

## In the Spotlight



**Name:** Ryan A. Forrey, PharmD, MS

**Title:** Associate Director- Pharmacy & Infusion Services

**Work Location:** James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute  
The Ohio State University Medical Center

### His story

Ryan Forrey received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2002. He then went on to complete a PGY1 & PGY2 combined residency in Health System Pharmacy and MS in Health-System Pharmacy Administration at The Ohio State University in 2004.

### Overview of the Facility/Region

Dr. Forrey currently works at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC - James) as Associate Director of Pharmacy and Infusion Services. In this role he manages the operations of the inpatient and outpatient pharmacy services of the James Cancer Hospital. The James is a part of The Ohio State University Medical Center and is a 205-bed cancer hospital and one of 40 National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated comprehensive cancer centers and one of seven institutions funded by the NCI to conduct both phase I and phase II clinical trials. The James has 5 outpatient infusion pharmacies and an inpatient chemotherapy IV room which dispense approximately 50,000 doses of chemotherapy annually.

### Significant Projects

Dr. Forrey recently implemented a new electronic medical record in both outpatient and inpatient areas of the hospital. He also led a group that redesigned the chemotherapy processes and safety checks based on the capabilities of the system and the new functionality available. With the new system, Dr. Forrey also worked on automated turnaround time and throughput reports for the infusion centers. These reports allow tracking of patient wait times and process times for every step of the process from patient check in to check out in the infusion centers without any manual data collection. Dr. Forrey hopes to use this information to optimize

patient scheduling and chair utilization in the infusion centers to increase capacity. Capacity, growth and facility planning is another major focus for Dr. Forrey. In his role, he has been involved with the acquisition of a private oncology practice and infusion center, the building of a new outpatient infusion center and is planning for a new, 21-story cancer and critical care tower with a central pharmacy, outpatient infusion pharmacy, OR satellite (including a chemotherapy clean room), and critical care satellite. Needless to say, Dr. Forrey sometimes feels more like an architect and engineer than a pharmacist.

From the perspective of advancing the profession as a whole, Dr. Forrey has worked on the UHC Guidelines for safe handling of hazardous drugs. This came out of his involvement in safe handling and appropriate disposal of hazardous drugs at OSUMC. He has participated as part of a larger group on research into extended vial sterility data for single dose vials utilizing a closed-system drug-transfer device. This is sometimes referred to as drug vial optimization (DVO) and has the potential to decrease waste, resulting in a cost savings for the drug budget. More importantly, perhaps, in this time of increased drug shortages, DVO shows promise as one strategy to reduce waste/increase availability for some medications in a critical shortage situation.

#### **Advice for Someone New to Your Specialty Area**

Oncology is an area of tremendous growth and change, and oncology pharmacy administration is exciting because of this. Dr. Forrey advises the importance of staying dynamic in one's approach to situations and in order to be able to handle unexpected turns. He also believes it is important to forecast needs as much as possible to keep pace with the growth. If healthcare teams don't plan ahead in facilities, personnel, and capacity management, they will struggle to keep up with the demand. Dr. Forrey also finds it vital to listen to the front-line staff and their perspective on growth or changes, they often know when capacity limits are being met and can anticipate future issues.

#### **Involvement with ASHP**

Dr. Forrey has served on the Council of Pharmacy Practice for the past two years and is currently on the educational steering committee for the Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers. He has also served as a Program Chair for the Management Pearls Session at the Midyear Clinical Meeting. Back at home, Dr. Forrey serves as the Faculty Advisor for the OSU Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Dr. Forrey became involved in ASHP his first year of pharmacy school because he knew that he wanted to be part of the larger profession. He has been involved in other volunteer organizations in high school and during his undergraduate years, so it seemed a natural progression. He chose to focus more of his time with ASHP because of the variety of roles and

opportunities for health-system pharmacists. He saw (and still sees) ASHP as a springboard into any area of pharmacy, including retail/ambulatory practice!

### **Value of ASHP**

ASHP's value and strength is in its members and professional colleagues. On a daily basis, he communicates with other ASHP members about some aspect of pharmacy practice or management. He indicates he would be lost without this network and resource.

The value of ASHP to the profession, according to Dr. Forrey, is its ability to coalesce our diverse thoughts and practices into common themes and strategic objectives. He goes on to say that, "as a profession we are more effective a impacting change when we are united and speaking with a common voice. ASHP is our voice."