



News and Views

OCTOBER 2019

HOME
CONTACT US
TWITTER
FACEBOOK
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LOOKING AHEAD

[Biosimilars](#) 10/10, 2pm ET, Members only
[Urothelial Cancer](#) 10/17, 2pm ET, Free

IN THIS ISSUE

[AMCP President-elect and Board of Director Candidates Announced](#)
[Partnership Forum on Digital Therapeutics](#)
[Legislative Days Takes Managed Care Pharmacy's Message to Capitol Hill](#)
[Phil Bongiorno Joins AMCP as VP, Policy & Government Relations](#)
[Cantrell Presents History of Managed Care Pharmacy](#)
[AMCP and Foundation Hold First Pinning Ceremony](#)
[Applications Are Being Accepted for Volunteer Committee Positions](#)
[Members in the News: Norrie Thomas](#)
[2019 Research Symposium Focuses on Big Data, Tech in Cancer Care](#)
[Satellite Symposia Offer Attendees Additional CE Credits](#)
[FormularyDecisions.com Is Central Source for Pre-approval Information](#)
[APPE Student Pharmacists Complete Rotation at AMCP/Foundation](#)
[AMCP Seeks CPE Proposals for AMCP2020](#)



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AMCP Board of Directors Election Slate Announced!

AMCP President-elect and Board of Director Candidates Announced

AMCP is pleased to announce its candidates for the 2020-21 president-elect and board of directors. Our candidate for president-elect is Paul L. Jeffrey, PharmD. Our candidates for director are Jessica Daw, PharmD, MBA; Pat Gleason, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP, FAMCP; Jeffrey W. Larson, RPh, MS, MBA; Debra J. Minich, BSPHarm, RPh; Carly Rodriguez, PharmD, FAMCP; and Celynda G. Tadlock, PharmD, MBA. [Learn more about the candidates](#). Election credentials will be emailed to AMCP pharmacist, physician, and nurse members (who were current as of Sept. 13) on Oct. 31. To ensure you receive communications and the election ballot from AMCP's partner Election Services, please add Election Services

(@electionservicescorp.com) to your allowed email list. Also, if you're attending AMCP Nexus 2019 in National Harbor, Md., please attend the "meet the candidates" event at the AMCP exhibit booth (#317) from 1:30-2:30pm on Oct. 31.



Partnership Forum on Digital Therapeutics Lays Groundwork for Coverage Decisions

AMCP last month held a Partnership Forum on ["Digital Therapies: What Are They and Where Do They Fit in Pharmacy and Medical Benefits?"](#) As part of the day-and-a-half forum, attendees developed a description of digital therapeutics that states in part they are a "high-quality digital intervention, making a medical claim, that is driven by software programs to prevent, manage or treat a medical disorder or disease." Attendees also discussed standards for coverage decisions, which will include an examination of safety, efficacy, and usability, with formulary considerations based on the product's medical claim or function. All findings and recommendations from the forum will be published in an upcoming issue of AMCP's Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy. [Read more about the forum.](#)



Legislative Days Takes Managed Care Pharmacy's Message to Capitol Hill

AMCP volunteer leaders and staff covered Capitol Hill last month to educate lawmakers on the positive impact of managed care pharmacy, and to advocate for legislation that would improve patient care. The annual Legislative Days event, Sept. 10 and 11, included dozens of congressional offices visits, with AMCP describing its priorities around prior authorization (PA) and pharmaceutical information exchange (PIE). On PA, AMCP noted that the profession supports incorporating NCPDP SCRIPT standard-based electronic PA, and that PA should not be a burden to providers and patients. On PIE, AMCP urged Congress to introduce and pass bipartisan legislation codifying current regulatory safe harbors that allow for the sharing of certain information between manufacturers and population health decision makers. [Learn more about how AMCP advocates for managed care pharmacy.](#)



Phil Bongiorno Joins AMCP as VP, Policy & Government Relations

AMCP announced that Phil Bongiorno has joined the organization as vice president, policy & government relations. In this role, he will oversee AMCP's many advocacy efforts to advance managed care pharmacy principles and practices through health



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care legislation and regulation at both the federal and state levels. “Phil is an accomplished senior leader who has successfully managed many health care and public policy advocacy campaigns,” said AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE. Bongiorno has more than 20 years of health care association leadership experience. Prior to joining AMCP, he was the executive director of the Home Care Association of America since 2014 and was responsible for the association’s overall operations, including strategic planning, financial management, membership development, education, advocacy, and public affairs. [Learn more about Phil and his role at AMCP.](#)



Cantrell Presents History of Managed Care Pharmacy at International Meeting

AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE, presented a program last month on the evolution of managed care pharmacy in the United States at the 44th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy. The event, held in Washington, D.C., was hosted by the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP), and featured presenters from around the world. In her presentation, Cantrell started by describing the rise of employer-based insurance in the 1940s and 1950s that resulted in today’s U.S. employer-based health insurance system. Other milestones over the years included: the first PBM — Pharmaceutical Card System, Inc. — founded in the late 1960s to help insurers process prescription drug claims; President Nixon’s 1973 enactment of the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Act, ushering in the modern HMO plan; HMOs hiring more and more pharmacists in 1980s to manage members’ pharmacy benefits; and the 1988 founding of AMCP by a group of visionary pharmacists. AMCP is a long-time supporter of AIHP, which preserves documents of pharmacy’s past and develops materials for understanding the future.



AMCP and Foundation Hold First Pinning Ceremony with Howard University

AMCP and the Foundation last month hosted a group of student pharmacists from Howard University College of Pharmacy for the first-ever AMCP Student Pharmacist Chapter pinning ceremony. At the event, AMCP and Foundation staff introduced the rising professionals to the practice of managed care pharmacy. [Student Pharmacist](#) chapters further AMCP’s mission through educational and community service, provide opportunities for professional growth, and promote managed care pharmacy within their schools.



Applications Are Being Accepted for Volunteer Committee Positions

AMCP is accepting applications for volunteers to serve on 14 committees, including the Educational Affairs Committee, Legislative and Regulatory Action Committee, and Professional Practice Committee. Serving on an AMCP committee allows you to share your voice and expertise, while making valuable personal connections and giving back to the managed care pharmacy profession. Volunteers also play a crucial role in helping AMCP provide the types of research, tools, and education that members have come to value as they advance in their practice and careers. [Apply to serve on an AMCP committee by Nov. 5.](#)



Members in the News: Norrie Thomas

AMCP Cofounder Norrie Thomas, PhD (*center*), delivered the keynote address at a seminar in Jakarta, Indonesia, that looked at the PBM industry in the United States. The event, sponsored by the ISPOR Indonesia Chapter, was designed in part to explore the possibility of developing a PBM industry in the Southeast Asian country. Thomas presented on many aspects of U.S. PBMs, including the trends and forces affecting the future of the industry. More than 60 seminar participants included representatives of universities and pharmaceutical companies from across Indonesia. Thomas, who is an adjunct professor in the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, is a cofounder of AMCP and has served as interim executive director and CEO of the AMCP Foundation.



2019 Research Symposium Focuses on Big Data and Technology in Cancer Care

It's not too late to register for the [AMCP Foundation Research Symposium](#), which takes place Oct. 29, from 1-5pm, before [AMCP Nexus 2019](#) in National Harbor, Md. This year's event focuses on the rapid pace of oncology innovation, including both opportunities and challenges for stakeholders across the health care spectrum. Learn about the latest trends affecting cancer care as national experts will share their observations on evolving technologies, new treatment decision paradigms, the use of big data, and innovative ways to address affordability in cancer treatment. Symposium panels include: clinical and shared decision-making; patient concerns around health plan and payers' use of data; innovative approaches for justifying the value of care; and the biopharmaceutical industry's use of health IT and artificial intelligence to advance research, accelerate regulatory approvals, and communicate value.



Satellite Symposia at Nexus 2019 Offer Attendees Additional CE Credits

Nexus 2019 attendees can gain additional continuing education credits through 10 non-commercial, grant-supported Satellite Symposia. The satellites offer continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit, and some offer continuing medical education (CME) credit and continuing nursing education (CNE) credit. Topics include optimal diabetes care and cost

management; rethinking treatment in rheumatoid arthritis; promise of gene therapy; navigating cannabidiol use in seizure disorders; implications of new American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association cholesterol guidelines; the cost-savings case for tying pulmonary arterial hypertension formulary protocols to best available clinical evidence; employing immuno-oncology biomarkers to guide treatment decision making; living with psoriatic disease; and conundrums and opportunities with anticoagulation in coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, and Venous thromboembolism. [Learn more about Satellite Symposia.](#)



FormularyDecisions.com Is a Central Source for Pre-approval Information

FormularyDecisions.com, home of the AMCP eDossier System, provides pre-approval information for payers to assist with formulary planning and budget forecasting. Leverage one central platform to find product pages, platform generated “snapshots” of early product information, pre-approval dossiers, manufacturer curated information, and relevant global resources. Interested in learning more? Payers can view available resources or register at amcp.edossiers.com. Manufacturers interested in supporting payers’ pre-approval product reviews as well as a Manufacturer Resource Center for Payers specific to your product can contact information@formularydecisions.com. Plus, join us at AMCP Nexus at Booth #311 and #313 for a demo, questions, or to register. We will be hosting two payer focus groups to discuss enhancements to the system. [Contact us for more information on how to join one or to schedule a demo at Nexus.](#)



APPE Student Pharmacists Complete Rotation at AMCP and Foundation

Pharmacy students Rachel Fagbamila (*right*) and Yulia Rakouskaya are the latest rising managed care pharmacists to complete their AMCP Experiential Program in Association & Leadership Management at AMCP and Foundation headquarters in Alexandria, Va. The five-week APPE rotation gives students hands-on experience with association leadership and management practices, including effective communication, education, and advocacy. The student pharmacists also conduct a managed care research project. Fagbamila presented on “Medicaid and High Cost Drug Payment Models” and Rakouskaya presented on “Pediatric Epilepsy.” [Learn more about the AMCP APPE rotation.](#)



AMCP Seeks CPE Proposals for its Spring Meeting — AMCP 2020 — in Houston

AMCP has changed the name of its annual spring meeting to AMCP 2020. The next one will be held April 21-24, 2020, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. AMCP invites proposals for continuing pharmacy education (CPE) sessions. The sessions are 75 minutes, including time for questions and answers with conference participants. The five education tracks are: (1) General Managed Care Pharmacy/Formulary Management; (2) Legislative and Regulatory; (3)

Business Trends/Value-based Care; (4) Specialty Pharmacy; and (5) Managed Care Research. Proposals must be submitted no later than 11:59pm PT on Thursday, Nov. 7. [Submit a proposal.](#)

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