



Northwest Region

July 2020

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Contact Us

NorthwestAMCP@gmail.com

For more information

<http://www.amcp.org/Northwest/>

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7070568>

Words from the President



President

Armen Khachatourian, PharmD, MBA, HEOR

Greetings Northwest AMCP members,

The past few months have presented us with significant opportunities for thoughtful reflection. We have been given the chance to look within ourselves and find ways to take steps towards a more equitable healthcare system and society as a whole. Now, more than ever, we must come together to collaborate and share ideas on how we can break traditional paradigms and move us into a better future. The Northwest AMCP chapter is committed to being an inclusive group for all and will continue our mission of providing educational programming, platforms for discussion, and social activities for our members. We look forward to a productive year and will strive towards continued engagement and growth.

Armen



Student Spotlight

Call for Nominations – Colleges of Pharmacy Liaison: Become a NW AMCP Affiliate Board Member

We are seeking applications or nominations for the following position: Colleges of Pharmacy Liaison.

The NW AMCP Affiliate is looking for the best individual to join our Board of Directors to ensure we continue to be the leading membership association providing professional collaboration across the Managed Care Pharmacy continuum within the region we serve (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii).

The NW Affiliate is looking for a Member to lead who:

- Is dedicated to the AMCP mission of advancing Managed Care Pharmacy initiatives and programs throughout our NW region
- Is willing to serve, if elected, and willing to commit the necessary time, energy, and effort to participating in NW AMCP activities

You can apply yourself or submit a nomination for another individual by sending in an email with a brief paragraph highlighting your interest.

Click below to learn more about open positions and submit your nomination or application **by 8/17/2020**.

Learn More: <http://www.amcp.org/Northwest/>

Contact us: NorthwestAMCP@gmail.com

Thank you and we look forward to your application!

Getting to Know Your Board Members



President

Armen Khachatourian, PharmD, MBA

Dr. Armen Khachatourian is the National Clinical Director for Myriad Genetics. Prior to his current role, Dr. Khachatourian spent the majority of his career working in managed care at CatamaranRx and OptumRx focusing on clinical account management and formulary strategy. Shifting his focus to pharmacogenomics, Dr. Khachatourian transitioned to a strategic senior leadership role at Myriad Genetics centered around integrating genetic testing into treatment paradigms and improving patient outcomes.



President Elect

Emily Tsiao, PharmD

Dr. Emily Tsiao is a Clinical Pharmacist at Premera Blue Cross. She has been an active member of AMCP since 2014 and served as the Founding President of the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy AMCP Student Chapter. She is excited to serve as the Northwest Affiliate President Elect and looks forward to collaborating with other managed care professionals and students in our region. Emily earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Auburn University and is residency-trained in managed care pharmacy. She is looking forward to a productive year and will strive towards continued engagement and growth.

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Past President
Grant Knowles, PharmD, CSP

Dr. Grant Knowles is vice president of business development and industry relations at Ardon Health. Grant played an integral role in the development of Ardon Health's specialty pharmacy while serving as the initial vice president of operations. He later shifted his focus to oversight of company growth and development strategies, including product access, manufacturer relations, data analysis and contract negotiations. Grant earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Drake University and is residency-trained in managed care pharmacy. He has an extensive background in specialty pharmacy management from a payer, provider and contracting perspective. Grant serves as Co-Chair of the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy Clinical Outcomes Committee and is a founding member of the NW Chapter of AMCP, where he serves as the Immediate-Past President.



Secretary/Treasurer
Chris Ferrin, PharmD

Dr. Chris Ferrin is a Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator at CareOregon. His roles include formulary and utilization management as well as authorization criteria development. Prior to this he was a specialty pharmacist at CVS Specialty Services and managed a hospice pharmacy. Chris earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Oregon State University. As acting secretary/treasurer he looks forward to furthering the great work of previous board members bringing together Northwest AMCP members from all areas of managed care.



Secretary/Treasurer Elect
Chris Yates, PharmD

Dr. Chris Yates is a Clinical Pharmacist at PacificSource Health Plans, living in Hillsboro, Oregon where he has been for the past four years. He is a graduate of the Oregon State University College of Pharmacy, and this will be his first year serving on the board of Northwest AMCP. He is very excited to have the opportunity to learn from and network with the outstanding managed care professionals in the region while trying to contribute what he can to the chapter. In his free time, he enjoys running, cycling, and spending time with his three sons.

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Programs and Education Coordinator **Megan Bell, RN, BSW**

Megan Bell is Director of Regional and Government Accounts for Ultragenyx Pharmaceuticals. She covers the Pacific Northwest as well as 15 other states. She has 15+ years' experience and demonstrated results & leadership in Market Access, Medicare, Medicaid, and sales experience. Previous to her roles in Market Access, Megan is a Registered Nurse with specialty in ICU and Cardiac Care.

Megan has been working with Health Plans for many years helping to support appropriate access to the medicines that patients need. Megan demonstrates a high level of commitment to patient care and access. She is an active member of AMCP and NW chapter and looks forward to bringing dynamic programs to the NW Chapter. Megan lives in Seattle and enjoys spending time with her husband and two boys, traveling and volunteering.



Programs and Education Coordinator **Marti Groeneweg, PharmD, BCPS**

Dr. Marti Groeneweg is a Supervisor in Clinical Pharmacy Services with Kaiser Permanente Northwest in Portland. Marti joined AMCP in 2011 and served as the AMCP Membership Committee Chair and the NW AMCP Affiliate Vice President last year. She obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina and completed a PGY1 Managed Care Residency at Kaiser Permanente Washington in Seattle. Marti is excited by the challenge of organizing timely and valuable programming in our new physically distanced environment. In her spare time, Marti enjoys skiing, home improvement projects, and spending time with her husband and 6-month old daughter.



Membership Engagement and Communications Coordinator **Margaret Olmon, PharmD, MBA**

Dr. Margaret "Maggi" Olmon is currently the Medical Outcomes Science Liaison for AbbVie in the Pacific Northwest. She has been a member of both state and national pharmacy organizations for many years. She has been a member of AMCP since 2006 and an active Northwest Affiliate member since its establishment. During 2020, she hopes the Affiliate will build new connections and continue current relationships with pharmacists across our region, finding ways to focus

attention on pharmacists in all the states we serve. She wants to ensure there continues to be a forum for networking with others interested in advancing their career with work in managed care.



**Affiliate Advisor
Randy Gustafson**

Randy Gustafson was a founding member of the NW AMCP Affiliate Chapter and has served as both its Vice President and as the Board Adviser.

He has over twenty-five years' experience in the pharmaceutical business. He has held numerous roles from Regional Account Manager, Regional Reimbursement Manager, Senior Oncology/Hospital Manager, Senior District Manager, Manager of Sales Training, Oncology Representative and Hospital Representative.

He also worked with Premera Pharmacy as they developed two new PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program positions with great success.

Randy lives just south of Seattle with his two dogs. He enjoys travel, road bike, skiing, boating, scuba diving and wine.

What's happening in the Northwest Region?

"The Impact of COVID-19: Some Implications for Managed Care Pharmacy"

by Chris Ferrin

Working from Home 2020

On March 23rd, as the number of COVID-19 cases in the state eclipsed 161, Governor Kate Brown issued stay at home orders for the entire state of Oregon. My employer, CareOregon, quickly informed all staff that we would be working from home for the foreseeable future. Although the company had some capacity for employees to work from home our IT department went into overdrive to ensure we had the resources to make companywide work from home possible. The technology can be a struggle, but I count myself lucky to be among those that can perform most job functions from home.

Our team was quick to consider the ramifications for our members, as the Medicaid population is underserved and vulnerable even in the best of times.

**March 20th,
Virtual Managed
Care Day –
Portland**

At the beginning of the pandemic there were many unknowns. Would the utilization management framework we have in place be appropriate in a pandemic? Would our membership increase as the ranks of the unemployed swelled? As we acknowledged these unknowns, we also knew our priority is the health and safety of our members. We developed a list of our highest risk members and devoted a significant part of our team to contacting these vulnerable members to ensure they were not foregoing needed medication.

After the initial burst of activity, the work has settled down into something approaching normal. We don't know when we will be able to return to our office, so for now we continue to look forward to frozen Zoom calls and (welcome) interruptions from dogs and babies.

**“Connecting Residents and Managed Care
Practicing Pharmacy in a Virtual Word”**

by Emily Tsiao

Since meeting in person was not an option, the Managed Care Day in Portland started off with a virtual presentation from Regence providing an overview of current trends and an overview of managed care pharmacy. Next, the participants got to hear from CareOregon who highlighted the importance of supporting patient care across different providers. Afterwards Moda Health provided a summary of formulary, prior authorization, and clinical program management. Finally, participants had a relaxed roundtable with members of our NW AMCP family who have non-traditional careers. Managed Care Day is an experience that you would not usually get in a classroom, which makes it even more valuable. We encourage students to attend the next Managed Care Day! A very big thank you to all of the people who made the March 2020 Managed Care Day possible including, but not limited to the following volunteers: **Kristen Benkstein, Paul Carson, Alex Dong, Stacy Eria, Michael Formica, Andrew Hibbard, Judy Huang, Jesse from Regence, Steve Hall, Bridget Hernandez, Keely Larson, Maggi Olmon, Sital Patel, Deb Profant, Jim Slater, and Wisam Younis.**

Upcoming Events & Getting Involved

AMCP has put together events that you can access on-line. The programs include CE Programs, Science & Innovation Theater Webinars and Preapproval Information Exchange (PIE) Opportunities.

Below is a link to AMCP's calendar of events:

<https://www.amcp.org/calendar>

This is your chance to get involved and network with AMCP Northwest Region members. We hope you will join us!

Volunteer for the NW-AMCP Social Committee

We have received multiple requests for more networking and social events. The board would like your help organizing social events that are meaningful to the general membership. If you are interested in helping the newly formed Social Committee, please, email the Board at: NorthwestAMCP@gmail.com.

**Give back!
Volunteer for
a Committee**

Promote your Managed-Care Rotation

Students in the Northwest region are interested in advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE) in managed care pharmacy. The board would like to help connect these eager students to established or upcoming practice sites. If you precept students, or know of a location or team that does, please email the Board at: NorthwestAMCP@gmail.com.

**Support the
growth of our
students!**

Call for Mentor's and Mentee's

Most people achieve greater professional success with the guidance and support of a mentor. Mentor's and mentee's can positively influence each other's career decisions, efficacy at work, understanding and impact within the profession, and much more. If you are interested in being a mentor or a mentee to another AMCP member in the Northwest region, please email the Board at: NorthwestAMCP@gmail.com.



NEXUS2020

Making the Way for Innovation



■ OCTOBER 20-23
■ MGM GRAND
■ LAS VEGAS