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# News and Views

April 2019

[HOME](#)  
[CONTACT US](#)  
[TWITTER](#)  
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## IN THIS ISSUE

[Nearly 4,200 Attendees Gather for AMCP Annual Meeting](#)  
[Revitalized AMCP Brand Reflects Forward-Thinking Approach](#)  
[CEO Susan A. Cantrell Blog](#)  
[AMPC President James Kenney Address](#)  
[AMCP and AMCP Foundation Present Awards](#)  
[U. of Washington Wins 2019 National P&T Competition](#)  
[Recipients of National Best Poster Contests](#)  
[Sock Drive Collects 1,011 \(and Counting!\) Pairs](#)  
[News from AMCP Headquarters](#)  
[AMCP Partnership Forum on P&T Practices](#)  
[Proceedings from AMCP Partnership Forum on PROs](#)  
[Three Colleges of Pharmacy Join Student Chapter Ranks](#)  
[Access Pre-Approval Information via the AMCP eDossier System](#)  
[Comment on Format for Formulary Submissions Update](#)  
[AMCP Nexus 2019 Call for Proposals](#)

DIALYSIS PATIENTS CAN EXPERIENCE  
**Hb LEVEL CHANGES**

**DISCOVER WHY**

Hb = hemoglobin.

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Nearly 4,200 Attendees Gather for AMCP Annual Meeting 2019 in San Diego, California

***AMCP Leadership Unveils Revitalized Brand and Logo***



Managing access to gene therapy, mitigating risk of inappropriate opioid utilization, the current state of value-based contracting, and drug pricing reform efforts are just some topics of the nearly 40 educational sessions that took place at the AMCP Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy Annual Meeting last week in San Diego. AMCP also used the General Session to unveil the organization's new logo and revitalized brand messaging (see stories below).

Nearly 4,200 managed care pharmacy professionals from across the country attended the AMCP Annual Meeting 2019, which kicked off March 25 with premeeting events and ran through Thursday, March 28.

The Meeting is the premier event each spring for pharmacists, physicians, nurses and other health care professionals who manage the pharmacy benefit of more than 270 million Americans. In addition to the educational sessions, the event features dozens of ancillary educational programs, student pharmacist programming, an awards ceremony, a high-profile keynote speaker at the General Session, and an Expo hall featuring 120 exhibitors and more than 375 scientific posters.



"Our Annual Meetings have become the must-attend event each year for thousands of health care professionals who provide quality care for millions of Americans," said AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE. "We are particularly proud this spring to unveil AMCP's revitalized brand, which will both position AMCP as a vibrant and influential organization going into the future while honoring its rich history. Attendees will leave San Diego armed with best practices and learnings that will allow them to successfully address today's most pressing health care challenges." [Read more.](#)



## Revitalized AMCP Brand Reflects Forward-Thinking Approach to Members and Patients



**AMCP: Optimizing Medicines. Improving Lives.** That's the message of AMCP's revitalized brand and new logo, which were unveiled last week at the General Session of the Annual Meeting 2019 in San Diego, California. **Immediate Past President Mitzi Wasik** explained the development of the revised brand, noting that AMCP leadership and staff spent the past year re-examining what AMCP stands for and how the organization can better communicate its value as members of health care delivery teams. Our story starts with AMCP's commitment to provide exceptional professional experiences for our members, grow the organization and increase awareness of the vital role managed care professionals play, Wasik said. That role focuses on improving the quality, safety and effectiveness of medications and improving the lives of more than 270 million Americans. [Read more.](#)



**Cantrell: 'Now more than ever, our leadership, perspective and voice are essential'**

**AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE** addressed the AMCP Annual Meeting 2019 General Session, describing how AMCP is prepared to meet the challenges of today's complex health care system. The following is a lightly edited transcript of that address.

Good morning! Welcome to San Diego and to the AMCP Annual Meeting! I am thrilled to be here with you today. Three years ago, when I had the privilege of joining you all for the first time in my role as CEO, I talked about how "cool" AMCP is: How we're willing to try new things. Take fresh approaches. Stay current and even stay ahead of the curve. Now more than ever, our leadership, perspective and voice are essential. We face a time of tremendous change and uncertainty in health care. The advent of gene editing and digital therapies are game changers. New health care business models are emerging, and we're on the brink of myriad policy changes that could dramatically change the future of our profession. Mergers are creating new health care organizations that will operate in different ways to deliver care and medication therapy. [Read more](#)



**AMCP President Jim Kenney Addresses General Session**

**James Kenney** took the helm as 2019-2020 AMCP President at Annual Meeting 2019. The following is a lightly edited version of his inaugural address at the General Session.

I'm happy to be here in San Diego and enjoy weather that is a bit warmer than the 30-40 degrees of my hometown. I find that wherever I go, this ever-so-slight accent or my passion for our hometown sports teams quickly gives me away. To be clear, I've never "parked my car in Harvard Yard!" However, I do enjoy a "wicked good lobster roll!" In case there was any doubt — I am from Boston. This is truly an honor for me to serve as President of AMCP. I have been a member for thirty years as evidenced by my member number of 51. I joined AMCP as a charter member when the pharmacy benefit was evolving, and prescription copays were \$3-\$5 and I knew there was a need for a professional organization that

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represented the interests and challenges associated with the ambulatory portion of pharmaceutical care delivery. [Read more.](#)



## AMCP and AMCP Foundation Honor Professionals Who Made Lasting Contributions

AMCP and the AMCP Foundation last week recognized a group of thought leaders for their significant contributions to the profession of managed care pharmacy. Eight awards were presented at the gala Annual Awards Dinner held on March 27 as part of the AMCP Annual Meeting.

"Recipients of these awards are the pillars of our profession," says AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE. "The Awards Dinner gives us a chance to honor these individuals for the work they have done to advance the practice of managed care pharmacy and ensure AMCP remains a vibrant and influential organization. Award recipients are role models for their peers and the rising generation of managed care pharmacy professionals."



*Past Presidents (l-r) Babette Edgar, Mitzi Wasik and Diana Brixner*

Managed care pharmacy's highest honor is the AMCP Foundation's Steven G. Avey Award, which recognizes sustained, exemplary and distinguished service to the profession of managed care pharmacy. The 2019 award goes to its namesake **Steven G. Avey**, MS, RPh, FAMCP, Vice President of Enterprise Specialty Clinical Solutions at Medimpact (*image top*).

Over his long career, Avey has served in many leadership and advocacy roles that have helped shape the managed care pharmacy profession from its inception. He was AMCP President in 1998 and hired as the AMCP Foundation Executive Director in 2000. During his five-year tenure at the Foundation, Avey was instrumental in establishing the Format for Formulary Submissions, which has become the industry standard for managed care organizations to request information and evaluate pharmaceuticals for formulary placement, coverage and reimbursement decisions.

Under Avey's leadership, the Foundation also started the National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition, which gives student pharmacists an immersive experience in the skills necessary for effective formulary review and management. He also launched the Best Poster Competition to recognize outstanding research conducted by student pharmacists, residents and fellows. In the fall of 2005, the Foundation changed the name of its prestigious Life-Time Achievement Award to recognize Avey for his sustained contributions in improving the assessment process of new medications for formulary inclusion.

For other awards presented in 2019 [Read more.](#)

(*images: top, AMCP Immediate Past President Mitzi Wasik presents profession's highest honor to Steven G. Avey; right, JMCP Editor-in-Chief Laura Happe (r) presents JMCP Award of Excellence to recipient Mylène Chartrand*)



## University of Washington Wins AMCP Foundation 2019 National P&T Competition



Four student pharmacists from the **University of Washington School of Pharmacy** (pictured above) took top honors in the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Foundation 19th National Student Pharmacist Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition. The Competition is an annual team event that provides an immersive experience in effective formulary review and management.

Awards were presented March 28 at the AMCP Foundation Awards Ceremony, held during the AMCP Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif. The 2019 winning teams are:

- **First Place: University of Washington School of Pharmacy.** Team members: Erin Ichinotsubo, Hanna Kleiboeker, Eunice Kim, Michael Sporck. Advisor: Pete Fullerton.
- **Second Place: Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.** Team members: Sonia Kim, Cassidy Treanor, Jessica Xiao, Eric Zhu. Advisor: Saira Jan.
- **Third Place: University of Southern California.** Team members: Tiffany Huynh, Brian Lee, Jessica Pham, Hollie Wong. Advisors: Vinson Lee, Edward Lieskovan.



*P&T 1st Place: University of Washington (front row)*

This year, a record 67 schools of pharmacy nationwide participated in the Competition. Eight national finalists advanced to the live finals, where a panel of judges simulated a P&T Committee on March 26 at the AMCP Annual Meeting. In addition to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, 2019 finalist teams hailed from Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy; University of California, San Francisco; University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy; and University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy. [Read more.](#)



## AMCP Foundation Announces Recipients of National Best Poster Contests

The AMCP Foundation last week presented awards to winners of its 2019 Best Poster Contests, in partnership with CVS Health. The recipients were recognized March 28 at the AMCP Foundation Awards Ceremony during the AMCP Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif. The 2019 awardees are:

- **Best Poster by a Student Pharmacist: Hillary Parkin**, a PharmD Candidate at the University of Utah College of Pharmacy, for "Medication Therapy Management: Outcomes of Telephonic Pharmacist Outreach."

- **Best Poster by a Resident or Fellow:** **Hannah Lee-Brown**, PharmD, Executive Fellow at Pharmacy Quality Alliance for "Interventions Impacting Medication Access: A Scoping Review."
- **Best Poster by a Graduate Student:** **Eric Borrelli**, PharmD, MBA, a PhD Candidate at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, for "Medicare Part D Spending for Abiraterone and Enzalutamide in 2016."

In addition, an Honorable Mention was presented to **Shiyu Zhang, PhD Candidate**, and **Gladys Brown**, PharmD Candidate, both at The University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy, for "Evaluation of Progesterone (17  $\alpha$ -Hydroxyprogesterone Caproate) Utilization and Adherence in Women with High-risk Pregnancy Covered by Texas Medicaid." [Read more.](#)



Poster winners (l-r): Borrelli, Brown, Parkin. Lee-Brown was not present



## AMCP Foundation Sock Drive Collects 1,011 (and Counting!) Pairs

AMCP Foundation's "[Knock Your Socks Off](#)" drive at Annual Meeting 2019 was another huge success! To date, more than 1,000 pairs of socks have been collected for homeless and vulnerable individuals in San Diego. The new socks for men, women and children were donated to [Ladle Fellowship](#), a local charity known for feeding, clothing, mentoring and providing medical screenings for the poor. In addition, AMCP donated more than 200 tote bags. "We are gratified to work with such generous members, and to bring greater awareness of managed care pharmacy to the cities that host AMCP conferences," said AMCP Foundation Executive Director Paula J. Eichenbrenner, MBA, CAE. "These donations make a huge difference, as socks are always one of the most requested items for our community partners." It's not too late to donate – wherever you are, and no matter whether you attended the conference. [Read more.](#)



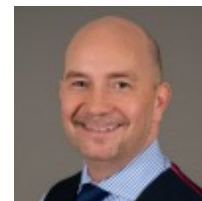
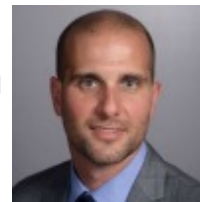
## News from AMCP Headquarters

**Mark Milligan**, AMCP VP of Finance, was named one of DCA Live's 2019 Top Non-Profit CFOs. The group hosts events featuring the fastest growing companies and most dynamic professionals in the

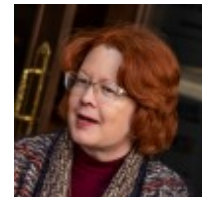


Washington, DC. region's legal, association & nonprofit, entrepreneur, federal tech, real estate and corporate communities.

**Matt Lowe** recently joined AMCP as VP of Strategic Alliances and Corporate Services. Matt brings 19 years of experience in driving growth within the pharmaceutical, medical device and health care services industries. He most recently served as Vice President of Sales, from 2012 to 2019, at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization.



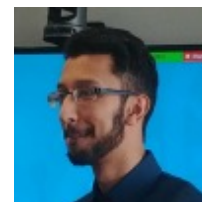
**Holly Abrams**, AMCP Director of Marketing, participated in a Digital Marketing Roundtable sponsored by Feathrco. The program was a case study on AMCP's last two national meetings and techniques used to drive attendee registration.



**Taru Helne** recently joined AMCP as Digital Content Manager. She comes to AMCP after serving as Senior Web Development Representative at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a trade association representing over 900 local electric cooperatives.



**Soham Shukla**, a PharmD candidate from Rutgers University, finished his APPE rotation last month at AMCP headquarters in Alexandria, Va. He presented research to staff on the landscape of digital therapeutics and interoperability.



## AMCP Partnership Forum Examines Principles for Sound P&T Practices: What's Next?

Diverse stakeholders gathered last week to discuss the future of P&T committee processes at the AMCP Partnership Forum, *Principles for Sound Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Practices: What's Next?* The March 28 event sought to promote and advance P&T best practices for an evolving health care system, said AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE. "It's not an overstatement to say that P&T committees represent the very foundation of managed care pharmacy," Cantrell said. "The informed decisions that stem from a P&T committee's scientific assessment of products allows us to carry out our mission of ensuring all patients have access to needed medications, while also remaining good stewards of limited health care dollars." Over the years, P&T committees have become a common fixture across the health care spectrum, including in Medicare Part D programs, health insurance marketplace plans, commercial health plans, and Medicaid programs. In the nearly 20 years



since AMCP and other stakeholders adopted the *Principles for a Sound Formulary System*, the evolution in health care suggests the need for an update. [Read more.](#)



## Now Available! Proceedings from AMCP Partnership Forum on PROs

Read the proceedings from the AMCP Partnership Forum: Building the Foundation for Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs)—Infrastructure and Methodologies. Stakeholders examined the role PROs can play in defining the value of health care interventions. Consensus was achieved on the importance of PROs in improving patient care through implementing value-based payment models and the need for strong organizational systems to fully adopt and use PROs in health care decision making. [Read the proceedings.](#)



## Three Colleges of Pharmacy Join AMCP Student Chapter Ranks



AMCP welcomes three colleges of pharmacy that recently activated AMCP Student Pharmacist Chapters. Chapters further AMCP's goals through educational and community service, and provide opportunities for professional growth, as well as promote managed care pharmacy within their schools. AMCP now has 84 Chapters. The new schools are:

- **Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, School of Pharmacy** – Worcester, Massachusetts: Faculty Advisor Donna Bartlett; Chapter President Varinder Bhatia; Diplomats Karen Lee and Tasmina Hydery
- **Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences** – Spokane, Washington: Faculty Advisor Daniel Baker; Chapter President Jimmy Luong Nguyen; Diplomats Katherine Wolf Khachatourian and Alane Louie
- **Chapman University School of Pharmacy** – Irvine, California: Faculty Advisor Daniel Tomaszewski; Chapter President JJ Way; Diplomat Shetal Desai

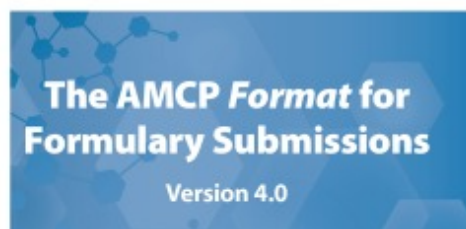


Leaders of Student Chapters are eligible to participate in the Chapter Leadership Academy at the AMCP Annual Meeting. This year's event (*pictured above*) took place March 27 at the AMCP Annual Meeting. Presenter Ashlee Klevens Hayes discussed "Building Your Brand: An Rx for Success." [Visit for more information.](#)



## Payers Can Access Pre-Approval Information via the AMCP eDossier System

Payers and health care decision makers (HCDMs) are conducting product reviews earlier. Surveys conducted with the FormularyDecisions.com® community demonstrate that many Payers/HCDMs begin 12 or more months prior to product launch. Therefore, product information at this early stage is essential to prepare for their budget and formulary requirements. According to syndicated survey responses, Payers/HCDMs most often request pre-approval information from manufacturers that includes clinical trial, product pricing, and economic information (e.g. cost-effectiveness results). Payers/HCDMs are able to access pre-approval information in multiple ways via FormularyDecisions.com®, home of the AMCP eDossier System. Available resources include metasearch information on Product Pages (updated daily from over 24 trusted resources plus HTA and partner information), P&T Prep Kits (populated product templates from publicly available resources, research analyst prepared, managed care pharmacist reviewed) to help Payers/HCDMs jump start a pre-approval review, and manufacturer provided – including pre-approval dossiers, as well as highlighted resources in the Manufacturer Resource Center. Coming soon are the AMCP Pre-approval Information Exchange (PIE) Webinars – manufacturer sponsored pre-approval webinars in conjunction with AMCP, available only to this closed community of Payers/HCDMs via the AMCP eDossier System. Ask about AMCP PIE Webinars: [information@amcp.edossiers.com](mailto:information@amcp.edossiers.com). [Read more.](#)



## Comments Open for AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions Update

AMCP is [seeking comments](#) to its update of the [AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions](#), Version 4.0 to align with the FDA's final guidance for industry on [Drug and Device Manufacturer Communications with Payors, Formulary Committees, and Similar Entities](#). Interested stakeholders may submit written responses and comments to four broad key areas for AMCP to consider while drafting the Format Version 4.1. You do not have to answer all of the questions. Please submit responses by Thursday, April 11. [Access the survey.](#)



## Add Your Proposal to AMCP Nexus 2019 Call for Proposals; Deadline for Submitting is April 14

The [AMCP Nexus Call for Proposals](#) is seeking ideas for continuing pharmacy education (CPE) sessions to be presented at

AMCP Nexus 2019 — Oct. 29-Nov. 1 — at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Submissions are being accepted in [five continuing education tracks](#). AMCP Nexus 2019 is expected to attract approximately 2,500 managed care pharmacists and other health care professionals seeking to increase their knowledge of the management and coordination of clinical, pharmacy benefit, and pharmacy care programs. These managed care professionals are interested in health care information and issues viewed from a population perspective, rather than at the patient–practitioner level. CPE sessions at AMCP Nexus 2019 will be 1.5 hours long (90 minutes). To accommodate introductions, housekeeping information, and some question and answer time, actual content should be 75 minutes. **The deadline for submitting your proposal is Sunday, April 14!**

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