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	NDPhA First Business Meeting			
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Social			
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Memorial Service & President Elect Awards Banquet			
8:00 PM onward	Social & Entertainment			
SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023				
7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Registration			
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast			
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Recovery Reinvented	Jonathan Holth		0.1
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Women In Leadership	Allison Hursman, Elizabeth Monson		0.1
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	NDPhA Second Business Meeting			
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Increasing Trends in Illicit Drug Use	Craig Sandusky		0.1
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	NDPhA/NDShP/NAPT Lunch Meetings			
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	NAPT Update	Diane Halvorson		0.1
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Medicaid Update	Brendan Joyce		0.1
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Student/Resident/Professional Posters			0.1
4:45 PM – 5:30 PM	Phun Run/Walk – Sponsored by Superior Insurance			
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Banquet Social			
6:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Past President's Social			
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	President's Banquet & Awards Ceremony with Live Auction to follow (Silent Auction closes at 8:00 PM)			

NoDak Pharmacy Convention Registration Form



NORTH DAKOTA ANNUAL PHARMACY CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

(ONE PERSON PER FORM)

April 20-22nd, 2023 at the Sleep Inn, 2400 10th st. SW, Minot, ND 58703 - Ph: 701-837-3100

(A BLOCK OF ROOMS HAS BEEN RESERVED UNDER 2023 PHARMACISTS CONVENTION)

NAME:

GUEST/SPOUSE NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE:

ZIP CODE:

PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Entire Convention & Day Registration - Meals are included - please mark meals you will be attending below

	Before April 7th		After April 7th	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Pharmacist	\$200	\$350	\$250	\$400
Technician	\$100	\$150	\$125	\$175
Student	\$50	-	\$75	-

Meals - Please mark meals you will be attending and additional Guest Meals to be included

Included in Registration	Breakfast	Lunch	Banquet	Guest Meals	Breakfast (\$15 Each)	Lunch (\$20 Each)	Banquet (\$40)
Friday				Friday			
Saturday				Saturday			

Please note any special meal considerations or accommodations, call 701-258-4968

REGISTRATION TOTAL

Please mark if you plan on attending the welcome reception. ☐ YES ☐ NO

CREDIT CARD NUMBER:

EXPIRATION DATE

CVV (3 DIGIT CODE)

NAME ON CARD

BILLING ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

SIGNATURE

DATE

Mail completed forms and payment to NDPhA, 1641 Capitol Way, Bismarck, ND 58501
Register online at www.nodakpharmacy.net, select Convention Tab and click on On-line Convention Registration

Student Auction Donation Form

STUDENT AUCTION DONATION FORM

PLEASE EMAIL TO [JJOHNSON@NODAKPHARMACY.NET](mailto:jjohnson@nodakpharmacy.net) OR PRINT INFORMATION BELOW & RETURN TO:

PhAC AUCTION, NDPhA, 1641 Capitol Way, Bismarck, ND 58501-2195

Fax: 701-258-9312 • Ph: 701-258-4968 • Email: jjohnson@nodakpharmacy.net

If you have items that you would like to donate to the live or online silent auction, please photograph each item separately and e-mail the information requested to jjohnson@nodakpharmacy.net for addition to the auction website. Please send in all item info by April 10th, 2023.

Early submission of items (photograph and descriptions) is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** and appreciated. The online silent auction will be open April 14th, one week prior to the start of the convention, and will close on April 22nd at 8:00PM. More info on how to access the online silent auction will be coming soon.

A live auction will follow the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Saturday night.

DONOR NAME

ITEM TITLE

ITEM DESCRIPTION

RETAIL VALUE

LOCATION OF ITEM (for deliver arrangements following convention):

ITEM PHOTOGRAPHS (multiple pictures are encouraged)

Please fill out the information above separately for each item

Please contact Jesse at jjohnson@nodakpharmacy.net or call 701- 258-4968 if you have any questions about the auction or the submission of donations.

Thank you for your continued support and participation! We look forward to another outstanding auction!!

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Discount/Cash Cards are Disruptors in the Industry

On February 25, 2023, PAAS National, had the privilege of participating in a Panel Discussion entitled Marketplace Prescription Dynamics Sure to Shape Your Business Strategies at NCPA Multiple Locations Conference. While traversing several different topic areas, one of the core issues important to community pharmacies is discount/cash cards.

IQVIA published a white paper entitled Pharmacy Discount Card Utilization and Impact¹ in August of 2022 with several interesting findings. Among them, discount card utilization has grown to 5.4% of all pharmacy adjudications in 2021, a 63% increase over 2017 - of which "Not So GoodRx" now represents 46%. Only 9% of discount card transactions are for branded products. For Medicare patients, nearly 1 in 5 (19%) used a discount card. Commercial patients were 12%, but that doubled to 24% for those with an observed deductible. Cash paying patients represented 56% of all patients, and 52% of transactions.

While the discount card growth has been remarkable, what makes them disruptors in the industry has been their impact on the traditional PBM model. Discount cards have been effective at undermining the perceived benefit that PBMs are supposed to provide (i.e., why is GoodRx able to offer a better price on my prescriptions than my insurance). Additionally, patients' out of pocket costs are typically not captured when they use discount cards unless a patient is going to submit claims on their own (in addition to gaps in adherence metrics and other quality measures). In response, Express Scripts announced² a partnership with GoodRx to include a "lesser of" logic when

processing prescription claims through their Price Assure program. Not to be outdone, OptumRx launched Price Edge³ which will review direct-to-consumer prescription drug prices and offer members the lowest available price. Comically, OptumRx said they currently offer the best price to their members about 90% of the time, meaning 10% of the time patients are getting a raw deal. Both of these programs are automatically including these drug purchases into member's deductibles going forward.

Pharmacies know⁴ that discount cards are really just another form of spread pricing, benefiting the discount card provider and PBM. GoodRx reports that it earns 15% of the patient's total retail prescription cost, and that doesn't include a fee for the PBM processor. Interestingly, GoodRx had disclosed that Kroger had accounted for only 5% of participating pharmacies, but nearly 25% of prescription transaction revenue. How could it have been that high? As a chain, Kroger was more likely dutiful in their utilization and/or promotion of GoodRx for patients. Most independents despise GoodRx and will create work arounds to avoid utilizing the card (e.g., with aggressive cash pricing or price-matching). Pharmacies should always be careful not to jeopardize their usual and customary. With the integration from these new programs by the PBMs, bypassing discount cards will likely no longer be an option for insured patients. The impact on BER, GER and even DIR fees for 2023, and beyond, are not clear.

Speaking of jeopardizing your Usual & Customary pricing, Amazon's RxPass⁵ should be a flop. If you haven't heard or read about it, Amazon is offering their



PAAS Article (Continued)

Prime members “eligible medications for one flat, low monthly fee of \$5, and have them delivered free of charge”. Patients with Medicare, Medicaid, or located in one of the seven states they exclude are not eligible to participate. The broader question is how long it will take the DOJ and HHS-OIG to enforce the U&C issue that has already played out with Walgreens (and many others). PAAS previously illuminated the \$60 million

settlement with the Prescription Savings Club in the March 2019 PAAS Newsline: AVOID “Discount Clubs” for Cash Patients⁶. That same DOJ announcement⁷ also discussed the infamous Insulin Pen Box Settlement for \$200 million. Amazon clearly missed this settlement, as the PillPack subsidiary paid a \$5.79 million settlement⁸ in May 2022 for the same insulin pen dispensing practices.

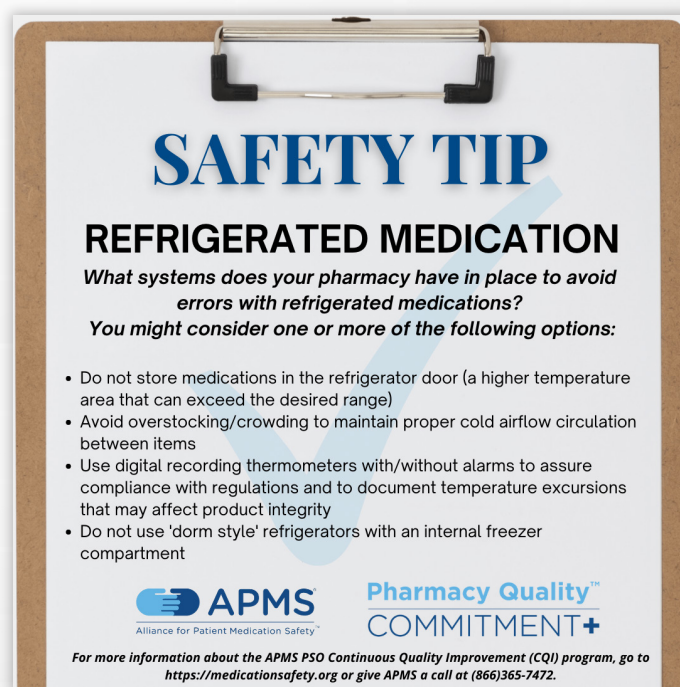
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By Trenton Thiede, PharmD, MBA, President at PAAS National®, expert third party audit assistance and FWA/HIPAA compliance.

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2. <https://www.evernorth.com/articles/increased-pharmacy-savings-and-affordable-prescription-medication>
3. <https://www.optum.com/about-us/news/page.hub.optumrx-price-edge-for-best-prescription-price.html>
4. <https://www.drugchannels.net/2022/05/the-goodrx-kroger-blowup-spread-pricing.html>
5. <https://pharmacy.amazon.com/rxpass>
6. <https://portal.paasnational.com/Paas/Newsletter/Go/553>
7. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/manhattan-us-attorney-announces-2692-million-recovery-walgreens-two-civil-healthcare>
8. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/us-attorney-announces-settlement-fraud-lawsuit-against-online-pharmacy-overdispensing>



NAPT Chairperson Message

Chairperson Message

As we near the end of another year for the NAPT Executive Board, I want express my gratitude to the pharmacy technicians who serve on the NAPT Executive Board. Thank you for your time and commitment to the pharmacy technician profession. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

In this issue of the NoDak, you will find information for upcoming events from the NAPT Executive Board to North Dakota Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacists.

*** Join us in Minot, ND** for the NDPhA Convention to be held April 20 – 22, 2023.

NAPT awards will be presented and the new Executive Board will be installed at the convention. Also, be sure to stop by and check out the NAPT Poster Presentation.

*** NAPT General Membership Meeting** will be on April 22, 2023 at the NDPhA Convention from 11:30am – 1:00pm at the Sleep Inn in Minot, ND.

*** SAVE the DATE** for the 2023 NAPT Fall Conference! Celebrating 30 years of networking and CE!

*** Please continue to watch for emails** from NAPT. Add nodakpharmacy@wildapricot.org or jjohnson@nodakpharmacy.net to your safe sender list. This is how the NAPT Executive Board communicates with you.

Sincerely,

Mandy (Amanda) Chase, RPhTech, CPHT

NAPT Chairperson

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

2023 NAPT Fall Conference
September 22nd - 23rd, 2023 at
the Holday Inn in Fargo, ND

ANNOUNCEMENT! *NAPT General Membership Meeting*

The NAPT General Membership Meeting will be held during the 2023 NDPhA Convention on April 22, 2023 from 11:30am until 1:00pm at the Sleep Inn, Minot ND



Congratulations

2023 Scholarship Winners

**Each student listed
received a \$3,000 scholarship.**

Cameron Buss University of Mississippi

Caitlin Rohrbaugh University of Iowa

Andrew Smith Auburn University

Alexandria Ocker Binghamton University

Destiny Rogers Samford University

Caroline Eason Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Casey Hourigan Univ. of the Incarnate Word

Diana Ghanimah Medical College of Wisconsin

Katelyn Sutton Duquesne University

Gunjan Patel University of Illinois at Chicago

Haley Weaver Harding University

Jackson Beach Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ.

Lauren Williams University of Kentucky

Mohit Kumar University of Georgia

Moriah Willis University of Oklahoma

Makenna Rose Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ.

Olukemi Omotola University of Charleston

Ngozi Ihemeson University of Illinois at Chicago

Olivia Hanna Nova Southeastern University

Rui Hua Zheng Northeastern University

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CAP Center Projects Help Advance Pharmacy & Patient Care

By Allison Hursman, PharmD, BCGP, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, NDSU School of Pharmacy

Projects underway in the Center for Collaboration and Advancement in Pharmacy (CAP Center) in the NDSU School of Pharmacy continue to help enhance patient care and highlight the role of pharmacists in healthcare. Here's an update on progress thusfar.

PHARMACY VAXCHAMPS

Pharmacies continue to lead efforts in providing immunizations to patients. Pharmacy technicians play a key role in this process in the community pharmacy setting. A pilot project, supported by North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and the CAP Center, was started with six pharmacies in 2022. Each pharmacy selected a lead pharmacy technician to become the vaccine champion, the VaxChamp of the pharmacy. The technician provides five focused hours per week allocated to vaccine related efforts, such as screening patients, running reports, contacting patients, administering vaccines, coaching calls, and vaccine storage and handling process.

Technicians received training and workflow documents for their pharmacy, tips for working with NDIIS, and follow-up coaching calls with Dr. Allison Hursman. Sustainability of pharmacy technician vaccine champions and providing focused time toward increasing immunization rates will be achieved through third-party reimbursement, as well as improving population health for our patients in North Dakota. If your pharmacy is interested in starting an immunization practice, contact NDSU.CAPCenter@ndsu.edu for ideas or contact CAP if you're ready to introduce this into your community.

PHARMACY SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

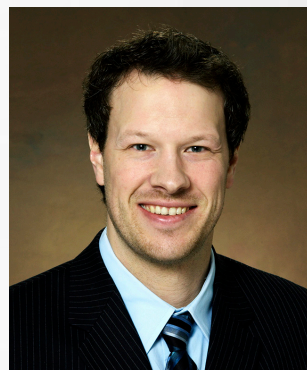
As of January 2022, pharmacists in North Dakota are authorized to provide tobacco cessation services and prescribe medications for tobacco cessation. Although the law allows this service, few pharmacies have started providing this for patients. The Pharmacy Service Enhancement Project (PSEP) will provide training and implementation of tobacco cessation services to ten pilot pharmacies in North Dakota.

An in-person workshop with training helps each site prepare to implement this service to patients. The workshop will include training on process, billing, documentation, and marketing for each pharmacy in the pilot. The project follows the CAP Center principles of education and training, programs and implementation, coaching and support, and data and outcomes.

Once this project is up and running in the second quarter of 2023, the future goals will be to utilize lessons of this pilot to continue to spread services to pharmacies in North Dakota. If tobacco cessation services sound like something you'd like to provide for your patients, contact us at NDSU.CAPCenter@ndsu.edu



Dr. Allison Hursman, NDSU School of Pharmacy, serves as principal investigator for the CAP Center VAXChamps project.



Dr. Brody Maack, NDSU School of Pharmacy, serves as principal investigator for the Tobacco Cessation Pharmacy Service Enhancement project.



Dr. LaNell Hagen, pharmacist at The Medicine Shoppe, directs this pilot to show the role of pharmacy technicians to improve medication adherence.

NDSU School of Pharmacy (Cont.)

COMBATING PRESCRIPTION ABANDONMENT IN HYPERTENSION, DIABETES AND DYSLIPIDEMIA

The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacies in the Fargo-Moorhead area have noted that a way to improve overall patient health is to focus on prescription abandonment. Patients stop taking prescriptions for a variety of reasons and may not notify their provider that they have stopped taking a prescribed medication.

The goal of this pilot is to assess the effectiveness of pharmacy technicians in providing adherence calls to decrease abandonment in a select patient group. These include medications for diabetes, dyslipidemia and hypertension.

Pharmacy technicians provide follow up calls about newly prescribed medications at specific intervals to follow up on medication adherence and provide an opportunity for further pharmacist counseling.

The pilot, supported by the North Dakota Department of Health and Human services, allowed technology built into the pharmacy monitoring system, training, toolkits, support and data analysis for the project.

At the end of the pilot, the goal is to show that pharmacy technicians can improve medication adherence for patients in a community pharmacy. If you think this would benefit patients that visit your pharmacy, contact NDSU.CAPCenter@ndsu.edu for information.



Dr. Ross Wilhelm, pharmacist at The Medicine Shoppe, assists with this pilot regarding medication adherence.



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Research Collaboration Takes Aim At Hard-To-Target Cancers

By Carol Renner, Office of the Dean, Marketing/Communication Lead, NDSU College of Health Professions

RAGE proteins contribute to cancer, diabetes, and other diseases, and research by Dr. Estelle Leclerc and Dr. Stefan Vetter in the NDSU Pharmaceutical Sciences Department targets anti-RAGE antibodies, with a goal to create new treatments for diseases.

The Receptor for Advanced Glycation Endproducts (RAGE) is an immunoglobulin-like receptor involved in cancer. In several mouse models of human pathologies or diseases, antibodies against RAGE have shown promising results.

Genovac, a Fargo-based contract research and manufacturing organization that discovers, develops, and manufactures antibodies for therapeutic, diagnostic, and research market segments, and North Dakota State University announced a new research collaboration.

The primary objective for the collaboration is to advance the development of novel drugs and therapeutics to address the world's most challenging diseases by enabling access to the world-class immunization and single B cell technologies.

Researchers Dr. Estelle Leclerc and Dr. Stefan Vetter in the NDSU Pharmaceutical Sciences Department have extensive experience studying activation and signaling of the receptor for advanced glycation end-products (RAGE), which has been linked to diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, multiple types of cancer, and COVID-19. Specifically, the public-private collaboration with Genovac will explore potential therapeutic uses of RAGE-specific antibodies, with an initial focus on melanoma and pancreatic cancer.

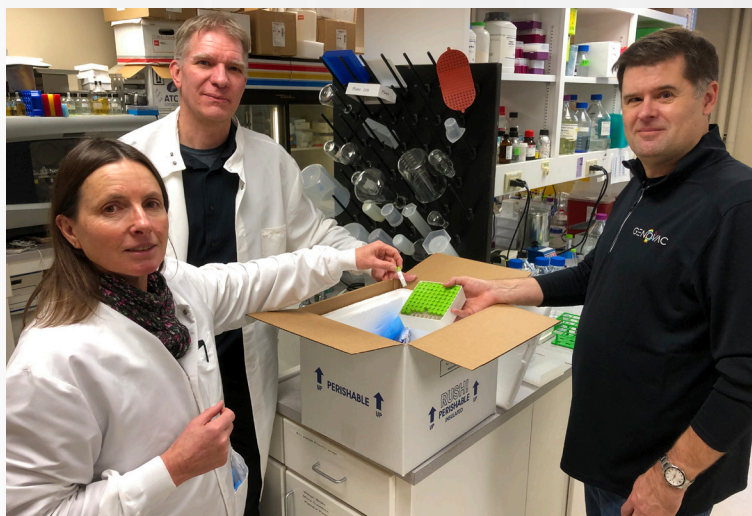
"We are working to discover high-quality antibodies for rapid clinical testing and therapeutic product development," Leclerc said.

Under the research agreement, Leclerc and Vetter will perform preclinical evaluation and characterization of Genovac-generated antibodies by way of biophysical characterization and cell-based evaluation (inhibition of RAGE function in cells). Genovac will use its advanced genetic immunization technologies and the Beacon® Optofluidic System from Berkeley Lights to discover high-quality, high-affinity, RAGE-specific antibodies, while providing additional functional characterization and production at its laboratories in the NDSU Research and Technology Park.

"Working with this type of research and technology provides students in our lab a unique opportunity to advance their skills as they prepare for future careers," said Vetter.

The private-public collaboration has provided a rare opportunity for the analysis of a diverse set of antibodies to help identify the best candidates for therapeutic, diagnostic or research purposes. This unique approach emphasizes the significant impact that this collaboration will have on advancing the field of drug discovery and development.

"Research conducted by faculty members in pharmaceutical sciences continues to place NDSU at the forefront of opportunities that can lead to results that make a difference in disease treatment and prevention," said Dr. Charles D. Peterson, dean of the School of Pharmacy and College of Health Professions at NDSU.



Research by Dr. Estelle Leclerc and Dr. Stefan Vetter in the NDSU Pharmaceutical Sciences Department targets RAGE proteins that contribute to cancer, diabetes and other diseases. A public-private research collaboration between NDSU and Genovac endeavors to create anti-RAGE antibodies for rapid clinical testing and therapeutic product development. Pictured l-r are Dr. Estelle Leclerc, Dr. Stefan Vetter, and Pete Leland, VP, Genovac.

Tools Available To Inspire Future Pharmacists

By Carol Renner, Office of the Dean, Marketing/Communication Lead, NDSU College of Health Professions



Pharmacy alumni from North Dakota State University provide outreach in their communities in many different ways. For pharmacists wanting to inspire the next generation of professionals, NDSU School of Pharmacy provides materials for checkout to help spread the word about the many paths available in the field of pharmacy.

As part of recruitment efforts in the NDSU School of Pharmacy, faculty and students are participating in career exploration opportunities with high school students in the region.

A team led by co-directors of recruitment Dr. Jeanne Frenzel and Dr. Lisa Richter in the School of Pharmacy created tools that also could be used by NDSU alumni who want to share information with high school students in their communities about pharmacy as a career.

TOOLS AVAILABLE INCLUDE:

- Digital booklet that highlights students, alumni, and student organizations of the NDSU pharmacy program. The digital file is available for download.
- Powerpoint presentation covering Why Choose Pharmacy at NDSU?
- Pharmacy Escape Room trunk with activity guide and the material needed to compound a nonprescription scented lotion with students, available for check-out
- A downloadable guide to the NDSU School of Pharmacy Early Admission Pathway
- Downloadable fact sheet listing more than 100 careers in pharmacy
- Link to YouTube playlist with NDSU Pharmacy videos at <https://bit.ly/3Cdi7L2>

Faculty and students are visiting area high schools during the 2022-23 school year to discuss with students how a pharmacy career may be the right fit for them. For information about NDSU Pharmacy recruitment materials, contact Jeanne.Frenzel@ndsu.edu or Lisa.Richter.1@ndsu.edu.

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Pharmacy Services & Technology Innovation in North Dakota

By Rebecca Aubart, PharmD Candidate 2023

Technology in the pharmacy has always been an important part of the workflow. Today now more than ever, new innovations are transforming how pharmacists and technicians serve their patients and run their businesses. Pharmacies around North Dakota are taking advantage of cutting edge software, dispensing and packaging robotics, compounding technology, and more.

COUNTING AIDS

EyeCon and VIVID provide table top machines used for pill counting. These accurate instruments can improve efficiency in the pharmacy and open up personnel for other kinds of tasks. The every growing area of mobile devices has prompted development of handheld applications such as Pilleye and pillphill. These apps can be downloaded to a mobile devices like a cellphone or tablet. The software uses captured photos to count medications. Unlike physical counting aid machines, the mobile apps do require individual input of drug information to keep a record of that count in the app.

ERROR REPORTING AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Reporting errors and developing quality improvement strategies are valuable aspects of pharmacy practice and business. There are a variety of online reporting systems and software platforms that make these processes easier to track and implement change. The Alliance for Patient Medication Safety (APMS) and Pharmacy Quality Commitment (PQC) both use a continuous quality improvement programs with a web-based interface to track errors to improve workflow and patient safety. The Institute for Safe Medication Practice (ISMP) uses a variety of national level reporting programs including those for medication errors, vaccine errors, and consumer medication errors. They use the reported information to share improvement opportunities to the healthcare community based on trends.

Indian Health Service (IHS) utilizes I-STAR as an adverse events systems. This web-based application allows pharmacy personnel and providers to track quality events with enhanced data analytics to improv care. Incident Response Improvement System (IRIS) is another health system based program integrated into electronic health care records. It is used to manage incident formation and implement feedback fro improvement.

ADAPTABLE ELECTRONIC HEALTHCARE RECORD

As clinical services continue to grow in all settings of pharmacy, the importance of access to healthcare patient data is growing. About the Patient is a program that utilizes MTM Express, an adaptable form of electronic medical record to manage many different aspects of patient care. The About the Patient program puts an emphasis on chronic disease stage management such as diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia. DocStation is a online tool used to integrate patient care activities, documentation, and billing platforms. Pharmacy health data is collected, analyzed, used to predict patient care tasks, and much more. New technology is continually being created to grow pharmacy in this area.

PHARMACIST VERIFICATION

Telepharmacy utilizes the opportunities and abilities pharmacy technicians have in North Dakota. Technicians are also a large part of the force in healthcare systems doing sterile compounding. Products and technology is being used to make these process more efficient and effective. TelePharm is a program that takes pictures of each step in the filling and dispensing process. It enables pill counting, digital prescription verification, and video call patient counseling. TelePharm technology allows for remote pharmacist verification to improve the workflow of telepharmacies. IV room verification involves many steps that also must be checked by a pharmacist. In our healthcare systems, full electronic health care record software has integrated platforms for sterile IV room operations. Dispense Prep and Dispense Check are valuable systems that utilize barcode scanning and process to verify correct procedures in the IV workflow.

Pharmacy Keeper and Med Keeper are robust programs that can manage and store images for verification in the compounding process. They also document compliance type activities such as required trainings, inspections, temp logs, outdate schedules, and more.

OUTDATE AND ITEM RETURN SERVICES

The medication return process is something that can require a significant amount of time and required documentation. Services such as Guaranteed Returns, EZ Returns, Stericycle, and Inmar Intelligence are options for providing these services. There are a variety of aspects to each of these companies that includes prescription medication returns through automation, patient drug take-pack and disposal, inventory control, and more.

The Value of Association Membership: A Student's Perspective

By Ellie Ottensmeyer, P4 Student Pharmacist

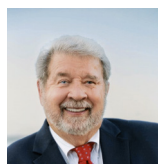
The North Dakota Pharmacist Association is a critical entity for preserving and advancing pharmacy practice within the State of North Dakota. Active membership allows for new pharmacists and pharmacists who have been practicing for many years to have an opportunity to unite in order to represent the pharmacy practice. The multi-faceted role of the pharmacy association bundles high value concepts and initiatives, such as:

- Drafting legislation that reflects the best interest of pharmacists who practice within the state, and lobbying for that legislation to become law
- Recognizing bills that are introduced that may jeopardize the standard of pharmacy practice that is present in the state of North Dakota; and actively responding to potentially alter outcomes of that bill
- Supporting practice advancement in multiple avenues: grant involvement and new program initiatives, drafting high value legislation, management of pharmacist programs such as About the Patient, and fiscal program management for smaller pharmacy associations or non-profit groups
- Foundational relationship building and management with key stakeholders within the state of North Dakota
- Readily sharing resources to help pharmacists within the state understand current issues or topics that center around pharmacy practice
- Improving pharmacist access to the closeknit network of practicing pharmacists within the state
- Investing in future pharmacists via scholarship opportunities

A key goal for the association is to ensure that pharmacists are adequately represented within the state, and to improve quality of care and access to pharmacist's unique skill sets. The pharmacy association truly works to highlight the value that pharmacists bring to the health care team; the association has invested in practicing pharmacists and future pharmacists alike. It is crucial for pharmacists to actively join the association to broaden perspective and knowledge of pharmacy practice within the state of North Dakota; and to help support the association which has continuously worked to advance pharmacy practice standards. Patient centered care is a center stone for pharmacy practice; the pharmacy association upholds that standard day in and day out on the behalf of all pharmacists alike. Consider joining the association as a student, new pharmacist, or seasoned pharmacist to help better practice for all pharmacists alike. Contact the association to learn about how to join, benefits of joining, and opportunities to help within the association.



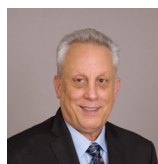
2022 Recipients of the “Bowl of Hygeia” Award



Ronnie E. Opolka Sr.
Alabama



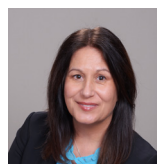
Kyla Newland
Alaska



John Saliba
Arizona



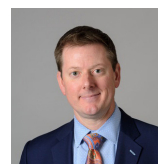
Brenda Dickerson McCrady
Arkansas



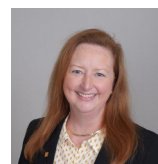
Maria Lopez
California



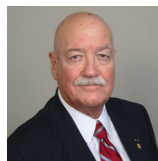
Joseph Saseen
Colorado



Sean M. Jeffery
Connecticut



Heidi Lueking
Delaware



Edwin M. Brown
Florida



Tommy Whitworth
Georgia



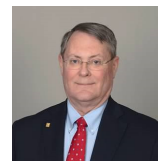
Timothy Lehan
Illinois



Robert Stessman
Iowa



Randall Smith
Kansas



Donnie Riley
Kentucky



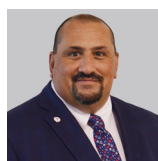
Minh V. Nguyen
Louisiana



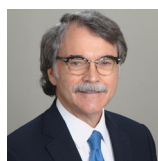
Brad Hamilton
Maine



Neil Leikach
Maryland



Timothy D. Fensky
Massachusetts



Richard L. Lucarotti
Michigan



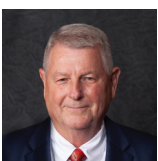
The “Bowl of Hygeia”



Todd Lemke
Minnesota

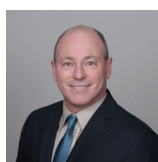


Julie Jackman
Minnesota

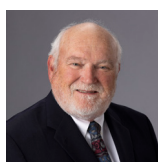


Larry Calvert
Mississippi

2021 Recipient, Presented in 2022



Tim Mitchell
Missouri



Michael Rivey
Montana



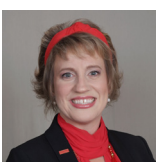
Allison DeringAnderson
Nebraska



Christina M. Madison
Nevada



Jennifer L. Keazer
New Hampshire



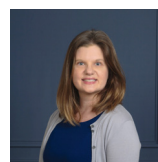
Mary Barna Bridgeman
New Jersey



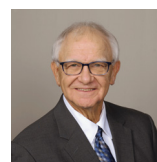
Alfredo Vitor Baca
New Mexico



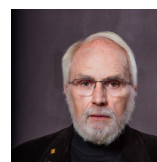
Mayank A. Parikh
New York



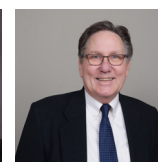
Tiffany Graham Barber
North Carolina



Mark Aurit
North Dakota



James Tallman
Ohio



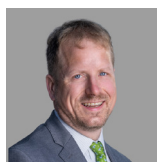
Dan Kennedy
Oregon



Greg Drew
Pennsylvania



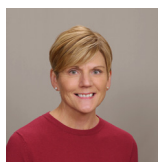
Patria N. Torres Rodriguez
Puerto Rico



Jeffrey Bratberg
Rhode Island



John W. Pugh
South Carolina



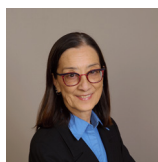
Cari Mack
South Dakota



Sheila Mitchell
Tennessee



Raymond Carvajal
Texas



Elizabeth W. Young
Utah



Jeffrey Firlik
Vermont



Catherine Herbert Cary
Virginia



Cynthia A. Clegg
Washington



Ginger G. Scott
West Virginia



Jeanine Krueger
Wisconsin



William (Bill) Wenke
Wyoming

Photo Not Available
William Moore
Oklahoma



The Bowl of Hygeia award program was originally developed by the A. H. Robins Company to recognize pharmacists across the nation for outstanding service to their communities. Selected through their respective professional pharmacy associations, each of these dedicated individuals has made uniquely personal contributions to a strong, healthy community. We offer our congratulations and thanks for their high example. The American Pharmacists Association Foundation, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations and the state pharmacy associations have assumed responsibility for continuing this prestigious recognition program. All former recipients are encouraged to maintain their linkage to the Bowl of Hygeia by emailing current contact information to awards@naspa.us. The Bowl of Hygeia is on display in the APhA History Hall located in Washington, DC.

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