



News and Views

NOVEMBER 2019

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FUNDAMENTALS of Managed Care Pharmacy



AMCP Nexus 2019 Is a Wrap: Annual Fall Conference Attracts Record Attendance

A record 2,500-plus managed care pharmacy professionals from across the country attended [AMCP Nexus 2019](#) for four days of programming that focused on the “intersection of value and care.” AMCP’s annual fall conference took place Oct. 29–Nov. 1 at the Gaylord National Harbor, Md., just outside of Washington, D.C. Attendees learned the latest managed care pharmacy developments and best practices through nearly 30 educational sessions in five tracks. AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE (*pictured*), noted the pressure to enhance value and improve outcomes, while also addressing the rising costs of medications, has never been greater. “I’m pleased to say AMCP and our members remain at the forefront of developing solutions that allow patients to get the medications they need at a cost they can afford,” Cantrell said. “The

programming at AMCP Nexus 2019, with its focus on value and care, aims to ensure that continues.” [Read more about Nexus 2019.](#)



AMCP Launches Champion Month in November

Be a champion! AMCP kicked off Champion Month at Nexus 2019 to inaugurate its new referral program, the [AMCP Champion Program](#) (formerly the Visionary Program). Members who refer new members in November will receive an AMCP pop-socket for their mobile device. The member who refers the most new members this month will receive a free registration to AMCP 2020. AMCP active, associate, or resident/fellow/graduate members in good standing are eligible to participate in AMCP Champion Month. It's easy: (1) Share how your AMCP membership has benefited your career and managed care pharmacy; (2) Encourage your colleagues to [become an AMCP member](#); (3) Instruct your colleagues to list your name in the “referred by” section in the application form to receive credit for your referrals. Once you become a champion, we will recognize you on our new [Hall of Fame](#).



AMCP CEO Blog: PAs Play Crucial Role in Ensuring Appropriate Medication Use

Blog by AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE: As managed care professionals, we recognize that prior authorization (PA) is a crucial but often misunderstood utilization management tool. The bad rap that PAs have received recently, I believe, comes from misinformation about the process and challenges within in specific systems that can be corrected. This includes examples in [Dr. William E. Bennett Jr.'s Oct. 22 opinion piece](#) in the Washington Post, where he alleges PA “exists so that many patients will fail to get the medications they need.” We know this is certainly not the intent of a well-designed PA program for pharmaceuticals. PAs are not designed as a strategy to save money at the expense of patient care. Rather, we know that PAs help improve patient outcomes by encouraging the use of appropriate therapies with established evidence of efficacy and safety, and that provide the best value. [Read the full blog post.](#)

Value-Based Contracting
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AMCP Welcomes its Latest Affiliate: AMCP Great Plains

AMCP welcomes the [Great Plains Affiliate](#)! The new affiliate is comprised of members

from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota who have the desire for more education and networking at the local level. Officers are President James Baumann, RPh; President-Elect Jeff Huether, PharmD; Secretary Ken Mishler, PharmD; and Treasurer Tami Sova, PharmD. All AMCP members who reside in the region will receive information about Great Plains events as they are developed. If you do not live in the states covered and wish to be added to the Great Plains mailing list, please email memberservices@amcp.org.



Innovations in Oncology is Focus of AMCP Foundation Research Symposium

The AMCP Foundation's 9th [Annual Research Symposium](#) gathered some of the country's top oncology leaders for a half-day discussion on many opportunities and challenges facing innovation in curative therapies and improvements to cancer care. The event was held Oct. 29 in conjunction with AMCP Nexus 2019. A key theme running through the presentations was the increasing need for more effective data to improve decision-making and develop innovative patient care that enhances outcomes. "Our central commitment is to facilitate innovative research about the evolving health care environment," said AMCP Foundation Executive Director Paula J. Eichenbrenner, MBA, CAE (*pictured*). "It is especially timely that we convene around cancer care, with 1.73 million new diagnoses annually in this country, and a persistently high mortality rate, and nearly \$150 billion in healthcare expenditures related to oncology." [Learn more about the symposium.](#)



Managed Care Pharmacy Residency & Fellowship Showcase Draws Record Crowd

AMCP's Managed Care Pharmacy Residency & Fellowship Showcase featured more than 53 residency and fellowship programs, and drew a record 300 student pharmacists. The Oct. 31 event, held in conjunction with AMCP Nexus, devoted the first hour exclusively to 4th year pharmacy students who were seeking matches with programs around the country. AMCP has received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the showcase from both programs and participants alike. [Learn more about managed care pharmacy residencies and fellowships.](#)



AMCP Foundation Sock Drive Continues Through November

Thank you to all AMCP Nexus attendees who generously donated socks during the AMCP Foundation's Knock Your Socks Off drive. It's not too late to help the Foundation reach its goal of collecting more than 500 pairs. Simply visit the [Amazon](#)

[Wish List](#) where you can add socks to your Amazon cart and choose “NV Family Services” at checkout. The drive ends Nov. 20. Socks are the most needed but least donated item to shelters. The Foundation will deliver all socks to local partner [Volunteer Alexandria](#), which will distribute them to families in need throughout the Washington, D.C., region.



Thank You to Nexus 2019 Volunteers

Speaking of thank yous! AMCP and the Foundation would like to thank the many, many volunteers who generously gave of their time and expertise at AMCP Nexus. As you know, volunteering is a great way to give back to our organization and make new friends and connections. The volunteer tally: Conference Buddy Program – 228 mentors paired with 268 student pharmacists and new practitioners; Session Moderators – 25 volunteers who moderated educational sessions; AMCP Concierge Area – 40 volunteers who helped answer questions about AMCP and Nexus; and Poster Mentors – 15 individuals who mentored posters in the non-reviewed category. [See list of all volunteers.](#)



Take the Nexus 2019 Attendee Survey to Help AMCP Improve Future Meetings

Attention Nexus 2019 attendees! Please take a moment to fill out our [short attendee survey](#) and be entered to win one of three \$100 gift certificates. Your opinions help AMCP improve future meetings. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete. The survey will close on Nov. 20.



Introducing the New BBCIC Website



The Biologics & Biosimilar Collective & Intelligence Consortium (BBCIC) has launched a new, easy-to-navigate website: www.bbcic.org. Visitors can learn about BBCIC’s peer-reviewed publications and abstracts, along with resources that support BBCIC’s efforts, and much more. BBCIC invites you to share your experience with the site by email at website@amcp.org. BBCIC was established in 2015 to address anticipated needs for post-marketed evidence generation for novel biologics, their corresponding biosimilars, and other related products. Today, BBCIC remains the only research network dedicated to monitoring biosimilars.

AMCP Diplomat Spotlight: Manjula Jayabalan of Ferris State University



[AMCP Diplomats](#) are an invaluable resource for managed care pharmacy information and opportunities at schools and colleges of pharmacy across the country. Diplomats also assist AMCP Student Chapters on developing and implementing projects and meetings. This month's AMCP Diplomat Spotlight features Manjula Jayabalan, PharmD, a Diplomat at Ferris State University. [Read her interview.](#)



AMCP 2020 Call for Poster Abstracts Is Open

AMCP invites researchers to [submit poster abstract for display at AMCP 2020](#), attended by more than 4,000 managed care pharmacists and other health care professionals. AMCP 2020 will be held April 21-24, 2020, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Posters will be displayed in the exhibit hall on: Wednesday, April 22 from 4:30–6:30pm during the opening reception; Thursday, April 23 from 11:30 am–2:45pm during lunch; and Friday, April 24 from 9:30–11am. The most highly rated abstracts will be selected for a 15-minute podium presentation as part of an education session at AMCP 2020. Deadline to submit is **3:30pm ET on Thursday, Dec. 12.**



Award Nominations Are Being Accepted

AMCP is accepting [nominations for awards](#) to recognize members and non-members who have made significant contributions to the managed care pharmacy profession and AMCP. Award recipients are recognized publicly at the spring meeting. **Deadline for nominations is Dec. 12.** The 2020 Categories are: Diplomat of the Year Award (new!), Distinguished Service Award, Experiential Education Preceptor Award, Fellow (FAMCP) Program, Grassroots Advocacy Award, Individual Contribution Award, JMCP Award for Excellence, Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Director/Preceptor Award, New Practitioner Award, and Spirit of Volunteerism Award.

Learn the Fundamentals of Managed Care Pharmacy and Value-Based Contracting



AMCP provides a range of learning opportunities that can be acquired anytime and anywhere. Visit [AMCP Learn](#) to access the online Fundamentals of Managed Care Pharmacy Certificate Program 2nd Edition, and the Value-Based Contracting e-Learning programs. The Fundamentals course provides a comprehensive introduction to basic concepts in managed care pharmacy. And the Value-Based Contracting course includes an overview of key trends and challenges, along with insights and solutions, into value-based contracting.



New Name and Look for FormularyDecisions Platform

As announced earlier this year, FormularyDecisions is now part of Xcenda (an AmerisourceBergen organization), and we are excited to launch the next phase of the platform. As home of AMCP eDossiers, the platform continues to deliver on the vision of enhancing the exchange of information between payers and manufacturers. You may now notice an updated look to our logo and sign-in page. We look forward to sharing more enhancements with you in the future.

Visit [FormularyDecisions.com](https://www.formularydecisions.com) to learn more.

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