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*An independent chapter of the
American College of Clinical
Pharmacy, the DC-CCP is dedicated
to improvements in
pharmacotherapy practice,
education, and research in the
District of Columbia, Maryland, and
the Commonwealth of Virginia*

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Dear DC-CCP members,

It is my distinct honor to serve all of you as the new President of DC-CCP. As envisioned by our founding members and past leaders, I will work diligently to expand the mission of our great organization. Together, we will cultivate the next generation of pharmacist-leaders, inspire our students, and provide enhanced resources to our clinical pharmacists and residents.

Our annual DC-CCP sponsored Advocacy Day saw a successful turnout discussing policies that shape our profession. Our goal is to double down on these efforts so that we can continue to advance pharmacy interests in our region and beyond. We will also strengthen our existing networking opportunities and educational initiatives through our annual CE forum. Furthermore, membership expansion continues to be at the forefront of our agenda, and this year, we have established a new membership committee to support the growth of our organization.

We are excited to introduce our innovative ad-hoc committees in Philanthropy and Awards. The goal of our Philanthropy ad-hoc committee is to enhance our commitment to give back to our community. We believe activities such as charity walks, local health fairs, and brown bag consults will offer new avenues for community engagement. Similarly, the Awards ad-hoc committee will assist our Executive Committee with the promotion and selection of worthy award recipients.

Most importantly, I would like to emphasize the significance of having your active participation as members at-large, committee members, or as participants and event facilitators. Finally, I would like to personally thank members of the leadership and committee chairs as well as our active members for your continued support of DC-CCP. I look forward to overseeing a historically impactful year for DC-CCP.

Memar Ayalew, Pharm.D. Clinical Specialist ID

DC-CCP President 2019-2020

**Dr. Kathleen Pincus Awarded the 2018-2019
Richard Parrish Lecture Award**

The Richard Parrish Lecture Award is DC-CCP's highest distinction, and is awarded annually to an individual who exemplifies leadership in clinical pharmacy, by providing significant and sustained contributions in or for clinical pharmacy at the regional or national level. The seventh annual Richard Parrish Lecture Award was presented to Dr. Kathleen Pincus, PharmD, BCPS on February 27th, 2019.

Dr. Pincus is a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist and an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She serves as the Residency Program Director for the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program. An alumna of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy ('09), Dr. Pincus completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center and her Pharmacotherapy Specialty Residency at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Dr. Pincus practices as an ambulatory care specialist at the University of Maryland Family and Community Medicine practice, and as a clinical pharmacy consultant with the Governor's Wellmobile Program.



**Jessica Szatkowski Awarded the 2018-2019 Student
Leadership Award**

This year DC-CCP presented the Student Leadership Reward to Jessica Szatkowski. Jessica attends Shenandoah University Bernard J Dunn School of Pharmacy at the Fairfax campus. She comes to pharmacy school with 9 years of community and 9 years of hospital pharmacy experience, in addition to a stint as a middle school teacher! Her involvement with DC-CCP over the last three years has included coordinating Shenandoah's participation in the DC-CCP Advocacy Day on the Hill and a residency education series hosted at University of Maryland and Shenandoah's Winchester campus. Jessica is currently trying to absorb all the information she can during her APPE rotations. When she graduates in May of 2020, she hopes to pursue a residency in hospital pharmacy and possibly a PGY2 in critical care or emergency medicine.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW 2019 DC-CCP OFFICERS!

Executive Board

President: Memar Ayalew, PharmD

President-Elect: Erin VanMeter, PharmD

Secretary-Treasurer: Lisa Chen, PharmD

Committee Members

Education and Networking Committee

Student Chair: Maryam Alli

Student/Resident Subcommittee

Pharmacist Chair: David Lewis

Student Chair: Jessica Szatkowski

Communications Committee

Pharmacist Chair: Jessica Pyhtila

Student Chair: Andrew Lee

Advocacy Committee

Pharmacist Chair: Lisa Peters

Student Chair: Julia Mahler

Membership Committee

Pharmacist Chair: Chelsea McSwain

Student Chair: Adam Hussain

LOCAL ACCP STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY BERNARD J. DUNN SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Maryam Alli, 2nd year student pharmacist

The Shenandoah University Chapter of ACCP was involved in a variety of activities throughout the spring semester of 2019. A major event we held during the spring semester was Advocacy with DC-CCP. On April 16, 2019, approximately 40 SU students met in Washington, D.C. We were given an opportunity to advocate for pharmacist provider status. We discussed and gave various examples of how critical and essential the role of a pharmacist is within the field of healthcare. In addition to that we spoke about how provider status under the Social Security Act assists pharmacists to better integrate into the health care team. Students were broken up into groups based on the states they were representing and proceeded to their respective state legislative offices for scheduled meetings. During the meetings, students were given the opportunity to share their experiences as student pharmacists and how they have impacted the field of healthcare. Based on the feedback we received from our students, Advocacy Day was a rewarding experience!



HOWARD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Willis March, 3rd year student pharmacist

The Howard University chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy is one of the many professional organizations at the Howard University College of Pharmacy. It provides students with leadership, educational, research, advocacy, professional development, and other services through events and networking. One of the events was Keeping up with Clinical Pharmacists, which took place on October 4th at 6:30 p.m. The speaker at this event was Dr. Katherine Pham. She works at the District of Columbia Office of ACCP as the Director of Policy and Professional Affairs. She talked about her very interesting career path and the many different aspects of clinical pharmacy that pharmacy students can take as a clinical pharmacist.

During the meeting, she shared her experiences about working as a clinical pharmacist for 14 years at St. Joseph's in Paterson, N.J. and Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. and as an assistant professor at LIU. She then was the senior officer of the Drug Safety Project for Pew Charitable Trusts. She also talked about many other accomplishments that she has done including being a residency director at Children's National Hospital, being a peer reviewer, staying involved with ASHP, advocating for the pharmacy profession, and volunteering for and collaborating with numerous organizations. This event was a great success because it provided valuable insight for pharmacy students to see that clinical pharmacy entails more than simply working at a hospital. Through this event, students learned that there are endless possibilities to what they can accomplish as pharmacists.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Andrew Lee, 4th year student pharmacist

The UMB School of Pharmacy student chapter of ACCP has been involved with the CURE Scholars program throughout the past academic year. The UMB CURE Scholars program is a groundbreaking year-round pipeline program that prepares sixth- to 12th grade students in the community of Baltimore for competitive and rewarding research, STEM, and health care career opportunities.

During the numerous events held between 2018~2019, a group of pharmacy students from ACCP visited the Community Engagement Center, located in West Baltimore to provide quality education for young scholars and assumed a role of mentor for them. On the day of events, a group of pharmacy students selected interesting topics such as infectious disease. Then students came up with fun and engaging activities, not only to educate those highly-motivated local students, but also to foster relationships with them in the long run. Pharmacy students from the ACCP student chapter at University of Maryland have continuously served as role models to inspire young students and their families.



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

El-Sheba N. Okwei, 4th year student pharmacist

The purpose of the Virginia Commonwealth University Student Chapter of ACCP is to help our members achieve ACCP's mission: to advance human health by extending the frontiers of clinical pharmacy.

We provided numerous opportunities for students (members and non-members) to engage with their communities and further build their clinical skills as pharmacists. A major event we held this past year was an orientation session for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in Richmond, Virginia. The Medical Reserve Corps is a national network of local volunteer units (medical and public health professionals as well as general community members) who engage local communities to strengthen public health, and to improve emergency preparedness and response. The MRC achieves these initiatives through health outreach screenings involving sexually transmitted infections and chronic disease, community education projects, and opioid response trainings and education to mention a few. They also provide training for all volunteers including emergency response, CPR, and first aid. The orientation event was held at 12pm on Wednesday November 8th, 2018 for students who expressed interest and was led by the coordinator of the Richmond City Health District, Kate Bausman. About 35 students attended the orientation and were introduced to the history and purpose of the Medical Reserve Corps here in Richmond, VA as well as on a national level. They learned how to get involved in the various volunteer programs the MRC provides and several students decided to join that afternoon.



NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Sabari Surendran, 4th year student pharmacist

Notre Dame of Maryland School of Pharmacy Students Host Legislative Learning Event

Legislative activism and civic engagement are some of the most productive and direct ways through which the future of pharmacy practice can be changed. They help highlight the role of pharmacists not only as healthcare professionals but also as civic advocates for public health and patient care advocacy. Often times, while Pharmacy Schools cover the comprehensive length and breadth of the theoretical and practical coursework that will prepare students to become capable pharmacists, legislative activism is something that has to be learned through involvement outside of the program. Keeping this in mind, the DC-CCP representative/Policy Vice-President and Co-Vice President at Notre Dame of Maryland School of Pharmacy's APhA-ASP chapter joined forces with the SNPhA Legislative Chair at the school and organized the Legislative Learning.



The Legislative Learning Seminar was an event that involved students from across all classes who were interested in learning about the latest legislative bills, summaries and support statements drafted by different pharmacy organizations under the sponsorship of different legislators and the leadership of the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition (MPC) in Annapolis this year. Students learned about the various professional and clinical implications of important bills that are under the works that will affect the future of the pharmacy profession and their future pharmacy practice. It was well attended and also

provided students with a much-needed update about the oncoming changes that are happening in regards to pharmacy and how these should be perceived in the context of the ongoing provider status bill.

Having been actively involved through student representation with the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition (MPC), the faculty and students at Notre Dame of Maryland SOP are also involved in helping organize the annual statewide Legislative Day which provides pharmacists and student pharmacists in Maryland a unique opportunity to spend a whole day advocating for the future of their professions. The organizers of Legislative Learning hope that the large attendance and active participation reflected in this event will foster larger participation and involvement from the student body for the upcoming MPC Legislative Day 2020.

FDA Approves Midazolam Nasal Spray for the Treatment of Seizure Clusters and Acute Repetitive Seizures in Patients with Epilepsy

Alexandra Simms, PharmD Candidate 2020, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

Background

On May 20, 2019, the FDA approved intranasal midazolam (Nayzilam) as the first-ever nasal spray for seizure treatment. Specifically, intranasal midazolam is indicated for the acute treatment of intermittent, stereotypic episodes of frequent seizure activity (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures) that are distinct from a patient's usual seizure pattern in patients with epilepsy 12 years of age or older.¹ This approval gives new therapeutic options to patients, caregivers, and practitioners. Prior to this new approval, the rectal gel formulation of diazepam (Diastat) was the only FDA approved drug for at-home treatment of cluster seizures.² The rectal formulation puts both the patient and the caregiver in an uncomfortable situation as this formulation is difficult to administer during a seizure and may infringe on the dignity of the patient. Not only does an intranasal formulation allow for ease of administration and fewer restrictions on the required position of the patient, but it is also significantly less expensive than the previous mainstay treatment option of rectal diazepam.

Clinical Studies^{4,5}

In the *Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of USL261 (Intranasal Midazolam) in Patients With Seizure Clusters (ARTEMIS1)*, it was determined that intranasal midazolam is effective for the treatment of intermittent, stereotypic episodic of frequent seizure activity (i.e., seizure clusters, and acute repetitive seizures) that are distinct from a patient's usual seizure in patients who are 12 years or older and who have a diagnosis of epilepsy. This study was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial (Study 1; NCT 01390220.). This study was conducted in two phases: an open-label Test Dose Phase followed by a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, Comparative Phase. The Test Dose Phase assessed the tolerability of two 5mg doses of intranasal midazolam separated by 10 minutes given in the absence of a seizure. The comparative phase treated a single cluster episode in the outpatient setting with either a blinded for intranasal midazolam 5mg or placebo. In the event that the seizure persisted or recurred within 10 minutes or 6 hours of the initial dose, respectively, patients in both groups had the option to receive a second dose of unblinded intranasal midazolam 5mg.

The primary endpoint of this study was the termination of seizures within 10 minutes and the absence of a recurring seizure within 6 hours of an initial dose of the blinded study drug. The study showed termination of the seizure(s) within 10 minutes after the initial dose of study drug (80.6 versus 70.1%) and the absence of seizure recurrence between 10 minutes and 6 hours after the initial dose of study drug (58.2 versus 37.3%). Ultimately, the study showed a statistically significant higher percentage of intranasal midazolam treated patients met the primary endpoint.

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Advocacy Day 2019



"Pharmacists and student pharmacists gathered in Washington, D.C. for DCCP's annual Advocacy Day on April 16th, 2019. They spoke to representatives and aids from Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania about pertinent pharmacy legislation including Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM). This event was an opportunity to advocate for our patients to have access to highly valued pharmacist services. We are looking forward to expanding on this event next year!"

Julia Mahler
Advocacy Committee Student Chair
University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
Class of 2020

Special thanks to our peer reviewers:

Jessica Pyhtila, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP

Interested in contributing an article for the DC-CCP Summer newsletter or becoming a peer reviewer?

Please contact dcccpnewsletter@gmail.com

DC-CCP Upcoming Events

End of August – National Baseball game

November – Fall CE Forum



About DC-CCP

DC-CCP is a non-profit professional association and an independent chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy dedicated to improvements in pharmacotherapy practice, education, and research in the Washington D.C. Capital Region, including the District of Columbia, State of Maryland, and Commonwealth of Virginia. Membership will be open to any licensed or registered health care professional or health care professional student in the Capital Region. Membership in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy is not required to become a member of our organization.

Purpose and Goals of DC-CCP

- (A) To promote the rational use of drugs in society
- (B) To advance the principles and practice of clinical pharmacy
- (C) To promote the full-time, advanced practice of clinical pharmacy
- (D) To provide an advanced level of continuing education programs in the area of clinical pharmacy and objectives of ACCP as outlined in its constitution and bylaws.
- (E) To provide a forum for the expression of opinion on pharmacy practice, education, and research from the perspective of clinical pharmacists
- (F) To support, promote, and advance the goals and objectives of ACCP as outlined in its constitution and bylaws
- (G) To provide a local recruiting base for ACCP

For more information or to become a member of DC-CCP please visit our website or social media pages:

<https://dcccp.wildapricot.org>



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