Greetings California AMCP Affiliate members,

California AMCP is off to a busy start for 2024. We kicked off the year with our first board retreat on January 7th and launched our newsletter on January 9th. Throughout January, we actively engaged in various events, including hosting an RNA webinar sponsored by Ionis Pharmaceuticals on January 18th, presenting to the UCSD AMCP chapter on January 22nd, and participating in a local CSHP Chapter Installation Banquet on January 29th. On February 29th, we hosted a networking event in San Diego with over 50 in attendance. We were also in attendance at WesternU Night of Managed Care on February 13th. March started off with our participation in UCSD RxConnections on the first, and continued with our successful hosting of Impact Education for a CE dinner on EoE in Orange County with a fantastic turnout. Last but not least, we've announced our very first Day of Education which will be held on September 21st at USC.

Looking forward to the remainder of the year, filled with new adventures, exciting possibilities and shared successes.

Jonathan Toft PharmD, MBA, President, California AMCP
Special thanks to our sponsors!

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Against the beautiful backdrop of the Giracci Vineyards in Orange County, the California AMCP board met to brainstorm and map out 2024! Topics of key interest included increasing payer engagement, student programs, and hosting the very first CA AMCP Day of Education!

The board thanks Chad and Linda Kearns for hosting us inside their lovely winery and tasting room (Fun Fact: Chad is a pharmacist himself!)
CE Program and Dinner on March 7th

Orange County

In partnership with Impact Education, we convened over 60 professionals for an engaging evening focused on applying regional health plan best practices in treating eosinophilic esophagitis.

Our attendees had a great time learning, engaging with the presenters and panelists, and networking over food and drinks.
Our very first social event of the year took place in San Diego at New English Brewing. It was a hit! Over 50 attendees from across Southern California came to socialize, network, and sample some beers!

Many thanks to our volunteer, Bimal Patel, for coordinating this very successful event!
WesternU Night of Managed Care
February 13th

WesternU AMCP hosted its annual Night of Managed Care event in February, hosting 38 attendees for dinner and roundtable discussions. This year’s event featured 7 fantastic guest speakers from various managed care backgrounds, sharing valuable insight about their career paths with the student pharmacist attendees!

Student AMCP chapters: Reach out to us at California@AMCP.org (and please include photos if available!) to share info about your recent or upcoming events

USC Building Bridges
March 23rd

USC AMCP recently hosted the 20th annual Building Bridges event at their University Park Campus. Featuring a keynote on the importance of networking from Dr. William Lai, the event hosted 12 professionals from various paths of industry and managed care pharmacy. Students and professionals alike were able to network and learn from each other over dinner and breakout sessions.
STUDENT PHARMACY PROGRAMS

LEO PHARMA & GILEAD

Are you interested in learning more about a day in the life of a pharmaceutical manufacturer? Apply to be selected for the LEO Pharma Student Shadowing Day or Gilead Student Pharmacy Program!

LEO PHARMA: AUG 14-15
GILEAD: SEP 10-11

Due: May 3, 2024

For More Information
Please Visit: www.amcp.org/california-amcp
Application can be found [here](#)
Michael Blatt, PharmD

Dr. Blatt is the Director of Clinical Pharmacy and Product Strategy at Inland Empire Health Plan. He has also served on the California DHCS Medi-Cal Global Drug Use Review (DUR) Board since 2017.

We congratulate Dr. Blatt for being elected as the Chair of the DHCS Medi-Cal DUR Board, beginning January 2024!

Photo courtesy of Helen Lee

Helen Lee, PharmD, MBA, CDE

Dr. Lee is the Senior Director of Pharmacy Services at Alameda Alliance for Health.

We congratulate Dr. Lee for joining as a new board member of the DHCS Medi-Cal DUR Board in January 2024, and for her Certificate of Appreciation for Pharmacy Program Best Practices!

Photos courtesy of Helen Lee

Do you or a colleague have a recent professional accomplishment you’d like us to highlight? We’d love to hear about it! Please email us at california@amcp.org
What are some key initiatives your organization is currently working on?

Ventegra remains the only Medical Benefit Manager that is transitioning into a nonprofit structure to ensure sustainability for the community it serves. Its mission is to establish new channels, products and solutions for delivering better efficiencies and more cost-effective healthcare.

Ventegra remains one of the few independent entities in the market that directly contracts with manufacturers and passes on such discounts directly to clients. It is also the only B-Lab Certified California Benefit Corporation administering pharmacy and medical benefit programs under the MBM class-of-trade. Ventegra provides pharmacy benefit administration using a different proprietary framework than traditional PBMs. Ventegra’s solution is compliant with CAA, provides 100% pass through of all discounts (not just the “rebates”), a fully transparent claims adjudication process with no hidden fees nor margins (and no clawbacks).

Ventegra remains a company run by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians for the clinical benefit of patients, payors, providers and pharmaceutical industry.

Why did you join AMCP and what do you enjoy most about being a member?

We share the common goal with AMCP to further the pharmacy profession in managed care and population health. We support its members to improve patient care by ensuring access to high-quality, cost-effective medications and other therapies.

AMCP is the professional association leading the way to achieve the right balance between quality of care, cost, and outcome.

Is there anything else you would like to share with CA AMCP about Ventegra?

Pertinent to CA AMCP, Ventegra has a unique focus on:

- Preserving the pharmacy profession through support of independent pharmacies, small businesses and professional organizations (like AMCP).
- The launch of Ventegra University to provide a “trade school for healthcare.” We started by creating a managed care fellowship for pharmacists (now in its second year), and will be investigating starting a technician school, hiring pharmacy interns, and expanding our role as an educator for healthcare thereafter.
- Supporting and powering the creation of new businesses using the Ventegra platform as a new solution to replace traditional PBMs.
UPCOMING EVENTS

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT WESTERNU

MAY 11

10AM-3PM

Student programming with reception after conference from 3-6PM
Held by WesternU AMCP Chapter
Pomona, CA
No cost for pharmacists; $40 for students
Register HERE

NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR IN SACRAMENTO

MAY 20

5PM-8PM

Sponsored by: Novo Nordisk
Event will take place evening before May 21st Medi-Cal DUR Board Meeting for the convenience of those traveling in!
Butcher and Barrel
Downtown Sacramento
Register HERE

CE PROGRAM IN SAN DIEGO

JUN 4

5-9 PM

Topic: Advanced Targeted Therapies Aimed at Smoldering disease and Multiple Sclerosis
In partnership with Pharmacy Times
San Diego, CA
SAVE THE DATE!
UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

**JUN 13**

**NETWORKING EVENT IN ORANGE COUNTY**

Sponsored by Madrigal Pharmaceuticals
GameCraft Brewing
Laguna Hills, CA
Registration coming soon!

**JUN 27**

**EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR**

Sponsored by Eisai
SAVE THE DATE!
Additional details to come

**SEP 21**

**CA AMCP DAY OF EDUCATION**

At USC Mann School of Pharmacy
Los Angeles, CA
SAVE THE DATE!
Additional details to come

We are excited to be hosting this affiliate's first Day of Education on September 21st!
We are currently seeking ideas for CE topics. Please share your thoughts with us at california@amcp.org

More 2024 events are being planned, so stay tuned!
Thank You from our Board Members

Jonathan Toft, PharmD, MBA  
MedImpact  
President

Jignesh Patel, PharmD  
MedImpact  
Treasurer

Sami Nasrawi, PharmD  
Alnylam  
Secretary

Jeana Lingenfelter, PharmD, MBA  
Risk Strategies Consulting  
Northern California Delegate

Zachary Contreras, PharmD  
Sharp Health Plan  
Southern California Delegate

Hiva Pourarsalan, PharmD  
Aetna  
Education/Planning

Hyesoo Chae, PharmD, MBA, BCPS  
UCSF Health  
Student Affairs

Charles Dragovich, RPh,  
Cencora  
Sponsorships and Engagement

Rochelle Yang, PharmD  
Teva  
Communication Co-Chair

Cornelia Lin, PharmD  
Optum Rx  
Communication Co-Chair

It takes a village. Many thanks to our volunteers for assisting us!

Kimberly Moore  
Abbvie  
Day of Education Coordinator

Bimal Patel, PharmD  
Tandem Diabetes  
SD Event Liaison

Elven Xiao, PharmD  
MedWatchers  
LA Event Liaison

Amy Patel, PharmD  
Ferring  
OC Event Liaison

Chase Saunders, PharmD  
Johnson & Johnson  
SF Event Liaison

Mike Pazirandeh, PharmD  
Gilead  
LA CPL

Allen Yousif  
WesternU Communications

Errol Manarang  
WesternU Communications

Tiffany Tran  
WesternU Communications

Raj Gandhi, PharmD  
NorCal CPL

Kathy Nguyen, PharmD  
MedImpact  
SoCal CPL
The CA AMCP affiliate is seeking sponsorships for 2024 as we continue to grow and offer new programs and events for our members.

- **BRONZE - $2,500**
- **SILVER - $5,000**
- **GOLD - $10,000**

All corporate sponsors will be recognized by the CA AMCP affiliate as follows:

- Recognition on CA AMCP affiliate website, newsletter, and slide presentations at all affiliate events
- Silver and Gold partners will receive additional benefits and recognition

For more information, contact Charlie Dragovich at californiaamcpdragovich@gmail.com, or via phone at 727-336-0834
Are you a Payer looking to be more involved in California AMCP?

What is the Payer Ambassador Program?
This is a small focus group where you can voice your thoughts and perspective that will shape the affiliate, as well as provide insights on event topics, locations, and dates to help encourage more payer engagement within California.

This program will be led by our regional delegates: Zachary Contreras (Southern California) and Jeana Lingenfelter (Northern California). We are seeking one participant from each organization and from each city. We plan to kick off this program May 2024.

Benefits
Payer Ambassadors will have access to our CA AMCP Affiliate Network to better connect with other. Ambassador will also receive priority registration for our events, and be recognized at local events, newsletters, and LinkedIn.

Requirements to Participate
- Employed with a health plan, PBM, or other managed care organization
- Residing in California
- Able to attend quarterly meetings with CA AMCP regional delegates
- Able to attend at least one in-person CA AMCP event annually (local or one of national AMCP events)

Want to get involved? Please contact our regional delegates:
- Zachary Contreras (Southern California) - zachary.contreras@sharp.com
- Jeana Lingenfelter (Northern California) - jlingenfelter@risk-strategies.com
CONTACT US

STAY CONNECTED

More events are being planned!
Visit our website [here](https://www.linkedin.com/company/california-amcp)

What’s the best way to connect with us and keep up to date?
Follow us on LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com/company/california-amcp](https://www.linkedin.com/company/california-amcp)

CONTACT US

General Questions?
Email us at [california@amcp.org](mailto:california@amcp.org)

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING?

Please contact Charlie Dragovich at [californiaamcpdragovich@gmail.com](mailto:californiaamcpdragovich@gmail.com),
or via phone at [727-336-0834](tel:+17273360834)