

Georgia Pharmacy

The Journal of the Georgia Pharmacy Association 

August/September 2016

Inside:



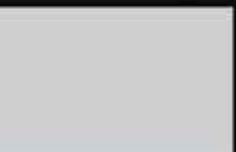
**PROFILE:
GPhA'S NEW
PRESIDENT,
LANCE BOLES**

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Look for more information about the AIP High Performance Network in your mailbox, or talk to your AIP member service representative, and get paid for doing what you were meant to do.

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contents

14 COVER STORY: THE ART OF EXCELLENCE

Meet GPhA's 2016 award recipients — six pharmacist professionals from across the state who go beyond the ordinary.

These are the trendsetters, leaders, and servants who exemplify the best a pharmacist can be. They demonstrate the kind of passion and dedication we all hope to emulate.



3 prescript

A call for your ideas

Where should we focus our advocacy efforts over the coming year? We need your input.

4 news

What's happening in the Georgia pharmacy world

Dues billing, technician recertification, the price of naloxone, and more

7 legal injection

Using the PDMP

What you need to know about Georgia's new PDMP law.

11 profile

Meet Lance Boles, GPhA's 2016-17 president

12 cpeasy

Check out our new members-only education program

18 the 2016 georgia pharmacy convention

Photos from this year's event in Hilton Head

21 PharmPAC

Investors in the future of pharmacy in Georgia

23 contact us

Who does what at GPhA — and how to reach us

24 postscript

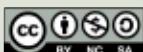
A message from President Lance Boles

Georgia Pharmacy

The Journal of the Georgia Pharmacy Association

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sbrunner@gpha.org

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Andrew Kantor
akantor@gpha.org

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2017 legislative agenda: a call for your ideas

BY GREG REYBOLD

What can make pharmacy in Georgia better — better for pharmacists and better for patients?

That's what we want to know. It's our annual call for issues, where we turn to you, members, to tell us what you believe will move the practice forward and what will improve patient care and the profession itself.

We are seeking ideas — big and small, widely recognized and obscure — to help shape GPhA's legislative agenda for 2017.

Our goal, of course, is to make it better to be a pharmacist (and a patient) today than it was yesterday. That's not always the case.

Despite quantum advancements in technology and science, it seems more and more treatment decisions are based these days on corporate profits — and at the expense of patient care. Add new legal and contractual obligations, uncertainties about health insurance, the blurry line between cures and quackery, and it's no wonder patients are confused and overwhelmed.

Despite all this, the bond between pharmacist and patient not only remains, but grows stronger. A survey just this July found that patients trust their pharmacists more than any other healthcare provider. That puts pharmacists front and center as a core part of the healthcare team.

As pharmacy goes, so goes all of healthcare. That's why it's important for us to choose carefully how to direct our advocacy efforts, and why we're turning to you.

We have been fighting to curtail the unfair business practices so prevalent in the industry: unfair reimbursements, abusive audits, limited patient choice, even restrictions on how pharmacists can communicate with their patients about treatment options.

But make no mistake, these are only some of the challenges we know you face. Change will not come quickly or without setbacks and failures, but, for the first time in a long time, we may just have the wind at our backs.

And that good news raises the question: What do

you want pharmacy to be in the years to come? It's a question you must answer, individually and collectively, and that's what this call for issues is about.

Tell us your challenges. Tell us what's preventing you from being the best pharmacist you can be. Tell us what you wish you could do for your patients. Tell us the regulations that weigh on you, or the rules that make your practice more difficult.

Tell *me*, in fact.

When I receive your responses, my job will be to

THIS WILL DETERMINE WHAT ISSUES WE WORK ON OVER THE NEXT YEAR AND INTO THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

collate them, research them, and decide which are most achievable and which may oppose or compete with other ideas. I'll present them to GPhA's legislative policy committee, who will take your ideas and make legislative policy recommendations to GPhA's board of directors.

It's this process that determines the issues we'll work on over the next year and into the 2017 legislative session. It will be a balance of what we *should* achieve, what we *can* achieve, and what will have the widest positive impact.

The more responses and the better the ideas, the harder my job and the job of the legislative policy committee will be. That's a good problem to have; I hope we receive responses from every GPhA member and it takes every day of September working through them.

It's that important.

I know most of you are not lacking for opinions or ideas. Share them. Let your passion for your patients and practice compel you to answer GPhA's call. [📧](#)

Greg Reybold is GPhA's vice president of public policy and association counsel.

GEORGIA CONGRESSMEN ASK CMS TO STOP HUMANA CONTRACT CHANGE

In a letter to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, congressmen Buddy Carter (GA-1) and Doug Collins (GA-9) have asked the Federal government to step in and stop a proposed change to Humana's amendments to its Pharmacy Provider Agreement.

That change, they said, would force independent community pharmacies to



Carter (left) and Collins want the government to stop Humana's proposed contract change.

potentially lose five dollars per prescription they fill, hoping for reimbursement from Humana if they meet certain metrics — metrics, they say, that might be impossible to meet.

They want CMS to prevent Humana from enacting the change to its agreements. "I'm a free-market guy," Carter told Drug Store News. "We need to let the free-market work. This proposal does nothing more than infringe on the free market in pharmacy."



GPhA region presidents and members of the board of directors were sworn in during a ceremony at the 2016 Georgia Pharmacy Convention in June.

Boles sworn in as president Board, region presidents also installed

Pharmacist Lance Boles of Hartwell was installed as 2016-17 GPhA president during the 2016 Georgia Pharmacy Convention in Hilton Head, S.C. Boles is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Pharmacy, where he also earned his MBA. Boles owns independent pharmacies in Hartwell, Georgia, and Iva, SC.

Kroger pharmacist Liza Chapman of Dawsonville was installed as president-elect, and independent pharmacist Tim Short of Cumming was installed as first vice president. Pharmacist Tommy Whitworth of LaGrange will remain on the board as immediate past president.

In addition, the following Georgia pharmacists were elected to serve on the 2016-17 GPhA Board of Directors: Michael Azzolin of Watkinsville; Sharon Deason of Newnan; Amy Miller of Lula; Fred Sharpe of Albany; Jonathan Sinyard of Cordele; Renee (Adamson) Smith of Manchester; and Chris Thurmond of Athens.

Also recognized at the convention were 2016-17 region presidents.

Region 1 President:
Brian Rickard, Vidalia

Region 2 President:
Joe Holt, Valdosta

Region 3 President:
Renee Smith, Waverly Hall

Region 4 President:
Blake Daniel, McDonough

Region 5 President:
Johnathan Hamrick, Atlanta

Region 6 President:
Matt Crist, Macon

Region 7 President:
Tyler Mayotte, Kennesaw

Region 8 President:
Chad McDonald, Waycross

Region 9 President:
Amanda Stankiewicz

Region 10 President:
Kevin Florence, Athens

Region 11 President:
Brent Lake, Augusta

Region 12 President:
Stephanie Kirkland, Rhine

Dues billing is a-comin'

It's that time of year — almost. Your 2016-2017 GPhA dues bill will be arriving in the mail starting in early August.

By the time you read this, in fact, you might already have seen your invoice. A few items to note:

Dues haven't changed for this year. It's still only \$225 per year for a basic membership, with discounts for spouses and new pharmacists. (If you're a first-, second-, or even third-year graduate, your rates are, frankly, incredible.) You can see the options at GPhA.org/join.

We might need to update your payment info. If you are on an installment (i.e., monthly) payment plan, we'll need to reauthorize your credit card information.

Consider going monthly. Instead of paying all at once, why not sign up for monthly payments? We'll bill your credit card and you don't have to think about it. Standard membership is only \$18.75 per month.

Don't forget to invest in PharmPAC. Our political action committee helps protect your practice at the capitol as we work to pass pharmacy-friendly legislation (and stop laws that can hurt the profession and your patients).

Last year was the transition year, so we expect this process to move smoothly and easily. But if you have questions or concerns, drop a note to membership@gpha.org and we'll help you out.

UGA PHARMACIST NAMED ASHSP FELLOW

Congratulations to pharmacist — and GPhA member — Beth Phillips of Watkinsville. The UGA College of Pharmacy professor — and Ambulatory Care Residency Program director — was named a fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (She was already a fellow in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.)



GPhA IS UPGRADING ITS MEMBER DATABASE

Stay calm, everyone. GPhA is moving to a new member database. The database is how we keep track of each of you: Who you are, where you work, what programs you're interested in, what CPE courses you've taken, and so on. It lets us contact you, call you by your correct name, and make sure your bill is accurate.

For an association, switching member databases is a major undertaking, but hopefully members won't even notice the change.

A few things you *will* notice: You'll find it's a lot easier to log into our website and access members-only information including your profile. And if you forget your password you won't have to call in to reset it. (Yeah, we were embarrassed about that too.) We hope to start adding features as well, such as simpler CPE registration and e-mails that are targeted to your interests and practice area.



Once the database is in place, we'll be asking you to make sure your profile is accurate, and to correct and update your profile, including your dues-payment information. But first things first.

The plan is for a smooth transition, but we hope you'll understand if and when we find a hiccup.

read more @
gphabuzz.com



CERTIFIED TECHS, REMEMBER TO RECERTIFY

If you're a certified pharmacy technician, remember that PTCB has changed its recertification schedule.

There are now 12 'windows' for recertifying, based on the date of your initial certification.

Your chance to apply for recertification will depend on when your certification currently expires — the end of March, July, or November.

All certified techs are required to apply for recertification by the first day of their expiration month.

You'll find more info at ptcb.org/renew/recertify.

FLUMIST DOESN'T WORK

On the off chance you missed the news, here it is: Don't give patients the FluMist nasal flu vaccine. It doesn't work. CDC scientists did several studies on FluMist and found that, over the past three years, it hasn't protected the people (often children) who received it.

Neither the CDC nor FluMist's manufacturer, MedImmune (a division of AstraZeneca) can figure out why it doesn't work, and the CDC has put the onus of finding and fixing the issue on the company. Until you hear otherwise, then, stick to the needles.

read more @
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THE PRICE OF NALOXONE

In the ongoing wake of the opioid "epidemic," more municipalities are stocking up on the naloxone overdose treatment. (GPhA is working with Project DAN, which is distributing it to first responders in northern Georgia.)

Pharma companies reaction to this? They're hiking the price of the decades-old drug, in once case by 500 percent (from \$750 for two doses to \$3,750). That's got states angry, and has spurred the U.S. Senate to start demanding answers from the manufacturers.

GPhA EDUCATION CALENDAR

Get the pharmacy education you want and need — in person or online.

August 13

CPEasy — Specialty Pharmacy (three courses); Sandy Springs or online; visit GPhA.org/cpeasy for information

September 17

CPEasy — New Laws, Drugs, Opportunities (three courses); Sandy Springs or online; visit GPhA.org/cpeasy for information

September 18

APhA immunization certification; Sandy Springs; visit GPhA.org/immunization for information

October 4

GPhA Region Legislative and Regulatory Meeting; Regions 2 and 8; visit GPhA.org/briefings for information

October 5

GPhA Region Legislative and Regulatory Meeting; Regions 5 and 11; visit GPhA.org/briefings for information

October 6

GPhA Region Legislative and Regulatory Meeting; Regions 1 and 7; visit GPhA.org/briefings for information

October 11

GPhA Region Legislative and Regulatory Meeting; Regions 4 and 12; visit GPhA.org/briefings for information

October 13

GPhA Region Legislative and Regulatory Meeting; Regions 3 and 9; visit GPhA.org/briefings for information

October 26

GPhA Region Legislative and Regulatory Meeting; Regions 6 and 10; visit GPhA.org/briefings for information

November 5

CPEasy — Fraud and Abuse (three courses); Sandy Springs or online; visit GPhA.org/cpeasy for information

November 20

Rising to the Top: A Leadership Symposium for Women in Pharmacy; Sandy Springs; visit GPhA.org/cpeasy for information

December 10

CPEasy — Senior Care (three courses); Sandy Springs or online; visit GPhA.org/cpeasy for information

December 11

APhA immunization certification; Sandy Springs; visit GPhA.org/immunization for information

Information about all GPhA's educational offerings is available at GPhA.org/education.

IMMUNIZATION TRAINING

It's back by ever-popular demand: GPhA's day-long immunization certificate program, known officially as "APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery certificate training program, 13th Edition."

The program, created by APhA and accredited by ACPE, gives pharmacists a whopping *20 hours of CPE*. That's including the required home-study work and the live class.

New opportunities to serve Georgia patients await you. Shouldn't you be ready?

Immunization training is just part of GPhA's ever-growing library of immunization resources; check out GPhA.org/immunization.

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

Dates: SEPT. 18 or DEC. 11
GPhA Offices, Sandy Springs
GPhA Members: \$349
Non-Members \$574, including one year of GPhA membership
Space is limited!

Using Georgia's prescription drug monitoring program

Greg Reybold, GPhA's vice president of public policy and association counsel, answers your questions about Georgia pharmacy law. This isn't legal advice, of course, just his interpretation of the law.



GREG REYBOLD

Changes to Georgia's PDMP law took effect July 1, giving dispensers and prescribers the ability to delegate and communicate concerns, but under certain specific conditions. Below are answers to some of the most common questions that pharmacists have been asking regarding how best to proceed under the new law.

Can I delegate the ability to access PDMP information to any employee in the pharmacy?

As a preliminary matter, dispensers alone are tasked with submitting prescription drug information and the law does not contemplate delegating this responsibility.

Dispensers may, though they are not required to, delegate obtaining prescription information for a patient for the sole purpose of providing pharmaceutical care.

However, *delegates must be members of a dispenser's staff who are licensed, regulated, or certified by the Board of Pharmacy.* In short, dispensers can delegate to registered pharmacy technicians and certified pharmacy technicians.

(Similarly, prescribers can delegate only to their staff who are licensed, regulated, or certified by the Composite Medical Board. Because nurses have their own board, it appears that prescribers may not be able to delegate to nurses.)

Will technicians be receiving their own PDMP logins or should they login using my credentials?

Based upon communications with GDNA, technicians will be able to register for their own accounts and will not be logging in via the pharmacists'.

Should I allow my technicians to access the PDMP using my login until they obtain their own logins?

No, even though the law took effect July 1, I would not let technicians access the system until they have registered for their own accounts.

DON'T LET TECHNICIANS ACCESS THE SYSTEM UNTIL THEY HAVE THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS

Because technicians will be receiving their own PDMP logins, does this limit pharmacists' liability for any technician misuse?

No, *the law provides that dispensers shall be held responsible for the use of information and data by their delegates.* This means that pharmacists must be careful in terms of whom they entrust to access PDMP information on their behalf. Pharmacists should also be sure any technicians to whom they delegate responsibility have received training in connection with PDMP law.

In that regard, starting in August GPhA will be offering technicians a CPE course on PDMP law.

They'll learn, amongst other things, about (1) the purpose and importance of Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program; (2) pharmacist and technician obligations under the law; and (3) what technicians can and cannot do as delegates. You

**DO YOU HAVE AN ISSUE YOU'D LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED IN THIS COLUMN?
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can find more information at **GPhA.org/pdmp**.

Beyond the training, appropriate oversight of technician access of the PDMP should be practiced by the delegating pharmacist as well.

Can I communicate concerns about a patient's potential misuse, abuse, or underutilization of a controlled substance to anyone on the patient's healthcare team?

No, you may only communicate such concerns with other prescribers or dispensers that are involved in a patient's healthcare. Because the law explicitly uses the terms *prescriber* or *dispenser*, you should not communicate concerns based upon PDMP information with anyone else on a dispenser's or prescriber's staff even if they are involved in the patients' healthcare and even if you believe they are delegates of a prescriber or dispenser.

As a dispenser, when must I use the PDMP?

Dispensers must submit information regarding each prescription they dispense for a Schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance within the requisite time period. That said, dispensers are *not* required to obtain/access information about a patient prior to filling a prescription for a controlled substance.

However, the more the system is used by dispensers prior to filling prescriptions, the more effective the program is going to be in identifying divergent behavior. [i](#)

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THE MORE THE SYSTEM IS USED
BY DISPENSERS, THE MORE
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- Former counsel for professional licensing boards including the Georgia Board of Pharmacy and the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency
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Driving force

New president Lance Boles brings a lifelong zeal for both business and pharmacy

It was 1993 and Lance Boles was facing a crisis typical of the teenage years: How to make enough money to keep gas in his Jeep Cherokee *and* have enough left over to maintain the robust social life he envisioned.

Boles wasn't interested in stocking shelves at the local grocery store or salting fries at McDonald's. He believed the path toward his first real job would not be traveled in shoe leather, but in spikes.

He spent much of his free time at the local golf club where word was out that a member, local pharmacist Bill Rogers, was hiring high school students. In a move straight out of *Caddyshack*, Boles approached the man and landed a job delivering medications for Hartwell Pharmacy.

Boles worked at Hartwell Pharmacy after school and on weekends for almost two years. "I could really envision myself in the environment that was that store," he says. "I went off to UGA with plans to attend pharmacy school and hoping that I would one day have my own store."

It turns out that working at Hartwell Pharmacy would provide more than a much-needed stream of revenue. Besides developing an awareness of the pharmacy profession's impact on people, Boles credits the experience with helping him see the profession's analytical side. "I was enjoying that pharmacy was a math- and science-based profession. How do you look at a profile for drug interactions? How do you calculate an appropriate dosage of a medication?"

The seed of Boles's vision grew during his first years at UGA, where he would eventually earn both his BS in Pharmacy and an MBA. Thanks in no small part to his undergraduate advisor, Ken Duke, at the College of Pharmacy, Duke provided Boles with a template for what a life in pharmacy might look like for his diverse interests and skills.

But even more formative to Boles's thinking was something of a meta lesson. Duke's tangible example was transforming Boles's approach to pharmacy in a way that classroom experiences



Lance Boles is sworn in as GPhA president on June 18, 2016.

couldn't, encouraging him to become immersed in the entire aspect of learning — expanding the environment beyond the classroom setting.

"At UGA, it was easy to get lost in the mix of 30,000+ people," Boles says. Having access to someone who could guide him in this more holistic view, allowed him to develop a solid foundation from which to begin his professional growth.

It was this expanding image of the pharmacy profession that lead Boles to a student rotation with GPhA in the spring of 1999, where he got to know the policy and business sides of the association intimately. And, in another valuable mentorship, he spent several weeks shadowing then-CEO Buddy Harden.

"I will always be thankful for Buddy's willingness to invest both his own and the association's time in my growth," Boles says. "It was an influential encounter at an important time in my life. I saw how Buddy handled different challenges, worked to advance the profession, and engaged outside groups to expand the number of stakeholders that understood the value of a pharmacist. It gave me a real appreciation for what GPhA accomplishes," Boles says.

Almost a quarter of a century has passed since he first stepped into Hartwell Pharmacy as an employee. Since then Boles has not only dispensed in both chain and independent pharmacies, he eventually bought his own stores — operating out of the very site of his first pharmacy job.

This wealth of experience — working as an independent and retail chain pharmacist, running two small businesses, taking on both staff and governance roles with GPhA, has prepared him for the 2016-17 presidency.

"Lifelong learning, continuous improvement — that's my mentality," Boles says. "It's a big thing for me, having that challenge out there on the horizon." [T](#)

The online education you asked for

CPEasy: Clickable ACPE-accredited instruction you can take in your PJs

It turns out that pharmacists love online education. They may not be thrilled about CPE requirements, but when it comes time to take some required courses, they'll flock to webinars over live classes.

We also learned that pharmacists much prefer continuing ed that's *different* — that really helps with their practices, teaches them something new, or is simply not more of the same-old, same-old they've seen for years.

We got those messages loud and clear.

Here's our response: CPEasy.

- It's ACPE-accredited continuing education for GPhA members.
- It's available online live (where you can ask questions) or via recorded video (so you can "attend" any time).
- The topics are always changing, and they're timely and interesting.
- Sessions are only \$20 a pop for an hour and a half of CPE credit.

Helping you do *your* job better is *our* job, and CPEasy seemed like a no-brainer. We've been listening — and watching — and what we've learned is that your primary concern with any CPE offering is accessibility.

In other words, you love our content and you love our instructors, but driving to a class or committing an entire day of your weekend toward getting that content is a turn-off.

In short, you like getting CPE on your schedule in your sweatpants.

Each CPEasy class is offered online through our Go To Training platform, either at the set date and time (so you can ask questions of the instructor), or as home study on demand (so you can take them any time in any order). The software is free

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CPEasy courses are taught by some of the best instructors in the region — folks you've gotten to know at the Georgia Pharmacy Convention, through our certification training courses, or may be even as faculty members back when you were in pharmacy school.

Need to see more? You can check out our 2016 line-up at GPhA.org/cpeasy, and sign up for a course right there. It's that easy.

STARTING IN AUGUST: NAVIGATING SPECIALTY PHARMACY

Specialty pharmacy is a rapidly growing health-care niche. Join specialty pharmacist Josh Meeks of Encompass Rx for training on the role of specialty pharmacy and an in-depth look at specialty drugs for select disease states.

■ Specialty Pharmacy & the Specialty Pharmacist's Role

Live: August 4, 7:30 PM

■ Specialty Pharmacy: Hepatitis C

Live: August 11, 7:30 PM

■ Specialty Pharmacy: Oncology, Multiple Sclerosis, IBD, and Rheumatoid Arthritis

Live: August 18, 7:30 PM

LIVE OR ON DEMAND: YOUR CHOICE

Live courses are offered at the scheduled times. On-demand versions will be available 24 hours after the live session as recorded webinars.

**STARTING IN SEPTEMBER:
NEW LAWS, NEW DRUGS,
NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

New laws affecting pharmacists, drugs and your patients can affect your pharmacy business and how you serve patients. Occasionally they provide opportunities to deliver new clinical services. You won't get information that's this in-depth, this up-to-the-minute anywhere but GPhA.

- **2016 New Law Update**
Live: September 8, 7:30 PM
- **2016 New Drug Update**
Live: September 15, 7:30 PM
- **New Opportunities for Patient Care**
Live: September 22, 7:30 PM

**STARTING IN NOVEMBER:
REDUCING FRAUD AND ABUSE RISK
IN PHARMACIES**

Don't miss this insider's look at some of the main fraud and abuse risk areas for pharmacies, and get tips on ensuring compliance and minimizing risks of potential liability.

- **The False Claims Act and Pharmacies**
Live: November 3, 7:30 PM
- **Pharmacies and Their Relationships with Prescribing Physicians and Beneficiaries**
Live: November 10, 7:30 PM
- **Confronting Drug Diversion**
Live: November 17, 7:30 PM

**STARTING IN DECEMBER:
CARING FOR SENIOR PATIENTS**

Assisted living facilities, nursing homes, dialysis centers, and other healthcare institutions need effective medication therapies suitable to both short- and long-term management. Join pharmacist and entrepreneur Richard Marasco as he explores how pharmacists can be a part of a healthcare team focused on the senior care niche.

- **Senior Care is Everywhere: Managing Common Conditions Seen in the Elderly**
Live: December 1, 7:30 PM
- **I'm having a Senior Moment: Managing Memory and Mood Issues in Seniors**
Live: December 8, 7:30 PM
- **Slips, Trips, Bumps and Falls: Managing Medication Related Problems in Seniors**
Live: December 15, 7:30 PM

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In every profession, there are those who go beyond the ordinary — the trendsetters, leaders, and servants who serve as the examples we point to and the careers we all hope to emulate.

It is those pharmacists GPhA honors each year with awards that represent six qualities that the best and most dedicated professionals exhibit: **Passion** for the profession and for patients. **Excellence** not only in meeting standards but surpassing them. The **leadership** ability to engage and spur others to action.

A **commitment** to ideals, to projects, and to patients. The dedication of time and energy in the **service** of others. Showing a knack for **innovation** to transform vision into plans, and plans into reality.

This year we recognized six honorees who best demonstrate those qualities. We asked people who knew them well, professionally or personally, to share what makes each of these people — these pharmacists and Georgians — stand out.

The art of excellence

A career of serving and leading 2016 Bowl of Hygeia: Hugh Chancy, Hahira

Hugh Chancy and his family reflect the epitome of what pharmacist Claiborne Robins had in mind over a half-century ago when he created the Bowl of Hygeia: the public recognition of solid citizens, community leaders, pharmacists who have devoted their personal and professional lives to serving others and who are recognized for their contributions to their community and to our profession.

The Bowl of Hygeia isn't given for a particular program, achievement, or event. It reflects the recognition of a lifetime of work not just as a pharmacist, but as a leader both in the profession and in the community.

Chancy has never settled for simply working behind the counter. A native of Hahira, he's co-owner of five independent compounding pharmacies in South Georgia: Chancy Drugs, which his parents started in 1966.

Following in their footsteps he too became a pharmacist, and he was quick to work to share his experience with his colleagues.



He began volunteering with GPhA decades ago, helping his fellow pharmacists and eventually serving as president of the association. He

has served — again, as a volunteer — on the board of directors of the National Community Pharmacists Association and has chaired its governmental affairs committee. At home, he has been deeply involved and active in his community, giving back to the people he serves in his business.

For example, knowing that adherence is a major issue for patients (and that pharmacists are on the front lines), Chancy started a partnership with local businesses to work with employees to ensure they're not only taking their prescribed medications, but are also taking preventative measures — think flu shots.

After seeing how traditional pain medications did little to help his father-in-law who suffered from cancer, Chancy saw an unmet need — he became trained in compounding so he could offer specialized medications for patients who needed something beyond simple prescriptions. (In 2014, Chancy Drugs received accreditation from the Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board, one of only six pharmacies in the state to hold that accreditation.)

Hugh's leadership as a pharmacist and as a Georgian has left its mark on every place he has lived, practiced, volunteered and guided, making him a fitting recipient of this hallowed award. *Larry Braden is CEO at Lacey Drug in Acworth, and a former Georgia Pharmacy Association executive vice president.*

A servant super-hero

2016 Larry L. Braden Meritorious Service Award: Sharon Sherrer, Marietta

Some of the most popular movies of all time (based on box office dollars) are super hero movies. Pharmacist Sharon Sherrer, this year's recipient of the 2016 Larry L. Braden Meritorious Service Award, doesn't wear a cape — but there are times I almost expect her to soar through the air.

Sharon is married to John T. Sherrer, immediate past president of the National Community Pharmacists Association. Sharon was named honorary NCPA president during John's year as president, the first time in over a decade the organization has

bestowed this honor.

John's perseverance in coping with the effects of a 2009 stroke is a story of courage, and Sharon is the co-author. She watched over John and took care of him as he was rehabilitating, all the while she was managing and working at their pharmacies and continuing to provide detailed input on pharmacy matters. Many times Sharon amazed me by asking meticulous questions about a new law or policy that federal or state authorities were seeking. I found myself marveling at the energy she had to have the mastery of an issue while excelling at her family and professional responsibilities. At times I thought she must be a real life Wonder Woman.

Her superhuman feats go beyond pharmacy into community service activities such as working closely with local organizations that serve adolescents with behavioral disorders and advocating for EMS services across the state.

Sharon Sherrer was born in Greenville, Miss., and graduated from high school in Marietta, but if I didn't know that I would wonder if she actually came from the planet Krypton. She is one super woman.

B. Douglas Hoey is the chief executive officer of the National Community Pharmacists Association.

Connecting the dots

2016 Distinguished Young Pharmacist: Michael Crooks, Marietta

Although he's been out of pharmacy school less than a decade, Michael Crooks is positioning himself as a leader and role model in pharmacy practice improvement and transformation.

Currently serving as a clinical pharmacist with Alliant Quality, Crooks has made extraordinary efforts to connect the dots in the profession. He has helped forge alliances between GPhA and organizations like the Georgia Department of Community Health, the Department of Public Health, the Georgia Diabetes and Immunization Coalitions, and private organizations including Alliant and Emory Health Systems.



coverstory

Michael has worked hard to assist pharmacists in improving the way they deliver care. He's provided technical assistance support for integrating quality and process improvement, and by building and spreading practice transformation tools. Focusing efforts on areas like cardiac care, obesity, smoking and diabetes — some of our state's biggest health problems — Mike has helped develop tools to improve the health and well-being of patients.

There is no doubt in my mind that his work with GPhA is just another spoke in the wheel of his

vision for moving our profession forward with an eye on excellent patient care.

I mentioned he is a role model. To me, this means he is someone who maximizes his potential to push the boundaries of the profession with passion and

purpose. Michael does this while all the while being sensitive to those whose practices are likely to change and the patients who may benefit.

He is smart, creative, visionary, collaborative and tireless in his work not only for GPhA but for our entire profession — and a fitting choice for 2016 Distinguished Young Pharmacist.

Matthew Perri is professor and associate head of UGA's Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy department.

Committed to the profession

2016 Mal T. Anderson Outstanding Region President: Flynn Warren, Bishop

GPhA's 12 region presidents are elected at the local level and have the most day-to-day contact with GPhA members. One word that represents these volunteers is *commitment*.

That's exactly what it takes to be an effective GPhA region president — along with tenacity, persistence, and time management. It's a big job, and it's an important job, and this year's Mal T. Anderson Award recipient has done it with distinction.

Commitment is also an apt word to describe Flynn Warren. Commitment to his country through military service. Commitment to the pharmacy profession as a practitioner, member of countless organizations, as well as many years passing his

knowledge and experience on to future pharmacists as a professor.

Willingness to sacrifice time and resources to serve repeatedly after such commitment as association president demonstrates the type of leadership and character that members like Flynn Warren offer to continue the achievements of GPhA. In fact, its unprecedented in many cases. I don't think we will see Governor Deal as a Hall County commissioner anytime soon.

The example set by Warren is a great reminder to all pharmacists in Georgia. Along the way, leaders like Flynn Warren will be there to offer guidance and support as the association progresses and new opportunities arise.

Kevin Florence owns ADD Drugs in Athens. He recently succeeded Warren as GPhA region 10 president.

Cooperation in innovation

2016 Excellence in Innovation Award: Andi McKeever, Savannah

Innovation rarely works without true passion for progress. Dr. Andrea "Andi" McKeever, director of the Drug Information Center and Residency Program at South University School of Pharmacy, embodies both.

Not only does she brainstorm, dream, and imagine innovative programs, she translates them into reality.

The best example, and the one that garnered her this award, is pEACHealth.

At a medication management workgroup earlier this year, she provided an update on South University's pEACHealth program, which helps patients monitor and manage high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

At the same meeting, I shared information regarding GPhA's High Performance Pharmacy Network, a network of independent pharmacies designed to deliver an array of clinical services to treat high risk patient populations, enhance compliance, and contain costs.

And that's where McKeever's "A-ha moment" happened. AIP's HPPN was equipped to carry out the purpose of the pEACHealth program. And pEACHealth was in need of pharmacies to partici-



pate and sign up patients.

The result was a collaboration between South University School of Pharmacy, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and GPhA's Academy of Independent Pharmacy. By working together, we have expanded the program, added more pharmacies, and enrolled more patients.

The pEACHHealth program has expanded patient care services within targeted Georgia counties, and it's empowering participants to take an active

role in the management of their chronic conditions. This program promotes enhanced pharmacy services allowing pharmacists to practice to the extent of their licensure and training, ultimately improving outcomes for Georgia residents.

It's exactly this kind of quick, innovative thinking that the Excellence in Innovation Award is meant to honor.

Amanda Gaddy is director of clinical services for GPhA's Academy of Independent Pharmacy.

Devoted to second chances

2016 Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champion: Jean Cox, Dunwoody

It was 35 years ago that GPhA's board of directors first took action to create a program to identify and help chemically-impaired colleagues. The result was the PharmAssist Program, which was officially launched in February 1982 by a small group of Georgia pharmacists.

Among them was Jean Cox, then director of pharmacy at Charter Peachford Hospital in Atlanta.

Jean took a lead role from the outset, thanks to her true compassion for pharmacists who "crossed the line" and were in need of help.

She was one of the few people back then who was willing to walk the walk and give someone like this a second chance. She invited him to work in her pharmacy — to assist his reentry into the profession. Jean was a real pioneer. She understood long ago that chemical impairment is an occupational hazard for pharmacists, impacting more than one in 10 of us at some point during our careers.

Perhaps more importantly, Jean also knew that

sick colleagues can indeed get well and return to the safe practice of pharmacy. Today, due in large part of Jean's passion and compassion, many colleagues are living healthy and productive lives.

Jean has spent countless hours devoted to substance abuse related activities. She was actively involved with the Southeastern Conference on Alcohol and Drugs. She worked to assure pharmacists earn CPE credit for prescription drug abuse prevention programs. She got certified, and then helped train others, to better intervene with pharmacists with addiction issues. She has been involved in follow-through addiction treatment, has worked with halfway houses, and has been a patient monitor and mentor.

Passion and compassion. They are the essence of what the Generation Rx Champion Award is meant to honor, and they are the essence of pharmacist Jean Cox of Primrose Pharmacy in Dunwoody.

James Bartling was associate dean for student affairs and admissions at Mercer University. He retired last month. 



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The 2016 Georgia Pharmacy Convention

More than 300 pharmacists, technicians, pharmacy pros, and student pharmacists came to Hilton Head for the 2016 Georgia Pharmacy Convention, making it one of our largest ever.

Many were there for the chance to take five, 10, or even 15 hours of courses and seminars to improve their practices or simply meet their annual CPE requirements.

Others focused on combining education with family fun at the Hilton Head Marriott Resort or around the island itself. Networking with colleagues was a huge draw, and everyone took some time to check out the dozens of vendors in our largest-ever expo hall.

GPhA's new president, Lance Boles of Hartwell, was sworn in, along with the other members of the 2016-2017 board of directors. And each day was capped with a packed auditorium for our general sessions and keynote addresses.



Outgoing GPhA president Tommy Whitworth sports some GPhA gear.



Student pharmacists found some time to relax between sessions.



The gavel is passed, literally and figuratively, from one GPhA past president to the next in our annual inauguration ceremony.



Standing-room-only crowds filled the auditorium for general sessions.



There was fun and games on the expo hall floor — literally.



The expo hall gave attendees a chance to check out products and services from dozens of vendors.



Doug Hoey, CEO of the National Community Pharmacists Association, talks federal policy.



Incoming GPhA president Lance Boles gives his inauguration speech.



Allison Linney gives a keynote presentation on "Pharmacy in the Age of Uber"



Ashley London of Augusta (left) was one of the graduates of the 2016-2017 *LeadershipGPhA* program.



Education was the big draw, with many sessions full to capacity.

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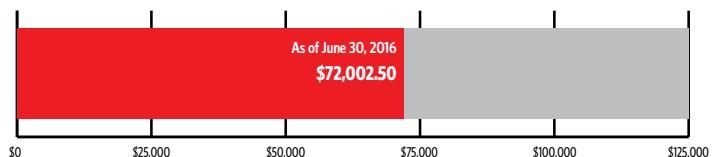
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sinyardj@gmail.com

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vildrug@bellsouth.net

For questions about our magazine, blog, websites, or social media

Andrew Kantor
Director of Communication
akantor@gpha.org

For questions about engagement with the Georgia pharmacy community, our events, or CPE credits

Phillip Ratliff
Vice President of Communication
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pratliff@gpha.org

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Executive Assistant and
Governance Manager
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For operational or accounting questions:

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djones@gpha.org

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Jeff Lurey, R.Ph.
VP of Independent Pharmacy
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jlurey@gpha.org

For questions about your AIP membership

Verouschka "V" Betancourt-Whigham
Manager of AIP Member Services
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vbwhigham@gpha.org

AIP Member Service Representatives

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(229) 854-2797
rbonner@gpha.org

Charles Boone
(478) 955-7789
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Mentoring the next generation



LANCE BOLES

Proverbs 27:17 states that *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another*. While the described relates to one's faith, it is also applicable in the world of professional associations.

Alone we are more vulnerable — likely to become less effective, less useful in our service to our others, less accountable — but when we are part of a fellowship of like-minded people, we are able to expand our capabilities, have opportunities for teaching and mentorship, and generate a sense of community. The commitment to life-long learning and a willingness to adapt to a continually changing landscape are essential for pharmacists to be able to thrive as our surroundings in healthcare change so rapidly.

As we look to grow our community, one of the most untapped resources in our profession lies in developing the potential of our student pharmacists. That's why this year GPhA will focus on strengthening our connection with the next generation of pharmacy leaders by launching a mentorship program.

The 2016-2017 *LeadershipGPhA* class has volunteered its expertise and time to lead this important endeavor. It will be tasked to research and create a template to begin a program connecting GPhA member pharmacists with the student pharmacists at our colleges of pharmacy, with a particular focus on our student leaders.

Many of us can attribute our involvement with GPhA as a direct result of the exposure and experiences with GPhA that we gained as students. Perhaps we attended a GPhA event at our school, or an outside event such as Phar-

macy Day at the Dome or a GPhA convention; we found leaders within the profession that had advice to offer and set an example for us to emulate as we began our careers.

Our hope is to provide our student pharmacists with accessibility to practicing pharmacists who can mentor them in the career path they have selected; we also hope to cultivate a lasting connection between our student phar-

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