

KSHP NEWS

Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists

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President's Message

Stephanie Baker Justice,
PharmD, BCPS, CPEL
KSHP President

Director, Pharmacy Services
 Cabell Huntington Hospital
 Huntington, WV
president@kshp.org



It was wonderful to see everyone who made it to the 2024 KSHP Spring Meeting at the Louisville Marriott East on Friday, April 19. At the end of the day, it was evident that the Programming and Practitioner Education Committee invested a significant amount of time and hard work in planning and executing such a wonderful day of education and networking. From the opening continuing education session with Jessa White on medication safety to the end of the day with two tracks available for attendees, the day was filled with engaging speakers who challenged meeting attendees as to their way of thinking, current processes, etc. I am certain that everyone left the meeting with at least one action item to take back to their practice site. My hope is that we can carry the engagement from this meeting to our 2024 Fall Meeting as it was refreshing to witness the open dialogue that originated with the speakers and trickled down to the

audience – the result being an invigorating atmosphere!

For those that were there, please provide us with your feedback on the meeting and what we can do better to meet and hopefully exceed your expectations at future meetings. We want to know your thoughts on the continuing education sessions, the networking with our vendors and committee members who had tables, the student/resident poster session, and the venue itself. If you were unable to attend the meeting, we want your feedback on affinity groups that you would be interested in attending. Examples from the past include women in pharmacy, new practitioners, etc. We are continuing to seek opportunities to engage our members and optimize the value of our membership. Affinity groups provide those with similar interests a chance to get together and talk about hot topics impacting their group members. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for these groups in our organization as they

tend to result in empowerment and professional development while further enhancing engagement, which has been emphasized as a primary focus of our Executive Committee and Board of Directors this year.

Some of you may still be wondering why the focus is on engagement and why it is so important. The answer to that is simple – engagement is the heart and core of an organization. Think about KSHP like a place of employment as it is a similar concept. Engaged members are committed to the organization and the profession of pharmacy, and they are willing to go above and beyond to contribute to the organization's goals and strategic plan. Productivity in an organization is higher when people are engaged as they are motivated and focused on the tasks at hand. In addition, retention and morale follow suit as satisfaction and value are higher when members are engaged.

As members of KSHP, we all play a crucial role in the organizations' growth and success. Two of the easiest ways we can each contribute to the organization is by recruiting new members and providing feedback. We all know that there is strength in numbers, so please help us continue to get new members from all areas of health-system practice. There is a place for everyone, so reach out to pharmacy technicians, pharmacists, students, and all others who play a role in health-system pharmacy in Kentucky. By expanding our membership, we will become a more diverse organization with new and exciting perspectives and more resources to support our goals. Share your personal KSHP testimony as you help us recruit new members – the recent spring meeting is a wonderful example to get the conversation started. Another easy ask is for our members to share our social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. As for feedback, we all know that it helps us determine what we are doing well and what we can improve. By taking the feedback that we get and

implementing changes, KSHP will continue to grow and develop. When provided in a constructive manner, feedback can spark innovation and drive positive changes. Again, help us make KSHP what you want it to be.

In closing, I am so thankful for all that each of you do to support our great organization. My ask is that you think about what I have discussed in my newsletter message this month to keep KSHP thriving. Let us take the unique ideas, perspectives, and talents that we all bring to the organization and use that to amplify our impact. Please take a moment and think about what you can do to help shape the future of KSHP.

**KSHP Spring Meeting
Wrap-up**
Emily Followell, PharmD
Chair, Programming & Practitioner
Education
Norton Healthcare, Louisville, KY
programming@kshp.org

Another successful KSHP Spring Meeting took place at Louisville Marriott East on April 19th! Pharmacists, residents, students, and technicians were in attendance for a variety continuing education opportunities. Talented speakers presented on a range of topics from pharmacy leadership to providing gender affirming care as well as afternoon tracks tailored to ambulatory care and infectious diseases. Tina Claypool, PharmD, BDCES, BCACP, recently awarded the KSHP Innovative Health-System Pharmacy Practice Award, presented a pearl presentation high-lighting the impact of pharmacists on chronic disease states from her perspectives in a pharmacist-led medication management clinic. Many pharmacy residents in attendance took part in the 2024

Spring Meeting Poster Presentations to showcase their hard work researching varying clinical questions to advance the practice of pharmacy. Congratulations to Madison Clark, PharmD (PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Resident at Norton Healthcare) for being selected the winner for her poster titled “*Efficacy of a Pharmacy-Driven Rapid Bacteremia Response on Outcomes in Patients with ESBL Bacteremia.*” CE hours should be reflected in participant NABP accounts within the coming weeks if you claimed CE. KSHP would like to thank all of our speakers, poster evaluators, attendees, and exhibitors for making this a very successful meeting!

Mark your calendars for the **KSHP 2024 Fall Meeting**, which is planned for **September 26th and 27th at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington**. If you are interested in providing continuing education at the Fall Meeting, the KSHP Programming Committee is seeking submissions from potential speakers at this time. All proposals will be thoroughly reviewed and considered. Topics identified as highly desired by previous meeting participants include ambulatory care, medication safety, 340B, infectious disease, and preceptor development. The speaker proposal form is available on the KSHP website. Please direct any questions to the Programming Committee at programming@kshp.org.





CE presentation at the Spring Meeting, April 19, 2024 held at Marriott East, Louisville, KY



The KSHP leadership met April 18 to participate in developing a strategic plan.

Novel RSV Prophylaxis in Pediatric Patients

Jordi Harris, PharmD
PGY-2 Critical Care Resident,
Norton Children's Hospital,
Louisville, KY

Jordi.Harris@nortonhealthcare.org



Respiratory syncytial virus, also known as RSV, is a virus commonly seen in young pediatric patients and older adults. The CDC estimates that up to 90% of children under two years of age contract RSV.¹ Up to 40% of these patients will go on to develop a lower respiratory tract infection due to the RSV infection, which puts the patient at risk of developing RSV bronchiolitis, pneumonia, and may increase the risk of asthma later in life.¹ Supportive care strategies and symptom-based management are the mainstays of treatment for RSV.

In 2023, two novel RSV immunizations were approved in the United States. The first immunization, a recombinant respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (Abrysvo®), is FDA-approved for adults over age 60, and pregnant patients who are 32 to 36 weeks gestation. The second immunization, nirsevimab-alip (Beyfortus®), is FDA-approved for neonates and infants entering their first RSV season, and children under 2 years of age who are at high risk for

complications of RSV in their second RSV season.

The new recombinant RSV vaccine (Abrysvo®) is a bivalent subunit vaccine that targets the prefusion F glycoprotein of the respiratory syncytial virus. This vaccine is administered as a single dose and protects against RSV-A and RSV-B strains.^{2,3} When administered in pregnancy, the antibodies that develop against the RSV antigen transfer to the fetus.³ This will provide immunity which can protect the infant up to 6 months of age.³ The MATISSE trial concluded that the vaccine confers 81.8% protection against severe lower respiratory tract infection for infants within 90 days after birth and 69.4% within 6 months after birth.⁴

The second immunization, nirsevimab-alip (Beyfortus®), is a long-acting human immunoglobulin G1 kappa monoclonal antibody that binds to the RSV fusion protein.¹ Nirsevimab-alip is the preferred agent for RSV prophylaxis in neonates and infants recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Due to this immunization's longer half-life, it is administered as a one-time dose for the entire RSV season. In comparison, the previously recommended agent palivizumab (Synagis®) requires 5 monthly injections and is only approved for infants at high risk of RSV complications.

Nirsevimab-alip has been studied in pre-term (29 to 35 weeks gestation), late-preterm (>35 weeks gestation), term infants, infants with congenital heart disease, and infants with chronic lung disease.^{5,6} Compared to placebo, RSV-associated lower respiratory tract infections were 70.1% lower with nirsevimab-alip in premature infants, and 74.5% lower in late pre-term and term infants.^{5,6} Nirsevimab-alip was well tolerated, with the most common side effect listed as injection-site reactions.^{5,6} At this time, nirsevimab-alip has not been compared in a head-to-head trial with palivizumab.

While research on preventing RSV has been slow-moving in the past 2 decades, the progress we saw in 2023 may be just

the beginning. There are several more vaccines and monoclonal antibodies that are undergoing clinical trials. Specifically, a long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody, similar to nirsevimab-alip, called clesrovimab is undergoing phase three trials. In the absence of effective RSV antiviral treatments, preventative measures are the primary strategy for preventing morbidity and mortality associated with RSV. Therefore, it is essential that we continue to research these RSV vaccines and monoclonal antibodies.

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Meet Your Members

Sally Yousef, PY1
Lead Intern, UK Chandler Hospital
ASHP-SSHP President-Elect
University of Kentucky College of
Pharmacy
sally.yousef@uky.edu

This article features a pharmacy student who has generated professional and personal questions to help both students and pharmacists get to know KSHP members from across the Commonwealth!



Originally from New Braunfels, Texas, **Samantha Gauthier** received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from University of Texas, Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Harding University College of Pharmacy (Searcy, Arkansas), and she completed her pharmacy practice residency training at the Unity Health – White County Medical Center. After finishing her residency training, Dr. Gauthier worked at University of Kentucky Healthcare Chandler Medical Center as a Neurology and Pulmonary Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist where she precepted APPE students as well as PGY1 and PGY2 residents. Currently she works as an Intensive Care Unit Satellite Pharmacist in the University of Kentucky Healthcare Medical Intensive Care Unit.



Sally Yousef is a first-year pharmacy student at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. She was born and raised in Lexington, Kentucky. Sally is a pharmacist intern at the University of Kentucky Chandler Central Pharmacy and serves as the Head Intern of the Chandler Pharmacy Intern program. She attended the University of Kentucky for two years as an undergraduate student before beginning pharmacy school.

What made you decide you wanted to pursue a career as a pharmacist?

Samantha: I knew I had always wanted to work in healthcare. A major person of influence was one of my high school teachers who was a retired Registered Nurse. She taught different healthcare related courses, including: Medical Terminology, Medical Spanish, Pharmacy Technician Certification Course, Patient Assessment, and a Healthcare Profession Rotations Course that allowed you to shadow 9 different professions in healthcare throughout the school year. Through this course, I was able to discover my passion for pharmacy over other healthcare professions.

Sally: When I was in undergrad, I began working at a Kroger retail pharmacy to gain more experience with medications. At the time, I was unsure of what path I was going to take but all I knew was that I loved

learning about how a medication could affect the different systems in the body. I started asking more and more questions of the pharmacist to gain a better understanding of each medication. Within the first month of working in the pharmacy, I knew that I was destined to become a pharmacist.

What have you found to be the most challenging aspect of your role?

Samantha: Being a female professional and Mother, I have found that it can be challenging to balance the high expectations of a Clinical Pharmacist at a large academic medical center (projects, committees, research projects, mentorship, precepting, day-to-day patient care, etc.) with the necessary demands of being a committed, patient, and present mother who wishes to keep her child active, healthy, and socially adjusted. Work-life balance has been my longest struggle and I have a beautifully color coordinated calendar to prove it.

Sally: I began working as an intern at the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital before I started pharmacy school, and I struggled with addressing medication-related questions concerning drugs I had not yet been exposed to. Even now, as a first-year pharmacy student, I often struggle in practice to recall relevant drug knowledge that I have not yet learned through the didactic part of my pharmacy school curriculum. This is in comparison to my more senior peers, who have learned and are more accustomed to utilizing such drugs. As I progress in school, I am becoming more comfortable with the knowledge expected of someone in my role in the pharmacy intern program and am excited to continue building on my learned drug information throughout the rest of my time as a student.

What is your approach when working with other healthcare professionals (e.g., physicians) to ensure you can provide optimal patient care?

Samantha: I believe that the best approach to providing patient centered care is to actively listen to all perspectives and approaches. Not all ideas will be correct or fruitful (including my own), but always approaching patient care with an open mind willingness to advocate for your patient is key.

Sally: The best approach that I have seen while working is to have open communication. it is pertinent to have an open line of communication with everyone involved with the care of the patient to ensure that their wellbeing is prioritized.

If you did not become a pharmacist, what career would you have chosen?

Samantha: Going into the aforementioned Healthcare Profession Rotations Course in high school, I thought that I wanted to be a Cardiothoracic Surgeon. After passing out during an open-heart surgery, I can safely say that if I had not become a pharmacist, I would pursue a career in baking or professional organizing.

Sally: Growing up I had no idea what I wanted to be, I only knew that I loved genetics. My only goal between the ages of 7-16 was winning a Nobel Peace Prize for discovering a medication that would alter the human genome to cure Sickle Cell Anemia. If I never discovered my love for pharmacy, I believe I would have gotten a PhD research in Modern Genetics and pursued a path in research.

What are hobbies or activities that you like to outside of work?

Samantha: Outside of work, I enjoy crafting, deep cleaning (don't judge me), baking fun treats for my friends and family (specifically royal icing cookies), reading fantasy books, drinking craft cocktails,



discovering new craft beers across the country, and pretending I am not a Muggle.

Sally: Outside of school, I find joy in working out, playing soccer, reading books, trying to recreate the traditional middle eastern foods that my mom would make us as kids (it has never turned out as good as hers), and watching a good series on Netflix.

What is your favorite trip you have taken?

Samantha: Mackinac Island, Michigan. During a cross-country road Summer road trip to visit my now-husband's family in Baraga, Michigan (yah to da UP eh!) we took a ferry across Lake Huron to Mackinac Island. Where we spent the day exploring the island via horse carriage, eating fudge, visiting the butterfly conservatory, and ultimately Arch Rock where he proposed to me at Sunset. Other than the 40 degree weather (Fahrenheit, not Celsius...) the day couldn't have been more perfect.

Sally: Panama City Beach, Florida. While I was growing up, my family made it a tradition to go to this specific beach every year as it held many fond memories and adventures. The destination became my favorite place to visit every year because it reminded me of the happy times I would spend there with my parents and brothers. For the past few years, our whole family has not been able to make the trip together due to work and school conflicts, but this coming

year will be the first in five years that we will all get to go together.

What is something that most people don't know about you?

Samantha: I am an NCAA All-American Bowler that was the lead-off player on the ESPN televised National Championship match.

Sally: During a summer I spent in Palestine, the country where my parents are from, I received a donkey as a pet. Very fittingly, I named him "Donkey," because my family in Palestine is unaware of the English word for the animal.