

NEAMCP NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 1

August 2020

From the President's Desk

Warm greetings from the board of NEAMCP. Our best wishes to everyone during this challenging time.

While we are celebrating the success of our recent continuing education program, our board members continue to explore other potential programs to provide value to our members. Please look out for our future notifications.

It has been a great honor for me to serve the Northeast Affiliate as a board member since 2016. I am grateful for all the opportunities for growth and development the committee has provided. The experience of volunteering at AMCP has been giving me so much enjoyment. Thank you for your continuous support!

Your suggestions and comments are always appreciated.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon in person. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Daniel

Daniel Shan



COVID-19 Updates

AMCP COVID-19 News

Coronavirus cases have topped 3.3 million in the United States alone with more than 135,000 deaths. Recently, AMCP hosted a [webinar](#) on COVID-19 and the impact on healthcare. This webinar was presented by Doug Long, vice president of industry relations at IQVIA. Long shared his insights on a variety of topics including drug supply chain, prescription and telehealth trends, cancer screening, treatment and more.

COVID-19 Top Headlines

- [Gilead Sciences Announces Pricing for COVID-19 Treatment Remdesivir](#)
- [CDC updates, Expands List of People at Risk of Severe COVID-19 illness](#)

CMS Resources for COVID-19 Response

- [Trump Administration Encourages Reopening of Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [CMS Relaxing More Value-Based Model Requirements in Wake of Pandemic](#)

FDA COVID-19 Announcements

- [FDA Withdraws Emergency Use Authorization of Hydroxychloroquine](#)
- [FDA Publishes Guidance on Institutional Review Board Review of Individual Patient Expanded Access Requests for Investigational Drugs and Biological Products During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

Calendar of Events

September 2020 Panel Discussion

Join our panel discussion on September 22nd, 6:30pm EST, which will discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the healthcare landscape, the impact on Medicaid plans, the PBM perspective and much more!

Keep an eye out for more information on upcoming educational sessions currently in the works!

AMCP Board Investiture-Zoom

President: Daniel Shan, PharmD

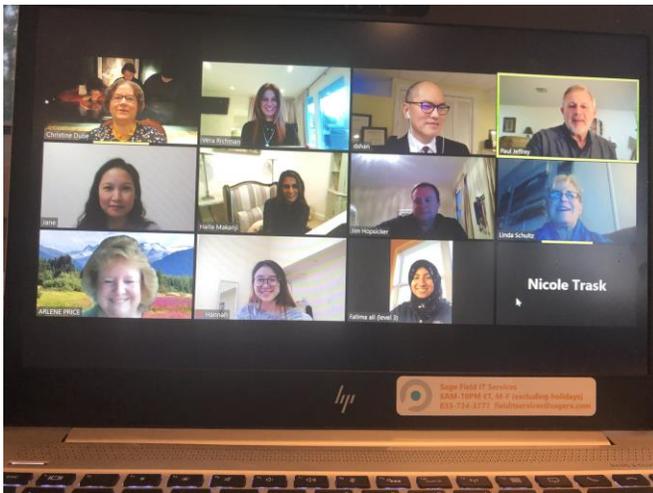
President-Elect: Nicole Trask, PharmD

Treasurer: Jane Guo, PharmD, MBA

Secretary: Fatima Ali, PharmD

Programming Director: Vera Richman

Immediate Past President: Haita Makanji, PharmD



If you have any suggestions about this program or future programming, please contact NEAMCP. For information on “Future Events and Activities” please go to www.amcp.org/northeast.

Legislative Affairs

In May 2020, finalized provisions to Part 1 of the Contract Year, especially sections regarding Medicare Advantage and Part D plan bids and benefits for CY 2021. The provisions for which AMCP submitted comments will be included in Part 2 of the final rule which CMS will publish “later in 2020.” These comments include permitting a second specialty drug tier in Part D, and a beneficiary real time benefit tool which will be included in Part 2 of the final rule.

In June 2020, AMCP provided comments about a CMS interim final rule which implements numerous Medicare program waivers to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. AMCP’s comments included implementing telehealth for providers and advocating for pharmacists to be included as eligible telehealth providers in the Medicare program. As crucial members of the healthcare team, pharmacists already provide telehealth services to their patients. CMS issued this regulation as an interim final rule within the comments period.

In addition, the FDA published two requests for information (RFI) comments about the use of the Orange Book and possible improvements. The Orange Book provides information about therapeutic equivalence and patent information for each listed drug. The two RFI’s include questions to understand who uses the information provided in the Orange Book as well as the usefulness of the therapeutic equivalence information. Furthermore, additional questions include the types of patents and potential changes to patent listings which may affect drug development.

Student Chapter Update

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) has seen a considerable amount of student interest in managed care in recent years and it is all thanks to the hard work of our AMCP chapter founders! The MCPHS AMCP student chapter as we know it today was first instituted in the Fall of 2016 when chapter leaders recognized the importance of the role that pharmacists play in the managed care setting. Swiftly after the club's institution, the annual Pharmacy & Therapeutics Competition held locally each year became extremely popular among students eager to add experience to their CV's and learn more about P&T Committee work!

So far, the most successful event has been our annual P&T competition which draws plenty of participation from students both internally and externally. As this is most successful event, nearly all the focus has been on hosting a successful competition, but we do have some plans for the future! We have many plans that we are looking to solidify for the Fall semester including a one-day P&T Competition and guest speaker Zoom conference calls.



At MCPHS-AMCP, our interest really lies in making drug therapy equitable and accessible to patients of all backgrounds. Our members have taken the initiative to aid with the work of a local nonprofit organization, Pharmate. Pharmate's mission is to establish a baseline quality standard for domestic drug manufacturing by developing a world-class non-profit organization dedicated to the production of generic therapeutics. This will present cost/availability obstacles to patients of varying socioeconomic status.



MCPHS-AMCP looks forward to another great year and though we might be operating under a "new normal" our dedication to managed care and continued learning will remain!

Leah Cherry, PharmD Candidate 2022

Check us out on Social Media!

Getting the most up-to-date invites and information is easy! If you haven't already, be sure to follow both the new **@NEAMCP1 twitter page** as well as the **AMCP Northeast Affiliate group on LinkedIn**. Chapter news and local events will be posted periodically and it is also a great way to connect with other individuals with similar interests.