

# NoDak Pharmacy Journal

Volume 38, No. 3 July 2023

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**NAPT 30th  
Annual Fall  
Conference**

September  
22 & 23, 2023

Holiday Inn,  
Fargo ND

*We Hope you had  
a Happy*

**4<sup>th</sup> JULY**

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# 2023 Calendar

## JULY:

July 15-17: . . . . . APhA-ASP Summer Leadership Institute – Washington, DC

July 22-26: . . . . . AACP Annual Pharmacy Education Meeting – Aurora, CO

## AUGUST:

Aug 9-11: . . . . . National Association of Boards of Pharmacy District 5 – Medora, ND

Aug 12-14: . . . . . NACDS 90 Year Converge Total Store Expo – San Diego, CA

## SEPTEMBER:

Sep 14: . . . . . NDSU College of Health Professions Career Fair – Fargo, ND

Sep 14: . . . . . NDSU Scholarship Recognition Ceremony – Fargo, ND

Sep 22-23: . . . . . NAPT 30th Annual Fall Conference – Fargo, ND



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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**INDEPENDENT PHARMACY COOPERATIVE**

### 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](mailto:mschwab@nodakpharmacy.net)

**The deadline for the Next Issue is:  
OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

### NORTH DAKOTA PHARMACY JOURNAL

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# NDPhA President's Message



## Happy Summer Everyone!

For a while there I didn't think we would be able to dig our way out of winter, but thankfully the ground can be seen again, nature is growing in full force, and the wind doesn't hurt my face when I leave my house.

The year is not quite half over and we have already had some exciting happenings for pharmacy. The 2023 North Dakota Legislative Assembly wrapped up in April and pharmacy once again had a successful session. Thank you to Mike and Jesse for your work at the capital with legislators and also keeping ND pharmacists informed of the status of bills as they moved through the legislature. I also want to thank everyone who reached out to their legislators about important pharmacy bills – it makes a big difference to the profession of pharmacy in North Dakota! But just because the legislative assembly is over doesn't mean the fight against PBMs or for provider status is done. The progress that is happening in both our state and around the country is exciting and should inspire all of us to be a part of it.

April didn't just bring with it a fresh layer of snow but also the Annual NoDak Pharmacy Convention in Minot. After a long winter it was a much-needed event to look forward to. There were some great speakers and continuing education courses, organization meetings and updates, and networking between familiar and new faces. And of course, the educating student posters and student scholarship auction. It was great to see many people in attendance and I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual convention in Fargo next year.

Even though we are now into summer and everyone is busy with vacations, activities, and enjoying the outdoors, let's not forget about the opportunities to take advantage of in the pharmacy world. Many of us will have student pharmacists on rotation who can assist with immunizations, medication reconciliations and reviews, consulting, and pharmacy projects. These students want to learn and use their classroom knowledge, and it is a great opportunity for us to show them the positive influence we have in our community and keep students in North Dakota after they have graduated college.

North Dakota has been a leader in pharmacy and our patients have come to rely on their pharmacists as part of the healthcare team. I look forward to the coming year as NDPhA president and getting to know many of you and the exciting things your pharmacies are accomplishing. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Take care,

*Jamie Nelson*, PharmD



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## Proposed Rule Amendments for Consideration

By Jaxson Schmaltz • NDSU PharmD Candidate, 2024

The North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, July 20th, 2023 at the Board of Pharmacy Conference Room at 10:00 AM. This required hearing is about the proposed rule changes that are to be considered for implementation. The proposed rules can be found on the Board's website at [www.NoDakPharmacy.com](http://www.NoDakPharmacy.com). In addition of having a public hearing, the Board also will be accepting any comments from the public until August 4th, 2023 that can be sent in via email, mail, or fax through the contact information found on the Board's website.

There are multiple rules changes that are being considered, but some of the more important ones are summarized below:

- 61-04-12: This rule attempts to essentially eliminate the use of the word naloxone and instead replace it with opioid antagonist. This amendment comes from recent FDA drug approval of other opioid antagonists now being available on the market. This rule change should allow pharmacists prescribing authority to not just naloxone, but other medications within the same class. There are no other changes that are made to this rule besides interchanging the words.
- 61-03-01: The most important part of this rule change is how an applicant with a Canadian pharmacy license is able to apply for licensure in the state of North Dakota. The applicant must meet all of the following criteria:
  - Have a pharmacist license and be in good standing
  - Applicant must pass the NAPLEX or PEBC (Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada)
  - Complete education requirements from school of pharmacy accredited by PEBC or CCAPP (Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs)
  - Applicant must also have held a license for 1 year in Canada along 1,500 hours logged as an approved intern or pharmacist

- Must pass North Dakota Law exam along with paying fees for licensure

- 61-02-07.1: This rule change adds clarity to the definition of a Pharmacy Technician in Training, and the tasks they are able to perform. Proposed changes would allow a technician in training to be the initial filler of a prescription as part of a tech-check-tech process in a pharmacy. Additionally, there are a couple of other changes in this section. One of them being that technician certificate and registration card no longer needs to be displayed and visible to the public, the certificate and registration card must just be readily available or on file. The other change is relating to pharmacy technician reinstatement that includes late fees along with proof of current certification.
- 61-14-10: This rule change would allow pharmacy technicians, under the responsibility of the pharmacist, to assist in performing CLIA waived laboratory tests after having met all the education requirements. The responsible pharmacist must still be the one to interpret the results and provide any clinical education if necessary.
- 61-02-01-03: Lastly, is an update to adopt the revisions that were made to the compounding standards of USP 795 and USP 797 that are to be finalized on November 1st of this year.

All changes can be viewed on the Board's website, and you are encouraged to view them prior to finalizing these changes.

As of now the tentative date to conclude the revision process of the rules and implement them is January 1st, 2024. However there is still a process that needs to be done before finalizing which includes the public hearing on July 20th, 2023.

In addition, if you wish to submit any written comments, concerns or suggestions feel free to do so via email, fax, or mail to the corresponding correct contact information found on North Dakota Board of Pharmacy website by August 4th, 2023.

# NAPT Chairperson Message

## Greetings Pharmacy Professionals!

We have made it to 2023 and I couldn't be more excited. Your NAPT Executive Board just started a new term with an extremely dedicated group of registered pharmacy technicians.

North Dakota pharmacy technicians continue to be of vital importance in the patient care teams. The NAPT Executive Board is working every day to increase accessibility and guidance of advanced roles. Please consider joining the fight! Contact any of the board members today:

[www.nodakpharmacy.net/NAPT-Executive-Board](http://www.nodakpharmacy.net/NAPT-Executive-Board)

Watch your email for important updates about the NAPT 2023 Fall Conference as well as other important communications.

Thank you for working hard every day, being there when our patients need it the most, and continuing to grow within the pharmacy practice.

Sincerely,

*Adelle Casavant, RPhTech, CPHT*

NAPT 2023-24 Chairperson

## NAPT Scholarship Report

### Congratulations Emma Eskildsen!

In 2023, the Scholarship committee was able to review applicants and grant Ms. Emma Eskildsen, a technician student at NDSCS, an award! Those who have participated in and/or donated to the Fall Conference Basket Extraordinary or donated directly to the scholarship fund, help make this happen. Thank you for your dedication to the Pharmacy technician profession!

Sincerely,

*Adelle Casavant, RPhTech, CPHT*

NAPT 2023-24 Chairperson



## NAPT 30th Annual Fall Conference

**September 22 and 23, 2023 • Holiday Inn, Fargo ND**

Detailed information to follow by:

• Email • Napt facebook page • NDPhA website, NAPT page



# 2023 NODAK PHARMACY CONVENTION

## CONVENTION RECAP

We would like to give a big thank you to everyone involved in the 2023 North Dakota Annual Pharmacy Convention! Thank you to everyone who attended, NDPhA, NDSHP, NAPT, NDSU faculty and students, convention committee members, presenters, vendors, and everyone else involved! We could not do this without all of your continued support and it is greatly appreciated! We had some excellent CE presentations and plenty of fun at the banquets and entertainment that followed!

We also want to send out a special thank you to everyone who participated in the silent and live student scholarship auction! We exceeded expectations once again and could not do this without your participation and generosity.

Also, if you are interested in any of the presentations or on-demand CE, please reach out to our office. See you next year in Fargo!





# 2023 AWARD WINNERS



## AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all award winners and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the profession of pharmacy!



Al Doerr Service Award  
**SUE NELSON, RPH**  
(ALSO PICTURED – NDPhA PAST  
PRESIDENT RANDY HABECK)



Bowl of Hygeia  
**HARVEY HANEL, PHARM D**



NCPA Leadership  
**JAMIE NELSON, PHARM D**



Distinguished Young Pharmacist  
**SAM KETTERLING, PHARM D**



Excellence in Innovation  
**ELIZABETH SKOY, PHARM D**



Lifer  
**GARY DEWHIRST, RPH**



# 2023 AWARD WINNERS



## AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all award winners and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the profession of pharmacy!



NAPT Diamond Technician  
**LORI CRANDALL, RPHTech**



NDSHP Best Practices  
**ESSENTIA HEALTH FARGO  
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NDSHP Excellence in Medication Use  
Safety - **ESSENTIA HEALTH FARGO  
PHARMACY DEPARTMENT**



NDSHP Pharmacist of the Year  
**BRODY MAACK, PHARM.D**



NDSHP Pharmacy Practice Literature Award  
**DIANE HALVORSON, RPHTech**



Pharmacy Technician of the Year  
**CHAD CANTONE, RPHTech**



Distinguished Pharmacy Technician  
**ASHLEY BOMMERSBACH, RPHTech**



Friend of NAPT  
**LILLIE LAMBERT, RPHTech &  
AMANDA CHASE, RPHTech**





## Best Practices for Vaccine Documentation

Without question, vaccine claims are on the rise! Consequently, PAAS National® analysts have recently seen an increased number of PBM audits for these claims. Consider a few best practices to reduce your risk of audit recoupments:

### BILLING

**Quantity** - Submit the correct NCPDP billing unit of each (EA) or milliliter (mL) based on vaccine product

**Day Supply** - NCPDP recommends that all vaccine claims be submitted as a 1-day supply

### Origin Code

- Submit the origin code in accordance with how you received the prescription
  - 1 – written, prescription obtained via paper.
  - 2 – telephone, prescription obtained via oral instructions or interactive voice response using a phone.
  - 3 – electronic, prescription obtained via SCRIPT or HL7 Standard transactions, or electronically within closed systems.
  - 4 – facsimile, prescription obtained via transmission use a fax machine.
  - 5 – pharmacy, this value is used to cover any situation where a new Rx number needs to be created from an existing valid prescription such as traditional transfers, intrachain transfers, file buys, software upgrades/migrations, and any reason necessary to “give it a new number. This value is also the appropriate value for “Pharmacy dispensing” when applicable such as BTC (behind the counter), Plan B, established protocols, pharmacists’ authority to prescribe, etc.
- Note that codes 1-4 represent patient-specific prescriptions while code 5 covers various other situations

### Prescriber ID

- Submit the NPI of the prescriber
- This would be the prescriber of a patient-specific prescription or standing protocol
- This would be the pharmacist Type 1 NPI (individual) as per state law where pharmacists have prescribing authority or when ordered under PREP Act declaration during COVID-19 pandemic

### Documentation

ITEM	COMMENTS	REQUESTED IN AUDITS
<b>Authority to Administer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescription</li> <li>• Standing Protocol</li> <li>• Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA)</li> <li>• PREP Act Declaration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have a patient-specific prescription with all elements required by state law</li> <li>• You may have a standing protocol or collaborative practice agreement</li> <li>• For situations where you are administering pursuant to a protocol, CPA or PREP Act declaration, PAAS recommends creating a “placeholder prescription” with all normal prescription elements for your files</li> </ul>	Yes
Screening Checklist	Not requested by PBMs, however should retain for your records	No
Vaccine Administration Record (VAR)	<b>Must document every administration (required by law)</b> Include at least the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Date of administration</li> <li>2. Vaccine manufacturer</li> <li>3. Vaccine lot number and expiration date</li> <li>4. Site of injection</li> <li>5. Name and title of the person who administered the vaccine</li> <li>6. Vaccine information statement (VIS) or EUA Fact Sheet               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date printed on the VIS</li> <li>• Date the VIS was given to the patient or parent/guardian</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Yes
VIS or EUA Fact Sheet	Most current version must be provided prior to each administration (required by law)	No

### PAAS Tips:

- **Common errors found during audits are wrong quantity billed and missing VAR documentation**
- **See CDC website<sup>1</sup> or immunize.org<sup>2</sup> for sample forms and additional resources**

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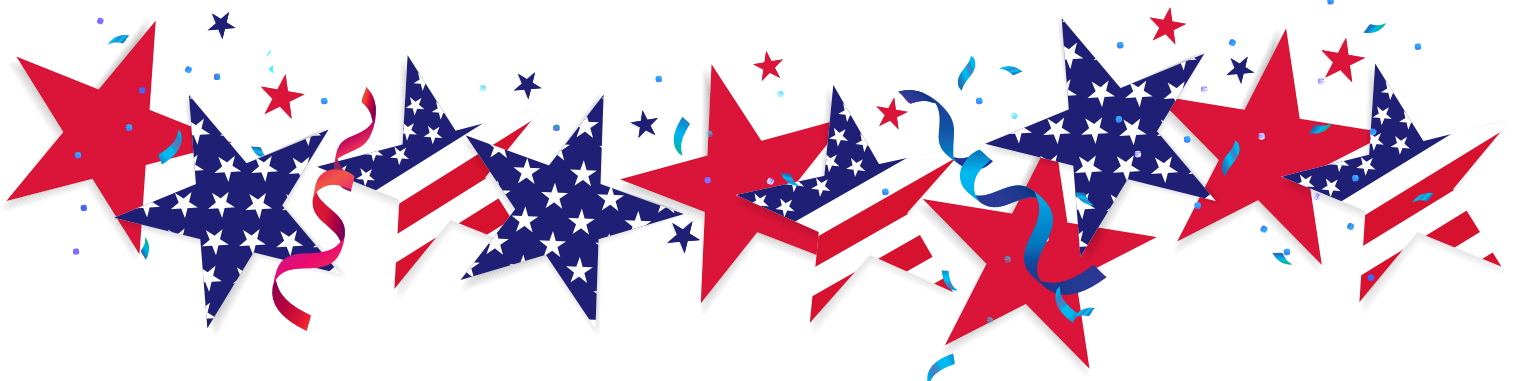
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## Petry & Muzzy Williamson Receive Dean's Awards For Excellence

*By Carol Renner, Office of the Dean, Marketing/Communication Lead, NDSU School of Pharmacy*

Two faculty members in the NDSU School of Pharmacy have received Dean's Awards of Excellence for 2023. Dr. Natasha Petry, associate professor of practice, received the Dean's Award for Research, while Dr. Julia Muzzy Williamson, associate professor of practice, received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Advising.

The Dean's Award of Excellence in Research recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in research and excellence/innovation in scholarly work.

Dr. Petry practices in the novel area of pharmacogenomics. She is also a clinical pharmacogenomics pharmacist at Sanford Health in addition to teaching NDSU pharmacy students and serving as a pharmacy residency program director. Her research productivity over three years includes 27 peer reviewed articles, 22 peer reviewed posters, six peer reviewed textbook chapters, and a professional society statement.

Petry also a co-investigator on research grants totaling nearly \$4.6 million. Her research scholarship includes topics in public health, population health and genetic screening, cultural competency, health literacy, diabetes and depression.

Professor David Bright in the Ferris State University College of Pharmacy notes that Petry has positioned herself as a pioneer in the field of pharmacogenomics. "She is a co-investigator on NIH-funded projects that will shape the practice of pharmacogenomics and its integration into routine clinical care," said Bright.

### DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING

The Dean's Award for Excellence in Advising, received by Dr. Julia Muzzy Williamson, recognizes a faculty, staff, or administrator who demonstrates exceptional advising skills and who has a positive impact on students.

"She has demonstrated and instilled a strong work ethic and drive that no other mentor has expressed to me before," said pharmacy student Sydney Dykhuizen. "She expresses this through teaching the rigorous course work of the women's health and pediatric special populations pharmaceutical class, mentoring students through multiple research projects, and precepting pharmacy students during their last year in pharmacy school on rotations."

Muzzy Williamson's areas of expertise include pediatric pharmacotherapy, neonatal intensive care, parenteral nutrition, neonatal and pediatric gastrointestinal disorders and women's health. In addition to teaching, her clinical site includes the NICU at Sanford Health, Fargo.



**Dr. Natasha Petry**



**Dr. Julia Muzzy  
Williamson**

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2023 NAPT Fall Conference

September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at  
the Holday Inn in Fargo, ND



## NDSU Pharmacy Names Preceptors and Teacher Of The Year



**Dr. Natasha Petry**

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

North Dakota State University School of Pharmacy announced awards to pharmacists who help educate students as they pursue their future careers.

Natasha Petry, PharmD, MPH, BCACP, was named Faculty Preceptor of the Year. Maari Loy, PharmD, BCPS, MBA, and Dr. Andrea Agre, were named Adjunct Preceptors of the Year. In addition, Dr. Ross Wilhelm, PharmD in the NDSU School of Pharmacy was named Teacher of the year.

Pharmacy students on clinical rotations nominate and choose the award recipients for Preceptor of the Year.

Petry is an associate professor of pharmacy practice in the NDSU School of Pharmacy and a pharmacogenomics clinical pharmacist and residency program director with Sanford Health Imagenetics.

As a student learning from Dr. Petry pointed out, "Dr. Petry was always very quick to answer any questions or concerns with constructive feedback. She always made sure no questions went unanswered and encouraged any, and all questions," said the student, who appreciated the opportunity Petry provided to assist in teaching.

Named as Adjunct Preceptors of the Year, Loy is senior pharmacy operations manager for Essentia Health in Fargo. Agre serves patients at Lakewood Health System in Minnesota.

A student who nominated Dr. Andrea Agre as adjunct preceptor of the year said Agre would frequently quiz her to enhance understanding of topics. "She loves to teach," said the student.

"Whenever I would ask a question about a medication, she would answer 'What do you think?' and walk me through the considerations I should think about to find the answer," said the student.

A student precepted by Dr. Maari Loy noted that Loy pushed her to be her best, completing tasks and assignments the student hadn't experienced previously. "The independence and trust given to me allowed me to feel valued and gave me confidence to trust my knowledge and abilities."

Named as Teacher of the Year is Ross Wilhelm, PharmD. Wilhelm is assistant professor of practice in the NDSU School of Pharmacy and Preceptor, Pharmaceutical Care Clerkship at The Medicine Shoppe in Fargo, North Dakota.

As Teacher of the Year, Wilhelm provides expertise in community pharmacy practice, independent community pharmacy practice management, and prescription drug insurance. He teaches a variety of courses to help educate future pharmacists, including common medicines and diseases, pharmacy practice management and pharmacy law.

For more information about how to become a pharmacy preceptor, visit [https://www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/outreach/experiential\\_ed/](https://www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/outreach/experiential_ed/)



**Dr. Andrea Agre**



**Dr. Maari Loy**



**Dr. Ross Wilhelm**

## NDSU Pharmacy Student Receives National Public Health Award

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

For her work in medication safety and research, Allison Welsh, third-year pharmacy student at NDSU, received the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award.

Welsh received the award from Read Admiral (Ret.) Fred Paavola (NDSU Pharmacy '70) during a presentation on the NDSU campus. Paavola is a former Chief Pharmacy Officer and Assistant Surgeon General - U.S. Public Health Service, responsible for leading more than 1,100 pharmacists during his career in USPHS.

"My commitment to public health has only grown stronger since being honored with this award and I am excited to continue improving population health through my upcoming Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience rotations and pharmacy career," said Welsh.

A native of Langdon, North Dakota, Welsh carried out multiple public health interventions in community pharmacy through prevention and health promotion among patients and their communities. Welsh's outstanding accomplishments that led to the national award include:

- Designing and holding a medication safety activity for children in Walsh County, North Dakota
- Working as a research assistant on the Opioid and Naloxone Education program, a national program to stem opioid misuse disorder
- Publishing her research in multiple venues, including a peer-reviewed publication, and
- Activities in organizational leadership

Welsh organized an interactive event for 55 kids aged 7 to 11, providing information and resources about safe medication practices, including storage and disposal. The event was part of Progressive Agriculture Safety Day at Langdon, North Dakota.

Welsh's presentation included information about medication disposal practices such as Detera bags and medication disposal boxes. She included safe practices, such as where to store medications and how to take medicine. Welsh conducted pre- and post-tests with the children, resulting in 56 percent increased correct response about medication safety after the presentation and discussion.

The program Welsh designed is now being expanded to be delivered by other pharmacy student organizations NDSU.

Welsh also participated in original research, serving as a co-author of the peer-reviewed publication, "A Longitudinal Comparison of Pharmacy Documentation Platforms Using the Technology Acceptance Model: Experiences With Opioid Risk Screening" in the Journal of Pharmacy Technology.

In addition, she participates in many on-campus organizations, often in leadership roles. She served as College of Health Professions Ambassadors Public Health Liaison, National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Student Representative on the Dean's Liaison Committee, NCPA Vice President and President, Phi Eta Sigma Vice President, Rho Chi Historian, and Phi Lambda Sigma National Delegate.

Welsh begins her advanced pharmacy rotations in acute care, infectious disease, oncology, geriatrics, ambulatory care, community pharmacy and other settings in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Arizona this summer. She expects to graduate with her MBA in December 2023 and her PharmD degree in May 2024.



**Allison Welsh, PharmD  
Candidate, North  
Dakota State University  
School of Pharmacy,  
Class of 2024**

## ATTENTION PHARMACISTS: Know the 5 common coverage gaps that could cost you your career.

With its fast pace and massive volume of medications, the pharmacy profession is ripe for claims and litigation. If you think your employer's coverage will protect you in the event of an error (actual or alleged), complaint, or legal claim, consider the following:

**GAP #1: Employer coverage is designed to protect the company first, pharmacists second.** Nothing personal, it's just a matter of dollars and cents.

**GAP #2: Your employer's coverage may only be effective at your place of employment.** If you have a second job, volunteer, or give advice to a neighbor, you'll be on your own.

**GAP #3: If a court judgment exceeds your employer's limits, you may be responsible for paying the difference.** That could cost you tens of thousands of dollars.

**GAP #4: Employer insurance may not help when a patient files a complaint to the Board of Pharmacy.** This could put you at risk of a disciplinary action without proper representation.

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## “What are Your Plans After Graduation?” – North Dakota State University Pharmacy Students’ Perceptions on Residency

*By Nicholas Visich, PharmD Candidate 2023 and Donald Miller, PharmD, North Dakota State University*

Pharmacy career pathways for providing patient care have been growing considerably over the past decade. One growing pathway for graduating pharmacists is to complete a post-graduate year 1 (PGY-1) education program, also known as a residency. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) has been the accrediting body for residency programs since the term “residency” was first used to describe these programs in 1963.<sup>1</sup> PGY-1 residencies have expanded since then to 1661 programs offering 4213 PGY-1 positions in 2023. The 4213 positions offered in 2023 is also a large increase from the 3394 positions offered in 2014.<sup>2,3</sup> In North Dakota 17 PGY-1 positions are being offered at 9 accredited programs, with some having an emphasis area such as inpatient, ambulatory care, or community practice.<sup>3</sup>

Individuals who wish to complete a PGY-1 participate in a program through National Matching Services (NMS) to be matched with a program based on complementary rankings. For the 2023 match, 5011 applicants submitted rankings for the 4213 available positions, with 4099 applicants matching.<sup>2</sup> The North Dakota State University (NDSU) PharmD class of 2023 had 73 students enrolled in spring semester, with 35 students participating in the match, and 31 students matching. NDSU’s match rate was 88.6%, which exceeds the national match rate of 81.8% for 2023.<sup>2</sup> The class of 2023 had the highest match rate of NDSU PharmD cohorts in the past five years of data published by ASHP and NMS; only the class of 2020 had more applicants than the class of 2023.<sup>2</sup> PGY-1 opportunities will continue to grow, and to better understand how NDSU students perceive PGY-1 education, a survey was offered to the current P3 and P4 classes.

### METHODS:

A survey along with an informed consent document was sent to the NDSU PharmD classes of 2023 and 2024 via email. The survey was voluntary and anonymous. It

took approximately 5 minutes to complete with a series of Likert rank scale questions, self-reported GPA, and 2 multiple choice questions asked of all participants. Participants who identified as a P4 had additional questions regarding their experiences with the match and post-graduate plans. A total of 132 students were enrolled in coursework for the classes of 2023 and 2024 at the time of study initiation. To participate, students had to be enrolled in the NDSU PharmD class of 2023 (P4) or 2024 (P3) with anticipated graduation in spring of 2023 or 2024, have at least one Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotation completed during the 2023 calendar year.

Participants had 10 days to respond to the survey with 3 total emails being sent out to the students over that time.

Following completion of the survey, data were exported into Microsoft Excel for analysis. The primary outcome was to determine if there were any differences between the P3 and P4 cohorts on their perception of PGY-1 residency based on Likert rank scale questions. Secondary outcomes included comparing perceptions of APPE rotations between P3s and P4s, pre-APPE and post-APPE perceptions of P4s, correlations between GPA and perceptions of PGY-1 residencies, and identifying strengths and weaknesses in coursework for the cohorts.

### RESULTS:

A total of 43 individuals responded to the survey with 31 identifying as a P4 and 12 identifying as a P3. Of the 31 P4’s, only 29 completed all required questions of the survey. Twenty P4s reported having applied for a PGY-1 and 9 reported not applying.

For the primary outcome of evaluating differences between P3 and P4 cohort perceptions of PGY-1 education, five Likert rank scales were analyzed. Comparing the respondents of the P3 and P4 classes,

there was no statistically significant difference between the cohorts on any of the 5 questions (Table 1).

Perceptions of APPE rotations included 3 Likert rank scale questions (Table 2) and were evaluated by comparing P3 and P4 cohorts, plus the P4 cohort's perceptions before and after rotations. Comparing P3 and P4 cohorts it was found that there was a significant difference on statement 2 between the cohorts. There were significantly higher rankings ( $p < 0.001$ ) by the P4 respondents ( $3.76 \pm 0.86$ ) than the P3 respondents ( $2.25 \pm 0.92$ ) for readiness. The other two questions had no significant differences between cohorts and there were no significant differences found between the pre-APPE and post-APPE perceptions for the P4 respondents.

GPA is one variable that may influence perceptions of PGY-1 residencies. There was no statistical GPA difference between P4 respondents ( $3.63 \pm 0.3$ , 95% CI 3.53-3.74) and P3 respondents ( $3.76 \pm 0.2$ , 95% CI 3.65-3.87). When comparing GPA for respondents to "I am qualified to complete a PGY-1" there was no significant difference between those who agreed ( $3.71 \pm 0.25$ ) and those who selected any other option ( $3.47 \pm 0.35$ ). There also was no statistical difference found in GPA between those who did ( $3.70 \pm 0.26$ ) and did not match ( $3.72 \pm 0.14$ ) during Phase 1.

P4 perceptions were compared based on whether they applied to PGY-1 programs (Table 3). Mann-Whitney U tests determined there was statistical significance for statements 1-4 (all  $p < 0.02$ ), suggesting students who do not apply for residencies perceive their value differently.

Match results were also compared to the national statistics published by NMS.2 NMS reported Phase 1 applicants ranked 4.6 programs on average and NDSU respondents ranked 4.25 programs on average. NMS data also show students who matched ranked 5.3 programs on average (NDSU respondents: 4.93) and those who did not match ranked 2.7 programs on average (NDSU respondents: 2.20). Respondents were also asked to state where they ranked the program they matched with. Eleven matched with their first or second choice, and 4 matched with their 3 or 4 ranking; no respondents matched with a ranking of 5 or greater.

Respondents were asked to report the 3 subject areas where they felt the strongest and weakest going into APPE year. Some respondents listed over 3 subjects for both strengths and weaknesses, so the average number of responses per participant is greater than 3. The topics with the highest rating in their preparation for practice were hypertension, diabetes, and psychiatry. These results were significantly different from a hypothesis of no difference between topics ( $p < 0.001$ ). The topics with the highest rating of weaknesses were infectious disease, oncology, and renal. These results were also significantly different from no difference between topics ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant difference in responses between the P3 and P4 cohorts for perceived strengths or weaknesses. All responses are in Table 4.

## DISCUSSION:

Unfortunately, this project fell under the goal enrollment for power to detect true differences between the cohorts. The primary outcome was not significantly different in any of the 5 Likert Rank Scales; this may be due to lack of power or there may truly be no difference between these cohorts. While statistical significance was found for some comparisons, those should be interpreted cautiously given the small percentage of the total population who responded to the survey.

Nonetheless, there are a few important takeaways that could be made. It is important that students are well informed of both the PGY-1 and non-PGY-1 career opportunities available after graduation and how to best pursue those opportunities. Based on 4 of the 5 questions related to PGY-1 perception having significant differences between those who applied and did not apply to a PGY-1 program, better education for P4s may be needed. Only 34.5% of respondents agreed with statement 5, showing that more resources could be beneficial. Having a workshop covering the application, match process, and CV and letter of intent review in early December could be helpful to students considering a PGY-1.

Significant differences in strengths and weaknesses in coursework were found between the topics, but were similar between the cohorts. Of note, this list of 16 subjects was not all-inclusive of the topics covered in the PharmD curriculum. Collaboration between

# NDSU Pharmacy Student Article (Continued)

students and faculty to address why these courses are viewed as weaknesses for students may help them feel more prepared going into APPEs. One limitation of the questions on strengths and weaknesses was asking participants to rank up to 3 responses, asking them to rank as many selections as applied may have been more representative of the overall perceptions of coursework.

The P4s who responded will be beginning their careers with one of 18 unique employers following graduation. Reported employers include Sanford, Essentia, Mayo, Allina, Fairview, several independent North Dakota pharmacies, and more. There were 9 different states the respondents listed where they planned to gain licensure following graduation, with many planning for multiple states. Most of the respondents will stay local with 20 reporting planned licensure in North Dakota and 25 in Minnesota; many are planning for licensure in both states.

## References:

1. D'Arrigo T. ASHP Celebrates 50 Years of Residency Accreditation. *ASHP Intersections*. Published June 26, 2013. Accessed April 2023.
2. ASHP Match | Statistics of the Match. National Matching Services. Published April 14, 2023. Accessed April 2023. <https://natmatch.com/ashprmp/stats.html>
3. ASHP Residency Directory. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Published 2023. Accessed April 2023. <https://accreditation.ashp.org/directory/#/program/residency>

## CONCLUSION:

A larger population of respondents is needed to adequately assess the difference in perceptions of PGY-1 education between NDSU PharmD cohorts. It is likely that the responses to this survey were skewed to those who feel strongly about residency and applied to residencies. NDSU students were incredibly successful in the Match in 2023, and it will be interesting to see how the class of 2024 fares. The number of residency positions will likely continue to grow, and the expectations of employers and graduates may change as residency positions become more readily available. More education and resources may be needed to better prepare students for PGY-1 applications and the match.

**Table 1: P3 and P4 Responses to PGY-1 Perception Likert Rank Scales**

<b>Statement 1: I am qualified to complete a PGY-1.</b>							
	Strongly Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neutral	Slightly Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	U stat (p-value)
P4	0	1	3	13	12	29	127.5
P3	0	2	2	5	3	12	(0.183)
<b>Statement 2: A PGY-1 will help me be more comfortable to practice independently.</b>							
P4	0	2	3	5	19	29	151.5
P3	0	1	1	4	6	12	(0.519)
<b>Statement 3: The lower pay earned during PGY-1 is justified by the level of knowledge and experience that is gained.</b>							
P4	2	11	6	8	2	29	150
P3	0	4	3	4	1	12	(0.492)
<b>Statement 4: I will not be successful if I do not complete a residency.</b>							
P4	15	6	4	4	0	29	156
P3	4	6	0	2	0	12	(0.606)
<b>Statement 5: The resources provided to me helped me to understand the residency application and match process.</b>							
P4	4	6	9	6	4	29	146.5
P3	0	3	3	5	1	12	(0.431)





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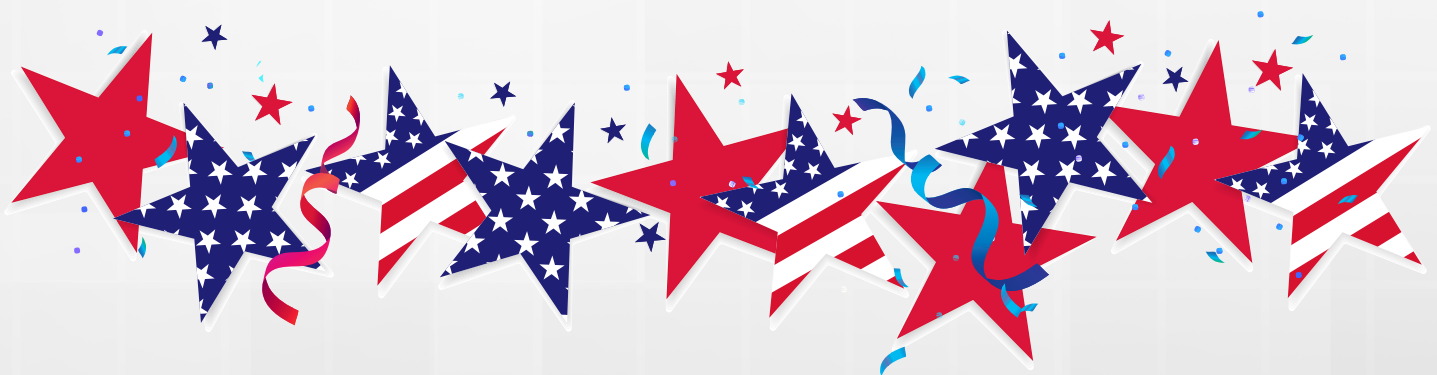
- Here is a Humira prescription example:
  - o The quantity of #1 could be interpreted as 1 pen when the box comes as a kit and contains 2 pens
  - o There is no UOM, so does the prescriber want 1 box, 1 mL, 1 pen, 1 kit?
  - o The SIG does not contain calculable instructions = how much to inject, where to inject (ROA) or how often to inject
- If the pharmacy received this prescription and did not clarify any elements, it would be marked discrepant upon audit.
- Upon receiving this prescription, ideally, the pharmacy would clarify the following elements with the prescriber's office and make a clinical notation
  - o Quantity of 1 = 1 kit or 2 pens
  - o SIG – Inject 40 mg subcutaneously once a week – this clarifies how much to inject, the ROA and how often to inject
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