

APRIL 2024

California AMCP

Quarterly Newsletter

Message from Our President



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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Toft".

Jonathan Toft PharmD, MBA, President, California AMCP

Q1 2024 Newsletter Highlights

Message from Our President

Thanks to Our Sponsors!

Recap: Social Events, Educational Programs

Board and Member Updates

Student Chapters: Event Spotlight

Looking Ahead: Upcoming Events



Special thanks to our sponsors!

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors





JAN 7

BOARD RETREAT



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!)



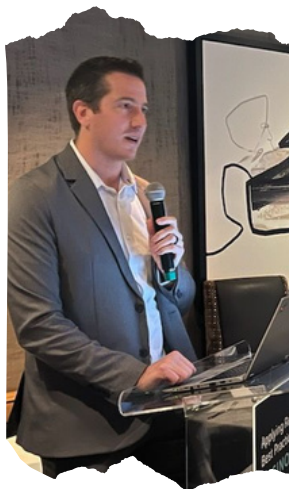
A Night of Education and Networking

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.



San Diego Brewery Networking Event February 29th



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!



Student AMCP Chapter Events

Highlighting our incredible student chapters across California!

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](#)

Member Spotlights

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!

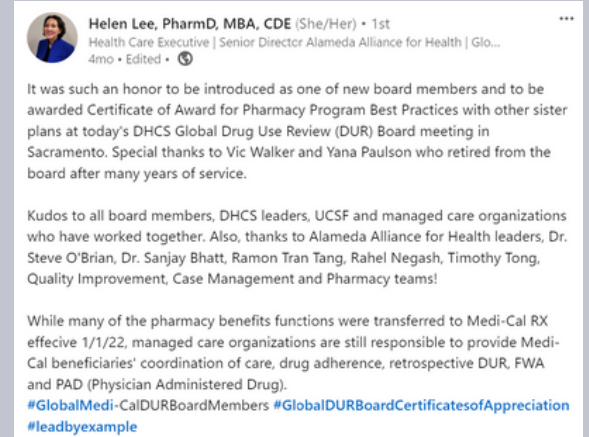


HELEN LEE, PHARMD, MBA, CDE



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 DCHS 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

Sponsor Spotlight:



Ventegra is a Medical Benefit Manager (MBM) that delivers innovative, cost-efficient pharmaceutical and healthcare solutions to payors, providers, and members.

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.

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.



Q&A with

**Robert T. Taketomo,
PharmD, MBA**

**Founder, President/CEO and
Chairman of the Board for both
Ventegra, Inc. and Ventegra
Foundation**

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY
11

10AM-3PM

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT WESTERNU

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](#)

MAY
20

5PM-8PM

NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR IN SACRAMENTO

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](#)

JUN
4

5-9 PM

CE PROGRAM IN SAN DIEGO

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

5-9 PM

NETWORKING EVENT IN ORANGE COUNTY

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

JUN
27

Time TBD

EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

Sponsored by **Eisai**
SAVE THE DATE!
Additional details to come

SEP
21

8AM - 5PM

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
Alylam
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 Saunder, PharmD
Johnson & Johnson
SF Event Liaison



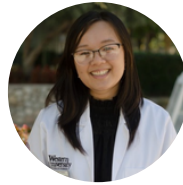
Mike Pazirandeh, PharmD
Gilead
LA CPL



Allen Yousif
WesternU
Communications



Errol Manarang
WesternU
Communications



Tiffany Tran
WesternU
Communications



Raj Gandhi, PharmD
NorCal CPL



Kathy Nguyen, PharmD
MedImpact
SoCal CPL

2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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?

Become a Payer Ambassador!

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 Ambassadors. Ambassadors 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 one least 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](#)

What's the best way to connect with us
and keep up to date?

Follow us on LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/company/california-amcp



General Questions?

Email us at california@amcp.org

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING?



Please contact **Charlie Dragovich**
at californiaamcpdragovich@gmail.com.

or via phone at **727-336-0834**

