



## In the Spotlight – November, 2010

**Name:** Daniel P. Hays, Pharm.D., BCPS

**Title:** Clinical Pharmacist, Departments of Pharmacy/Emergency Medicine

**Work Location:** University Medical Center-University of Arizona

### His Story

Daniel serves as the lead Emergency Pharmacist for the University Medical Center (UMC)/University of Arizona, a position he created from the ground up, and program director of the PGY-2 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Residency at UMC. He also holds an adjunct professorship at the University of Arizona's College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine. Daniel's current responsibilities include oversight of day to day pharmacy operations in UMC's Emergency Department (ED), hands on participation in all traumas and resuscitations while on duty, clinical consultation, and providing education to pharmacy residents (both PGY-1 and PGY-2), physicians, nurses and all other members of the health care team.

Daniel has worked extensively with ASHP to promote the practice of the emergency pharmacist --- a topic for which he is most passionate. He has chaired the Section of Clinical Scientists and Specialists (SCSS) Advisory Group on Emergency Care and currently sits on the SCSS Educational Steering Committee. Over the past several years, he has been a driving force behind the Patient Care Impact Program. This program has directly trained more than 50 pharmacists who are actively developing practices in Emergency Medicine. Daniel received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota and is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist.

### Becoming a Better Emergency Medicine Pharmacist

I am extremely fortunate to have had many great practitioner mentors over the years. They have encouraged me to seek out new and exciting experiences and have provided the support to foster my growth personally and professionally. Tom O'Brien, a true visionary, hired me for my very first position as a clinical pharmacist. He understood my vision for emergency pharmacy, encouraged me to take it as far as I was able, and allowed me to build my practice

where none had been before. Tom deserves the utmost credit. Without his support, I would not be where I am today.

During the initial stages of my career, the role of the emergency pharmacist was not well defined. Several of my colleagues provided advice on how to model my practice, implement a new service, and become valuable to the entire ED Team. I credit my success to many of the emergency physicians who were also able to see the vast possibilities and opportunities that the addition of an emergency pharmacist could provide to their practice. These physicians --- Sandy Schneider, MD, Terry Fairbanks, MD, and many others --- not only accepted me, yet truly supported and encouraged my growth as a member of the ED team. I also believe it is very important to thank ASHP, in particular Daniel Cobaugh, PharmD, who has been a great mentor and friend, for their support.

### **Recent Challenges**

With the faltering economy, it has been significantly more difficult to justify clinical positions. When I decided to relocate from Rochester, NY to Tucson, AZ, it was imperative to find a team from Pharmacy and the ED who believed in the future of emergency pharmacy and would fight for the funding to initiate the program. In this new, vastly different environment, I have been able to rely upon an exceptional leadership team and staff including Raphael Diaz, Bill Fritz, and Kurt Weibel. Our team has a special combination of talented people that have kept their focus during these financially tough times. The biggest challenge will continue to be finding pharmacists who share the same philosophy of practice that can staff the ED. I believe it is critical for our profession to have a vision beyond the current practice of pharmacy. We are the leaders and visionaries who must provide care today while paving the way for the future.

### **Rewards of an Emergency Pharmacist**

One of the fascinating, and sometimes frustrating, characteristics about the life of the emergency pharmacist is that every day is completely different in that it offers new and different challenges. Training future emergency pharmacists is supremely rewarding and very exciting as well. Soon after I relocated, I participated in an unusually chaotic traumatic resuscitation. Immediately after, one of the nurses told me that I did things just the way 'Eric' did. I questioned the nurse only to find that Eric was one of my previous residents! I told the nurse "Eric did things the way that I trained him." In my vision of emergency pharmacy, we become an essential part of the team regardless of the institution --- able to assimilate because of our training and education into any ED and provide the best patient care.

## **Advice for Peers**

Use your resources! There are many practicing pharmacists that really enjoy sharing their time, skills and, most importantly, wisdom to assist others in developing their practice. I believe you will find that a passionate practitioner in any field of pharmacy makes a worthy crusader and teacher indeed. Immerse yourself into the professional organizations so that you have a group of colleagues with which to network, solve problems by creating or finding the answer, share challenges and experiences, and eventually become a mentor.

## **Value of ASHP**

ASHP has been invaluable to me in acknowledging emergency pharmacy and aiding me to promote it as a new and electrifying career path for pharmacists. Through networking, advocacy, mentoring and educational opportunities, ASHP illuminates many new aspects of the profession allowing for growth and opportunity. Through ASHP, I have been able to campaign for the creation of even more emergency pharmacists and the dissemination of new knowledge in emergency medicine.

For more information on Daniel Hays, visit the [Clinical Specialists and Scientists' Online Directory](#).