

AMCP MIDWEST

Newsletter – Issue 2



*Interview with Dr. Christina
Barrington*



CONTENTS

*Presidential
Address*

*Upcoming
Events*

*Scholarship
Information*

*Sponsorship
Information*

*Charitable
Giving -
Foodbank
Donations*

*Interview
with Dr.
Christina
Barrington*



The Monument to Joe Louis located in Detroit, MI



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 24th**
– AMCP Midwest Day of Education in Detroit, MI
Click [HERE](#) for details
- **November 19th**
– AMCP Midwest Day of Education in Chicago, IL
Click [HERE](#) for details
- **October 18th - 21st** – AMCP Nexus National Conference in Denver, CO –
Click [HERE](#) for details

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello AMCP Midwest Members!

I would like to personally invite you to attend both of our upcoming in-person conferences on September 24 in Detroit and on November 19 in Chicago. The AMCP Midwest Conferences are held in high esteem as it provides a truly unique forum where you can hear directly from senior-level executives at several major payers spanning health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, health plan consultants and health systems as they discuss the biggest challenges facing our industry and innovative solutions to tackle them head on.

This year, we are proud to welcome speakers from top organizations including **Michael Zeglinski, CEO & Senior Vice President of Optum Specialty and Infusion Pharmacy, Atheer Kaddis, Vice President of Pharmacy Services at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Doug Long, Vice President of Industry Relations at IQVIA, Cheryl Larson, President & CEO of Midwest Business Group on Health, Brent Eberle, Chief Pharmacy Officer & Senior Vice President of Navitus Health Solutions and Christina Barrington, Vice President of Pharmacy Programs at Priority Health**, among many other phenomenal speakers. Our incredible line up of managed care leaders span **Optum, Express Scripts, BCBS of MI, Priority Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL/HCSC, BCBS of KC, Cigna, Navitus**, and more. This is a great opportunity for you to network with many amazing leaders and reconnect with your colleagues.

We are proud to offer a total of **10.5 CE credit hours** and our agenda will cover discussions on key topics including trends and solutions for rising drug costs, pipeline updates, digital therapeutics lessons learned from COVID-19 as well as local and national legislative updates. We had the opportunity to chat with one of our upcoming speakers, Christina Barrington to get to know her better. You can read the full interview in this issue. We hope you enjoy this issue and we hope to see you very soon in Detroit and Chicago! To register, please follow one of the links below.

- Click [HERE](#) for individual attendee registration
- Click [HERE](#) for sponsor registration

I like to get to know my membership within the AMCP Midwest region so if we haven't met before, please stop by to introduce yourself to me. I look forward to meeting you or catching up with you soon!

Make it a great day!

[Manjula D. Jayabalan](#)

President of AMCP Midwest Region

\$1900 donated to local foodbanks in Detroit and Chicago through Midwest AMCP/PTCE partnership

AMCP Midwest is proud of our long standing partnership with Pharmacy Times Continuing Education (PTCE). Pharmacy times develops and delivers continuing pharmacy education activities that are evidence-based and free of commercial bias. Their high quality continuing education sessions have been very well received by our membership and it has improved the skills and knowledge base of our pharmacists. During the pandemic, PTCE has continued to offer robust programming virtually. Since we couldn't meet in person to share the CE dinner experience, PTCE has generously offered to donate \$25 per attendee to local Midwest foodbanks. We are so proud to say that through this partnership with PTCE, **the Midwest AMCP has donated a total of \$1900** this year which has been donated to **Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan in Detroit** as well as to the **Greater Chicago Food Depository**. A huge thank you to all of you that attended these PTCE events in order to make this possible for us. We are so proud to be able to give back to our local communities. Thank YOU for being a part of this success story!

AMCP Midwest Scholarship

AMCP Midwest is proud to once again offer our student scholarships to help students attend the upcoming AMCP Nexus conference in Denver, CO from October 18th through October 21st. We will be choosing two pharmacy students to receive \$1500 each.

- The AMCP Midwest 2021 Scholarship application can be found [here](#).
- Scholarship applications DUE: Wednesday, September 8th by 11:59 PM EST
- Scholarship winners notified no later than Monday, September 20th

If you teach, work with or know of any pharmacy students interested in managed care pharmacy, please pass along this opportunity to them and encourage them to apply. We look forward to reviewing their applications!

Hold the date! Hold the budget!

Has your organization sponsored our Days of Education in the past? Is your organization interested in sponsoring our event this year once again or as a first time sponsor? We would love to hear from you!

We recently emailed out details of our sponsorship program. You can also find our sponsorship informational flyer [here](#). We really hope that you take the time to review the information and consider sponsoring our event. Your consideration and support are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please email us at midwestamcp@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Industry Expert Interview – Dr. Christina Barrington



Dr. Christina Barrington is Vice President of Pharmacy Programs at Priority Health. She leads both the pharmacy operations and clinical pharmacy teams. She is responsible for setting the Pharmacy department's strategy and managing the pharmaceutical services budget across the organization. Dr. Barrington was Senior Director of Clinical Quality Management at OptumRx, where she oversaw and set direction for their clinical quality management program. Prior to that, she also held several leadership roles throughout the health care and pharmaceutical industry.

Additionally, Dr. Barrington serves on the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Board of Directors, as Treasurer, and Chairman of the Finance Committee. She has served three terms as President, for the Academy Managed Care Pharmacy Midwest Affiliate. Dr. Barrington formerly served as a member of the 2016 URAC Measures Advisory and Research Group, and as a board member, for the Illinois Foundation for Quality Health Care, and on the National Diabetes Education Panel. Dr. Barrington earned her Bachelor of Science Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in Missouri and completed her residency in clinical pharmacy practice at University Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida.

The AMCP Midwest Chapter hopes you enjoy our 1st ever Industry Expert interview with Christina!

Question: How did you get into Managed Care Pharmacy?

Answer: In high school, after having an initial interest in Pre-Med, a counselor asked her to sign up for a pharmacy intern opportunity. This internship ended up being a key crossroads for Christina as she realized she truly enjoyed interacting with patients and lead to launching her Pharmacy career path. As a result, Dr. Barrington earned her Bachelor of Science Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in Missouri, where she was in the second class of Pharm D students at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, which has become an extremely competitive program. Christina went on to complete her residency in clinical pharmacy practice at University Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida. While initially wanting to pursue a career in Oncology, leaders in the program recognized Christina's gifts and recommended she pursue the Administration side of the business.

Question: Where did you start your career?

Answer: Fresh out of her Pharm D residency program, Christina was offered the position of Clinical Director at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, IL. This set off her career and numerous opportunities that helped grow and develop Christina into who she is today. Christina spent time at Fujisawa (now Astellas) as a Senior Medical Information Associate, Clinical Director at Prudential Insurance and Medical Affairs Manager at Searle. It was during her time as Pharmacy Director at Coventry that she met Rusty Hailey, another influential person in her life. It was Rusty that introduced her to AMCP, bringing Christina to participate in meetings and getting her exposure to what AMCP was all about. After Coventry, Christina spent significant time again in the Midwest at Health Alliance Medical Plan as the Director of Pharmacy. After moving on for additional opportunities, Christina became Senior Director of Clinical Quality Management at OptumRx, where she oversaw and set direction for their clinical quality management program. Christina eventually ended up at Priority Health where she has enjoyed a career that continues to challenge her to this day.

Question: How have you seen the role of Managed Care Pharmacist evolve over the years?

Answer: In addition to the importance of having the Clinical and Business background, Christina emphasized the importance of understanding what is going on in Government affairs and how policy continues to shape health care. With technology continuing to evolve, the importance of analytics, economic modeling, digital platforms and understanding quality initiatives also represent an important skill set in the position. Christina emphasized that new people coming into the industry that are forward thinking, innovative and strategic are all important to continually evolving the position.

Question: What is the biggest challenge facing your organization right now?

Answer: Providing the highest quality care in a constantly changing and increasingly complex healthcare environment. Therapies approved over the last five years and on the horizon carry unprecedented price tags. Legislation around transparency and interoperability necessitates change and requires additional expenditures. Pharmacy operations must address these factors to a level that ensures sustainable high-quality care at premiums which are manageable (acceptable / reasonable) for the government, individuals and employers.

Question: Where do you think our industry is headed in the next 5 years?

Answer: Christina shared how there will be a heightened focus on digital formularies, managing costs of medications in Specialty, Oncology and Diabetes will continue to be a leading priority. Additionally, addressing health care disparities and social determinants of health remains at the forefront of our initiatives.

Question: What are some important marketplace dynamics in our industry to watch?

Answer: Industry disruptors that will impact pharmacy supply chain. Pharmacy discount cards and copay offset programs have the potential to disrupt the marketplace as patients shift away from traditional payer programs.

Question: How do you see the relationship between Payers and Health Systems evolving over the next 5 years?

Answer: This will continue to grow with plans and Health Systems becoming more integrated.

Question: Do you think COVID changed the way we interact moving forward?

Answer: Working remotely will likely be more prevalent moving forward, which will allow companies and employees more flexibility to be able to draw from remote areas that were not as accessible. Telemedicine is also an area that grew during COVID and is here to stay.

Question: What advice would you give people starting their careers in Managed Care Pharmacy?

Answer: It depends on the individual's situation. For pharmacists already working in either hospital or retail settings, to gain experience in managed care pharmacy. Network with numerous people in the industry to gain insight into all areas of managed care pharmacy. Christina feels strongly about the importance of finding a mentor and AMCP is a great place to start. Join AMCP and maximize offerings by taking courses, networking with members employed in the managed care setting. Additionally, attend National and Regional Chapter meetings. These efforts will provide critical insight to managed care and identifying specific career focus. Furthermore, consider entry-level positions to gain experience. What may seem like a reset to career path, can often lead to quick career progression due to expertise gained in previous roles applied in a new job. For current pharmacy students, there are also tremendous opportunities to prepare, by taking courses focused on managed care as part of your curriculum, becoming involved in your school's AMCP student chapter, attending AMCP and identifying a conference buddy.

CONTRIBUTORS – MEET THE AMCP MIDWEST TEAM!

Click on any name below to learn more about us

	MANJULA D. JAYABALAN PRESIDENT		KEVIN SHINABERRY DELEGATE CHAIR (MD)		TROY KOCH PRESIDENT - ELECT
CASEY LUCAS SECRETARY		CHRIS VANWYNEN TREASURER		AVIN YALDO STUDENT LIAISON	
	JASON SARBER EDUCATION CO-CHAIR		JOY WAHAWISAN EDUCATION CO-CHAIR		JENNIFER SHEAR FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIR
JUDY STEIN FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIR		RYAN MARTIN SOCIAL CHAIR		KEVIN GRAHAM DELEGATE (MD)	
	EDIE DODSON DELEGATE (IN)		DAN DEZEE DELEGATEE (IN)		AISHA HUSSAIN DELEGATE (IL)
JULIA URSAN DELEGATE (IL)		SUNNY HIRPARA DELEGATE (WD)		JAY EICKMAN DELEGATE (WD)	
	ANDY ERICKSON IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT			Where to find us: https://www.amcp.org/midwest-amcp How to reach us: midwestamcp@gmail.com	



AMCP

Midwest