

AMCP MIDWEST

2025 Summer Newsletter

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President's Corner



Summer excitement is in the air! We are getting close to new graduates, new residents, and long-awaited vacations. As a new President, I am honored to serve our board and Midwest Affiliate by bringing together our community to enhance access, affordability, and health outcomes for our collective patients. As a life-long Michigander, you may hear my refrain that 'Midwest is Best,' in my humble opinion. What really makes this region so special is the commitment and openness of our membership. It is the quality of the community we serve that pushes us to continually raise the bar on how we learn and grow together. As you think about plans for this year, I encourage you to plan for our Midwest Days of Education. Our industry is in a time of flux and conflict, with business model upending proposals dominating headlines. What better way to navigate, than by coming together with a shared purpose and curiosity? We have challenged ourselves to find this year's sense-makers and trend-setters.

I will entice you with a peek at programming:

2025 Michigan Topics:

- **Legislative & Regulatory Insights: Federal and Michigan**
- **Emerging PBM Models & Unbundling Services**
- **Future of Pharmacy & Long-Term Industry Trends**
- **Biosimilar Trends & Strategies and Private Label Opportunities**

2025 Chicago Topics:

- **Legislative & Regulatory Insights: Federal & Illinois**
- **How Self-Funded Employers Are Shaping the Pharmacy Benefit Landscape**
- **Managing High-Impact Therapeutics (*Note: This title is tentative pending discussion with the speakers on content*)**
- **Navigating Uncertainty & Rapid Market Changes**

Only by coming together can we amplify our voice and discover shared wins. I am so proud of the content we are building. I hope to see you soon in Detroit or Chicago. Even better, I challenge you to be like me and attend both!

With gratitude,

Natalie Pirkola, Pharm D, MBA, MASPHEM, MSIS
Vice President, Pharmacy and Population Health
President, AMCP Midwest Affiliate

P.S. Registration Links

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



Spotlight Interview: Pat Gleason, PharmD, FCCP, FAMCP, BCPS

Assistant Vice President, Health Outcomes – Prime Therapeutics

Interview by Tom Ranft, National Account Executive at Eisai Pharmaceuticals and Midwest AMCP Board Member



The Evolution of Health Outcomes Research

Pat Gleason, PharmD, FCCP, FAMCP, BCPS, has been instrumental in transforming health outcomes research at Prime Therapeutics. What began with four Blue health plan owners has expanded to a network of 19, supported by a robust integrated medical and pharmacy database.

“We’ve gone from answering basic questions to influencing formulary design, utilization management, and benefit strategies.”

This data-driven approach enables Prime to assess the real-world impact of clinical programs and deliver cost-effective, evidence-based care.



Managing Innovation and Cost Pressures

Pat addressed the growing tension between medical innovation and affordability. He highlighted the surge in GLP-1 medications for weight loss and the importance of balancing pharmaceutical interventions with lifestyle changes.

“Some people are leapfrogging other options. They are proud to be on a GLP-1, but they might have skipped diet and exercise with a formal coaching program that could deliver similar results.”

He also discussed the financial burden of rare disease therapies—many costing over \$250,000 annually—and the potential for advanced modeling, including machine learning enhanced clinical programs, to manage these costs.

Research Priorities: Real-World Evidence & Diagnosis-Based Formularies

Pat outlined two key research priorities for managed care pharmacy:

- **Real-World Evidence (RWE):**
Focused on adherence, persistence, switching patterns, and applying intention-to-treat analysis to real-world data.
- **Diagnosis-Based Formularies:**
A model where prescriptions include diagnosis codes (e.g., ICD-10), enabling real-time, condition-specific formulary and utilization management decisions.

“If we had the diagnosis at the point of prescribing, we could cut prior authorizations in half. It is about trust and transparency—and it could be a game-changer.”

Pharmacists and Health Equity

Pat emphasized the vital role pharmacists play in promoting excellent health outcomes for all, especially within Medicare Stars programs.

"We're actively working to ensure pharmacists are part of the solution—especially at the point of care—helping close gaps in care and improve adherence for members facing inequities."

He noted the federal program's rebranding from *Health Equity* to *Excellent Health Outcomes for All (EHO4All)*, reflecting a broader commitment to inclusive, high-quality care.



Personal Insights

Pat has been married for 32 years to Amy Pittenger, PharmD, MS, PhD, Interim Dean at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. They have two children—Sophie, who is married to her wife Hayley, and Sam, who is getting married this summer. Their household also includes three lively cats.

Outside of work, Pat finds peace in fishing at the family's lake place in northern Minnesota.

"Fishing helps me recharge. It's peaceful, yet challenging."



A Historical Dinner Guest

If given the chance, Pat would dine with Abraham Lincoln.

"The decisions he had to make, the way he held the country together—it's inspiring."

He reflected on the emotional power of handwritten letters, inspired by a Civil War-era letter Lincoln wrote to a grieving family—something Pat is trying to revive in his own life.



Final Thoughts

Pat Gleason's insights reflect a deep commitment to advancing managed care pharmacy through data, compassion, and innovation. His vision for a smarter, more personalized pharmacy benefit model—rooted in real-world evidence and diagnosis-based decision-making—offers a promising path forward for the industry.



16th Annual Detroit and Chicago Days of Education

- Midwest's Day of Education in Detroit on September 30th was held at Health Alliance Plan in Troy, MI. The agenda provided insights from some of the top minds in healthcare and delivered some memorable networking opportunities during the social and throughout the day. Special shout out to The Health Alliance for hosting another meeting that was off the hook awesome!
 - *The 2024 Detroit Day of Education brought together healthcare leaders to explore transformative pharmacy models, legislative impacts on drug policy, and innovative solutions addressing employer carve-outs, drug shortages, and digital therapeutics.*
 - *Experts also discussed the evolving landscape of high-impact drug classes, including GLP-1s, biosimilars, and cell and gene therapies, highlighting their implications for managed care and patient outcomes.*
- Midwest AMCP held another successful Chicago Day of Education on November 22nd, where 300 of our colleagues gathered to learn and network. Our event was held at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in the lovely city of Chicago. The night before the main event, there was a happy hour networking reception at the hotel with incredible scenes of Chicago.
 - *The 2024 Chicago Day of Education convened healthcare and managed care leaders to explore high-impact drug classes, innovative schizophrenia management strategies, and the evolving landscape of value-based contracting*



- *Key discussions also addressed the implications of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including legislative updates and practical strategies for operationalizing IRA requirements across managed care organizations.*

➤ Midwest AMCP would like to express our sincere thanks to all the sponsors of our events. We would also like to thank our speakers for volunteering their time to bring us excellent content and generating meaningful discussion, helping all of us take valuable information back to our work. And most of all, this event cannot happen without the year-long planning and dedication by the Board and the Delegates- you all are rock stars! Thank you for all you have done and will do to make each year better than the last.

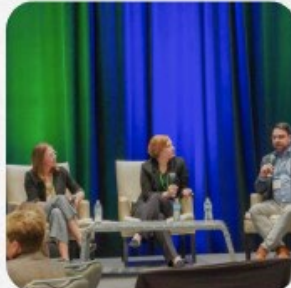
Detroit

16th Annual Day of Education! 📷





Chicago16th Annual Day of Education! 📷



AMCP Midwest offered student scholarships again to help students attend the AMCP Annual Meeting in Houston



2025 Midwest AMCP – Scholarship Recipients

The Midwest AMCP Scholarship Application took place at AMCP Annual 2025 from March 31 to April 3 at The George R Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas.

- **Overview:** Scholarship(s) of \$1,500 were awarded to two selected PharmD student(s) - Applicants must be student members of AMCP and attending a College of Pharmacy/School of Pharmacy in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, or Wisconsin (participating AMCP Midwest states)
- **Eligibility Requirements:** 1. Applicants must be either PharmD student or pharmacy graduate students in good academic standing from an ACPE accredited college or university within The Midwest affiliate region. 2. Applicants must hold an active AMCP student membership. 3. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible for the next two subsequent national meetings

CALEB HANBY

Caleb Hamby is a 2026 PharmD Candidate at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. He is interested in non-traditional pharmacy career paths including managed care and is currently leading a project called MN'ged Care to expand managed care internship opportunities for other UMN COP students. He is incredibly excited to be attending the AMCP 2025 National Meeting thanks to the support of AMCP Midwest, and hopes to gain a better understanding of the current landscape of managed care, explore opportunities to improve and expand the MN'ged Care project, and to connect with the community



CONNOR DYBALL

Connor Dyball is an accomplished pharmacy student with a strong background in pharmaceutical industry practices, research, and leadership. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) at the University of Illinois Chicago, Retzky College of Pharmacy, with a concentration in Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR). Connor has gained valuable industry experience through internships and practice rotations at major pharmaceutical companies. In addition to his industry experience, Connor is dedicated to teaching and mentoring. He co-founded and coordinates the Career Paths in the Pharmaceutical Industry course at UIC, designed to expose pharmacy students to diverse career opportunities within the pharmaceutical sector. His research experience includes projects on GLP-1 receptor agonists and pancreatitis, as well as innovative weight loss interventions for transplant patients. Connor has also demonstrated leadership and service through various roles, including President of Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) at UIC, Professional Chair of Pharmacy Leadership Society (PLS), and Director of Alumni Affairs for Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP).



CYNTHIA WAN

Cynthia Wan is a third-year professional pharmacy student at Purdue University. She is currently the Vice President of the Purdue Chapter of AMCP. She has previous internship experiences at AbbVie and Gilead, in the Pharmacovigilance and Regulatory Affairs departments, respectively, and will be completing a three-month APPE at AbbVie in the Medical Payor Strategy team. Her current post-graduation plans include completing a university-affiliated industry fellowship. In her spare time, she enjoys running, going to Orangetheory, and cheering on the Boilermakers with her friends!



2025 Gilead and Leo Pharmacy Program and Scholarships

Overview: The Student Pharmacy Programs for 2025 will provide pharmacy students exposure to multiple functional areas of a pharmaceutical company, participate in a lab/facility tour, reception, and network with Pharm D's and Executive Leaders.

Focus Areas: Drug Development, Regulatory Affairs, Manufacturing & Channel Distribution, Legal & Compliance, Commercial Marketing, Market Access, Field Medical Affairs & HEOR, Fellowship Program



OLD MAP

Congratulations to the 2025

LEO / Gilead Summers Program Selectees!

We are thrilled to recognize the outstanding individuals selected for this year's prestigious programs:

- **Alina Paul** – University of Illinois Chicago – *Gilead*
- **Chenwei Yan** – University of Minnesota – *Gilead*
- **Alem Nabiye** – University of Minnesota – *LEO*

Your dedication, talent, and passion for advancing healthcare and research are truly inspiring. We can't wait to see the incredible impact you'll make this summer and beyond

Student Chapter Spotlight

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY: ADVANCING HEALTH THROUGH INNOVATION AND SERVICE

Founded in 1892, the [University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy](#) is the state's only pharmacy school and a nationally recognized leader in pharmacy education, research, and practice. With campuses in MINNEAPOLIS, DULUTH, and ROCHESTER, the college offers a collaborative, technology-enhanced learning environment that prepares students to address complex healthcare challenges across diverse communities.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The college offers a range of degree programs:

- PHARMACY (PHARMD, MS, PHD)
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OTD)
- MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES (BS, CERTIFICATE, MMLS, MS, BLS)

Its PharmD program is consistently ranked among the top in the nation, and the college is 8TH IN TOTAL RESEARCH FUNDING among U.S. pharmacy schools [\[1\]](#).

MISSION AND VISION

- MISSION: To advance health through innovative research, evidence-based education, transformative practice, and community engagement.
- VISION: To lead in health education and practice by delivering interprofessional, person-centered care that improves outcomes locally and globally.

CORE VALUES

The college is guided by values such as:

- DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
- INTEGRITY
- EXCELLENCE
- JOY
- CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY & INNOVATION



University of Minnesota AMCP Chapter Recap 2024-2025

➤ **Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Managed Care**

This year, the UMN AMCP Chapter prioritized increasing awareness and understanding of managed care and managed care pharmacy opportunities. Together with chapter diplomats, the E-board conducted a “Get to Know AMCP” session to introduce AMCP to pharmacy students. The chapter also collaborated with UMN College of Pharmacy alumni and other pharmacy student groups to co-host events, demonstrating the post-graduation opportunities across various pharmacy settings. These efforts led to a noticeable rise in first- and second-year student participation.

➤ **Creating Opportunities for Professional Development and Meaningful Networking**

The chapter organized several events for attendees to learn from and engage with professionals in the industry. It hosted the 9th Midwest Regional Conference successfully in September 2024. This annual event brings together pharmacy students, faculty, and professionals to learn about the latest managed care topics and to provide a valuable networking opportunity. The conference features presentations from experts in the field, as well as networking luncheon, and panel career development discussions. Additionally, the chapter collaborated with a managed care company to provide students an opportunity to meet managed care professionals in-person and get introduced to their day-to-day work. The chapter supported student participation in the national AMCP Pharmacy & Therapeutics Competition, providing resources and guest lectures to help teams prepare their drug monograph presentations. It also continued the mentorship program that matches students with managed care professionals.

➤ **Looking Ahead**

Building on this year’s accomplishments, the UMN AMCP Chapter stays committed to helping students explore the evolving role of pharmacists in managed care and expanding its reach by developing further relationships with the AMCP Midwest Affiliate.

Spring Midwest AMCP Houston Photos





UIC Team Won The Title at The National P&T Competition at AMCP Annual!

- We are thrilled to recognize the exceptional achievement of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) team, who secured an impressive victory at the National Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition at the AMCP Annual event. Their dedication and hard work have truly paid off!
- Message the UIC – Retzky College of Pharmacy team would like to convey in newsletter:

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our faculty advisor, Dr. Mags Byun, for her unwavering support throughout the entire process. From connecting us with mentors to keeping us fueled with snacks (and motivation!) during long prep sessions, her guidance played a crucial role in our success. Her consistent dedication to student development and advocacy is something we are always grateful for and deeply appreciate. We would also like to thank the AMCP Foundation and the sponsors for hosting the event allowing students to experience such a unique event.



From left to right, Daniel Lee (UIC-AMCP Outgoing President and Team Lead, P3), Charles Liu (UIC-AMCP Member, P3), Isabel Xiao (UIC-AMCP Member, P3), Mags Byun (UIC-AMCP Faculty Advisor), Charles Balisalisa (UIC-AMCP Outgoing Director of Education).

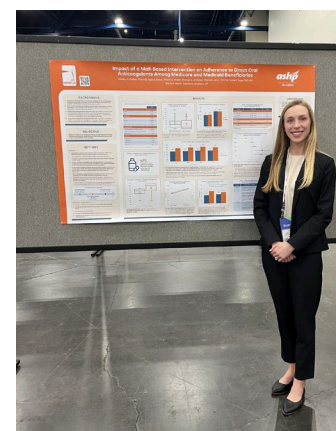
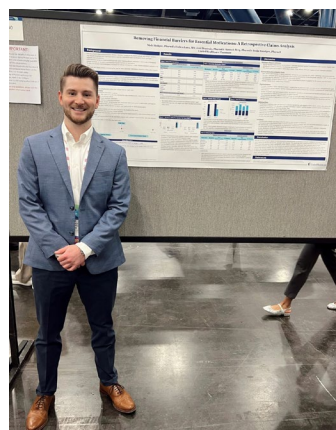
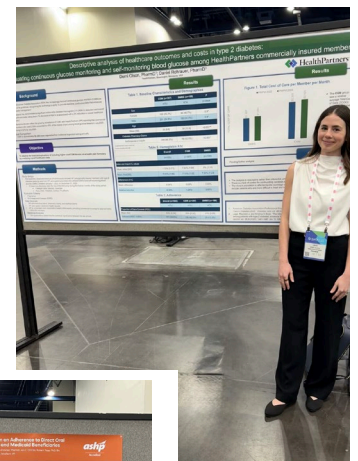
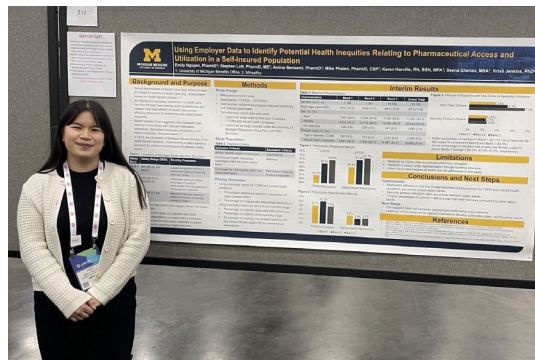


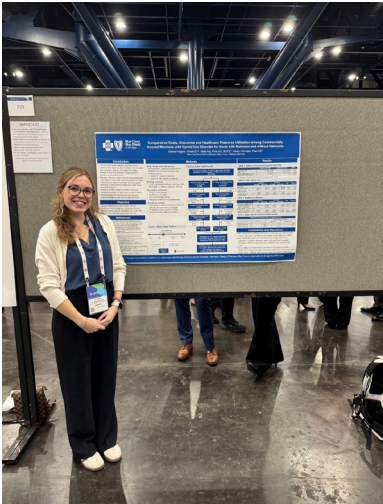
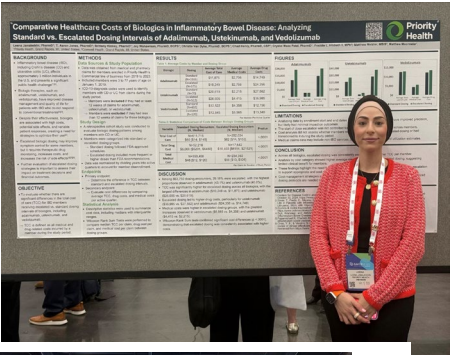
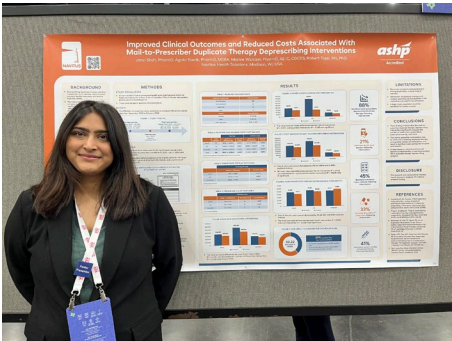
Managed Care Residents Poster Showcase at AMCP Houston

Huge congratulations to the talented [Midwest AMCP](#) managed care residents who showcased their research posters at the [AMCP](#) Annual Conference in Houston earlier this year!

Thank you for your dedication, hard work, and commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of managed care pharmacy.

[Emily Nguyen](#) of [University of Michigan](#)
[Eliana F.](#) of [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan](#)
[Leena Jamaledin, PharmD, RPh](#) of [Priority Health](#)
[Nick H.](#) of [UnitedHealth Group](#)
[Demi Olson, PharmD](#) of [HealthPartners](#)
[Justin Arzt](#) of [Navitus Health Solutions](#)
[Ashley Golter, PharmD](#) of [Navitus Health Solutions](#)
[Janvi Shah, PharmD](#) of [Navitus Health Solutions](#)





Midwest AMCP Goes to Washington!



During AMCP Legislative Days in Washington, D.C. from May 12–14, 2025, Midwest AMCP representatives Deanna Horner, Veeral Vyas, Amelia Damlo and Troy Koch joined around 50 other AMCP members along with AMCP leadership on Capitol Hill to engage in several discussions with members of Congress. Deanna, Veeral, and Troy met with the staff of Illinois Senators Duckworth and Durbin, as well as Representative Foster (IL-11), and Amelia met with Michigan Senator Gary Peters and the staff for Senator Elissa Slotkin and Representatives Shri Thanedar (MI-13) and Debbie Dingel (MI-12). They advocated for three pivotal pieces of legislation designed to enhance patient access, encourage value-based care, and formally recognize pharmacists as essential healthcare providers.

The delegation was able to share the real-world impact these bills would have on patients in Illinois and nationwide. Their conversations underscored how these measures could bridge critical gaps in coverage, incentivize high-value care, and empower pharmacists to practice at the top of their license — all objectives in line with AMCP's mission to improve healthcare delivery.

The event spanned three days and included a dinner honoring Senator Shelley Moore Capito and Representative Jeanne Shaheen for their past and continued support and sponsorship of AMCP legislative priorities. In addition, the group was provided advocacy training, networking opportunities, and coordinated meetings with legislators. The event was deemed a positive and rewarding experience. Everyone is excited to do it again next year!

Priority Bills Discussed:

- **Access to Prescription Digital Therapeutics Act**



- **Senate:** *S. 1702*
- **House:** *H.R. 3288*
- **Intent:** Establishes Medicare and Medicaid coverage for FDA-authorized prescription digital therapeutics (PDTs), creating a benefit category, payment methodology, and billing codes to expand patient access to innovative software-driven treatments
- **Medicaid VBPs for Patients Act**
 - **Senate:** *S. 1637*
 - **House:** (Not yet introduced into the House under this name.)
 - **Intent:** Codifies value-based purchasing arrangements in Medicaid, removing statutory barriers to align payment with outcomes and support access to high-cost but high-value therapies
- **Ensuring Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act**
 - **Senate:** (Not yet introduced.)
 - **House:** *H.R. 3164*
 - **Intent:** Empowers pharmacists by enabling Medicare Part B reimbursement for services they are authorized to provide—such as immunizations, respiratory infection testing, and medication therapy—in underserved and rural communities.

Where to find us:

<https://www.amcp.org/midwest-amcp>

How to reach us:

midwestamcp@gmail.com

Upcoming national. AMCP:

AMCP Nexus - October 27-30, in National Harbor, MD

[AMCP Nexus 2025 | AMCP.org](https://www.amcp.org)

Midwest AMCP's 17th Annual 2025 Days of Education – Registration Links

You are invited to join us this fall for the 17th Annual Midwest AMCP Days of Education. Please see [this flyer](#) for additional details

- Troy, Mich. on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, 7:00am–2:30pm ET @ Health Alliance Plan. Room blocks available at Detroit Marriott Troy
 - [Book your accommodations](#) by Aug. 28, 2025.
- Chicago, IL on Friday, Nov. 21, 2025, 7:00am–2:30pm CT @ Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel
 - [Book your accommodations](#) by October 30, 2025

Midwest AMCP's 17th Annual 2025 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	Chicago, IL
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> </div> Friday, September 19th </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> </div> Friday, November 21st </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> </div> 7 am – 2:30 pm ET (tentative) </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> </div> 7 am – 2:30 pm CT (tentative) </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> </div> Health Alliance Plan 1414 E Maple Rd, Troy, MI </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> </div> Renaissance Chicago Downtown 1 West Upper Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL </div>

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	Platinum \$4000	Gold \$3,000	Silver \$2,000
Registrations included per event	2	1	1
Logo displayed on Midwest AMCP 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	✓	✓	-
One attendee at a Board/Speaker reception in Detroit and/or Chicago	✓	-	-
One attendee to a Midwest AMCP 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>

2025-2026 Midwest AMCP Board of Directors & State Delegates

Please extend a warm welcome to the newly appointed [Midwest AMCP](#) Affiliate Board of Directors!

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

2025-2026 Midwest AMCP Board of Directors



Natalie Pirkola
President



Joe Ward
President-Elect



Andy Erickson
Immediate Past President



Millie Mo
Secretary



Amina Bensami
Education Co-Chair



Casey Lucas
Education Co-Chair



Veeral Vyas
Fundraising Co-Chair



Kevin Shinaberry
Fundraising Co-Chair



Avin Yaldo
Student Liaison



Joy Wahawisan
Social Co-Chair



Sunny Hirpara
Social Co-Chair



Troy Koch
Treasurer

2025-2026 Midwest AMCP Board of Directors Cont'd



Tom Ranft
Event Ops Co-Chair



Amelia Damlo
Event Ops Co-Chair

2025-2026 Midwest AMCP State Delegates



Shefali Mihelich
Delegate Chair



Amelia Damlo
Michigan



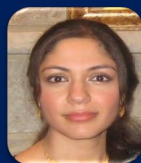
Sean Bingham
Michigan



Wendi Powell
Indiana



Erin Lapp
Indiana



Aisha Hussain
Illinois



Daisy Amann
Illinois



Amy Scherse
Wisconsin



Jay Eickman
Wisconsin



Mitchell Nelson
Minnesota



Nicholas Friedlander
Minnesota

