

TABLET

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Call for Nominations to PTAC

Interested in getting involved in the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC)? Nominations for new members will be accepted through the November 12, 2021 deadline. Be part of the commission that ensures quality of pharmacy technician education and training. The PTAC meets biannually in October and May. Members are required to attend in both PTAC meetings and participate in at least two pharmacy technician program accreditation surveys as co-surveyors per year. PTAC members are expected to review all surveyed programs, mid-term, and special case reports (~40-50 in total) prior to the biannual meetings so they will be prepared to discuss the programs and make accreditation recommendations.



ASHP/ACPE Online Directory Revisions

Please remember to update your online directory!

It's essential to review your online directory page each time you receive the Tech Tablet! This is the way that we maintain our database. The directory reflects information that is housed in the ASHP database and if it is not correct, you will not receive any of your correspondences from our office (including billing, reports, and responses to surveys). Not responding to correspondences from the ASHP to the aforementioned area can result to a loss in accreditation. In addition, the directory provides a valuable recruitment tool for those looking for those programs that are ASHP/ACPE accredited or in the accreditation process.

Note: All programs currently have the ability to update their own program information in the directory with the exception of the program director and organization names. These items must be reported to asd@ashp.org as soon as possible and office staff will update the information listed as exceptions.

PTAC Biannual Meeting May 5-6, 2021 Bethesda, MD (Virtual)

Program Accreditation/Reaccreditation

The Commission reviewed survey site visit reports for 12 new programs and 13 previously accredited programs seeking reaccreditation. Midterm reports (13) and special case reports (16) were also reviewed along with 24 applications for new program directors. As of the date of the meeting, 253 programs are in the accreditation process which includes accredited programs and programs in candidate status.

Congratulations to the following programs that were granted initial accreditation or reaccreditation!

Initial Accreditation

- San Diego Community Training Center, San Diego, California
- East Los Angeles Occupational Center, Los Angeles, California
- College of the Sequoias Pharmacy Technician Program, Visalia, California
- West Georgia Technical College, Douglasville, Georgia
- Beaumont Health, Southfield, Michigan
- Sanford Medical Center Fargo, Fargo, North Dakota
- Nevada Career Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada
- University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York

- Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon
- Asher College – Dallas, Dallas, Texas
- Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus, Lancaster, Texas



Reaccreditation

- Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Dublin, Georgia
- Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Unitech Training Academy-Alexandria, Alexandria, Louisiana
- Unitech Training Academy - West Monroe, West Monroe, Louisiana
- Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Pima Medical Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Concorde Career College – Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee
- Remington College – Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee
- HCC Coleman College for Health Sciences, Houston, Texas
- Lone Star College – Tomball, Tomball, Texas
- Granite Technical Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Spokane Community College, Spokane, Washington
- UW Health, Middleton, Wisconsin

Glossary of Terms

A subcommittee has been formed to develop a glossary of terms to accompany the accreditation standard. Once vetted by the PTAC Commission on Credentialing, a decision will be made on when the glossary will be implemented for program use.

Review of Credit for Prior Learning and Non-traditional Learning

Following the recommendations from PTAC, both the ASHP and ACPE Boards of Director approved to develop a subcommittee to address credit for prior learning for pharmacy technician education and training programs at their January Board meetings. The subcommittee is also charged with evaluating the feasibility of non-traditional pharmacy technician education and training programs. PTAC members Tate Trujillo, Matthew Rewald, Barbara Giacomelli, and Barbara Lacher (as a consultant) will form the subcommittee along with public member Leah Matthews. Ms. Matthews is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) and will be able to provide insight in this area to help further us in towards our goal of assisting programs in providing credit for prior learning and for offering non-traditional learning.

Update on High School, Health-system Programs, and Apprenticeship Programs

Lisa Lifshin, senior director, pharmacy technician program accreditation and residency services with ASHP, provided an update on her work with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the development of a career path for high school students to become pharmacy technicians through coursework at the high school level.

Lisa will speak to pharmacy technician training and education program directors at the July 2021 Virginia Department of Education meeting of healthcare education programs. Pharmacy technicians will be required to complete an accredited education and training program as part of the criteria to work as a pharmacy technician, effective July 2022.

Lisa also reported receiving multiple inquiries from many pharmacy technician education and training programs for advice about how to work with employers to develop apprenticeships which may be funded by federal grants. These federal dollars, which provide funding for both the trainee and the training program, have been a source of great support for programs with declining enrollment. More information will be compiled and reported at the October 2021 PTAC meeting.



Legislative Updates

Janet Silvester, vice president of the Accreditation Services Office, provided an update on the state of New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy's working group. The working group proposed development of an accreditation exam that will only apply to those pharmacy technicians working in New Hampshire. The proposed exam will include two parts - knowledge and law and has been sent to the New Hampshire Board for review.

Other legislative updates include mandates for pharmacy technicians to complete an accredited program. These mandates will be effective in Illinois as of January 2022 and in Virginia by July 2022. New York State has also implemented requirements for pharmacy technicians that include a minimum age limit of 18 years of age; high school completion or equivalent, as determined by the NY Board of Pharmacy; and certification from a nationally accredited pharmacy technician certification acceptable to the NY Board of Pharmacy.

Public Health Updates

Michael Diamond thanked the group for his opportunity to be involved on the PTAC as public member since its inception. Mr. Diamond challenged the group to finding ways to improve public perception of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The ensuing discussion included potential ways to continue to highlight and improve public

perception of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists including advancements towards provider status, opportunities to work with organizations like AARP along with local television and radio stations to promote stories about pharmacy's role in patient care.

PTCB Updates

Ryan Burke, Director of Professional Affairs at PTCB provided an update which included an overview of the number of certified pharmacy technicians (270,000), certified compounding sterile preparation technicians (1070), and pharmacy technicians holding a medication history certificate (1348). Ryan also discussed PTCB enhancements during the pandemic including increased online proctoring, CPhT Strong and PTCB Community, and a CE directory.

The pathway by which an applicant can be eligible to sit for the PTCB exam was also discussed. Eligibility criteria include completion of an ASHP/ACPE accredited pharmacy technician education and training program or ABHES accredited program; PTCB recognized program; or equivalent work experience of 500 hours.

Education Needs for Pharmacy Technician Educators

The discussion included ideas for possible formats and components of educational programs for educators including webinars that focus on complex areas (e.g., strategic plan development); workshops, and example documents. The importance of developing tools to support program directors and also increasing the awareness of school administrators to the development needs of program directors and preceptors was emphasized.

Other Business—Thank you!

Charles Daniels, Janet Silvester, and Lisa Lifshin thanked Michael Diamond, Barbara Lacher, and Barbara Giacomelli for their service on PTAC as they complete their terms as Commission members. They will be missed for their valuable expertise and hard work!

The next PTAC meeting is scheduled for October 26-27, 2021 in Bethesda, Maryland or virtually TBD.

Meet the May 2021 PTAC Meeting Members

Biographies of PTAC members being inducted at the October, 2021 meeting will be featured in the Spring 2022 Tech Tablet.

- Charles Daniels, Chair
- Janet Kozakiewicz, Vice Chair
- Barbara Lacher, Past Chair
- Michael Diamond, Public Member

- Denise Frank
- Nichole Foster
- Barbara Giacomelli
- Matthew Kelm
- Matthew Rewald
- Tate Trujillo
- Linda Tyler, ASHP Board Liaison, Non-Voting
- Kimberly Sasser Croley, ACPE Board Liaison, Non-Voting
- Lisa Lifshin, Secretary, Non-Voting

CHARLES E. DANIELS, BS PHARM, PhD, FASHP – Chair

Charles E. Daniels, BS Pharm, PhD, FASHP is currently the Chair of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC). In many years as an ASHP Member he has had the opportunity to participate in many initiatives such as the Commission on Credentialing and the Commission on Goals. Dr. Daniels is also the Chief Pharmacy Officer and Associate Dean at University of California San Diego.

JANET KOZAKIEWICZ, MS PHARM.D., FASHP – Vice Chair

Janet Kozakiewicz is the former Director of Pharmacy at Yale New Haven Hospital, in New Haven, Connecticut. She has spent much of her career in pharmacy technician advocacy at the state and national level. As President of CSHP, Dr. Kozakiewicz has worked with the state of Connecticut and other state pharmacy organizations to recognize the role of pharmacy technicians, ultimately leading to technician registration in the late 1980s. While at Yale New Haven Hospital, Dr. Kozakiewicz led the creation of an ASHP-ACPE accredited pharmacy technician training program, the first in the Northeast. In addition to board duties of PTAC, she is a fellow of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists and serves on the board of HAVEN-Ct, a health accountability program for healthcare professionals licensed in Connecticut who suffer from substance use disorders and mental health issues.

BARBARA LACHER, BS, RPHTECH, CPHT – Past Chair

Barbara Lacher is a graduate of the North Dakota State University with a degree in Biology. Ms. Lacher was appointed as the Assistant Director of the Pharmacy Technician Program at the North Dakota State College of Science in 1994 and continued to direct the program for 20 years until her retirement. The program offered a traditional college program granting both a Certificate and Associate degree as well as an employer-based program. An online program was added later to meet the needs of employers across the state. Ms. Lacher also served on the executive board of the Pharmacy Technician Educators Council for 8 years and was an inaugural member of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) which was formed in 2015. She also served on the Pharmacy Technician Advisory Group, a subgroup of the Commission on Credentialing, prior to her tenure on PTAC and has been a guest surveyor for ASHP/ACPE pharmacy technician education and training accreditation surveys for over 20 years.

MICHAEL DIAMOND, MA, PhD - Member

Michael Diamond has been the Public Member of the ACPE-ASHP Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) since its inception in 2014. He received his Ph.D. degree in Medical Anthropology from Northwestern University and his current research is focused on promoting health strategies to manage issues related to metabolic syndrome in Chicago communities. Dr. Diamond has worked in multiple countries with many organizations to improve global health and is currently a lecturer at DePaul University.

DENISE FRANK, BS PHARM, FACA - Member

Denise Frank is a pharmacist with more than 40 years of experience in pharmacy, first as a technician and then as a pharmacist. She received her B. S. degree in Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. Ms. Frank is the Program Director for an ASHP/ACPE accredited Pharmacy Technician Training Program at CareerStep and also serves on the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC). She has worked on publications for ASHP including contributing to pharmacist competencies, and authoring the 2nd edition of the Workbook that helps students master the concepts and skills in the Manual for Pharmacy Technicians, 5th edition.

NICHOLE FOSTER, MBA, MEd, CPhT-Adv - Member

Nichole Foster is the Program Director for the Pharmacy Technician training program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a current member of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) and current chair of the Membership Outreach and e-communications advisory group of the Technician Forum. Ms. Foster frequently collaborates on projects that will advance the career trajectory for pharmacy technicians. She is passionate about pharmacy technician career advancement and is very excited to be part of ASHP/ACPE's PTAC that is constantly working to advance practice for pharmacy technicians.

BARBARA GIACOMELLI, PHARM.D., MBA, FASHP - Member

Barbara L. Giacomelli, PharmD, MBA, FASHP is VP Advisory Services for McKesson Health Systems. With more than 30 years of experience, Dr. Giacomelli has held various pharmacy and healthcare leadership positions in community pharmacy, academic medical centers, and health systems. Throughout her career, she has facilitated and led numerous projects related to automation, technology, workflow optimization, centralization of medication distribution, supply chain management, ambulatory pharmacy, specialty pharmacy, clinical pharmacy services, and advancing pharmacy technician services. Dr. Giacomelli is past-Chair of the Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology and a member of the ASHP/ACPE Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission.

MATTHEW KELM, PHARM.D., M.H.A - Member

Matthew Kelm, PharmD, MHA serves as the Associate Chief Pharmacy Officer for Inpatient Pharmacy Services and Interim Associate Chief Pharmacy Officer for Ambulatory Care Services at a large academic medical center in Durham, North Carolina. He received the Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Purdue University and the master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Dr. Kelm is actively involved in multiple state and national-level professional organizations. He currently serves as the President-Elect of the North Carolina Pharmacists Association and as the founding program director for the Duke University Health System Pharmacy Technology Training Program. His professional interests include pharmacy administration; automation; use of data to innovate pharmacy and enhance operational processes; and, innovative models for pharmacy technician education.

MATTHEW REWALD, BS, CPhT - Member

Matthew Rewald, BS, CPhT has been the program director for the advanced-level ASHP/ACPE accredited Mayo Clinic Pharmacy Technician Program since its inception and assistant professor of pharmacy in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. He has worked in the pharmacy profession as an inpatient and outpatient pharmacy technician, supervisor, and instructor in many settings throughout his career. He currently serves as a member of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC). Mr. Rewald was selected as an Outstanding Teacher of the Year (2015) by the New York Association for Continuing/ Community Education as well as receiving the Minnesota Society of Health-system Pharmacists (MSHP) Outstanding Technician Award (2020). Mr. Rewald recently served as lead author for the Pharmacy Calculations: An Introduction for Pharmacy Technicians: 2nd Edition textbook, published by ASHP. Matthew received his degree in Healthcare Administration from SUNY Brockport in Brockport, New York.

TATE N. TRUJILLO, PHARM.D, BCPS, FCCM, FASHP - Member

Following the completion of his post-graduate training, Tate was the clinical pharmacy specialist for trauma critical care at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital for 9 years before transitioning into his current role as director of pharmacy. He is currently responsible for the pharmacy and clinical nutrition services in two acute care hospitals with a combined average census of 750 patients, and clinical pharmacy coverage for over 35 clinic sites throughout the Indianapolis metropolitan area. Within ASHP, Dr. Trujillo has been active as a practitioner surveyor for ASHP residency accreditation services and has served as the chair of ASHP's Council of Pharmacy Practice. Currently, he serves as member and past-president of the Board of Directors for the Indiana Health System Pharmacists and is in his second, 3-year term as an Indiana delegate to the ASHP House of Delegates. Dr. Trujillo has also served as a member of the ASHP Committee on Nominations.

LIAISON TO ASHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LINDA TYLER, PHARM.D., FASHP, Member

Linda Tyler is ASHP's President-Elect and has been the Chief Pharmacy Officer (CPO) for University of Utah Health for the past 13 years. She will begin a new role as Professor (Clinical) at the College of Pharmacy in August. Prior to serving as CPO, she was Director of Drug Information Services. In her role as ASHP President-Elect, she has served as the Board Liaison to the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) and it has been exciting for her to engage in this aspect of progressive technician practice. Dr. Tyler has served in many roles with ASHP including serving as Chair for the Council of Pharmacy Management, member of the Council on Organizational Affairs, and as an at-large Board Member for the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists. As a Board Member, she has had the opportunity to serve as the liaison to the Councils on Therapeutics, Pharmacy Practice, and Education and Workforce Development; the Section of Ambulatory Practitioners, and the New Practitioner, Student, and Pharmacy Technician Forums.

LIAISON TO ACPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KIMBERLY SASSER CROLEY, PHARM.D., BCGP, FASCP, FAPHA

Dr. Croley first graduated from the UK College of Pharmacy in 1986 then graduated a second time in 1999 with her PharmD through their Non-Traditional program. She has worked in various practice settings from community to institutional, but her favorite is long-term care pharmacy. She currently practices at Laurel Senior Living Communities where she provides clinical pharmacist care to residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities as well as employees of the corporation, and serves as a member of the Transitions of Care Team. Dr. Croley is a preceptor for multiple colleges of pharmacy and for students in the Somerset Community College Pharmacy Technician Program. She is a member of the ACPE Board of Directors and serves as the ACPE Board liaison to PTAC. It is her belief that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are essential to the healthcare team and this has been reinforced during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is active in the Kentucky Pharmacists Association, American Pharmacists Association, and American Society for Consultant Pharmacists.

ACCREDITATION SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

LISA S. LIFSHIN, BS PHARM

Secretary, Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission

Lisa Lifshin is senior director, pharmacy technician program accreditation and residency services in ASHP's Accreditation Services Office. She has been with ASHP since 1995 and has conducted over 1,000 residency and pharmacy technician education and training accreditation surveys. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science and completed her ASHP-accredited hospital residency at Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) in Washington, D.C. Prior to starting her career at ASHP, Ms. Lifshin held several clinical and management roles at CNMC. She serves as the Secretary of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) and is responsible for all areas related to the accreditation of pharmacy technician education and training programs. In addition, she was also involved in the development and currently maintains PhORCAS, the online centralized residency application service utilized by all residency applicants and residency program directors. Ms. Lifshin coordinates the scheduling of onsite residency and pharmacy technician education and training programs for accreditation and still conducts surveys across the country for both areas of training.

CONTRACT SURVEYORS

W. RENEE ACOSTA, R.PH., M.S.

Renee' Acosta graduated with a BS, then MS in Pharmacy from the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Acosta currently serves as a contract lead surveyor for the Accreditation Services Office of ASHP and has been in this role since 2007. She was the first Pharmacy Technician Educator on the Commission on Credentialing (2003-2006) and was the inaugural Program Director for the Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Program at Austin Community College (1998 - 2005), which was accredited in 1999.

SHERI ROUMELL, BS, CPHT, RPT

Sheri Roumell received her B.S. in Management from the University of Mary in North Dakota in 2010. She is a graduate of the Pharmacy Technology program at Casper College and has been a certified pharmacy technician since 2003. Ms. Roumell became the program director/instructor for the Casper College program in 2006 and has been participating in ASHP accreditation site visits for pharmacy technician education and training programs since 2011. She became a lead surveyor for ASHP in January 2014.

Biographies of PTAC members being inducted at the October, 2021 meeting will be featured in the Spring 2022 *Tech Tablet*.

Resources

Resources for Program Development

[Accreditation Standards, Regulations, and Other Tools](#)

[Guidance Document](#)

[Model Curriculum](#)

[Curriculum Crosswalk Example](#)

[Applying for Accreditation – Guidelines and Application Form](#)

Informational Videos

[10 Key Steps to ASHP / ACPE Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Program Accreditation](#) (December 2018)

[2019 ASHP/ACPE Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Accreditation Standards](#) (video 1 of 2 – December 2018)

[2019 ASHP/ACPE Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Accreditation Standards](#) (video 2 of 2 – December 2018)

Governance

[Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission \(PTAC\)](#)

[Pharmacy Technician Certification Board \(PTCB\)](#)

[Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education \(ACPE\) Pharmacy Technician Education Accreditation Collaboration](#)

[American Society of Health-system Pharmacists \(ASHP\)](#)

[Pharmacy Technician Forum](#)

Other Resources

Pharmacy Technician Development: [ASHP Store](#) (search for Pharmacy Technicians under the Topics section)

PTCB's Practice Tools: <http://ptcb.org/get-certified/prepare/practice-exam-and-tools>

Education and Workforce Development

[Pharmacy Technician Educators Council \(PTEC\)](#)

[Pharmacy Workforce Center \(PWC\)](#)

Products and Services



Earn an ASHP Professional Certificate in Sterile Product Preparation Training

This Professional Certificate program develops the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare sterile products safely and effectively. Participants will learn the history and evolution of aseptic processing as it relates to today's practice standards and will be taught the behaviors and skills required of all personnel engaged in compounding sterile products. The program reflects all pending changes associated with USP Chapter <797> and USP Chapter <800> has eight modules, provides 17.25 CE hours for pharmacists and technicians.



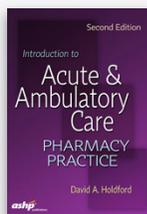
Learning and Mastering Pharmaceutical Calculations by Nicholas Ferencz

A valuable supplement to any pharmacy math course or textbook for students, technicians, or practitioners who look to sharpen their critical calculation skills.



Aseptic Compounding Technique: Learning and Mastering the Ritual by Zachary Thomas Jordan

An in-depth guide to all aspects of aseptic compounding work, including proper hand techniques and maintenance of sterile supplies and equipment.



Introduction to Acute and Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice, Second Edition (used to be called Introduction to Hospital and Health-System Pharmacy Practice) by David Holdford

This book was originally intended for schools of pharmacy but drew lots of interest from the technician programs. The second edition was updated to incorporate more information specific to technicians.



Compounding Sterile Preparations, Fourth Edition by E. Clyde Buchanan, Philip Schneider, and Ryan Forrey

New updated edition includes information on Chapter 800 and regulations related to the Drug Quality and Security Act. Seven new chapters and extensive online references.

Comments and suggestions for upcoming Technician TABLET newsletter articles may be sent to asd@ashp.org