Message from Our President
Erin Novak

Dear Esteemed Members of Northwest AMCP,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits after the holiday season. Thank you for your unwavering support, commitment, and engagement throughout 2023. It was a remarkable year, and together, we have achieved significant milestones and created lasting memories. It was a year of innovation and exploration as we ventured into new initiatives, new venues, and different types of educational events that aimed to enhance professional growth and foster meaningful connections.

Furthermore, we were delighted to try new social and networking venues in 2023 and a trivia session during our AMCP Nexus Affiliate meeting. These events provided an opportunity to strengthen our bonds as a community. Your enthusiasm, engagement and sportsmanship exemplified the spirit of Northwest AMCP and showcased the incredible camaraderie that exists within our organization.

I am confident that this year will be even more fruitful for Northwest AMCP, and I would like to share a glimpse of what we can look forward to in 2024. While these dates and activities are subject to change, please mark your calendars for the following:

**February** 29th: Educational Event in Seattle. Join us for a CE session hosted by Impact Education. Topic: Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE). Location TBD, stay tuned!

**March:** Seattle Managed Care Day for Students (Date TBD): This event will provide an opportunity for students to engage in discussions surrounding managed care pharmacy and career opportunities.

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April:
- April 3rd: Educational Event in Seattle. Back by population demand! It was a hit in Portland in 2023, so please join us for A Managed Care Discussion on Obesity Management in Seattle.
- April 16-19th: Affiliate Meeting at AMCP Annual. Exact date TBD, but we hope to see you at AMCP Annual and at our Northwest Affiliate Meeting in New Orleans, LA.
- April 19th: Term starts for 2024-2025 Northwest AMCP Board.
- April 25th: Portland Legislative Update. We are pleased to announce a visit from National AMCP, where members can attend an educational session and discussion on legislative matters.

May:
- May 13th Seattle Social and Networking Event. Details TBD. Expect a casual gathering where members can socialize, network, and strengthen professional relationships. There is a chance for a more formal membership meeting just prior to the fun. Stay tuned.
- Career Preparation Roundtable for Residents. Date TBD. This virtual event aims to provide guidance and support to residents starting their careers within managed care pharmacy.

June, July, August: Social and Networking Events in Portland and Boise. Dates and details will be set by our new board when they start term in April. These events will foster connection and professional growth.

September: Portland Educational Event. Date TBD. Join us for an educational event in Portland, where experts will share insights and knowledge on topics relevant to managed care pharmacy.

October 14-17th: Northwest Affiliate Meeting at AMCP Nexus. Exact date TBD, but we hope to see you at AMCP Nexus and at our Northwest Affiliate meeting in Las Vegas, NV!

November: Portland Managed Care Day for students. Date TBD. This event will provide an opportunity for students to come together and engage in discussions surrounding managed care pharmacy and career opportunities.

These dates, events, and details are subject to change, and we will keep you informed of any updates or additions as they arise. We welcome any suggestions or ideas for events that you believe would benefit our membership and contribute to the success of our organization. We value your feedback and are committed to ensuring that your membership experience remains exceptional.

I wish you all a happy New Year and I look forward to our continued collaboration and success in the coming year.

Erin Novak
President, Northwest AMCP Affiliate
the regulatory update, and then work on implementation. I work alongside our Compliance team in meetings with our CMS assigned account manager.

What do you enjoy most about your work?
I enjoy the problem solving. There’s really no set day-to-day, so every day is different. I set my own goals, work with my leaders to prioritize those goals, and then work with the team to implement those goals. It’s individually driven and allows for flexibility. I also find that I have good work-life balance. [Blue Shield of Idaho] is a great employer to work for.

Are there any recent projects that you’re able to talk about?
The IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) brings a lot of provisions related to the Part D benefit. The PBM is going to do some heavy lifting with implementing. Implementing changes requires close collaboration with my Medicare pharmacy team to ensure we understand the guidance, its impact. I ensure there is clarity on what the PBM is implementing and what BC Idaho should be implementing. We communicate these changes with other stakeholders at Blue Cross in advance and work closely with our compliance team. I’m learning a lot of new material to keep up with changes.

What innovations have you seen at Blue Cross of Idaho?
One interesting thing I’ve seen since coming here is innovative direct contracting with manufacturers for drug rebates, specifically medical drugs. While Idaho is a small market, Blue Cross Idaho is one of the bigger plans so we are able to implement preferred drug changes quickly and have uptake in the provider community. I think there’s a benefit to both the plan and the member because the member does get the benefit of lower cost.

When you interact with Medicare, what are you responsible for?
We have a monthly meeting with the CMS regional office that’s assigned to us. We review high level updates. My focus is to comprehend all the Medicare regulatory updates through weekly memo releases, analyze

What is unique about your role?
My primary job is the management of the pharmacy operations for the government programs line of business: Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, and dual eligible plans. I’m heavily focused on administrative tasks with oversight of the PBM (pharmacy benefits manager) and our relationship with them. A lot of my day-to-day is much more centered in relationships with the PBM or with our internal stakeholders.

What do you think needs to be changed in the scope of managed care?
I hesitate to comment on the scope of the industry because I don’t consider myself an expert, but I think one of the primary areas that everybody has focus on is “how do we control drug costs while still maintaining access?” How do we, as an industry, (cont.)
Tell us something people may not know about you.
I love to cook food, especially Cajun food. From Louisiana, embracing my roots there so I'm a pretty good cook.

Is there anything you wanted to share with the membership?
I don't have any groundbreaking insight. I would say that after being in this industry for three years, I still think it's always important to remember who we are here to serve and that is our patients and members. So regardless of what your role is in managed care, a payer PBM, industry, or a health system, it's always about remembering our patients/members are the reason we're all here. I like the Medicare world, because it is very member centered and they have a lot of protections that the commercial world follows. My kind of message to put patients first.

Based on the trajectory of your career what possible roles did you feel empowered to pursue?
I really found the passion for operations roles. I really like the operations and regulatory oversight, so moving into more of a leadership role with a focus on that. I've been given a good set of tools here in this current role to pursue more strategic based roles where you're looking at the bigger picture, like in a director role. I would perceive myself staying in the health plan space. Other items include industry and other parts of the managed care, PBM world.

address these growing costs, maintain access, and ensure that patients get the right drug at a reasonable cost? I think that with the way that the government's been with the Inflation Reduction Act, it focuses on Medicare negotiating drug costs, kind of a controversy. I think we're just going to continue to see this as an interesting challenge.

Since you're on the newer side like you said, what is some advice that you have for students or new practitioners who are interested in pursuing managed care?
Many organizations are looking for people that have some baseline experience, so I think the most important thing is networking, getting to meet people, and know people. AMCP serves a great function, especially when you're in school. I didn't go to a school that was involved in AMCP, but when it came time for rotations, I sought out managed care experiences or opportunities within an organization I worked with that has ties to managed care. Even in a retail setting, I worked on a medication adherence project that was tied to quality improvement measures. This was my introduction to payers and the world of quality improvement. Not every managed care experience is going to start at PBM or a health plan. Just be open to those opportunities wherever you may find them.

Is there anything you wanted to share with the membership?
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Northwest AMCP is excited to announce the remarkable achievements of two outstanding members of our community.

First, we are proud to congratulate Carly Rodriguez, Pharm.D., FAMCP, on being elected as the President-Elect for the 2024 AMCP Board of Directors. Carly has been a long-standing member of AMCP, serving as the President of the Northwest Affiliate, Chair of the Schools of Pharmacy Relations and Organization Affairs Committees, and holding two terms as a Director on the AMCP Board of Directors. Her exceptional leadership and dedication to the field of managed care pharmacy have been recognized through this prestigious election. We have no doubt that Carly's tenure as President-Elect and future President will bring new heights of success and innovation to AMCP. We express our gratitude to Carly for being a role model and inspiration to all members of Northwest AMCP.

Second, we are thrilled to congratulate Kevin Li, a member of Northwest AMCP, for being awarded the Cathy A. Carroll Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes outstanding students in our field who have shown exceptional academic performance and a deep commitment to their studies, particularly in the areas of health and economics outcomes research (HEOR) or industry. Kevin's dedication to his studies and passion for advancing the field of managed care pharmacy have earned him this prestigious recognition. As a Northwest AMCP member, we are incredibly proud of Kevin and look forward to his continued success in his career.

Carly Rodriguez and Kevin Li are exemplary members of Northwest AMCP, demonstrating outstanding leadership and dedication to advancing the field of managed care pharmacy. Their achievements are a testament to their remarkable skills, expertise, and passion for this profession. We are honored to have them as members of Northwest AMCP and wish them continued success in their future endeavors. Please join us in congratulating Carly and Kevin on their outstanding accomplishments.
Something I appreciate about my mentee?
- Hanna is a great communicator. She always organized and comes prepared to meetings with thoughtful questions and topics she would like to discuss which helps me ensure I go over content that is most useful to her.

What have you gained from a mentor?
- Finding my mentor was one of the impactful opportunities that helped develop my career pathway. My mentor was always ready to provide helpful information, guiding me to build various approaches to achieve my goals and professional relationships.

What is the best lesson(s) you have learned from each other?
- **Hanna:** As we continued to build our relationships, I grew not only professionally but also personally. When you show a willingness to learn and find chances proactively, they will be there to teach and help you with your best interest in mind.
- **Cece:** Speaking with Hanna and being a mentor has reminded me the importance of active listening and recognizing there are many paths in order to reach the same goal, the path one person takes is not necessarily the best option for another.
Program goal: to provide guidance to student pharmacists and pharmacy residents on career development, collaboration with other professionals, and personal growth. This program is open to all students and residents currently enrolled in a pharmacy program, though, priority is given to students and residents enrolled in programs in the Northwest region.

What is Mentorship? Mentorship is a unique opportunity to connect with experienced peers who can guide you through your academic and career journey. Whether you’re a P1 or pharmacy resident, having a mentor can make a world of difference in your managed care experience.

Why Sign Up?
- Gain insights from those who’ve been in your shoes
- Navigate academic choices and career pathways
- Build meaningful connections and lifelong friendships
- Discover your true potential and passion

To sign-up as a Mentee, follow the instructions below:
1. Visit https://www.amcp.org/northwest-amcp
2. Review the NW AMCP Student Mentorship Program Guide
3. Identify and email a potential mentor listed in the NW AMCP Student Mentor Directory
4. Once the mentor confirms, work with you mentor to complete the NW AMCP Mentor-Mentee Agreement Form
5. Email form to northwest@amcp.org
6. Start collaborating with your mentor and build a trusting relationship guided around career goals, professional opportunities, and much more!

Are you interested in participating as a Mentor?
1. Review the NW AMCP Student Mentorship Program Guide
2. Complete and email the NW AMCP Volunteer Student Mentor Form to northwest@amcp.org
The NW Affiliate hosted our annual Fall Managed Care Day on Friday, November 3rd at PacificSource Health Plans in downtown Portland, Oregon. During this event, over 27 student attendees learned from pharmacists working at health plans, industry organizations, pharmacy benefit managers, and other managed care pharmacy roles.

The event began with presentations on managed care and industry pharmacy from Tina Huynh and Long Nguyen respectively. After a networking lunch, students were exposed to diverse perspectives during panels and group conversations with Tiffany Jones, Lisa Boyle, Wisam Younis, Lauren Coons, Erin Nowak, Kenneth Garcia, Alex Dong, Craig Sexton, and Melissa Bailey-Hall. These activities were followed by site tours and additional presentations at Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and Moda Health.

After Managed Care Day, members of the NW AMCP chapter joined us at McCormick & Schmick’s for a wonderful reception dinner arranged by our Social Chairs, JT Lew and Nora Francis. While we reconnected with each other over food and drinks, students met more AMCP members through an icebreaker game of bingo (with prizes!).

Since these events, many attendees have applied to related internships, continued networking with our pharmacists and industry partners, and deepened their exploration of managed care. Some students have reported greater confidence in applying for managed care residencies or success in arranging managed care APPEs due to what they learned at this event. Please look forward to seeing many of these proactive students become our future colleagues!

Thank you to our sponsors Eli Lilly and GSK for supporting Managed Care Day and making this valuable educational event possible!

**Upcoming Event:**
Watch out for our annual Spring Managed Care Day event set to take place in late March in the Seattle Area!
WE ARE LIGHTING UP NORTHWEST PHARMACY SCHOOL CAREER FAIRS: CELEBRATING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND RE-ENERGIZING CHAPTERS!

Fourth Quarter Highlights:

We are thrilled to share that the Northwest AMCP Affiliate had a strong presence at local pharmacy student career fairs this fall. Board members supported booths live at Pacific University School of Pharmacy in Hillsboro, OR and Washington State University's (WSU) Spokane and Yakima campuses.

The career fairs provided an excellent opportunity for students to connect with various organizations, including Northwest AMCP, to discuss various career paths within the pharmacy profession. Students are encouraged to follow up on the learnings from these career fairs. Notably:

- Become an AMCP member here: Become a Member!
- Follow Northwest AMCP emails and social media to get involved in local events and initiatives.
- Join the student mentorship program. More information on our mentorship program can be found on our website at NW AMCP.

A special shoutout to our participating board members, Henry Nguyen, JT Lew, and Kenneth Garcia, and Erin Nowak who supported the AMCP booths at the career fairs. Their commitment and enthusiasm were instrumental in making these events a tremendous success.

We would also like to highlight the outstanding efforts of Kathy "Kat" Nguyen, the President of the WSU student AMCP chapter. Kat’s passion for managed care pharmacy and her determination to re-energize the WSU chapter have been truly inspiring.

The Northwest Affiliate hopes to continue these efforts and empower the next generation of pharmacy professionals by encouraging them to explore the diverse career opportunities within managed care pharmacy.

JT Lew at Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Yakima Campus

Erin Nowak and Kat Nguyen at Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Spokane Campus
Did you hear? There was a new Managed Care Elective course at Oregon State University (OSU) College of Pharmacy that occurred this fall for OSU pharmacy students. This inaugural course aimed to further develop student skills in providing clinically sound and cost-effective drug therapy.

The course, designed by Kendal Pucik, a driven and passionate student at OSU, and Dr. Megan Herink, an Associate Clinical Profession at OSH/OHSU College of Pharmacy, provided students with a unique learning opportunity. Through a series of lectures delivered by industry experts from various facets of managed care, students gained valuable insights into this specialized field. The course not only focused on theoretical knowledge but also provided practical opportunities for students to become involved with professional organizations. The Northwest AMCP Affiliate board has the privilege of delivering a guest lecture to the course, educating students about the importance of AMCP and how they can get involved as students and beyond. This lecture highlighted the vast opportunities available within AMCP and how students can make a significant impact in the field of managed care pharmacy.

The collaboration between the OSU College of Pharmacy, Kendal Pucik, Dr. Megan Herink, and the Northwest AMCP Affiliate board resulted in an enriching educational experience for the students. The course not only deepened their understanding of managed care pharmacy but also inspired them to actively engage in this rapidly evolving field.

We would like to express our gratitude to Kendal and Dr. Herink for their dedication and hard work in building and executing this remarkable course. Their commitment to providing students with a comprehensive and practical learning experience is truly commendable. We believe their engagement and passion will shape the future of the profession and drive positive change in patient care.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Northwest Chapter of AMCP as we continue supporting educational initiatives and fostering the growth of aspiring managed care pharmacy professionals.
Thank you to all of the professors, preceptors, and other staff who support student pharmacists interested in exploring the field of managed care pharmacy. We are incredibly grateful for the countless hours you spend educating, precepting, mentoring, and coordinating learning experiences that allow student pharmacists to see if managed care pharmacy fits their career goals and help prepare them to apply for post-graduate residency and fellowship opportunities. The NW AMCP Fall and Spring Managed Care Day events would not be possible without your generosity and service!

The NW AMCP Student Affairs Committee is open to both AMCP and non-AMCP student pharmacist members. If you know of a student pharmacist currently enrolled at Idaho State University, Pacific University, Oregon State University, University of Hawaii – Hilo, University of Montana, University of Washington, or Washington State University, who is interested in participating, please contact JT Lew (Jeffrey.Lew@multicare.org) and he can add you to the distribution list.

Sincerely,

NW AMCP Affiliate Student Affairs Committee
A Heartfelt Thank You from the Northwest Affiliate!

To Our Incredible Sponsor’s,

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, the Northwest Affiliate would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for all of the extraordinary support we’ve been provided from our sponsor’s for all Northwest Affiliate events.

This generosity has not only enabled us to host impactful educational and networking events throughout this year but has also been instrumental in contributing to the professional development of our members.

As we eagerly anticipate the dawn of 2024, we look forward to another year of incredible events. With the continued support from sponsors like you, we are confident that the coming year will bring even more opportunities for growth, learning, and collaboration.

Again, we extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsor’s for their ongoing support and thank you all for being an essential part of our journey. Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Warm regards,
Michael Lee
Northwest AMCP Treasurer 2023 – 2024
The Northwest AMCP Affiliate is immensely appreciative for your contribution to our event! Your support has enabled us to continue our mission to serve the AMCP membership in the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. It means the absolute world to us, and we feel genuinely encouraged by your commitment and cannot express enough gratitude for trusting in our mission.

Is your organization interested in sponsoring Northwest AMCP Affiliate for 2023-2024 year? See below for the different opportunities! Feel free to email northwestamcp@gmail.com for any questions.

**2023 Annual Gold Sponsors**
- BeiGene

**2023 Annual Bronze Sponsors**
- Abbott Diabetes Care
- Blueprint Medicines
- CVS Health

**2023 Annual Silver Sponsors**
- Gilead
- Moderna

**Workstream Sponsor (Q4 2023)**
- Lilly USA, LLC

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**Gold Annual Sponsor**
- $7,500
- All Silver Level Benefits
- 2 registrations to 2 networking event per calendar year
- 2 registrations to 2 educational event per calendar year
- Exhibit table at 2 events per calendar year (dependant on space)
- Opportunity to provide a brief update (2 minutes) at two NW Affiliate events
- Recognition of sponsorship in the NW Affiliate Quarterly Newsletters

**Silver Annual Sponsor**
- $5,000
- All Bronze Level benefits plus
- 2 registrations to 1 networking event per calendar year and
- 2 registrations to 1 educational event per calendar year
- Exhibit table at 1 event per calendar year (dependant on space)

**Bronze Annual Sponsor**
- $2,500
- 1 registration to 1 networking event per calendar year
- 1 registration to 1 educational event per calendar year
- Recognition of sponsorship in one post on the NW AMCP LinkedIn and Instagram accounts and
- Recognition of sponsorship in one article in a NW AMCP quarterly newsletter

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**Workstream Sponsor**
- $500
- 1 registration to sponsored workstream/event
- Recognition of sponsorship in one post on the NW AMCP LinkedIn and Instagram accounts
- Recognition of sponsorship in one article in a NW AMCP quarterly newsletter

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Help us continue to serve our members in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington!
The NW AMCP Affiliate is offering four student travel grants of $750 each to AMCP Annual 2024. Open to pharmacy students residing in WA, OR, HI, AK, ID, and MT.

Application Deadline: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Application: https://forms.gle/vFZ2SYg7kwcXS2ev8

Questions? Contact northwest@amcp.org
UPCOMING EVENTS: BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The NW AMCP Affiliate is looking for the best individuals 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 (WA, OR, ID, MT, AK, and HI).

The NW AMCP Affiliate Board consists of individuals who possess Managed Care Pharmacy experience with diverse perspectives. We encourage our regional members working with Health Plans, Industry, Consulting, PBM services, Academia, and Specialty Pharmacy partners to submit applications.

The NW Affiliate is looking for Members to lead who:
1. Are dedicated to the AMCP mission of advancing Managed Care Pharmacy initiatives and programs throughout our NW region
2. Demonstrate experience and expertise in their field
3. Are 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 an email identifying the position(s) you're nominating/applying for and a brief paragraph highlighting your interest.

Nomination Deadline: 1/15/2024

NORTHWEST@AMCP.ORG

JOIN THE 2024-2025 NW AMCP BOARD
• President-Elect
• Secretary-Elect
• Treasurer-Elect
• Program Development Chair
• Membership Engagement Chairs (2)
• Communications Chair
• Colleges of Pharmacy Liaisons (2)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

2024-2025 NW AFFILIATE BOARD DESCRIPTION OF ROLES
APPLICATIONS FORM
UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 NW AMCP ANNUAL AWARDS

The Northwest AMCP 2024 Annual Award nominations are now open. You may now nominate a colleague or yourself for the 2024 NW AMCP Annual Awards!

Please visit: NW AMCP Annual Awards to submit nominations. Nominations close January 26, 2024, and awardees will be announced and recognized at AMCP Annual 2024.

READY TO NOMINATE?

1. NW AMCP Rising Student of the Year Award
   This award recognizes a NW AMCP Affiliate student member who has demonstrated growth in academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to advancing the practice of managed care pharmacy through involvement in AMCP activities and initiatives. This award is designed to encourage and support students who are pursuing a career in managed care pharmacy and is on the path to showing exceptional promise in the field. The award not only recognizes the excellence of the recipient but also serves as an inspiration for other students to pursue excellence in their academic and professional endeavors.

2. NW AMCP New Practitioner Award
   This award recognizes a NW AMCP Affiliate member who has made meaningful contributions to managed care pharmacy within 5 years of graduation from first professional degree program in Pharmacy, Medicine, or Nursing.

3. NW AMCP Lifetime Achievement Award
   This award recognizes a NW AMCP Affiliate member who has made exceptional and sustained contribution to AMCP on a national and regional level over at least a 5-year period. Their contributions align with AMCP's mission "to improve patient health by ensuring access to quality, cost-effective medications and other therapies."

4. NW AMCP Distinguished Service Award
   This award recognizes a NW AMCP Affiliate member who has made exceptional and sustained contributions to the affiliate. Their contributions align with the Affiliate's mission "To serve the AMCP membership in the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington."

5. NW AMCP Outstanding Mentor Award
   This award recognizes a NW AMCP Affiliate member for their role in supporting, encouraging, and promoting the success of students through the NW Mentorship Program. The award is designed to honor a mentor that has devoted themselves to helping students develop and reach their goals and is committed to guiding and shaping the next generation of pharmacists.

Many thanks!
Northwest AMCP Board of Directors
AMCP National Meeting 2024
See you there! April 15 - 18, 2024 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA

AMCP Collaborate is now LIVE!
Collaborate is a platform for AMCP members to connect and share ideas and solutions about the most vexing challenges in health care today. Join conversations today within the Collaborate connected communities. Learn More Here.

NEW! AMCP Drug Product Pipeline
Check out AMCP's Drug Product Pipeline! Your gateway to tomorrow's medications, treatments, and cures. AMCP and Apperture are proud to present the AMCP Drug Product Pipeline, the latest innovation in providing access and insight into the formulary decision-making process. Learn more Here about three versions of the Pipeline available for use.
Amelia (Brown) Foyle got married in October at the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle. It was a beautiful day to celebrate!

Interested in sharing your professional or personal life updates with NW AMCP? Please shoot us an email at northwest@amcp.org, subject line: member on the move, and include a short update and picture! We love seeing our members excel in life!