

MAY 2020



# News and Views

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## AMCP eLearning Days Provides Diverse Educational Offerings to Thousands of Managed Care Pharmacy Professionals

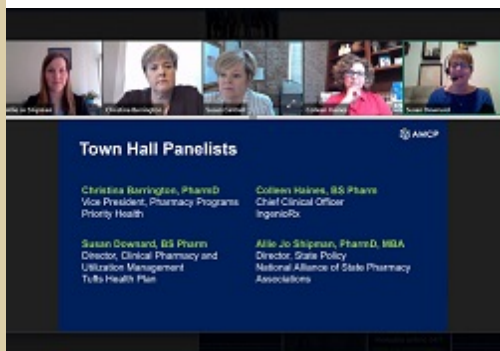
[AMCP eLearning Days](#) was a huge success! The April 20-24 event featured 10 educational webinars and four satellite symposia on some of the hottest topics in managed care pharmacy today, including digital therapeutics, the drug pipeline, health policy trends, and the pharmaceutical marketplace. The event drew more than 8,000 webinar registrations, 4,200 satellite symposia registrations, and 7,300 poster views. The five packed days of learning received “rave reviews” from members, noted AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell. AMCP provided eLearning Days free of charge to members. “We thought, what can we do for our members in this time of adversity?” says Ruby Singh, AMCP vice president of education and training. Participants must claim CPE credit on AMCP Learn no later than 5pm ET on Monday, May 25. The session recordings will be available on demand on [AMCP Learn](#) in mid-May.



## Perspectives From CEO Susan A. Cantrell

Read AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell's latest blog posts: [“Highlighting Managed Care Pharmacy Heroes”](#) praises AMCP members for remaining dedicated to helping patients get the medications they need at a cost they can afford, while also working a “second shift,” navigating the myriad health care and business challenges that COVID-19 presents. [“Health Care Risks Now Go Beyond COVID-19”](#) discusses how the world could face a health care

crisis of an entirely different nature as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Health care professionals are expressing serious concern about patients avoiding emergency rooms and office visits. For example, emergency room visits for non-COVID-19 matters are down across the country. Further, childhood vaccination rates are dropping to dangerous levels.



## COVID-19 Town Hall Looks at Disease Impact On Managed Care

AMCP hosted a virtual [COVID-19 Member Town Hall Meeting](#) on April 29 to discuss how managed care pharmacy professionals can address unprecedented challenges of the ongoing pandemic. Experts from Priority Health, Tufts Health Plan, IngenioRx, and National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations fielded questions from AMCP members only on a wide range of topics, including the implications of new federal and state policies, and how to handle drug supply shortages. AMCP understands that the profession ultimately wants to ensure that patients get the medications they need at a cost they can afford throughout this crisis and beyond. "What was immediately clear was the great lengths to which managed care pharmacists will go in order to help their patients," says AMCP CEO Susan Cantrell. "COVID-19 has not stopped your usual efforts. Instead, you've taken an additional full-time job. That sense of responsibility and purpose is what makes you heroes."

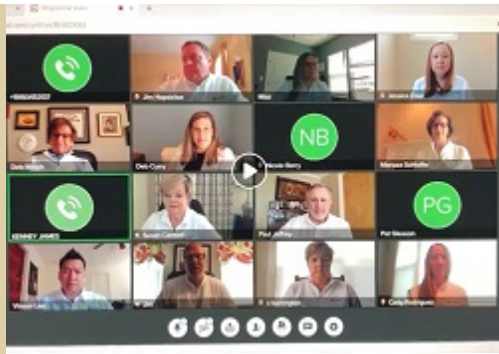


## AMCP COVID-19 Resources Offers Vital Information, Daily Updates

Check out AMCP's [COVID-19 Resources for Managed Care Pharmacy](#) for the latest developments on COVID-19 affecting your work. The resource center aggregates timely information on topics including relevant COVID-19 news and top headlines, CMS resources for the COVID-19 response, FDA COVID-19 announcements, federal and state policy information, supply chain management and drug shortage announcements, and post-COVID resources. AMCP also invites members to tell us about the challenges they are experiencing so we can develop additional resources that meet your needs. Please email [COVIDneeds@amcp.org](mailto:COVIDneeds@amcp.org).

## AMCP Swears in 2020-2021 Board of Directors Virtually





While the traditional passing of the gavel and board installation ceremony at AMCP 2020 was upended by COVID-19, the [new AMCP Board of Directors](#) and incoming President started their 2020-2021 term last month. At an April 21 [virtual swearing in](#), outgoing President Jim Kenney thanked the retiring board members for their service and welcomed the new members. The 2020-2021 Board of Directors are President Marissa Schlaifer, President-elect Paul L. Jeffrey, Immediate Past President Jim Kenney, Treasurer Christina Barrington, and Directors Jessica Daw, Pat Gleason, Carly Rodriguez, Jim Hopsicker, and Vinson Lee. In remarks to *News & Views*, Schlaifer said she is eager to get down to business. “Even with the challenges brought forth with COVID-19, the critical question facing our industry remains: how can health care payers, policy makers and the pharmacy profession address the issue of the high cost of drugs?” she says. “As AMCP president, I look forward to working with AMCP leadership, staff, and the broader membership to bring forward new tools and solutions, and to advocate for our ability to apply those solutions broadly. I look forward to gathering with AMCP members where we can once again find opportunities to exchange the great ideas that come forward whenever AMCP members get together in small or large gatherings.”



## AMCP Announces 2020 Award Winners

Each year, AMCP and the AMCP Foundation recognize a group of outstanding members who reflect the best of managed care pharmacy and the organizations. AMCP accepted nominations last fall for its series of awards that were scheduled to be presented during the Annual Awards Dinner at AMCP 2020. While that meeting was cancelled, AMCP still offers its heartfelt congratulations to the 2020 recipients. “Congratulations to these award winners who personify the enduring commitment of managed care pharmacy professionals,” says AMCP CEO Susan Cantrell. [Read about each award recipient.](#) (image, scene from 2019 Annual Awards Dinner)



## Foundation Presents 2020 Avey Award to David Calabrese

The Foundation this year conferred managed care pharmacy's highest honor, the [Steven G. Avey Award](#), to [David Calabrese, RPh, MHP](#) for his lifetime achievement in managed care pharmacy. The Avey Award recognizes a managed care leader for sustained, exemplary, and distinguished service to the practice of pharmacy. “David is a thought leader in many areas including clinical, financial, and operational aspects of managed care,” note peers who nominated Calabrese for the honor. “Over a career spanning more than 30 years, David has been at the forefront of change and continues to

move pharmacy forward.” While the Awards Dinner at AMCP 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19, AMCP members can still [join in celebrating David's achievement](#) with a virtual Host Committee gift.



## Press Briefing Highlights Leadership Efforts on Digital Therapeutics

Leading health care reporters attended an AMCP virtual press briefing, April 22, on how digital therapeutics are being assessed for coverage decisions and integrated into the health care system, especially during the ongoing pandemic. Experts from C4i, Akili Interactive, Pear Therapeutics and Express Scripts discussed digital therapeutics from both the manufacturer and payer perspectives and referred to AMCP's recent [Partnership Forum on digital therapeutics](#). Read coverage of the press briefing in [MedCity News](#), [Specialty Pharmacy Continuum](#), and [Pharmacy Technology Report](#).



## AMCP Receives Prestigious Hermes Creative Awards for Rebranding Work

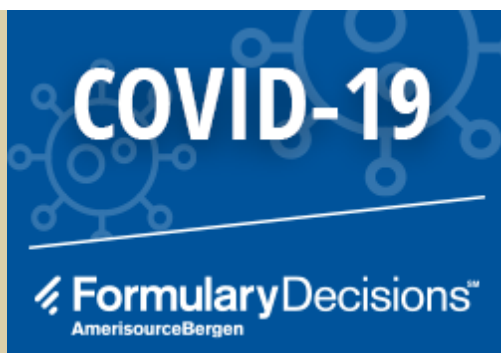
AMCP received two Hermes Creative Awards for its work to rebrand the organization in 2019. A 2020 platinum award was presented to AMCP for the organization's brand essence video, which was introduced at the 2019 AMCP annual meeting in San Diego. AMCP also received a 2020 gold award for its brand identity and supporting elements. AMCP partnered with Alluvus, an integrated marketing communications agency headquartered in Washington, D.C., to develop the new AMCP brand and supporting assets. The Hermes Creative Awards recognize outstanding work in the industry while promoting the philanthropic nature of marketing and communication professionals. Last year, the competition received more than 6,000 entries from the U.S. and around the world. "We are thrilled to be recognized by peers for the AMCP brand revitalization and look forward to the effort accelerating AMCP's work to get patients the medications they need at a cost they can afford," says Mara Kaiser Braunger, AMCP vice president of brand and marketing communications. [Read more](#).



## Foundation Sock Drive Ends May 15!

Although AMCP 2020 attendees were unable to gather in Texas last month, the [AMCP Foundation sock drive continues online](#) in support of Houston. The Foundation's community partner, [Clothed by Faith](#), reports an even greater need among the families and veterans they serve due to the COVID-19 crisis. Please [send socks via our Amazon Wish List](#) through May 15. Simply add socks to your Amazon cart from the CBF/AMCP Fdn. 2020 wish list and choose "Susanne Hewson's Gift Registry Address" at checkout (Ms. Hewson is the CBF General Manager).





## FormularyDecisions Provides Up-to-Date COVID-19 Treatment Resources

As the health care industry collectively and continually fights the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital to stay on top of information on the development of vaccines and treatments. [FormularyDecisions](#) (FD), the digital platform that has always provided payers and health care decision makers with easy access to evidence and information needed to enable formulary coverage and reimbursement decisions, has built a COVID-19 disease page to support product reviews. This page features: (1) information on over 40 new drugs being investigated for treatment, (2) direct links to key sites including the CDC, FDA, NIH, and the WHO, and (3) daily updates that provide a current, aggregated view of new developments in the COVID-19 space. Registered users of FormularyDecisions can find a link on the What's New page or simply type "COVID-19" into the search bar to access these resources. Payers that are not current users of FD can register for free at [FormularyDecisions.com](#), or manufacturers can contact [info@formularydecisions.com](mailto:info@formularydecisions.com) for subscription options. FD may be accessed through the AMCP's [COVID-19 Resources for Managed Care Pharmacy](#).



## PIE Webinar: Veverimer (TRC101): For Treatment of Metabolic Acidosis in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease

AMCP will host a pre-approval information exchange (PIE) webinar sponsored, developed and presented by Tricida on Wednesday, May 20 at 2-3pm, ET. Metabolic Acidosis in patients with chronic kidney disease is a progressive, debilitating disease associated with high health care burden. There remains an unmet need for effective management of metabolic acidosis. Veverimer (TRC101) is currently being investigated as a treatment of metabolic acidosis in adults with chronic kidney disease. During the presentation, our panel of experts will review the Veverimer (TRC101) product profile, clinical program and the clinical and health economic considerations regarding metabolic acidosis in chronic kidney disease. Veverimer (TRC101) is an investigational drug that is not currently FDA approved. This webinar is only offered to payers, formulary committees, or other similar entities responsible for the selection of drugs for coverage or reimbursement. [Learn more and register](#).

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