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AMCP MIDWEST

2026 Summer Newsletter

President's Corner

From Joe Ward, AMCP Midwest President



Welcome to the AMCP Midwest newsletter! Thank you for taking the time to stay connected with our affiliate.

Momentum for AMCP Midwest is at an all-time high as we continue to achieve new attendance records event after event—a clear reflection of the energy, engagement, and value this community brings to managed care pharmacy across the region. It was also wonderful to see so many of you at AMCP Annual in Nashville this past April.

It is an honor to serve as AMCP Midwest President and support our affiliate's mission across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Our strength comes from our members, student pharmacists, delegates, sponsors, speakers, and Board of Directors—who continue to make AMCP Midwest a vibrant and collaborative professional community.

As we look ahead, our Days of Education and other affiliate programs remain important opportunities to bring managed care leaders together for timely discussion, practical learning, and meaningful connection. I am especially encouraged by the involvement of our student chapters and emerging leaders, whose curiosity and enthusiasm help strengthen the future of our affiliate.

I also want to offer special acknowledgement to Shefali Mihelich and the delegate team for constructing this newsletter content, and to our exceptional Board for their ongoing commitment, leadership, and collaboration. Their efforts make serving in this role a true joy.

Thank you again for being part of AMCP Midwest. I encourage you to attend an upcoming event, connect with a Board member or delegate, and consider how you might become more involved.

Whether you have been active for years or are just getting started,
there is a place for you in this community!
Best regards,

Joe Ward

AMCP Midwest President

[P.S. Registration Links](#)

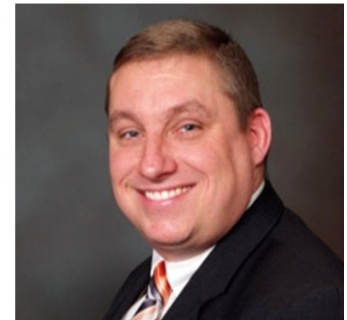
- Details for the AMCP Midwest Fall Days of Education are located at the end of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing everyone there in Detroit and Chicago!
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Spotlight Interview

Andy Colby, Vice President of Pharmacy at Health Alliance Plan by Henry Ford Health

Interview with Andy Colby, Vice President of Pharmacy at Health Alliance Plan by Henry Ford Health



Andy Colby's career in pharmacy has taken him from independent retail pharmacy to physician engagement, managed care programs, and health plan leadership. In this interview, he reflects on the choices that shaped his path, the evolving challenges facing managed care pharmacy, and the leadership principles that guide his work today.

What inspired you to become a pharmacist?

I did not come from a family of pharmacists. In high school, I was enrolled in a technical program to become an electrician, but one winter day, while roughing it in a house during a sleet storm, I realized that was not the career path I wanted for the rest of my life. At the same time, I was working in an independent pharmacy, helping with deliveries, working the lunch counter, and assisting in the front store. Pharmacy seemed to offer both stability and opportunity, so I worked with my guidance counselor to identify the courses I needed for pharmacy school and ultimately enrolled at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

What led you from retail pharmacy into managed care pharmacy?

After graduation, I worked in several pharmacy settings, including independent retail, long-term care, home infusion, hospital, and chain retail. Over time, I realized that traditional pharmacy settings were not where I wanted to spend my career. Around that point, I came across an opportunity with PCS, a pioneering pharmacy benefit manager, which was developing an academic detailing program focused on working directly with physicians. The role combined pharmacy knowledge with relationship-building and communication skills, and it suited me well. That experience led to leadership roles with Express Scripts, where I spent more than a decade in physician engagement and managed care programs before transitioning to the health plan side of managed care pharmacy.



How does Michigan compare with other markets you've worked in?

The work I am doing in Michigan is similar in many ways to my experience at Health New England in Massachusetts because both organizations focus on integrating health plan and health system priorities. The biggest contrast was my experience in the New York market with Emblem Health, where a sizable portion of the membership consisted of unionized groups such as our city employees. Those member expectations and business priorities were quite different. In Michigan, there is still a meaningful union presence, but the membership is more diverse, which creates a different operating environment and set of challenges.

17th Annual Detroit and Chicago Days of Education

2025 Days of Education

- Friday, September 25th, 2025 – Troy, MI
- Friday, November 20th, 2025 – Chicago, IL



Recap: Detroit 17th **Annual Day of Education!**



Event Overview

The 2025 AMCP Midwest

Detroit Day of Education brought together managed care leaders, payer organizations, health systems, and industry partners for a focused day of education, collaboration, and forward-looking discussion.

The program reinforced the value of regional forums that help stakeholders exchange ideas, strengthen professional relationships, and navigate a rapidly evolving managed care pharmacy landscape.

At a Glance

Location: Health Alliance Plan, Troy, MI

Format: Regional Day of Education

Focus: Managed care pharmacy trends

Managed care complexity is accelerating	Payer and manufacturer alignment remains important as market dynamics continue to shift.
Policy and PBM reform remain active disruptors	Ongoing monitoring is critical as policy changes and stakeholder expectations evolve.
Biosimilars and alternative models are affordability levers	Stakeholders discussed ways to support access and affordability through practical models.
Outcomes, data, and collaboration will shape future success	Real-world evidence, cross-functional collaboration, and pragmatic insights remain central to decision-making.

Community, Education, and Connection

Beyond the education sessions, the event created opportunities for peer-to-peer engagement and networking across stakeholders. Speakers, sponsors, board members, and delegates contributed to a content-rich experience that supported AMCP Midwest's mission to foster collaboration across the managed care pharmacy community.

Recap: Chicago 17th **Annual Day of Education!**



Event Highlights

AMCP Midwest successfully convened its 17th Annual Day of Education – Chicago on Friday, , at the Renaissance Chicago Downtown. The event brought together members and healthcare leaders for timely discussion on the policy, clinical, and market issues shaping managed care pharmacy.

- **Strong regional participation:** Attendees gathered for a full day of education, networking, and professional connection in downtown Chicago.
- **Broad perspective:** Speakers represented health plans, employer groups, academia, industry, consulting, and professional associations.
- **Collaborative tone:** Natalie Pirkola, President of AMCP Midwest, opened the program with remarks emphasizing engagement, learning, and shared discussion across the managed care community.
- **Meaningful networking:** The event created opportunities for attendees to exchange ideas, reconnect with colleagues, and build new professional relationships.

Program Sessions

- **Legislative & Regulatory Insights: Federal and Illinois:** Examined policy developments at both the federal and state levels and their potential impact on managed care pharmacy, coverage decision-making, and stakeholder engagement.
- **How Self-Funded Employers Are Shaping the Pharmacy Benefit Landscape:** Explored how employer purchasers are influencing benefit strategy, affordability, innovation, accountability, and pharmacy management.
- **Weighing the Evidence: Clinical & Economic Outcomes of Weight Loss GLP-1s:** Focused on the expanding role of GLP-1 therapies and the complex questions surrounding

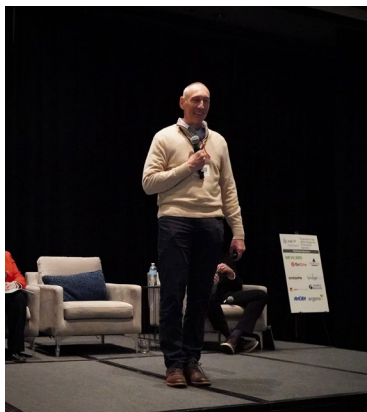


clinical value, economic impact, patient access, and payer sustainability.

- **Navigating Uncertainty & Rapid Market Changes:**

Addressed the need for agility, cross-sector collaboration, and strategic thinking as organizations respond to market, policy, and care delivery shifts.

AMCP Midwest extends its thanks to the speakers, moderators, attendees, sponsors, and chapter leaders who contributed to the success of this year's event. Their engagement and expertise helped make the 17th Annual Day of Education another meaningful and impactful gathering for the chapter and its members.





Midwest & Southwest Social First Ever Collaboration Event



AMCP University of Minnesota 10th Annual Midwest Regional Conference

The 10th Annual AMCP Midwest Regional Conference took place in March at Huntington Bank Stadium. This two-day, student-organized conference brought together pharmacy students and area professionals for managed care education and networking.

- **Record attendance:** The conference welcomed nearly 100 registrants, making it the most attended AMCP Midwest Regional Conference in its 10-year history.
- **Strong student engagement:** Students led planning and execution, creating a meaningful forum for professional development, education, and networking.
- **P&T Competition success:** Minnesota continued its impressive performance in the AMCP P&T Competition, with the top team earning a spot in the national competition.
- **Expanded preparation:** The team's success was supported by a newly developed course designed to build stronger background knowledge and practical skills for P&T decision-making.

Minnesota students also provided photograph highlights from the regional conference and related chapter activities. Pictures can be added below this section.

AMCP University of Minnesota 2026 Photos





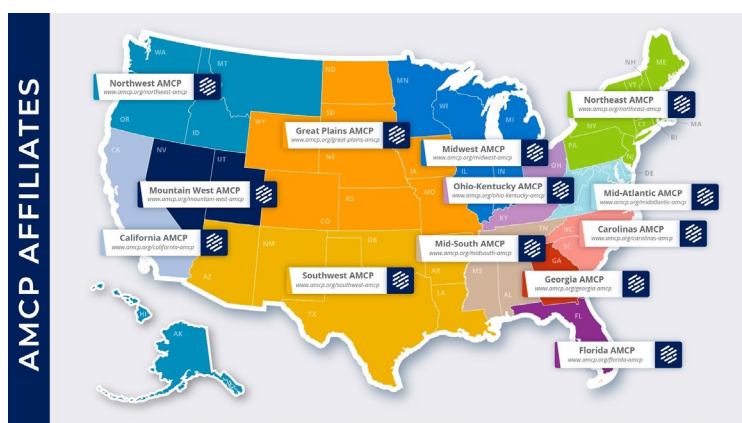
AMCP Midwest Scholarship Recipients

2026 Gilead and LEO Pharma Program and Scholarships



Overview: The 2026 Student Pharmacy Programs provide pharmacy students with exposure to multiple functional areas within a pharmaceutical company, including lab and facility tours, networking receptions, and opportunities to connect with PharmD professionals and executive leaders.

Focus Areas: Drug development, regulatory affairs, manufacturing, and channel distribution, legal and compliance, commercial marketing, market access, field medical affairs, HEOR, and fellowship pathways.





Celebrating the 2026 LEO Pharma & Gilead Pharmacy Shadowing Experience Scholarship Winners

AMCP Midwest is pleased to recognize the recipients of the 2026 LEO Pharma and Gilead Pharmacy Shadowing Experience Scholarships. These competitive programs provide student pharmacists with firsthand exposure to the pharmaceutical industry and opportunities to explore career pathways in managed care, clinical development, public affairs, and industry innovation.

Each recipient was selected for academic excellence, leadership, and a demonstrated passion for advancing patient care. This year's winners represent the next generation of pharmacy leadership across the Midwest region.

Scholarship Recipients

LEO Pharma Shadowing Experience Recipient

Jamee Gibson

PharmD Candidate, P3 | University of Illinois Chicago, Retzky College of Pharmacy



Jamee is a third-year pharmacy student at the University of Illinois Chicago Retzky College of Pharmacy. Her professional interests lie at the intersection of pharmacy and public affairs, with a particular passion for **health policy and advocacy**.

Outside of the classroom, Jamee brings global curiosity to everything she does. She is currently exploring the French language and staying actively engaged with the world of fashion and design, reflecting her well-rounded perspective and creative approach to healthcare challenges.

About the Experience: The LEO Pharma Shadowing Day in Madison, New Jersey provides an immersive look into specialty pharmaceutical operations, including market access, clinical development, and commercialization strategy.

Gilead Sciences Shadowing Experience Recipients



Gennie Liu

PharmD Candidate, P4 | University of Minnesota

Gennie is a fourth-year pharmacy student at the University of Minnesota with strong interests in **clinical development, oncology, and health economics and outcomes research (HEOR)**. She is actively involved in AMCP, IPhO, ACCP, and Phi Delta Chi, demonstrating a strong commitment to professional development and leadership.

She brings valuable experience through internships at **UnitedHealthcare, CVS, and Children's Minnesota**, with exposure across managed care, health systems, and industry settings.

Outside of pharmacy, Gennie enjoys watching NBA and WNBA games, attending Minnesota Twins games, and staying active through pilates and running.



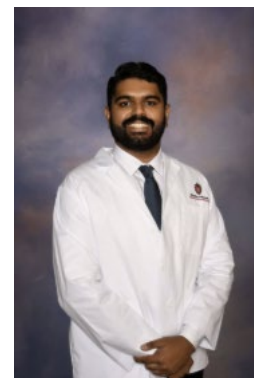
Akil Maddineni

PharmD Candidate, P3 | University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Pharmacy

Akil is a third-year PharmD student with strong interests in **medical affairs, regulatory affairs, outcomes research, and industry relations**.

Through his involvement with AMCP, IPhO, and his internship with Navitus Health Solutions, he has developed a deep appreciation for how **scientific evidence, drug development, and healthcare decision-making intersect to improve patient outcomes**.

He is excited for this opportunity to engage with industry professionals, explore diverse career pathways, and continue growing both professionally and personally.



About the Experience: The Gilead Student Pharmacy Program in Foster City, California offers in-depth exposure to biopharmaceutical innovation, enabling students to engage with cross-functional teams and gain insight into pipeline development, therapeutic strategy, and patient-centered care.

Why This Matters

These programs play a critical role in shaping the future of pharmacy by allowing students to:

- Explore non-traditional roles within the pharmaceutical industry
- Gain mentorship from experienced professionals
- Understand the intersection of clinical, regulatory, and payer strategy
- Develop skills to improve patient access and outcomes

Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere appreciation to:

- **Leo Pharma and Gilead Sciences**
 - **AMCP Midwest Chapter leadership and reviewers**
-

Student Chapter Spotlight



PURDUE UNIVERSITY AMCP STUDENT CHAPTER



The Purdue University Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) student chapter is entering the 2026–2027 academic year with renewed energy and a clear mission: expanding awareness of managed care pharmacy and its impact on patient access, affordability, and healthcare outcomes.

Although one of the smaller pharmacy organizations on campus, the chapter continues to cultivate a passionate community of students committed to exploring nontraditional pharmacy career paths.

2026–2027 Leadership Team

- **President:** Sora Yeo
- **Vice President:** Andrew Luong
- **Treasurer:** Emma Chen
- **Media Manager:** Elly Lee
- **Media Chair:** Chloe Park
- **P&T Chair:** Alex McQuade

Together, the leadership team aims to strengthen the chapter's presence at Purdue and deepen student understanding of formulary management, pharmacy benefit managers, and the broader managed care ecosystem.



Chapter Activities & Programming

The chapter meets biweekly, with executive board meetings held on alternating weeks. Members describe the organization's close-knit environment as one of its greatest strengths. Meetings typically begin with informal conversation before transitioning into professional programming, often featuring guest speakers from across the managed care landscape.

Over the past four years, the chapter has hosted professionals from organizations such as Innovative Rx Strategies, TrueRx, AbbVie, and AffirmedRx—each offering a unique perspective on the diverse roles available within managed care pharmacy.

Professional Development Focus

Professional development remains a central focus. Last year, many members attended the AMCP Midwest Day of Education in Chicago, marking their first professional conference experience. This year, the chapter plans to introduce a new professional headshot event to help students build their professional presence while learning more about managed care pharmacy.

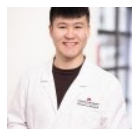


2026 AMCP Foundation National P&T Competition Finals

Participation in the AMCP Foundation National Student Pharmacist Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition provides unmatched, real-world training for student pharmacists. The competition immerses students in **formulary decision-making**, requiring them to evaluate clinical, economic, and outcomes data to make coverage recommendations—mirroring the work of payers, PBMs, and managed care leaders.

For many participants, the experience extends well beyond academics, shaping both career direction and professional confidence.

“Every moment was a learning experience and an opportunity to learn from others and grow. I’m grateful to have been part of it.”



– Dongho Lee, PharmD Class of 2027, University of Minnesota

2026 Finals Overview

The **26th Annual National P&T Competition Finals**, held at the AMCP Annual Meeting in April 2026, featured the **top 5 teams nationally**, selected through a rigorous process of drug monograph development, semi-final review, and live presentation.

*Each team delivered a **live P&T Committee-style presentation**, defending formulary recommendations and responding to questions from a panel of managed care experts—replicating real-world decision environments.*

Midwest is Best! AMCP Students’ Success

The Midwest AMCP affiliate has demonstrated **sustained success over the past five years**, consistently advancing teams into national semi-final and finalist rounds.

- Schools such as **University of Minnesota, University of Michigan, and University of Illinois (UIC)** have recently been recognized as national semi-finalists.
- In 2026, **Midwest programs (Minnesota and Purdue)** represented 2 of the 5 national finalists.

This continued performance highlights the Midwest as a **leading training ground for future managed care talent**, producing students with strong clinical rigor and payer-relevant skillsets.

Perspectives from Participants & Leaders

“The AMCP P&T Competition was the most formative experience in pharmacy school and the one I learned the most from. It offered an introduction to managed care pharmacy, building skills in Pharmacoeconomics and formulary decision-making that are not covered in the classroom. More than the content itself, the competition pushed me to learn within a team, think creatively, and produce high-quality work.”



— *Natalie Grace Horgan, Purdue University*

“I’ve judged the local competition for the past several years and always greatly value the experience. The P&T competition was a great introduction to managed care for me as a pharmacy student and I’m grateful that I can serve as a judge and hopefully facilitate a good introductory experience for participating students, many of whom have no formal managed care experience. The top University of Minnesota team this year was exceptional... seeing them shine was a highlight of my judging experience.”

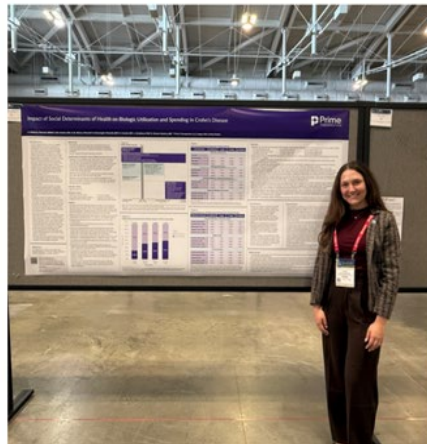


— *Nick Friedlander, Health Outcomes Researcher, Sr., Prime Therapeutics*

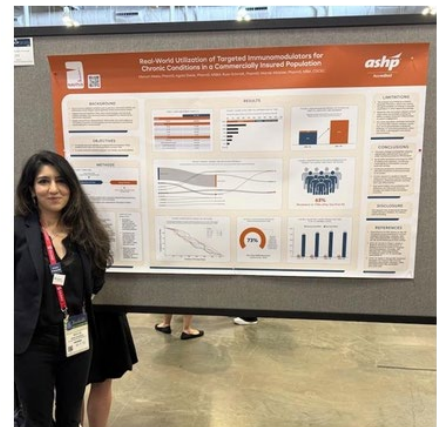
Together, these perspectives reinforce the competition’s impact—not only as a **learning platform for students**, but also as a **pipeline for developing future managed care leaders** valued by industry stakeholders.

Managed Care Residents Poster Showcase at AMCP Nashville

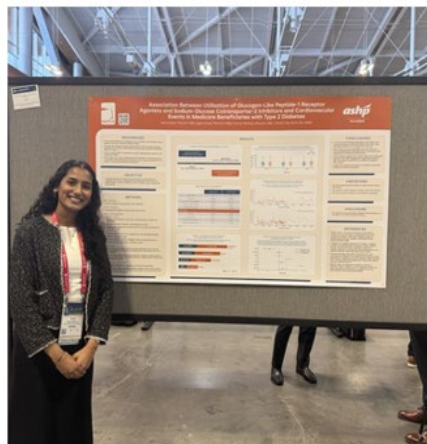
Alisa Watson, PharmD, MMHC
Prime Therapeutics



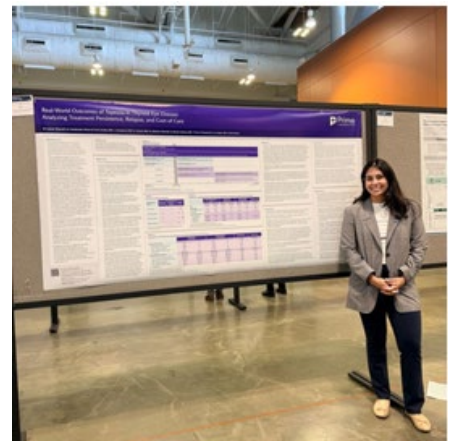
Marium Mesia
Navitus



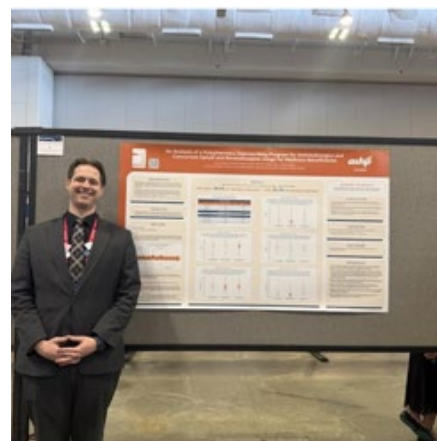
Neha Seella
Navitus



Marianna Calvet, PharmD
Prime Therapeutics

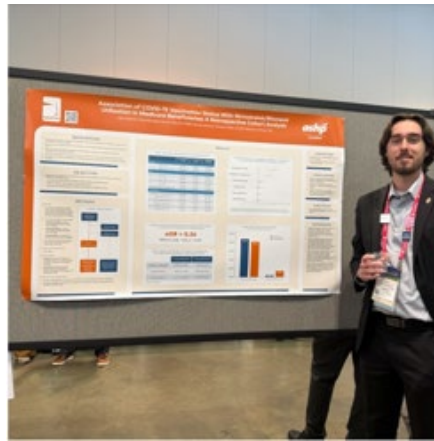


Scott Weber
Navitus



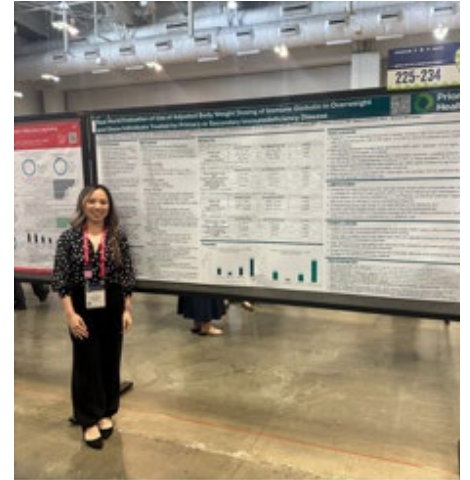
Alan Albrecht

Navitus



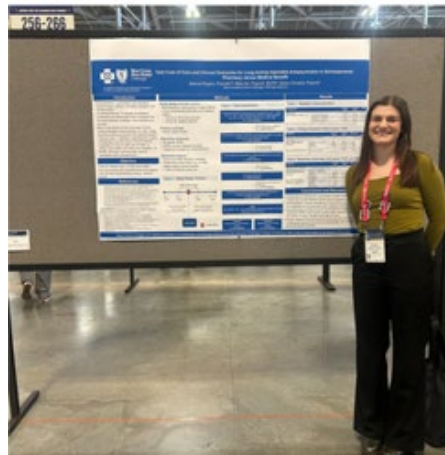
Julia Nguyen

Priority Health



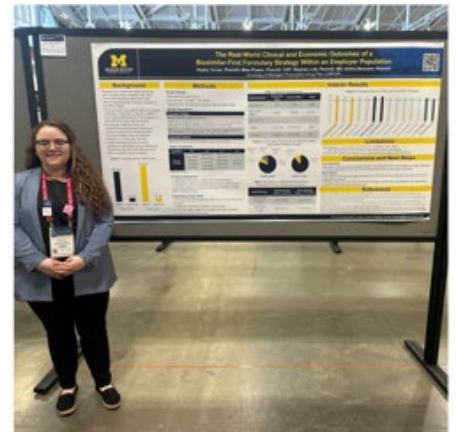
Bri Rogers

BCBSM



Hayley Torres

University of Michigan
Prescription Drug Plan





2026-2027 AMCP Midwest Board of Directors & State Delegates

Please extend a warm welcome to the AMCP Midwest Affiliate Board of Directors!

We are looking forward to another year of collaborating and advancing managed care with all of you in our AMCP Midwest community.

2026-2027 AMCP Midwest Board of Directors



Joe Ward
President



Amina Stein
President-Elect



Natalie Pirkola
Immediate Past President



Millie Mo
Secretary



Casey Lucas
Education Co-Chair



Veeral Vyas
Education Co-Chair



Tom Ranft
Event Ops Co-Chair



Troy Koch
Fundraising Co-Chair



Kevin Shinaberry
Fundraising Co-Chair



Avin Yaldo
Student Liaison



Joy Wahawisan
Social Co-Chair



Tanya Kuzminsky
Social Co-Chair



Amelia Damlo
Treasurer



Dan Fischer
Event Ops Co-Chair

2026-2027 AMCP Midwest State Delegates



Shefali Mihelich
Delegate Chair



Erin Lapp
Michigan



Sean Bingham
Michigan



Wendi Powell
Indiana



Nick Sloffer
Indiana



Aisha Hussain
Illinois



Daisy Amann
Illinois



Amy Schmerse
Wisconsin



Jay Eickman
Wisconsin



Mitchell Nelson
Minnesota



Nicholas Friedlander
Minnesota

AMCP Midwest Days of Education for 2026

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Days of Education this year! [Please see the event flyer for additional registration and sponsorship information](#). We appreciate your support and look forward to connecting with you this year.

Michigan Event

- Troy, MI – Friday, September 25th, 2026
- Location: Health Alliance Plan, 1414 E Maple Rd
- Time: 7 am – 2:30 pm ET (tentative)
- [Registration Info](#)

Chicago Event

- Chicago, IL – Friday, November 20th, 2026
- Location: Renaissance Chicago Downtown, 1 West Upper Wacker Dr
- Time: 7-2:30 pm CT (tentative)
- [Registration Info](#)

For additional details about AMCP Midwest, please visit www.amcp.org/midwest-amcp and follow us on LinkedIn.

Sincerely,

The AMCP Midwest Affiliate Board of Directors

AMCP Midwest's 18th Annual 2026 DAYS OF EDUCATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We encourage all to attend this year's Days of Education (DOEs) to connect, learn, and share ideas with Midwest managed care leaders. We greatly appreciate your support and consideration of event sponsorship.

Detroit, MI

 Friday, September 25th
 7 am – 2:30 pm ET (tentative)
Health Alliance Plan
 1414 E Maple Rd, Troy, MI

Chicago, IL

 Friday, November 20th
 7 am – 2:30 pm CT (tentative)
Renaissance Chicago Downtown
 1 West Upper Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL

Individual Registration Rates

- Manufacturer- Non-AMCP Member: \$600 ● Manufacturer- AMCP Member: \$450
- Non-Manufacturer (e.g., Pharmacist, Physician)- Non-AMCP Member: \$100
- Non-Manufacturer- AMCP Member: \$75 ● Resident/Student Pharmacist: \$0

Receive 50% OFF the 2nd event when sponsoring BOTH DOEs!

Sponsorship Benefit	Diamond \$5,000	Platinum \$4,000	Gold \$3,000	Silver \$2,000
Registrations included per event	2	2	1	1
Logo displayed on AMCP Midwest website and event signs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sponsor advertisement or logo on screens during event breaks	✓	✓	✓	✓
Display table outside the event, one seat at a sponsor table near stage at event, and a brief company mention during the event	✓	✓	✓	-
Attendee(s) at a Board/Speaker reception in Detroit and/or Chicago	2	1	-	-
One attendee to a AMCP Midwest Board meeting to provide a brief company presentation after the event	✓	✓	-	-



Questions or interested in sponsoring?

Email: Midwest@amcp.org

More details coming soon to: <https://www.amcp.org/midwest-amcp>