



Guideline for Committee on Nominations

To ensure that all willing and qualified potential nominees are considered for candidacy to ASHP elective office, the Committee on Nominations is charged with assembling a roster of nominees, recommended by our members and affiliated societies. A member or group submitting such a recommendation should provide a brief summary of the recommended individual's experience and accomplishments and should state why the Society would be well served by his or her election. Recommendations can come from ASHP state affiliate societies, councils, committees, or any single member or group of members.

ASHP will issue a "Call for Nominations" via various channels, to encourage affiliate societies, individual members or others to submit their recommendations at appropriate times. These may include:

- letters from Society headquarters to the membership
- letters to affiliated state chapters
- notices in Society publications including newsletters, email news services, Midyear Clinical Meeting daily newspapers, and other communication vehicles of ASHP

In addition to reviewing suggestions received from members and affiliated societies, the Committee on Nominations will also review the membership rolls for potential candidates, particularly rosters of councils, committees, and other ASHP leadership bodies. Nominees will be contacted by the Committee and provided additional information about holding elective office, and given an opportunity to formally accept or decline nomination.

Typical qualifications of a successful candidate include, but are not limited to:

- demonstrated leadership qualities and exemplary practice
- active interest in the affairs of the Society
- experience as chair or member of ASHP council(s) or committee(s) or commissions
- experience as elected official of the sections
- experience as an officer or director of a state affiliate society
- other relevant experience

Revised by the ASHP Board of Directors, September 15, 2014

Supersedes Guide for Committee on Nominations and Candidates for Elective Office approved by the ASHP Board of Directors, November 19, 1973



Guidelines for Candidates for Elective Office

Introduction

To ensure that a broad spectrum of willing and qualified potential nominees are considered for candidacy to ASHP elective offices the Board of Directors has charged the Committee on Nominations with carrying out an annual search process for the selection of candidates and assembling a roster of nominees. The source for potential nominees comes from individual members, affiliated state societies, councils, committees, and other ASHP leadership bodies. Once a slate of candidates for elective office is prepared the names are sent to the ASHP House of Delegates.

Policy

Receipt of the report from the Committee on Nominations the Society widely publicizes to voting members through all of its communication media (print and electronic) the names, background and qualification of all nominees. The *Election Bulletin* which contains information about each candidate is maintained on the ASHP website throughout the election season until voting closes.

Once the candidates for elective office are announced at the ASHP Summer Meetings it is expected that candidates for office will avoid activities that would be viewed as self-promotional or “campaigning” for election whether in print, through electronic media such as social networking forums or blogs, or actual statements by the candidate. Further, candidates should not endorse or encourage others or third parties to promote their individual candidacy for office. Any third-party announcements or other forms of broad communication that discusses the upcoming election should include all candidates for a particular office and their qualifications and should not promote the selection of a specific candidate.

Further, individuals who are candidates for office in the Society are expected to protect ASHP’s image, not to engage in any activity which might bring discredit to the Society, and not to participate in discussions or votes if a personal conflict of interest is involved. These individuals are advised to review the “*ASHP Policy on accepting Corporate Support and avoiding Conflicts of Interest*” and the “*ASHP Policies on Conflict of Interest, Disclosure, and External Business/Professional Activities for Board of Directors*”.

House of Delegates

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

REPORT OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

June 9, 2024

Portland, Oregon

Tyler Vest (Chair), North Carolina

Linda Tyler (Vice Chair), Utah

Joshua Blackwell, Texas

Lisa Mascardo, Iowa

Arpit Mehta, Pennsylvania

Milap Nahata, Ohio

Michael Nnadi, Texas

Trisha Jordan (1st Alternate), Ohio

Kuldip Patel (2nd Alternate), North Carolina

ASHP COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Madam Chair, Fellow Delegates:

The Committee on Nominations consists of seven members of ASHP who are appointed by the Immediate Past President. The Committee is charged with the task of presenting to you our best judgments about those persons who possess the tangible and intangible attributes of leadership that qualify them to serve as our officers and directors.

Selection of nominees for ASHP office involves a series of very challenging decisions on the part of the Committee. Ultimately, those decisions are intended to permit the membership to select leaders with the professional, intellectual, and personal qualities of leadership that will sustain the dynamism and pioneering spirit that have characterized both ASHP and its more than 60,000 members who provide patient care service across the entire spectrum of care.

First, the Committee must determine that a prospective nominee for office is an active member as required in the Charter. This is generally the easiest and most straightforward part of the Committee's work. The Committee must ascertain that each prospective nominee can perform the duties required of the office or offices to which he or she has been nominated. All nominees must be able to perform the duties of a Director, set forth in section 5.4 of the Bylaws. Presidential nominees must also be able to perform the duties of that office, set forth in article 4 of the Bylaws.

The more difficult part of the Committee's work is to assess those intangible qualities of emotional intelligence (empathy, self-awareness, self-regulation, social skills, and motivation), leadership, vision, engagement, and overall professional awareness that characterize the standout candidates – those truly able to provide leadership for ASHP and the profession. The Committee assesses the attributes of prospective candidates for office in areas such as:

- Professional experience, career path, and practice orientation.
- Leadership skills and leadership experience including but not limited to the extent of leadership involvement in ASHP and its affiliates.
- Knowledge of pharmacy practice and vision for practice and ASHP.
- Ability to represent ASHP's diverse membership interests and perspectives.
- Communication and consensus building skills.

There are no right or wrong answers to these criteria. Certain qualities may be weighed differently at various points in the evolution of the profession.

The Committee's year-long process of receiving nominations and screening candidates is designed to solicit extensive membership input and, ultimately, to permit the Committee to candidly and confidentially assess which candidates best fit ASHP's needs. The Committee has met three times since the last session of the House of Delegates: on December 5, 2023, at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting; on February 23, 2024, via teleconference; and in person on April 17, 2024, at ASHP Headquarters. Review of nominees' materials was conducted continuously between March and April 2024 solely via secure electronic transmissions. This process has been reviewed for quality improvement and will be repeated for the 2024–2025 nomination cycle.

As in the past, the Committee used various means to canvass ASHP members and state affiliates for candidates who they felt were most qualified to lead us. All members were invited via announcements in ASHP News and Daily Briefing, social media, online ASHP NewsLink bulletins, and the ASHP website to submit nominations for the Committee's consideration. Nominations from affiliated state societies were solicited through special mailings and the "state affiliate" edition of the online NewsLink service.

Based upon recommendations from membership, state affiliates, and ASHP staff, the Committee contacted over 849 individuals identified as possible candidates. Some individuals were invited to accept consideration for more than one office. Of the nominees who responded to the invitation to place themselves in nomination, the breakdown by office is as follows:

PRESIDENT-ELECT: 7 accepted

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 17 accepted

CHAIR, HOUSE OF DELEGATES: 8 accepted

A list of candidates that were slated was provided to delegates following the Committee's meeting on April 17, 2024.

The Committee is pleased to place in official nomination the following candidates for election to the indicated offices. Names, biographical data, and statements have been distributed to the House.

President-Elect (2025-2026)

Melanie A. Dodd, PharmD, PhC, BCPS, FASHP (Albuquerque, NM)

Stephen F. Eckel, PharmD, MHA (Chapel Hill, NC)

Board of Directors (2025-2028)

Marie A. Chisholm-Burns, PharmD, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACHE, FASHP, FAST (Portland, OR)

Todd W. Nesbit, PharmD, MBA, CPEL, FASHP (Baltimore, MD)

Mollie A. Scott, PharmD, BCACP, CPP, FASHP, FNCAP (Asheville, NC)

Majid R. Tanas, PharmD, MHA, MS, FASHP (Portland, OR)

Chair, House of Delegates (2024-2027)

Jesse H. Hogue, PharmD (Kalamazoo, MI)

Martin J. Torres, PharmD, FCSHP (Orange, CA)

Madam Chair, this completes the presentation of candidates by the Committee on Nominations. Congratulations to all the candidates.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT 2025–2026

Melanie A. Dodd, PharmD, PhC, BCPS, FASHP (mdodd@salud.unm.edu) is associate dean for clinical affairs and professor, The University of New Mexico (UNM) College of Pharmacy, Albuquerque. She graduated from Purdue University and UNM and completed her residency at Presbyterian Healthcare Services. Dodd oversees innovative clinical models and faculty clinical services, including credentialing, contracting, billing and reimbursement. She provides key pharmacy professional advocacy and serves on academic and health-system leadership committees. Dodd is a pharmacist clinician in geriatric primary care with broad prescriptive authority at the UNM Hospitals Senior Health Clinic and is a consultant pharmacist for 340B-eligible and other ambulatory clinics. She is responsible for extensive didactic and clinical teaching activities in the UNM PharmD program and Health Sciences Center, including geriatric syndromes, pharmacy law, interprofessional education, and serves as a residency preceptor. Her research includes geriatric syndromes, advanced practice pharmacist models, and scholarship of teaching.

Dodd's ASHP service includes member of the Board of Directors and chair, ASHP House of Delegates (2021-2024), chair of the Council on Public Policy, chair of the Section of Ambulatory Care Practitioners (SACP), member, Pharmacy Forecast Advisory Committee, and NM delegate to the House of Delegates for 14 years. She is past president of NMSHP and faculty advisor for the UNM SSHP. She has received numerous awards for her service to the profession, including the ASHP Pharmacy Champion Award, SACP Distinguished Service Award, Fellow of ASHP, and NMSHP Dorothy Dillon Memorial Lecture Award.

Statement:

Access to optimal, safe, and effective healthcare is a cornerstone of a thriving community. My vision is to ensure pharmacists are recognized as direct patient care providers for all people, in all communities, throughout the continuum of care in all healthcare settings and future models of care. Pharmacist leaders need to always be at the table for key discussions regarding medication use and global issues affecting healthcare such as health equity, access to primary care, financing, evolving technology, and workforce shortages.

In alignment with the ASHP Practice Advancement Initiative, we must embrace and advocate for expanding roles of pharmacists, technicians, and students, including prescriptive authority. These new roles will require changes in education and training.

Lastly, in order for ASHP to achieve its mission into the future, we need to continue to focus on engaging new and mid-career members in activities that support leadership development and role advancement, and provide professional resources. ASHP's leadership in professional policy development and advocacy and collaboration with key stakeholders is essential to advance pharmacy practice change and address contemporary issues like drug shortages and artificial intelligence. ASHP must continue to be nimble to address the quickly changing healthcare and technological environment and new generational needs, including workforce wellness. I am humbled and honored by this nomination and am committed to providing leadership to continue to advance the pharmacy profession.

Stephen F. Eckel, PharmD, MHA (seckel@unc.edu) is the associate dean for global engagement at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. He is also an associate professor in the division of practice advancement and clinical education. In addition, he leads a two-year Master of Science in pharmaceutical sciences with a specialization in health-system pharmacy administration. This degree collaborates with 16 different health systems across nine states who sponsor the residency. It also has an online option for working professionals. At UNC Medical Center, he is residency program director of the two-year program in health-system pharmacy administration. He has worked with almost 250 residents over the years.

Eckel received his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He completed a pharmacy practice residency at Duke University Medical Center and then joined UNC Hospitals as a clinical pharmacist. Eckel also holds a master of health care administration from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Eckel has been very active in the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists, serving as chair of the ASHP state affiliate, a term on the board, and as president of the merged organization. He is a frequent author in *AJHP*, past chair of the ASHP Council of Pharmacy Practice, and past member of the ASHP Board of Directors. In 2015, the ASHP Foundation awarded him the Pharmacy Residency Excellence Preceptor Award. He is a Fellow of ASHP, APhA, ACCP, NCAP, and NAP.

Statement:

One constant of healthcare is change. While many pharmacists do not like change, it creates opportunities to take leadership roles during stressful and uncertain situations. Our profession needs to fill those gaps. One prime opportunity, I believe, is for pharmacists to take responsibility for the medication-use process and in so doing, will make patient care better, safer, more efficient, and less expensive. It will also increase our involvement in the patient-centric practice of pharmacy. To do this, health-system pharmacists need to be innovative leaders within their spheres of influence. Employing skills like creativity, innovation, and problem-solving can be the differentiator between whether we will create the future or someone outside of the profession will do it.

I have focused my career on providing novel and creative ideas to solve the challenges that face our profession and leveraging the uncertainty of change in helping us meet our professional ideals. I have also educated and mentored pharmacists as they take increasing responsibilities within their workplace.

I am passionate and committed that our professional society remains diverse and inclusive for all. We will not advance as an organization or profession until all of us are able to flourish at an individual level.

I am extremely honored to receive this nomination as ASHP has always been my professional home. There are many leaders who have utilized their skills in the past to bring health-system pharmacy to this point, and I am committed to do the same for future generations.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025–2028

Marie A. Chisholm-Burns, PharmD, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACHE, FASHP, FAST (chishmar@ohsu.edu) is the executive vice president and provost of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and the J.S. Reinschmidt Endowed Professor in the OHSU School of Medicine. She is also founder and director of the Medication Access Program, which has helped thousands of solid-organ transplant recipients receive more than \$119 million in prescription medications.

Chisholm-Burns received her BS in pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Georgia, Master of Public Health degree from Emory University, Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Memphis, and PhD degree from the University of South Dakota. She completed her residency at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She has also achieved FACHE certification and practiced in several regions of the U.S.

Chisholm-Burns has been an active member of ASHP for over 30 years. She previously served in several ASHP leadership positions; for example, she served as the inaugural chair of the ASHP Section of Pharmacy Educators Executive Committee, as director-at-large of the ASHP Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists Executive Committee, as a member of the Center for Health-System Pharmacy Leadership Advisory Panel, and as a member of the *AJHP* editorial board. She is a member of the Pharmacy Forecast Advisory Committee and contributed to several Forecasts over the years, including 2024 (public health priorities), 2023 (health disparities), and 2021 (healthcare access). Additionally, Chisholm-Burns has received several awards from ASHP, including the 2022 Board of Directors' Distinguished Leadership Award.

Statement:

Equitable healthcare access and delivery are of utmost importance to the health of our communities. Access and success are central to my vision for pharmacy practice – specifically, access to healthcare and success in achieving health equity and optimizing patient outcomes. I have illuminated the value of pharmacists in advancing access and success in patient care throughout my career, including documenting extensive evidence of the beneficial effects of pharmacist-provided direct patient care, with the support of ASHP and its members. Such evidence supports inclusion of pharmacists in interprofessional healthcare delivery models as a strategy to increase access, improve outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs.

To achieve this vision of access and success, we must recognize and respond to challenges facing the profession, including drug shortages, technological advances, financial sustainability, and workforce shortages, stress, and burnout. We must work together to build bridges to success in each of these areas. Further, we should amplify equitable healthcare for all patients and communities we serve. And we should strive to promote access and success by:

- *Advocating for pharmacists to practice at the top of their license and for improved reimbursement mechanisms.*
- *Supporting the well-being of patients and the pharmacy workforce, including reducing burnout and stress.*
- *Facilitating growth of the pharmacy technician workforce.*
- *Expanding practice and care delivery, including greater participation on interprofessional healthcare teams.*
- *Eliminating healthcare disparities and advancing equity for all.*

I am honored to be nominated for the ASHP Board of Directors. It would be my privilege to serve our esteemed membership.

Todd W. Nesbit, PharmD, MBA, CPEL, FASHP (tnesbit@jhmi.edu) serves as chief pharmacy officer for The Johns Hopkins Hospital and vice president for pharmacy services for Johns Hopkins Health System in Baltimore, Maryland. As executive pharmacy leader, he is responsible for directing hospital and health-system practice, research, and education, and implementing system-wide pharmacy services across the continuum. He is the residency program director for the HSPAL residency program at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and has served as preceptor and mentor to pharmacy students and residents for more than 30 years.

Nesbit received his BS in pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University, his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The Ohio State University, and his MBA degree in medical services management from Johns Hopkins University. Through positions of increasing responsibility held in diverse hospitals and academic medical centers, he has worked to promote and advance the role of the pharmacist and clinical pharmacy in health systems.

He has extensive experience serving ASHP and state affiliates, including ASHP Forecast Advisory Committee member and chapter author; Pharmacy Competency Assessment Center Advisory Board member and section editor; co-chair of the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP) Practice Model Task Force; voting member of the inaugural Pharmacy Practice Model Summit; and delegate to the Pharmacy Stakeholders Conference on MTM Services. Nesbit has been recognized as a Fellow of ASHP and has achieved the status of Certified Pharmacy Executive Leader by the organization. Nesbit received the MSHP W. Arthur Purdum Award for significant contributions to health-system pharmacy.

Statement:

My philosophy begins with the belief that the patient must always be at the center of our individual and collective decision-making. Medication-use systems must be designed to ensure that the needs of our patients are met holistically within and across all care settings for which we are responsible. Meeting these needs necessitates ownership and accountability by all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians alike, to directly manage drug therapy and ensure the safety and quality of medication use. Professional staff should be empowered through credentialing and privileging and engagement in collaborative practice agreements with other professional colleagues, for optimal efficiency and effectiveness. Leveraging the collective expertise of our technicians is critical to extend their scope and impact the care of more patients. We should deploy automation and robotic systems to reduce the burden of repetitive tasks, optimizing the work to be completed by scarce human resources. Robust analytic frameworks are also essential to validate the patient care impact and outcomes that we intend. We should embrace new and evolving approaches for data management and knowledge generation, through expanded use of artificial intelligence and machine learning. It is imperative that we continue to foster a culture of innovation through research, to support new understanding of disease processes and advances in treatment options for our patients such as genetic and cellular therapies. Lastly, it is crucial that we foster supportive and diverse learning environments, to ensure the availability of the future pharmacy workforce that will be needed to care for our patients.

Mollie A. Scott, PharmD, BCACP, CPP, FASHP, FNCAP (mollies@email.unc.edu) is regional associate dean and clinical professor at UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and chair of pharmacotherapy at Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC). She practices as a clinical pharmacist practitioner in an interprofessional osteoporosis clinic. Mollie received her BS degree in biology from Meredith College and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy before completing a specialty pharmacy residency in geriatrics at the Durham VA Medical Center. She has practiced in inpatient internal medicine, long-term care, and ambulatory care and for the past 20 years has focused on ambulatory care, administration, and academia.

Mollie served as vice chair and chair for the Section of Ambulatory Care Practitioners (SACP) Section Advisory Group on Clinical Practice Advancement, where she led the development of an Ambulatory Care Career Tool. She served six years on the SACP Executive Committee, first as director-at-large, and later, as chair, and co-authored the ASHP Statement on the Role of Pharmacists in Primary Care. She is currently a member of the House of Delegates and the Advocacy and PAC Advisory Committee. Mollie led the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists (NCAP) Task Force on Hormonal Contraception, which resulted in new legislation allowing pharmacists to prescribe a variety of medications, including contraception. She is the recipient of multiple awards for contributions to the profession of pharmacy, including the NCAP Don Blanton Award, ASHP SACP Distinguished Service Award, and Bowl of Hygeia. She has been recognized as a Fellow of NCAP and ASHP.

Statement:

Pharmacists are members of a distinguished and honored profession who serve as medication experts and improve the health of patients through medication optimization. Upon graduation, we promise to consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering our primary concerns, and providing patient-centered care is a cornerstone of our profession. It has been a joy to serve my patients and community as a pharmacist for the past 31 years.

The American healthcare system is currently challenged by a shortfall of primary care physicians, closure of rural hospitals and community pharmacies, medication shortages, high costs of care, the impact of social determinants of health, and a post-pandemic world. I believe that the profession of pharmacy can increase access, equity, and quality of care and create healthy communities by:

- 1. Leading policy efforts to overcome barriers that prevent pharmacists from practicing at the top of our licenses.*
- 2. Incorporating social determinants of health into education, research, and practice to improve delivery of equitable and holistic care.*
- 3. Creating best practices for incorporating artificial intelligence into pharmacy practice and education.*
- 4. Advocating for financial sustainability of rural and small health systems and independent community pharmacies to improve access to care.*
- 5. Partnering with healthcare leaders in medicine, nursing, social work, health policy, government, and professional organizations to create collaborative solutions to healthcare problems.*

ASHP is at the forefront of advocating for our profession and our patients, and it is an honor to be slated for the Board of Directors.

Majid R. Tanas, PharmD, MHA, MS, FASHP (mtanas@lhs.org) is the vice president of pharmacy and chief pharmacy officer at Legacy Health, an eight-facility, 1,200-bed community health system ranging from a Level 1 trauma center to Critical Access Medical Center, including pediatric and psychiatric specialty services. Tanas earned a BS in biochemistry from Whitworth University, an MS in biotechnology from Washington State University, and a Doctorate in pharmacy from Washington State University. He earned a Master of Health Administration as a part of his two-year pharmacy administration residency at the University of Washington.

Tanas has been an active member of ASHP over the past 20 years, beginning as a student in 2003. Since graduating from pharmacy school, he has served in the following appointments:

- New Practitioners Forum Advisory Groups:
 - Communications and Public Affairs (2007)
 - Leadership and Career Development (2008)
- New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee (2009):
 - Pharmacy Practice Advisory Group – Executive Liaison
 - Science and Research Advisory Group – Executive Liaison
- Council of Pharmacy Practice (2010, 2011, 2012)
- House of Delegate: Alternate (2014), Member (elected in 2015)
- Board of Canvassers (2019-2022)
- Section Advisory Group on Multi-Hospital Pharmacy Executives: Member (2021), Vice-Chair (2022), Chair (2022-2023), Chair (2022-2024)

He serves as a faculty member for the ASHP Practical Training in Compounding Sterile Preparations Certificate (2022-2023), presented at numerous ASHP conferences, represented ASHP at DUPHAT, an international conference as a delegate, and was recognized as a Fellow of ASHP in June 2022.

Statement:

The challenge ahead of pharmacy is evolving from an auditor of prescriptions to an initiator of care. Our charge is to elevate clinical care at the bedside/clinic/counter, improve an organization's financial viability, and the safety of medications.

With nearly three million nurses and one million physicians, the 300,000 pharmacists that make up our profession may be few in comparison, but our voice and impact in healthcare are far-reaching. Health systems must rapidly adapt from established business practices due to diminishing reimbursement. The members of ASHP stand at the crossroads to advance health-system pharmacy and healthcare. We must forge ahead to find new ways to meet our community's needs.

Health systems are essential for our communities and must enhance the care model, expanding the continuum of services across phases of care – a unique niche that health systems occupy. Breaking down the silos between inpatient clinical care, ambulatory care, and outpatient pharmacy requires working together to move care to patients in new and creative ways. We must create integrated networks that meet patient care at every level to meet the sacred responsibility of returning ailing patients to their loved ones.

Let's not wait for an operational plan to be handed to our profession. Instead, we must preemptively identify how health-system pharmacy provides stability in uncertain times, how we can provide readily

accessible services to our patients, and how pharmacy can create a safe and healing environment. We will go farther and are better...together.

CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR, HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2024–2027

Jesse H. Hogue, PharmD (hoguej@bronsonhg.org) is the pharmacy education coordinator, the postgraduate year 1 pharmacy residency director and an emergency department pharmacist at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo. He also serves as an affiliate preceptor for the Ferris State University (FSU) College of Pharmacy. Hogue received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from FSU and completed residency training at Bronson Methodist Hospital. After residency, he worked in trauma and orthopedics, then had the opportunity to establish pharmacy services in the emergency department, where he worked for several years prior to assuming his current role.

Hogue currently serves on the ASHP Commission on Credentialing and has been a Michigan delegate to the ASHP House of Delegates for 15 years. He has previously served on the ASHP Council on Education and Workforce Development. Hogue has also been very engaged on the state level, having served as president, treasurer, and executive board member for the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP), as an executive board member for the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA), as a delegate in the MPA House of Delegates for many years, and as a member on numerous MSHP and MPA committees and taskforces. He has been recognized in Michigan for his contributions to the profession as a Fellow of MPA and a member of the MPA Hall of Honor. Additionally, he has received the MSHP Pharmacist of the Year Award, the MSHP Joseph A. Oddis Leadership Award, and the MPA Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year Award.

Statement:

"We are better together."

- Paul Walker, ASHP past-president

The pharmacy workforce continues to innovate and move the practice and delivery of healthcare forward. Pharmacists play a vital role in both leadership and on the front lines. Even for non-medication-related issues, we are often called upon to contribute - and even lead - due to our demonstrated proficiency and valued perspectives.

To support that, ASHP joins us together as a unified profession, providing forums for education and idea sharing, establishing best practices, and crafting practice resources. When combined with initiatives to promote and grow our profession and ensure a diverse and inclusive workforce, ASHP's efforts help us improve care and expand access to pursue our mission to help people achieve optimal health outcomes.

But we face challenges. Drug shortages. Decreasing pharmacy school enrollment. Technician shortages. 340B and CMS pass-through funding. Opposition from groups such as the American Medical Association. ASHP is helping us meet and overcome these challenges through advocacy efforts and media campaigns, often directed by our professional policy positions. Therefore, it is critical that the House of Delegates Chair, for which I am honored to have been nominated, ensures decisions on policy statements are made in an equitable way - prioritizing open communication and making sure everyone is allowed to share their views without being dominated by others in those conversations. The ASHP policy process must ensure that viewpoints of our diverse membership are

considered, regardless of role or practice area. Because we are one pharmacy profession – better together.

Martin J. Torres, PharmD, FCSHP (martit3@hs.uci.edu) is a director of pharmacy at UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange, California with administrative oversight of quality, safety, education, and research. He is also an adjunct professor of pharmacology at the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton in addition to serving as a volunteer faculty member at the UCI School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He received his PharmD from the USC School of Pharmacy, completed a 1-year residency in clinical pharmacy, and began his career establishing an ICU satellite pharmacy and multiple clinical programs in a community hospital. After initially providing direct patient care for seven years, he has had the opportunity to lead teams both in acute care and outpatient settings in developing patient services across multiple transitions of care.

His ASHP service includes member, Council on Affiliate Relations (2022-current), and California delegate to the ASHP House of Delegates (2018-2021). He has been very active with the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists as chair of the House of Delegates (2018-2021), co-chair/member, Committee on Professional Affairs (2014-2017), president, Orange County Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (2017-2018), and a member of multiple seminar planning and Pacific Coast Patient Safety Conference committees.

He has developed additional insights into organizational leadership through volunteer activities as a board chair/member of multiple community organizations, including a community foundation board, technology committee, chair of a parks and recreation committee, and others. His goal in every community engagement was to be “the pharmacist” for the organization and its members.

Statement:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As I share my thoughts, I want to first thank those who made time to model and mentor during my journey. As a profession, we have much to celebrate yet so much more to accomplish, all for the care of our patients. There are many priorities which must be addressed, but taking control of how we are represented should have a sense of urgency. The pharmacists I support do not “verify” orders, they “evaluate” orders. Evaluate better represents the cognitive application of our medication management expertise, whereas “verify” might simply imply the click of a mouse. Let’s use the power of words and images consistently in our messaging, where every reference to our wonderful profession conveys caring for patients. Yes, OUR patients!

A pharmacist with a spatula “saving lives counting by fives”? Pharmacy directors or pharmacy executives? Pharmacy departments or pharmacy enterprises? Pharmacy leaders or leaders in healthcare? If there are opportunities for incremental improvement, let’s have a renewed focus on how we represent ourselves through every policy we draft and every position statement issued.

If we don’t control the narrative, who knows, we may end up being the only patient care profession that is reimbursed based on issuing a product. Imagine that. Better yet, reimagine that! I look forward to learning from you and working together with you not only for the benefit of our profession, but for our patients.

I would love to hear your thoughts if you are willing to share. Thank you.