

NYCSHP

BULLETIN

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**Helen Li,
PharmD**



**Hui Lin,
PharmD**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our Fall 2024 Bulletin! It is an honor to serve as your President and I am thrilled to be on this exciting journey with all of you. I am excited about what lies ahead for our organization and our profession. Our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs have been hard at work planning events for the year, with programming centered around our theme of 'Building for our Future: Engaging our Community, Empowering our Members, and Elevating our Profession'. We have hosted a Membership Drive which added 13 new members to our community, launched two new membership programs, brought back student and resident clinical pearl presentations to our Board of Directors and Committee Chair meetings, and hosted two advocacy/voter registration drives!



October is a special month for us! We celebrate American Pharmacist Month, Pharmacy Technician Day (October 15th), and Pharmacy Week (October 20th to 26th). This is the time to recognize the incredible work we do every day as the backbone of healthcare. In this issue of our bulletin, you will meet our leaders. They will share how long they have been a member of our chapter and why they joined. We hope this inspires you to recall your why for joining and motivates you to become more involved. We are also shining a spotlight on pharmacy technicians, crucial members of our pharmacy teams and the unsung heroes behind the scenes. We invite you to read on recent legislative updates and dive into our featured Q&A session with our pharmacy technician members, where they share insights about their roles, challenges, and contributions.

Thank you for being a part of NYCSHP. I encourage all of you to stay engaged and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the coming months.

Amber Johnson, PharmD, MBA, BCSCP
President 2024-2025, New York City Society of Health-system Pharmacists

CELEBRATING AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

Happy American Pharmacists Month to all pharmacists, technicians, and those who serve in the pharmacy profession! This past year, there has been much to reflect on and celebrate, as the pharmacy role continues to advance and expand.

We have made several strides within the state in the legislative realm, including pharmacist provision of hormonal contraceptives, expansion of immunization services, and administration of long-acting injectable medications. Ongoing national efforts will allow increased clarity between drug pricing and reimbursement of pharmacist services, which will expand healthcare access and allow pharmacists to better address the underserved community.

We have increased pharmacy technician certifications and educational opportunities, allowing pharmacy technicians to expand their scope, while allowing pharmacists to provide attentive, detailed patient care. All of these achievements on the larger scale, and the day to day impact we make for our patients and the community, are thanks to you and your efforts. So thank you, and congratulations for all that we have done!



Our Chapter is lucky to be led by passionate pharmacy professionals from all aspects of the profession. We asked our BOD and Committee Chairs what made them join NYCSHP.

See what they had to say below!

MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: AMBER JOHNSON, PHARMD, MBA, BCSCP

I joined NYCSPH in 2016 (Member for 8 years). Dr. Jason Babby, President 2016-2017, introduced me to NYCSPH and asked if I'd be interested in serving as Mentoring Co-Chair with Dr. Vickie Powell under his administration. Since joining, I have also served as Treasurer (4 years!), Delegate, and DEI Chair. I enjoy networking with my peers and colleagues, developing new initiatives and programs that benefit our members and the community, and gaining knowledge from the awesome programming made available!



PRESIDENT-ELECT: MARINA BARSOUM, PHARMD, BCOP

I joined NYCSPH in 2017 as a student, but became more involved in 2021 when Stephen convinced me to be membership committee chair. From there I fell in love with NYCSPH and all the networking opportunities to meet old class mates and make new friends. Stephen constantly pushes me to be more involved and I'm grateful for his support as well as the organizations support.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: REBECCA CHU, PHARMD, BCPS

I joined the NYC Chapter in 2018 when I was a pharmacy resident. Jamie Chin-Hon, President 2021-2022, introduced me to the chapter and invited me to events and to be a panelist or speaker for events. The NYC Chapter always seemed fun, active, and positive, so when she approached me to be a committee chair for Special Projects and a year later for President-Elect, I wanted to be part of the energy and I could not say no! I have met some of my closest friends and confidants while networking with my peers, and I can attribute my engagement in the NYC Chapter to various job opportunities. Fun fact: I joined NYCSPH in 2016 with the Northeastern Chapter when I was a student as my professor Dr. See-Won Seo had always invited me and my peers to the different dinners.



SECRETARY: CHARNAE ROSS, PHARMD, MSHA, BCSCP

I became a member of NYCSPH earlier this year (2024) after attending a few programs where Amber and Rebecca made me feel incredibly welcome. Their support and the inclusive atmosphere inspired me to pursue a leadership position within the organization, and I've been fully committed ever since.



TREASURER: CERRIS CHUNG, PHARMD, BCACP

I joined NYCSPH since 2016, but got more involved with committee roles in 2021 when Rebecca convinced me to be her co-chair. Mind you, I've only ever texted Rebecca since then and I have never actually met her in person. I met her during installation of that year for the first time and she has been such an inspiring friend who constantly encourages me to be involved.



MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 DIRECTORS AT LARGE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: SO YI LAM, PHARMD
MEMBERSHIP, INSTALLATION, NEW PRACTITIONERS, AND PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT

I joined as a student, but only got more involved in 2021 when Stephen asked me to become the Industry Relations Chair.. and then I ended up also taking on Digital Solutions that same term and have since been holding two positions every year.



MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR: PAULINE BAE, PHARMD, MHA

In 2021, I accepted a job offer at Montefiore Medical Center and immediately joined NYCSPH after seeing numerous colleagues involved with this fantastic professional organization. I wanted to become part of this amazing community that allows me to contribute to our profession, advocate for efforts to shape policies, as well as network with leaders who share my passion for improving healthcare outcomes through pharmaceutical excellence. I cannot think of a better community that not only supports my continuous learning and development, but also provides a platform to share my insights and truly work together to advance patient care.



MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR: SHARON ZHU, PHARMD, BCGP

I joined NYCSPH in 2020 as a pharmacy resident and then rejoined in Fall of 2023 when Cerris invited me to an event! Initially, I joined NYCSPH for the CE events.



**INSTALLATION CO-CHAIR:
PAULINE BAE, PHARMD, MHA**



INSTALLATION CO-CHAIR : ANNA DIYAMANDOGLU, PHARMD

I joined NYCSPH in 2021 when I was in my first year of residency. The opportunity NYCSPH offers to remain aware of current events in the pharmacy profession, particularly within New York, and connect with like-minded, motivated individuals propelled me to become an active member and attend events. In 2023, I was given the opportunity to take on the role of Installation Co-Chair. I thoroughly enjoyed planning the 2024 NYCSPH Annual Installation and look forward to helping plan Installation in 2025!



MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 DIRECTORS AT LARGE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



NEW PRACTITIONERS CO-CHAIR: MATEUSZ NIEWINSKI, PHARM D

Joined in 2020 just before my first year of residency when Jamie Chin reached out to join one of the monthly networking events. I was immediately sold and joined on the spot, and since then I got a feel for what an amazing organization this is.



NEW PRACTITIONERS CO-CHAIR: MATTHEW OSWALD, PHARM D

Joined in 2020 just before my PGY1 year due to Jamie Chin. This was my first glimpse into how amazing NYCSPH was. The networking was something that I wanted to get more involved with.



PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT CO-CHAIR: SARA FARGHALY, PHARM D, BCTXP

I have been a member since I was a student. I joined to gain access to networking and CE opportunities



PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT CO-CHAIR: CHRISTA CLAY, CPHT-ADV, CVA

I joined NYCSPH in 2020 when the Pharmacy Technician Executive Committee was formed, and I stayed once I learned how devoted this chapter is to pharmacy technician issues and advancement.

MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 DIRECTORS AT LARGE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: JACLYN HESS, PHARM.D, BCACP, BCPS, BC-ADM
MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & SOCIAL MEDIA, SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH,
WELL-BEING & RESILIENCE, AND INDUSTRY RELATIONS



I joined as general member a few years ago, periodically attending events throughout the year. I became more involved in 2023 through co-chairing the Preceptor Development Committee, where we successfully executed 2 CE programs (fall & spring) and started office hours to discuss best practices in precepting with new and current preceptors across the chapter. I've enjoyed the networking and continuing education opportunities.

MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA CO-CHAIR:
BRYNNA CROVETTO, PHARM.D, BCPS, BCCCP



I joined NYCSHP in fall 2021 and started attending city chapter events, I became involved in the installation committee as co-chair, membership committee chair, and as a NYC chapter delegate this past year. Excited to take on this new role as marketing and public relations committee co-chair!

**MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SOCIAL
MEDIA CO-CHAIR:**
SARA FARGHALY, PHARM.D



SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH CO-CHAIR:
STEVEN STETTNER, PHARM.D



I joined NYCSHP in 2019 and became more involved in Fall 2023 with the Special Projects & Community Outreach due to Cerris. I initially joined for the food and CE nights, and have since enjoyed the networking and community outreach events.

SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH CO-CHAIR:
JENNI XU-STETTNER, PHARM.D



I joined NYCSHP in 2019 and became more involved in Fall 2023 with the Special Projects & Community Outreach when Cerris convinced me to take a more active role in the organization. I initially joined NYCSHP for the CE events but have subsequently enjoyed networking with others in the pharmacy profession and expanding our community outreach.

MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 DIRECTORS AT LARGE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



WELL-BEING & RESILIENCE CO-CHAIR: GRASHMA VADAKKEL, PHARMD, BCOP

I joined NYCSPH in 2020 and hit the ground running as an Installation Planning Committee Co-Chair. I continued to be active on the Bulletin Committee right after where I served for 2 years, and now I'm excited to stay involved through Wellbeing & Resilience. I initially joined NYCSPH in order to develop a professional network in the Northeast outside of work (I'm originally from Florida and did not know many people in this area when I moved here). Though I have gained much more than just networking through this organization. Not only have I met some great pharmacy professionals, NYCSPH has also given me the opportunity to continuing developing key leadership skills in such a fun way. I'm glad to be part of an organization that I look forward to serving and has such a great impact within pharmacy overall.

WELL-BEING & RESILIENCE CO-CHAIR: VANESSA XU, PHARMD

I joined NYCSPH in 2021 as a student pharmacist as a co-chair in the Student Relations Committee. I continued to be a committee chair for the following year and transitioned over to the Wellbeing and Resilience co-chair for the last 2 years. I joined NYCSPH to be a part of an amazing organization where I was able to grow professionally and network with role models throughout the organization.



INDUSTRY RELATIONS CO-CHAIR: ALICE WANG, PHARMD, BCOP

I joined NYCSPH in 2021 and became involved on the Industry Relations Committee in 2023. I enjoy the networking and educational opportunities that NYCSPH offers.

INDUSTRY RELATIONS CO-CHAIR: BRIAN LERNER, MBA

I joined NYCSPH in 2024 after attending the state chapter meeting in Saratoga, NY. It was inspiring to see how pharmacists play such an undervalued and under noticed role in patient care. I want to see how pharmacists and industry can work together in order to help better patient outcomes.



MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 DIRECTORS AT LARGE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

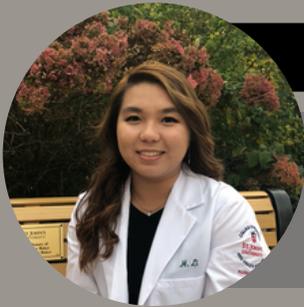
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: TAMARA HERNANDEZ, PHARMD, MBA, BCPPS *BULLETIN, ADVOCACY, STUDENT RELATIONS, AND TECHNICIAN EXECUTIVE*

My NYCSPH journey began as a student pharmacist in my third professional year in 2019. While attending my first event, I was thrilled by the welcoming environment, endless networking opportunities, as well as professional growth this organization provides to its members. What amazed me the most is that the students can equally contribute to this organization alongside seasoned pharmacists. Throughout my NYCSPH journey, I held various leadership roles, including chairing Students Relations and Advocacy Committees and continue to serve at a DAL. NYC Chapter is near and dear to my heart, as it shaped my pharmacy career, and people who volunteer their time to get back to the organization became a family.



BULLETIN EDITOR CO-CHAIR: HELEN LI, PHARMD

I joined NYCSPH as a student liaison for St. John's University and have stayed on as bulletin editor after graduation. Through NYCSPH, I have met many truly amazing and empowering pharmacists which has really inspired me to want to do so much more for the profession. I have gained a lot of valuable advice and guidance and am truly grateful to be a part of NYCSPH Chapter! I can't wait to see what new opportunities awaits!



BULLETIN EDITOR CO-CHAIR: HUI LIN, PHARMD

I joined NYCSPH recently in 2023 and started attending events in Spring of 2024. I was heavily involved in GSHP and CSHP previously as a student and resident, and I wanted to extend that engagement to NYCSPH after seeing the number of initiatives and activities available promoted by NYCSPH. I was inspired by colleagues Tamara Hernandez and Justin Andrade to take a more active role within the organization. Additionally, as I am new to the NY area, I believed NYCSPH would be a good opportunity to meet other pharmacists in the community and exchange discussions regarding the state's pharmacy practice.



ADVOCACY CO-CHAIR: RAFAEL ROMAN, BA, CPHT, RPHT

I've been a member for over 5 years now and I was brought in to set up the Pharmacy Technician Executive Committee. I chaired that group for over 2 years before passing the baton to Christa Clay.



ADVOCACY CO-CHAIR: DEOBRAH DOODNAUTH, PHARMD, BCSCP

I am a very recent member of NYCSPH, formally joining in March 2024. I was introduced to this wonderful group of Pharmacy professionals via Vickie Powell and Charrai Byrd. What attracted me to NYCSPH was the warm welcome and the dedication to patient care. By growing the practice of pharmacy, we can ensure our patients get the best medication management.



MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 DIRECTORS AT LARGE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



STUDENT RELATIONS CO-CHAIR: SHIREEN FARZADEH PHARMD, BCPS, BCGP

I have been a member of NYCSHP for five years. My journey began during my P3 year at St. John's University when I discovered the opportunity for student involvement through the local SSHP chapter. In my P4 year, while serving as a student liaison, I led the inaugural Pharmacy Student Advocacy Night, and was recognized with the Pharmacy Advocacy Award. Upon graduating PGY-1 and PGY-2 when I returned to NYC, NYCSHP welcomed me back with open arms. This organization has not only provided me with invaluable leadership and networking opportunities but also fostered a community of dedicated and driven pharmacists. I am honored to be part of this community and remain committed to giving back to an organization that has profoundly shaped my career.

STUDENT RELATIONS CO-CHAIR: CARMEN FIERE, PHARMD, PHD

Last year and after I served as a co-chair in the Education Steering Committee at the NY State Council for two years, I decided that I liked to be more involved with the local chapter. I really enjoy having more direct and personable interactions with other peers. From my position in academia, it is also very insightful hearing directly from students firsthand about their concerns and interests.



TECHNICIAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: MICHELE KAUFMAN, PHARMD, BCGP

I joined NYSCHP after moving to NYC in 1992, and I joined the Royals because I was teaching at St. John's U. I then joined NYCSHP when I took a job in Manhattan in 1996. A past president took me under her wings, and introduced me to Vickie Powell and Fran Jordan, and I joined the board as a membership chairperson. As well as holding this position, I am a past Bulletin Editor, having held this position for at least four years when we used to print and mail it quarterly. Subsequently I held the position of secretary (4 years) and have served as a chapter delegate for many assemblies. I enjoy networking with my colleagues, learning from the many different programs, and mentoring students and new pharmacists to learn about the profession and be the best. The programming, fundraising, and community outreach gets better every year.

TECHNICIAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: AWILDA MEJIAS, BA, CPHT, LPHT

I joined in 2016 when I was introduced to NYCSHP by Amber Johnson.



MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 COMMITTEE AND STUDENT LIAISONS

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS CHAIR:
SO YI LAM, PHARMD



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION CHAIR: SHANICE CORIOLAN
PHARMD, BCPS, BCACP, BC-ADM



I have been a member since 2020 when Jamie Chin-Hon asked me to join. Since then I have been on a number of committees including advocacy committee, new practitioner committee as well as DEI Chair.

TOURO COLLEGE STUDENT LIAISON: RAJSUMEEET MACWAN
PHARMD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2025



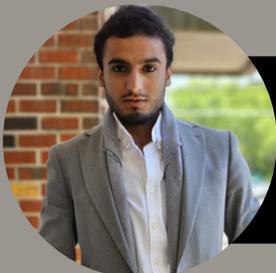
I became a member last year after hearing about and participating in the Oncology Symposium. After attending the annual meeting, I wanted to get involved in advocating for the pharmacy profession on a broader scale

TOURO COLLEGE STUDENT LIAISON: CHRISTIAN MARVILLI
PHARMD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2025



I became member Fall 2023 through ASHP at Touro. I began attending events beginning of Spring 2024 (January). I initially joined NYCSPH to network and gain mentorship experience. After attending my first event, I realized that this chapter was filled with individuals who are involved in multiple levels of regional, state, and national boards. It inspired me to want to be more involved and seek out advocating for the pharmacy profession through NYCSPH.

**LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
LIAISON:** AL QUBLI NASSER
PHARMD CANDIDATE
CLASS OF 2026



**TOURO COLLEGE STUDENT
LIAISON:** RHONDA MOTON
PHARMD CANDIDATE
CLASS OF 2025



MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 STUDENT LIAISONS



LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY LIAISON: SOMUYA AMER
PHARMD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2027

I became a member May 2024 because it's my desire to contribute meaningfully to the field and make a positive impact on patient care

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY LIAISON: LABIBA FERDOUSI
PHARMD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2026



I became a member in Sept 2023 because I am interested in clinical/hospital pharmacy and this club will give be the opportunity to connect with other clinical/hospital pharmacists and prepare me tom become one myself after listening to their experiences.



LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY LIAISON: MAHAM MANZOOR
PHARMD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2026

I joined NYCSPH because I am an aspiring pharmacy student with much to learn and I look forward to meeting new mentors. I am excited to grow professionally and contribute to NYCSPH in any way I can. I am also looking forward to developing the LIU chapter more extensively and serving as liaison. I have become a NYCSPH member just recently by now serving as the liaison for the Long Island University chapter of American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY LIAISON: NICOLE ZIELINSKI
PHARMD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2025



I have been a member since May of 2024 and I wanted to join because I wanted to be part of a local organization that advocates for our profession on a national level

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY LIAISON: ALPER OZDEMIR
PHARMD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2025



I joined NYCSPH as a student Liaison in January 2024. I joined because another student liaison had invited me to an event at State Grill which was my first ever experience with NYCSPH. During the event I could feel the warm welcoming atmosphere of everyone around me and decided that I wanted to be a part of this organization. My first event gave me a taste of how networking should be done and the rest was history.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY LIAISON:
MANUEL MARTIS
PHARMD CANDIDATE
CLASS OF 2026



MEET OUR 2024 - 2025 STATE LIAISONS

PRIMARY LIAISON:

VICKIE POWELL
BS, PHARM.D, MS, FASHP, CPEL



SECONDARY LIAISON:

JOSEPH PINTO
RPH, MS, MHA, DPLA



BOD LIAISON:

CHARRAI BYRD
PHARM.D, MBA



BOD LIAISON:

HEATHER BRENER
PHARM.D, MS, BCPS



CELEBRATING AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS



CELEBRATING AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS



happy pharmacists month!



ADDRESSING BURN OUT AND WELL-BEING THROUGH OUR COMMITTEE

NYCSHP's Wellbeing and Resilience Committee strives to organize interactive activities with the Society to promote wellbeing and teach various strategies to cope with burnout. We also offer a continuing education accredited presentation surrounding wellbeing and prevention/treatment of burnout. Wellbeing is a combination of physical, mental, and social health factors. We believe that wellbeing and resilience is important to our profession as pharmacists because it helps to create balance in our lives. It allows for us to be mindful of our mental health. Individuals are also able to build and maintain relationships within the organization by attending these events. It is a great opportunity for our members to network and positively influence others. Past events such as cake decorating at Kitsby, yoga in Central Park, and paint nights at Muse Paint-bar are all examples of successful events. Participants are encouraged to take care of themselves and improve their physical and mental health by relaxing and having fun at these events!



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: A WORD FROM OUR IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT REBECCA CHU

Serving as a President has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. My theme for the year, "leave it better than you found it," captured the essence of our duty not only to our patients and profession but also to future generations. Over the past year, we focused on continuous improvement, innovation, and creating a lasting impact through our work.

One of the greatest challenges I faced was managing the demands of hosting over 40 events while balancing my personal endeavors and professional work. Despite the challenge, it was deeply rewarding because I gained so much—amazing friendships, invaluable mentors, and colleagues who continue to inspire me. Our chapter truly became a family, and it's the support, camaraderie, and shared dedication that made all the difference.

As a woman in leadership, I learned the importance of staying true to myself and



not worrying about what others think. It's crucial to surround yourself with people who lift you up and support you, rather than those who bring negativity. You need to have confidence to pursue your goals despite the noise around you. Leadership is also about realizing it's not always about you—it's about the betterment of all. Success comes from elevating others and creating a lasting, collective impact.



My advice to future leaders is this: Be adaptable, embrace challenges, and always strive to leave things better than you found them. Find people who build you up and surround yourself with positivity. Leadership is about creating opportunities for others, learning continuously, and remaining open to change. The journey is not always easy, but it is always worthwhile.

PHARMACIST TECHNICIAN SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTA CLAY Q & A



Meet Christa Clay, our current Preceptor Development Development Co-Chair, and hear her thoughts on the pharmacy technician field and NYSCHP involvement.

Q. Please introduce your current role professionally and within NYSCHP.

A. I work for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board as an Assessment, Developer, and Volunteer Manager. As far as assessment content goes, I specialize in creation and content related to the CST exam. I also manage all of our volunteers' subject matters. Within NYSCHP, I am a co-chair of the technician committee at the state level and a co-chair of the development committee here in the chapter.



Q. As someone involved in the pharmacy technician realm, you have had several unique opportunities in which you were involved as a past chair for the Pharmacy Technician Committee and now of the Preceptor Development Committee. Can you tell me more about how you got into these roles, and what your experience has been with them so far?

A. So like many people who will read these words, eventually, Raphael Roman brought me into this, being the enthusiastic advocate as we all know he is. When the technician executive committee was created in the city chapter about 45 years ago, he was there for two years, and I stepped in as chair for the second two years. It has been an extremely rewarding experience. I really enjoy spending time in the organization and with pharmacy professionals, allowing collaborative partnership between pharmacists and technicians.



Q. One of your goals you mentioned for the Preceptor Development Committee was to foster development of not only pharmacy preceptors but also pharmacy technician preceptors. Could you describe to me the importance of pharmacy technician preceptor development and how this helps the industry overall?

A. I teach a technician education program in the Bronx, and as I was doing the research and legwork to make these part of the standard, I felt very isolated trying to find those preceptors and opportunities for my students. We do not always have associations with universities, pharmacy schools, and automatic connections with medical centers, and that has been on my mind ever since I joined the Pharmacy Technician Educators Council. I don't feel that it is often on the forefront of priorities, for there to be very passionate and dedicated educators. Our goal is to develop and deliver high-quality pharmacy education for these groups, and there is a need for those connections and relationships that we bring.

Q. Most pharmacy technicians are not traditionally involved in professional pharmacy organizations. Could you speak more to how pharmacy technician involvement is important in state and national platforms like NYSCHP, as well as how they could get involved in NYSCHP?

A. That is absolutely true. Technicians tend not to be involved in major professional organizations, but we are involved in the everyday work flow. Part of the reason I think technicians are not as involved could be resource issues, and I can see that

when I am trying to recruit volunteers and subject matter experts in my work as a certified volunteer administrator. However, I believe there's a place for us here and in professional organizations, as there are policies and changes in the field being made and advocated for us within these organizations.

Q. Where would you like to see the progression of pharmacy technician as a career grow next?

A. I work for a certification board because I believe in what they're doing, and I believe that a professional certification for technicians should be a baseline requirement for entry into this profession. We do not have a national standard for [pharmacy technician] education training. I think that is justified in ways because the field is so broad, and different skills or knowledge may be needed to do well in different settings, but I believe it's important to have some sort of baseline entry-level requirement for certification, then advanced certifications with more experience. I started in retail, but I found myself unable to stay there as there were minimal opportunities for progression. Then I went from teaching to writing programs for development, which was a unique opportunity for my career. I would love to see things like tech-check-tech or increasing pharmacist to tech ratios being discussed in New York, as we could revolutionize prescription processing in retail settings with highly capable technicians, especially those with passion for patient care. I would hope these pathways and areas for career growth become clearer for technicians.

PHARMACIST TECHNICIAN SPOTLIGHTS



My name is Leslie Serrano, CPhT, and I am the Automation Manager at Montefiore. Within my role, I oversee the automated dispensing cabinets within the Medical Center. I have been involved with NYSCHP since 2017, initially joining the Pharmacy Technician committee for NYCSHP in 2020-2021, participating in the 2021 panel discussion, another panel discussion in 2022, serving as a New York State Technician delegate in 2023, and now co-chairing the Pharmacy Technician Committees for both NYSCHP and WSCHP.

My involvement with NYSCHP has been incredibly rewarding. Engaging with this diverse community has empowered me to significant advance in pharmacy practice and support the essential role of pharmacy technicians. Participation in professional organizations like NYSCHP is crucial, as it highlights the diverse and non-traditional roles within pharmacy, such as informatics, automation, and procurement. This exposure allows technicians to explore various career paths and see the full spectrum of opportunities available in our field.

Through our collective efforts, we foster a supportive network that provides invaluable resources and opportunities for professional growth in pharmacy. This involvement is essential for advancing our profession and ensuring we remain at the forefront of healthcare delivery.



I am Awilda Mejias and I've been a pharmacy technician for over 30 years. I began practicing in a family-owned community pharmacy and then transferred into the hospital setting, where I've spent the majority of my career. I currently work in the research pharmacy at The Rockefeller University Hospital. I have been a member of NYCSHP since 2016 and recently became more involved as Co-Chair of the Pharmacy Technicians Executive Committee.

I think involvement in pharmacy organizations is highly beneficial for pharmacy technicians for several reasons. Pharmacy organizations provide access to educational resources, workshops and certifications that enhance our knowledge and skills. These opportunities allow us to stay current with industry trends, best practices, and new regulations. It also allows us to connect with pharmacists, other technicians and industry professionals, which can lead to mentorship opportunities, job referrals and collaboration on projects.