

# CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE

**JULY 2022 - NEWSLETTER** 

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## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE



It is with great pleasure that we introduce the first in a series of newsletters from the *Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice*. Our first edition introduces you to the Center, or what some refer to as "COP's best kept secret." Working behind the scenes, COP faculty, staff and students have contributed to the Center's ongoing mission "to advance the profession of pharmacy." As such, we will also introduce you to a few of the Center's initiatives that contribute to the fulfillment of that mission. Additionally, we hope this newsletter will be a resource to keep you informed of the advocacy efforts, and successes within the state of California and nationally. This is an exciting time to be a pharmacist and for the profession of pharmacy. Our current healthcare environment presents a great need for specialized

professionals within pharmaceutical care. Your education and training make you the "experts" that are perfectly poised to be essential members of the patient-centered model of care. In a national environment that continues to spend more on healthcare with arguably lesser patient outcomes, we examine the pharmacists' scope of practice with a focus on expanding growth opportunities which contribute to "filling the gaps" within healthcare services. Your Center is working to pursue these innovative pharmacy roles. This endeavor cannot be accomplished in a silo. The Center therefore has extended its reach to collaborate with other colleges of pharmacy, state and national organizations and agencies, and to the front-line pharmacy teams. It is this unity of effort and commitment that allow us to further our inroads within the legislative bodies and agencies that greatly influence the practice of pharmacy. We hope these newsletters will inspire your partnership, contribution, commitment, and leadership to the profession's ongoing efforts.

With your help, we have a bright future ahead.

Warm regards,

Peter Tenerelli

Dr. Peter Tenerelli, BPharm, PharmD, EMP



# Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice **NEWSLETTER**

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## WHAT IS THE CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE?



The Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice (CAPP) was established within the California Northstate University College of Pharmacy with the mission of setting the strategic direction to explore, develop, and implement new and innovative ways of incorporating pharmacists into health care delivery and preparing pharmacy students to successfully lead and integrate within those innovative roles.

The Center's Director, Dr. Peter Tenerelli, with the collaboration of faculty, staff, and students employ a spectrum of strategies that add to the combined result of strengthening the pharmacist's visibility, recognition, and impact within healthcare. These strategies range from the development of local learning centers to national platforms.

This edition will review the following Center initiatives: the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Simulation Lab, the CAPP Advisory Counsel, the Capitol Leadership Forum, the Management, Policy-Making, and Leadership Certificate Program, and the Whats New in Pharmacy Advocacy.

#### THE ADVANCED PHARMACY PRACTICE SIMULATION LAB

The Center's first task was the the planning and construction of the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Simulation (APPS) Lab. With Dr. Tenerelli's specifications and supervision during construction, combined with support from administration, faculty and donations from independent pharmacies, the College of Pharmacy was able to transform a former breakroom into a working replica of a pharmacy's prescription dispensing environment. The APPS lab was designed to provide students the ability to simulate real life pharmacy experiences and challenges in a structured environment. Students are required to build upon and apply knowledge from previous didactic experiences to deliver quality patient care in a variety of entry-level practice settings. The APPS lab allows students be become participants, not solely recipients of didactic information. As such, facilitators can identify gaps in student knowledge, experience, critical thinking and clinical decision making skills. The APPS lab provides a bridge between theory and clinical practice, with the immediate effect of preparing students for their (IPPE) and (APPE) experiential rotations.

## **BEFORE**

## **AFTER**





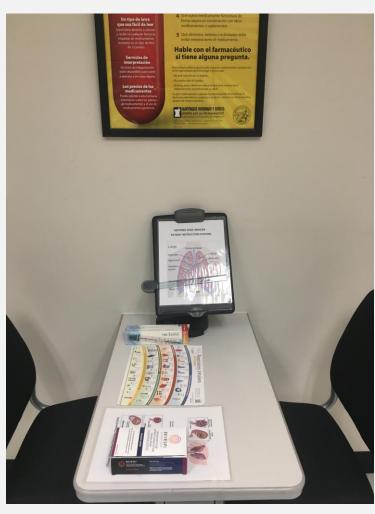








A College of Pharmacy faculty lunchroom (Before) was reconstructed into the APPS Lab (After).



One of the APPS Lab patient counseling stations

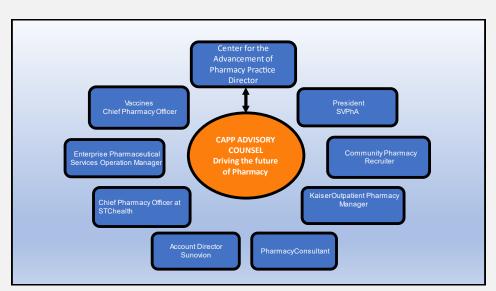
The APPS Lab was also constructed to play a contributory role in the development of student professional identity formation (PIF). Hands on experience and immersion into a real life pharmacy environment allows students to develop the "professional socialization" necessary to integrate the identity of a competent practitioner. Such experiences give our students the ability to "think, act and feel" as a practicing pharmacist. Additionally, early exposure to the pharmacy setting allows pharmacy students the time to integrate the professional values, behaviors and characteristics of the profession within their own personal identities. The process unique Professional Identity Formation allows for the establishment of sustainable professional behaviors upon graduation and into the pharmacy practice environment.

#### THE CAPP ADVISORY COUNSEL

The Center for the Avancement of Pharmacy Practice (CAPP) founded the CAPP Advisory Counsel, a coalition of prominent pharmacy leaders from various disciplines and expertise committed to advancing pharmacy pratice and improving patient outcomes. The CAPP counsel members include representatives

from ambulatory care, health systems, managed care, profressional pharmacy organizations and Industry. These stakeholders give valuable input into their disciplines respective needs and foresight into the professions future opportunities and challenges. In response to this feedback, the Center sets the direction of future initiatives and offerings to students and the pharmacy community. Since the Counsel's first meeting in 2021, members have

graciously and selflessly provided of their time and talent in the exploration of new and innovative to transform pharmacy practice and improve patient all practice outcomes across settings. Pharmacy students are encouraged to join the CAPP Advisory Counsel not only to gain first hand insight from professional leaders, but also to build future networking relationships currently-established members of the healthcare field.



#### THE CAPITOL LEADERSHIP FORUM

Another of the CAPP initiatives is the CNUCOP-Capitol Leadership Forum (CLF). The Forum is an educational platform with the aim of exposing pharmacy students and the pharmacy community to leaders in healthcare, professional organizations, governmental and legislative agencies. The Forum provides exposure to PharmD students in a way that cannot be produced in traditional didactic courses. The Forum assures that in addition to scientific and clinical knowledge, PharmD students are equipped with the behaviors, skills, and understanding necessary to be effective leaders and advocates within pharmacy.

Initially, the Forum was a school-wide program, however with each successful event, the Forum extended its reach progressively to the region of Sacramento, followed by the state of California, to its current national reach. The most recent Forum on Professional Advocay had the participation of 23 schools of pharmacy from throughout the

United States as well as varied dispiclines within the pharmacy community.

CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY **CAPITOL LEADERSHIP FORUM** LEADERSHIP IN ADVOCACY

Currently, there have been a total of five Forums, with another in planning. The Capitol Leadership Forum consists of a series of 90-minute virtual panel discussions with 4 to 5 content experts organized around important topics in healthcare and advocacy.



The first Forum took place on June 23, 2020. It was titled The Future of Pharmacy: Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 on **Pharmacy Practice** Implications on the Roles of Pharmacists' within **Healthcare**". The purpose of the first Forum was to introduce students to established and influential leadership within pharmacy professional organizations and legislative leadership. The panel included several speakers directly engaged in advocacy such as Ms. Susan Bonilla CEO of the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA), Dr. Loriann DeMartini CEO of the California Society of Health-System Dr. Lisa Gunther Lum CSHP Pharmacists (CSHP),

President, Dr. Richard Dang CPhA Chair of the COVID-19 Task Force, and Mikey Hothi the District Director for Jim Cooper of the California State Assembly.

Each speaker shared their leadership roles during the COVID19 pandemic. For instance, Ms. Bonilla and Dr. DeMartini described their efforts to advocate at the state legislature and Governor's office, which in turn brought visibility to pharmacist efforts and contributions during COVID-19. Dr. Dang described CPhA's weekly updates designed to provide pharmacists with an understanding of COVID19, and allieviate any misunderstanding on its transmission and treatments. Mr. Hothi emphasized the need to establish relationships with legislative leaders to create a direct connection between policy-makers and the people who are knowledgable on pharmacy and pharmacy-related issues.

The second Forum took place on October 6, 2020 titled: "Healthcare Disparities: The Pharmacist's Role in Alleviating Healthcare Disparities and Creating Health Equity in the United States". Panelists included Sacramento County Health Program Coordinator Dr. Donyale Abe, Dr. Sergio Aguillar-Gaxiola Director of the UC Davis Health Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Sacramento Public Health Department Human Services Program Planner Staci Syas, and Dr. Trina Von Waldner the Director of Continuing Professional Development and Outreach at the University of Georgia. Each representative offered



The fourth Leadership Forum would further expand on the topic of public crisis. This time with the Augest 17, 2021 Forum titled: "Emergency Preparedness Response: The Pharmacists Roles & Contributions in a Public Health Crisis". The panelists discussed the current and future public health roles of pharmacists in emergency preparedness and response (EP&R). Members of the panel included Dr. Pam Schweitzer PharmD, the former assistant Surgeon General of the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Dr. Sandra Leal, PharmD the President of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), Dr. Hoai An Truong PharmD the Director of Public Health at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Ms. Anne Sodergren the Executive Officer of the California Board of Pharmacy, and Dr. Shannon Manzi, PharmD the Assitant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Additional panelists included Dr. Cameron Carter, MD the Director of the Behavioral Center of Excellence at the University of



their perspectives on health services gaps within compromised communities and how a pharmacist may utilize their expertise to fill the gaps.

The third Forum that took place on January 12, 2021 titled: "The Mental Health Crisis: What Pharmacists Can Do to Support and Alleviate Mental Health Illness" This Forum would be joined by Sacramento Mayor Darrel Steinberg. Mayor Steinberg is also the founder of the Steinberg Institute which is committed to bringing together leaders in government, medicine, research, business, and technology for the promotion of quality healthcare.



California at Davis, Dr. Ryan Quist, PhD the Behavioral Director of Sacramento County and Co-Chair of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) Medi-Cal Policy Committee, and Dr. Martin Rubin, MD of the California Northstate University College of Medicine. During this emotionally moving Forum, participants discussed how pharmacists can support the growing mental health crisis.

Drs. Schweitzer, Truong, and Manzi discussed specific public health roles of pharmacists in EP&R spaces such as the United States Public Health Service and the Medical Reserve Corps, as well as the impact on pediatric issues during emergencies. Dr. Leal and Ms. Sodegren provided their perspective on future roles for pharmacists during a disaster response, including the importance of advocacy on behalf of the profession in order to secure greater autonomy in pharmacy practice. The State of California was cited for its progressive stance in allowing pharmacists to perform COVID19 immunizations statewide. The Forum boasted 102 live attendees, 27 of which were pharmacists taking part in continuing education.

The fifth and most-recent Forum took place on February 22, 2022 and focused on the topic of "Professional Advocacy: Examining Strategies to Advance the **Profession of Pharmacy".** During this panel, Ms. Susan Bonilla and Dr. Sandra Leal, PharmD would return, joined by Dr. Jenny Arnold PharmD the CEO of the Washington State Pharmacists Association (WSPA) and Dr. Sara Roszak Dr.PH, MPH the Senior Vice President of Health and Wellness Strategy and Policy for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS). As prior Forums identified "gaps in healthcare", this Forum's discussion provided insight on how to advocate for pharmacists to fill the gaps and potentially expand their role as healthcare providers. Notable points of discussion included strategies employed by states and organizations that were successful in professional advocacy. Dr. Jenny Arnold, PharmD pointed to the success of WA Senate Bill (SB5557) which made Washington the first state in the country to require commercial health insurance plans to include pharmacists in their provider networks for reimbursement of services provided by pharmacists that meet the credentialing requirements.



The Capitol Leadership Forum continues to assemble healthcare and legislative leaders who freely exchange their insight and expertise on a variety of topics impacting healthcare, and the advocacy efforts that allow pharmacy to control its direction within the healthcare echosystem.

#### THE MANAGEMENT, POLICY-MAKING, AND LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Another CAPP initiative is the Management, Policy-Making, and Leadership (MPL) Certificate Program. This is an extra-curricular program that accepts students throughout the College of Pharmacy who wish to enhance their leadership skills within the advoacy process. The MPL programs trains students in the triad of skills necessary

to effectively advocate for the profession. The MPL program is conducted by its two co-founders, CAPP Director Dr. Peter Tenerelli and Dr. Susanne Clark Co-Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. The MPL program is also proud to welcome Dr. Shahanara Ahsan as a contributing faculty member.

The MPL Program consists of structured discussion sessions with topics on leadership, management, and policymaking and their impact on advocacy. During the leadership discussion, students explore leadership and the key skills that make them more effective leaders. Students learn the concepts of creating a shared vision, aligning teams to a vision and mission, motivating, and garnering the voluntary commitment to achieve goals. Students are then introduced to effective management techniques to achieve stated goals. Finally, students are instructed on ways to navigate the intricate legislative process so the professions individual and collective voices can be heard. Students are introduced to the key legislative committees that impact pharmacy. Students are also required to complete projects that transition knowledge into the functional ability to impact policy. Students are encouraged to immerse themselves in ongoing discussions on policymaking such as meetings hosted by the Sacramento Valley



Pharmacists Association (SVPhA), CPhA Town Halls, CPhA House of Delegates, CSHP meetings, and the Capitol Leadership Forums. Additionally, students research current Senate Bills advocated by pharmacy-based organizations and present their findings to the program cohort. Overall, the program provides our pharmacy



students with a means to immerse themselves in a setting where established pharmacists utilize their leadership and expertise to advocate for the profession. Due to the California Northstate University College of Pharmacy proximity to the California State Capitol, MPL students are provided the opportunity to participate in observing policy making directly through observing health related committees occurring at the Capitol in Sacramento.

Through an understanding of their roles within advocacy, MPL pharmacy students are better prepared to "take a seat at the table" enabling a more prominent role in the advancement of the pharmacy profession.

Finally those students who successfully meet the requirements of the program are awarded a certificate recognizing their individual demonstration of the specialized knowledge, skills and experience necessary to successfully advocate for the profession.



#### WHAT'S NEW IN PHARMACY ADVOCACY

A monumental victory has occurred in pharmacy, resulting in the future preservation of pharmacy access. Due to the diligent efforts of the California Pharmacists Association, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Medi-Cal retroactive recoupment of payments (clawbacks) has been stopped. Due to the Association's leadership and membership's diligent efforts, the Governor of California signed the state budget forgiving \$142 million in state medication reimbursement clawbacks that the state demanded back from pharmacies.

#### What is the clawback?

In 2017, California adopted a new reimbursement methodology for the dispensing of prescription drugs by pharmacies participating in the Medi-Cal program. This was done pursuant to federal requirements designed to align reimbursement more closely with pharmacies' actual acquisition costs and necessitated adjustments in each state Medicaid program. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) spent almost two full years getting to the point of implementation of the new methodology. While the new methodology was effective April 1, 2017, its actual implementation of the new methodology began February 23, 2019. As a result, DHCS implemented retroactive adjustments to claims (aka 'clawbacks') going all the way back to April 1, 2017.

A hard fought battle for the profession of pharmacy was won last night when Governor Newsom signed the State Budget forgiving \$142 million in medication reimbursement claw backs the State demanded from pharmacists.

CPhA members have fought this battle for three years pausing the clawbacks and now seeing them forgiven. Today we all celebrate this historic victory for the profession and independent pharmacy. Over 1,000 signed a letter in the last 24 hours, urging the Governor to sign the budget that included the \$142 million allocation.

Preserving the infrastructure of independent pharmacy protects patient access to care and strengths the profession.

Amazing victories are possible when we stand together! Today the future of pharmacy in California is brighter.

Sincerely,

Swan A. Bonilla

Susan A. Bonilla, CPhA CEO



Special acknowledgement and thanks to our Capitol Leadership members who work behind the scenes to make the production a success:

Ms. Joanna Jullien, Director of Continuing Education Programs Dr. Suzanne Clark, BPharm, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology and Co-Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Mr. Jason McDowell, Outreach and Admissions Advisor Ms. Jocelyn Gonzalez, Chief of Staff, Office of the Dean

Stay tuned for the next issue!

