

## ASHP New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee 2006-2007



### *Chair*

**Helen Marshall, Pharm.D.**

[hmarshal@gmail.com](mailto:hmarshal@gmail.com)

### **Practice Site**

Duke University Health System, Durham, North Carolina

### **Position / Title**

Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Resident (PGY2)

### **Reasons for selecting this career path**

My interest in hematology/oncology is long standing. It started with an academic interest in cell biology, signaling pathways, the cell cycle, and genetics as an undergraduate and progressed through pharmacy school with knowledge of some very toxic drugs and new targeted therapies to treat malignancy. Oncology is a constantly changing field with new research emerging constantly. So, I'm in it for the challenge, but more importantly for the patients. We have all known someone with cancer. If I can help a patient and their family to understand the intricacies of their drug regimen, help to stop pain and suffering, help fight the battle and win, or help a patient to die with dignity then my career as a pharmacist is worthwhile.

### **Interest in the NPF Executive Committee**

I had been involved in the Student Forum for several years on subcommittees, and last year continued my involvement on the New Practitioner Membership Subcommittee. This year, I decided to apply for the Executive Committee. Serving as Chair is an opportunity to represent my peers as we begin and establish our careers. New Practitioners always bring a fresh and innovative perspective. It is an exciting year with a conference designed to meet our needs, and a continued focus from ASHP on the leadership development of new practitioners. I hope to create even more leadership opportunities, and highlight the value of the contributions that new practitioners can make in our profession and health systems.

### **Professional Interests**

Hematology/oncology, pain management, immunology, infectious diseases, leadership and professional development, experiential education, and increasing the role of the pharmacist in direct patient care.

### **Benefits of being involved in ASHP as a New Practitioner**

Where to begin? Sure there are the publications to help keep us up to date, the website is a very useful resource, you can find a virtual mentor, and we all understand the value of networking, but the real value of being involved in ASHP as a New Practitioner is the ability to be involved in policy and driving the profession forward. It's the chance to speak up about the future of the profession, to be involved in the fight for provider status, to make sure that we are not forced to fill everything on an order/prescription by legislators that do not understand our role in patient care, to teach the public what a pharmacist has to offer, and to advocate for patient care and safety on a national level. Oh, I forgot to mention the discounts available as we are kicking off our careers. :)

### **Fun Fact**

I am a die hard sports fan!



***Vice Chair***

**Christopher R. Fortier, Pharm.D.**  
Crf1313@aol.com

**Practice Site**  
Medical University of South Carolina

**Position/Title**  
Coordinator, Pharmacy Administrative Services

**Reason for selecting this career path**

Throughout college I was unsure about which direction my career was going. It has been important to me during college and post-graduate training to be a well-rounded practitioner. Therefore, I elected to train at the Medical University of South Carolina doing a pharmacy practice and pharmacy practice management residency. This training has provided me with the skills for both a clinical and/or management position and many future career options.

**Interest in NPF Executive Committee**

For the past two years I have served on the NPF Leadership and Career Development subcommittee and learned more about the forum and its leadership opportunities. Also, my interest stems from knowing there is a major focus by the profession on new practitioners, which will provide young leaders the chance to make a large impact on the national level.

**Professional Interest**

Clinical pharmacy services, pharmacy legislative affairs, medication safety, leadership, and resident/student training.

**Benefits of being involved in ASHP as a New Practitioner**

In addition to the annual ASHP membership benefits there are numerous other advantages to being actively involved in the forum. Specific benefits include educational opportunities and resources, development of relations with other NP colleagues, publishing in AJHP, and ability to improve the profession through leadership positions.

**Fun Fact**

One summer when interning in Martha's Vineyard I delivered a prescription to Tom Hanks and was given a \$75.00 tip.



**Tracie M. Balvanz, Pharm.D.**  
tracie.balvanz2@va.gov

**Practice Site**  
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno, Nevada

**Position / Title**  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

**Reasons for selecting this career path**

I love working at the VA! During pharmacy school, I had a primary care rotation at the VA in Grand Island, Nebraska. My experience there convinced me that the VA was the perfect practice setting for me. After graduation, I pursued a pharmacy practice residency and a managed care residency both with the VA. I enjoy interacting with patients, developing relationships with other health care providers and the friendly teaching environment at the VA. Also, the technology utilized by the VA allows me to focus on patient care, which is very important to me. I enjoy the autonomy given to pharmacists that allows us to participate as integral members of a patient's health care team. My role as a clinical pharmacy specialist allows me to utilize my post-graduate training in many ways. I look forward to exploring the pharmacy management in the future.

### **Interest in the NPF Executive Committee**

I have been involved in the NPF since graduation from pharmacy school on both the Leadership and Career Development Subcommittee and the Membership Subcommittee. I had the opportunity to work with an amazing group of new practitioners on both subcommittees. I am very impressed with the accomplishments of the NPF including representation of the new practitioners on ASHP policy committees and the creation of an ASHP conference exclusively for new practitioners. I am excited to work with the Membership Subcommittee again this year.

### **Professional Interests**

My professional interests include leadership and career development as well as association involvement. Clinically, I am Pharmacy Practice Residency trained and have just completed a second year residency in Managed Care with an emphasis on Pharmacoeconomics. I am also interested in mental health, cardiology, research utilizing databases, quality performance measures, emergency preparedness, and public health.

### **Benefits of being involved in ASHP as a New Practitioner**

I believe ASHP has a lot to offer new practitioners. A few of the many benefits of being involved in ASHP include the networking opportunities with both new practitioners and seasoned pharmacists, an ASHP conference for new practitioners that focuses on our unique needs, and numerous opportunities for new practitioners involvement within the organization. Fun Fact

I love traveling! I just returned from a 7-day cruise in Alaska!



**Ryan Forrey, Pharm.D.**

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#### **Practice Site**

Ohio State University Medical Center-Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital, Columbus, Ohio

#### **Position / Title**

Assistant Director

### **Reasons for selecting this career path**

As a student I completed a summer internship at ASHP which gave me the opportunity to learn more about residencies in general and the combined M.S. Administration residency programs. After more research into these programs, I felt administration would be a perfect fit for me because I like to ask questions, solve problems, and share my insight to make changes that will help many people. I have found pharmacy administration to be more challenging, but also more rewarding than I ever expected.

### **Interest in the NPF Executive Committee**

Much of what I have done with the Forum has been through the membership advisory group. This year, however, I will be changing my focus to leadership and career development. I am looking forward to working with New Practitioners to increase leadership involvement and roles within the structure of ASHP. I feel many opportunities already exist for New Practitioners get involved that they do not even know about. I hope to increase awareness and involvement by focusing the forum and ASHP on issues that are relevant and important to New Practitioners.

### **Professional Interests**

Pharmacy administration, hematology/oncology, hazardous drugs, sterile products compounding, leadership, professional development, and emergency preparedness.

### **Benefits of being involved in ASHP as a New Practitioner**

I believe ASHP affords New Practitioners the opportunity to shape the future of the profession. New Practitioners are sought out in ASHP for their opinions and perspectives on issues that impact the profession from clinical expertise, to leadership and career development. ASHP also gives New Practitioners the resources to make a difference in their own practice setting. The most valued of these resources is the professional network available to all ASHP New Practitioners through section membership virtual mentors, and email listservs.

**Fun Fact**

I love to travel and have been to more than 30 countries; I am going to Brazil in August for the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress.

**Margie Snyder, Pharm.D.**

snyder.margie@gmail.com

**Practice Site**

University of Pittsburgh/Rite Aid Corporation

**Position/Title**

Community Practice Pharmacy Resident and part-time Graduate Student in Multidisciplinary Masters of Public Health Program

**Reasons for selecting this career path**

Since entering pharmacy school I knew I wanted to practice in a primary care setting. Community practice appeals to me because I love working directly with patients and serving as a "generalist." In addition, I'm excited to be involved with the advancement of our clinical role in the community via Medication Therapy Management Services.

**Interest in the New Practitioners Executive Committee**

I've been involved with ASHP as a student, serving on the Commission on Therapeutics from 2005-06. Serving on the NP Executive Committee this year allows me to increase my involvement and focus my attention on the needs of new practitioners. As a recent pharmacy graduate, I am particularly interested in planning educational sessions that will assist new pharmacists in the transition from student to practitioner.

**Professional Interests**

Academia, community practice/primary care, public health.

**Benefits of being involved with ASHP as a New Practitioner**

Being involved with ASHP as a New Practitioner is a great opportunity to network! Not only can you build valuable mentoring relationships with more experienced practitioners, you can also interact with the student forum and become a mentor as well.

**Fun Fact**

I have a huge family-5 sisters, 1 brother, 11 nieces/nephews, 2 great-nieces/nephews, and 67 first cousins.