



# MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY

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## MONTANA PHARMACY ASSOCIATION SELECTS RORY JOHNSON AS NEW LEADER DURING ANNUAL MEETING

The Montana Pharmacy Association officially selected pharmacist Rory Johnson as the association's new Chair during their Annual Business Meeting on June 2nd. Rory is originally from Helena, Montana, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Montana Skaggs School of Pharmacy. His research interests include community pharmacy, chronic respiratory diseases, and immunizations.

Rory graduated from the University of Montana with a Pharm.D. in 2006. As a pharmacist Rory has worked in a variety of pharmacy settings. He is certified as an Asthma Educator and has helped develop pharmacy based services for asthma self-management education across the state.

Rory has been on the Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA) Board of Directors since his election in 2016 and has served on the Legislative, Publications/PR, and Membership Committees. He also serves as a board member on the National Asthma Educator

Certification Board, chairing multiple committees since 2014.

Rory remains active in his campus community and as a volunteer for Camp Huff 'N Puff, a summer camp for children with asthma. Rory, and his wife Lisa, reside in Missoula and are avid outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy fly-fishing, floating, hiking, skiing, and an occasional round of golf.



### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS LOGAN TINSEN AND JOELLEN MAURER

At this year's annual MPA meeting the membership also announced the selection and seating of new board members. They include, Logan Tinsen, Clinical Pharmacist with Benefis Hospitals in Great Falls and JoEllen Maurer, Pharmacy Clinical Manager & PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings.

**REMINDER**  
THE MPA WINTER MEETING  
WILL BE HELD  
JANUARY 11-13, 2019  
AT BIG SKY RESORT  
JOIN US!

### In This Issue:

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## THINK TANK CONCLUDES PHARMACISTS SHOULD HAVE FULL IMMUNIZATION AUTHORITY

A new report published in April supports pharmacists having full authority to provide vaccinations. Think tank Pacific Research Institute published their report, "Promoting Access and Lowering Costs in Health Care: The Case of Empowering Pharmacists to Increase Adult Vaccination Rates," and concluded that pharmacist-provided immunizations are both cost-effective and valuable, but also identified current barriers pharmacists face.

One barrier the report focuses on is the current reporting technology. With more than 50 immunization registries across the country, it is difficult to access a patient's vaccination history and report current immunizations. The report calls for pharmacists to have access to electronic health records, which they conclude will increase recommended vaccinations and better educate patients. "When pharmacists are empowered with information, they can explain the vaccines CDC recommends. The role pharmacists can play in education is incredibly important and can increase vaccination rates," the report states. (*NASPA Resources*)

## MPA PASSES FIVE POLICY RESOLUTIONS AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

At the 2018 Annual MPA Business Meeting members held a positive and interactive policy discussion on key issues impacting the profession in Montana. This discussion was the result of members reviewing, amending and ultimately passing five policy resolutions. These resolutions will now serve as a guide in helping the MPA board and legislative committee as they prepare for the upcoming Montana Legislative Session that begins on January 7, 2019 and for future sessions.

The five MPA policy resolutions adopted at the Annual Meeting cover the following:

1. Support for Continuation & Enhancement of Prescription Drug Registry
2. Support for Pharmacy Technicians & Policy Collaboration
3. Support for Provider Payment for Pharmacy Services
4. Support for Adequate Medicaid Reimbursements
5. Support for Legislation Involving DIR Fees Reform

## WELCOME SUZANNE MORGAN

Suzanne Morgan of Helena has been hired to serve as the new Association Coordinator for MPA. She replaces Gail Tronstad who retired in early June.

Suzanne Morgan assumes the position with a great deal of experience in working with non-profit organizations. Prior to assuming her new role, Suzanne has worked in such positions as Service Administrator for AWARE Inc., Development Coordinator for Helena Food Share as well as a small business owner of Elevate Life as a Yoga Instructor, Mindfulness Coach and Life Transformation Coach. Suzanne grew up in Butte and moved to

Helena in 2002. She is married and has two boys ages 13 and 23. She enjoys spending time with her family, being outdoors, and living on the Hilger Hereford Ranch at the Gates of the Mountains.



Her energy, attention to detail and positive references will be a plus as she works with Executive Director, Stuart Doggett in providing association management services for MPA. Suzanne can be reached by e-mail at [smorgan@montana.com](mailto:smorgan@montana.com).

## IDAHO PRESCRIBING RULES WENT LIVE JULY 1

On July 1, 2018, Idaho regulations governing pharmacists' independent prescriptive authority for more than 20 categories of medications officially went into effect. Already, pharmacists in Idaho can prescribe tobacco cessation aids, immunizations, epinephrine, and more. Idaho's new authority gives pharmacists the ability to prescribe medications used to prevent travel-related illness, treat common conditions, close clinical gaps in care, and more.

Already, pharmacies, such as Rite Aid and Broulins, have announced their plans to implement the new regulations and make important medications accessible to their patients.

Pharmacists will be required to maintain an evidence-based patient assessment protocol. Template protocols, developed during a collaborative pharmacist-physician workshop, have been provided by the Idaho Board of Pharmacy to provide pharmacists with a starting point for their own protocols.

In addition to this new prescriptive authority, Idaho's reformed rulebook, which will eliminate 62% of the existing restrictions, also went into effect on July 1, 2018. Existing Idaho law allows pharmacy technicians to take on greater roles in the pharmacy—thus freeing up pharmacists time to provide services important to the health of their communities. (*NASPA Resources*)

## MPA STUDENT CORNER ....

### CHRISTIE BLASKOVICH PROVIDES STUDENT UPDATE AT ANNUAL MEETING

MPA Student rep Christie Blaskovich provided a comprehensive report to members in attendance at this year's annual meeting about student activities during the past year. In her report she highlighted the following:

- Her January 18 presentation before the Montana Family and Children's Interim Committee in which she provided a Pharmacy Profession Update;
- Report on the APhA-ASP students' efforts to plan a Legislative Day this coming Fall;
- Report on the successful 2018 Student Health Fair with Missoula Urban Indian Health;
- Update on the sale of tee-shirts to help increase the funding and opportunities for students to attend more pharmacy related conferences;
- Report on the APhA Summer Leadership Institute in July of 2018 that will be attended by students reps, Kirk Katseanes and Christie Blaskovich. This will include visits to Capitol Hill.



## NW CONVENTION OFFERS MPA MEMBERS UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

This year's 2018 NW Pharmacy Convention was attended by numerous members from across the state. A wide variety of educational programs were offered during this year's meeting including a special presentations on:

#### **What's New in Inpatient Diabetes Management**

by Nick Larned, Pharm.D. and Jamie Casanova, Pharm.D., BCPS;

#### **Easily Applied Management Principles for Pharmacy Practice**

by Kerry Casperson;

#### **Clinical Applications of Pharmacogenomics in a Psychiatric Setting**

by Ian McGrane, Pharm.D., BCPS;

#### **Support Care in Oncology Patients**

by Matthew Chui, Pharm.D. and Ferowski Pecoraro, Pharm.D.;

#### **And many other quality presentations.**

At this year's meeting education was the core of the NW Convention and CE programming was directed to pharmacists and technicians practicing in various healthcare settings, including independently owned, hospital, chain drugstores, long-term care and academia. Participants who attended had the chance to attend a year variety of unique seminars and the chance to receive 15 ACPE credits. **Please plan to join us next year at the 2019 NW Convention scheduled for May 30 to June 2, 2019.**





## MPA PHARMACY TECHNICIAN UPDATES

### NEW EDUCATION/TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND EXAM CONTENT CHANGE COMING TO THE PTCB CPHT PROGRAM IN 2020

PTCB announced two important changes to the PTCB Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) Program which will go into effect on January 1, 2020. The first is an updated education/training eligibility requirement for PTCB CPhT applicants replacing the current high school completion requirement. The second is an updated Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination (PTCE) Content Outline.

### EDUCATION/TRAINING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT CHANGES

On January 1, 2020, completion of a PTCB-recognized education/training program OR equivalent work experience will be required of all new CPhT applicants.

To be considered eligible for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) under this new requirement, a candidate must attest to one of the following:

1. Completion of a PTCB-recognized education/training program.

OR

2. Equivalent work experience as a pharmacy technician.  
This alternative path will serve experienced pharmacy technicians who were not in a position to attend a PTCB-recognized program in the past.

### PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION CONTENT CHANGES

Effective 2020, the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) content will focus on 4 domains instead of the present 9. The 4 domains will focus on Medications, Federal Requirements, Patient Safety & Quality Assurance, and Order Entry & Processing.

To read more about these changes, please visit <https://www.ptcb.org/about-ptcb/certification-program-changes>

### PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS PLACED IN MORATORIUM

The Pharmacy Technician Programs at both Missoula College and City College - MSU Billings have been placed in moratorium. MPA has offered support for the continuation of a pharmacy technician certification program. For the latest updates, please visit our website at [www.rxmt.org](http://www.rxmt.org)

## FYI – MONTANA PHARMACIST LICENSING AND REGULATORY Q & A ....

### HOW LONG DOES AN INTERN HAVE TO COMPLETE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PHARMACIST LICENSE?

The Intern license shall expire not later than 12 months after the date of graduation or at the time of professional licensure, whichever comes first.

### HOW LONG DOES A PHARMACIST HAVE TO PRACTICE TO BE APPROVED AS A PRECEPTOR?

A pharmacist has to be actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy for one year, unless approved by the Board. A form is provided on the website. Proof of completion of a training course is required.

### WHAT IS THE RATIO OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS TO SUPERVISING PHARMACISTS?

A registered pharmacist in good standing may supervise no more than three technicians at any time.

### HOW MANY HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (CEU) IS REQUIRED FOR A PHARMACIST LICENSE?

The Board requires 1.5 CEU (15 clock hours) with a minimum of 5 hours to be obtained in an approved group setting or 2.0 CEU (20 clock hours) if you do not take at least 5 hours in an approved group program. The CEU is required within the 12 months prior to June 30 in order to renew your license. An additional 15 hours may be accumulated and applied to the following licensing year. Once approved, a course may not be used more than once to satisfy this requirement. Pharmacists renewing as a new graduate are exempt from this requirement. Pharmacists residing in another state are required to meet Montana's requirements for continuing education.

Pharmacy

TOMORROW.  
IMAGINE THAT.



TOMORROW. IMAGINE THAT.

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## MPA HEALTH-SYSTEMS ACADEMY UPDATES

### MONTANA REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND THE ASHP HOUSE OF DELEGATES

In early June, Jason Nickisch and Lonnye Finneman represented their Montana constituents in the ASHP House of Delegates during the Summer Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Alternate delegate Jeff Ferber also attended the Summer Meeting, where he was able to observe the actions of the House of Delegates in preparation for his role as our junior delegate at next year's Summer Meeting in



Name	Employment Information	2017 HOD Role	Term Ends
<b>Lonnye Finneman</b> <i>PharmD</i>	Director of Pharmacy, St. Vincent Healthcare; Billings	Senior Delegate	December 2018
<b>Jason Nickisch</b> <i>PharmD, MBA, BCPS</i>	Director of Pharmacy, Providence St. Patrick; Missoula	Junior Delegate	December 2019
<b>Jeff Ferber</b> <i>PharmD</i>	Medication Safety Officer, Billings Clinic; Billings	Alternate Delegate	December 2020

Boston. The House of Delegates serves as the ultimate authority on ASHP policies which reflect the organization's professional stance on topics that effect pharmacy and safe medication use.

The MPA Health-Systems Academy will hold the next election for one alternate delegate this fall. The newly elected delegate will serve a three-year term starting in the alternate delegate position, transitioning into the junior delegate role the second year and the senior delegate term the third year. Any pharmacist licensed in Montana with an active ASHP membership is eligible for the election. If you are interested, look for the call for nominations in October.



# MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY



## MPA HEALTH-SYSTEMS ACADEMY UPDATES - CONTINUED

### SPRING SEMINAR

Over eighty pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, residents, and pharmacy students attended the 5th annual MPA Spring Seminar in Billings and Missoula. Sixteen residents presented the results of their year-long projects in preparation for the Mountain States and Northwest Residency Conferences held in Salt Lake City and Portland, respectively. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear presentations from two ASHP speakers—ASHP CEO Dr. Paul Abramowitz and ASHP Board Member Jennifer Schultz. Mark your calendars for next year's Spring Seminar, which is scheduled for April 26th and 27th at the University of Montana in Missoula and St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings. Hope you can join us!

### HEALTH-SYSTEMS ACADEMY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Logan Tinsen, PharmD, has been selected as the next Chair-Elect for the Health-Systems Academy. Logan is a clinical pharmacist at Benefis Hospital in Great Falls, and has recently served on the Health-Systems Academy Executive Committee as the ASHP Member At-Large.

Sonja Clausen, PharmD, PGY-1 resident at Bozeman Deaconess Health, will complete her term as resident member on the Executive Committee in July. Sonja has been very active in her role, developing a Montana Resident Facebook page to help facilitate networking for current and past pharmacy residents, recruiting and promoting MPA to her fellow pharmacy residents and serving on the Spring Seminar planning committee. The Executive Committee will be reaching out to the Montana residency program directors to help identify the next resident representative.

Questions, comments, or concerns about the MPA Health-Systems Academy: Please contact Stuart Doggett, MPA Executive Director ([stuart@montana.com](mailto:stuart@montana.com)) or Amanda Patel, MPA Health-Systems Academy Chair ([amanda.patel@providence.org](mailto:amanda.patel@providence.org)).



## MONTANA PHARMACY ASSOCIATION LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

The Montana Pharmacy Association has a Facebook page, available through the Association's website at [www.rxmt.org](http://www.rxmt.org). This MPA feature serves as a popular and easy way for members and anyone interested in Montana pharmacy related issues to stay connected. We hope you will join us!



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Jason Nickisch, Missoula

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Amanda Patel, Missoula

Logan Tinsen, Great Falls

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Leigh Scherer, Billings

#### UM - Skaggs School of Pharmacy:

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#### Student Directors:

Christie Blaskovich, Missoula

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**Executive Director:** Marcie Bough, PharmD  
[mbough@mt.gov](mailto:mbough@mt.gov)

### Calendar of Events

**July 1:** Nominations open for MPA Annual Awards:  
Form available at [www.rxmt.org/annual-awards.org](http://www.rxmt.org/annual-awards.org)

**September 19:** Student / MPA Meet and Greet,  
Missoula

**September 20:** MPA Board of Directors Meeting,  
Missoula

**September 28:** Montana Board of Pharmacy, Helena

**October 15:** Nominations close for MPA Annual  
Awards

**December 7:** Montana Board of Pharmacy, Helena

**January 11:** MPA Annual Awards and Longevity  
Recognitions at the MPA Banquet

### Continuing Education Offerings

#### MPA Winter CE & Ski Meeting

January 11 - 13, 2019 - Big Sky, MT

#### Health-Systems Academy Spring Seminar (video conference)

April 26 - 27, 2019 - Billings and Missoula, MT

#### Northwest Pharmacy Conference

May 30 to June 2, 2019 - Coeur d'Alene, ID