

EST. 2011

RHO Rx CHI post

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

An award-winning, bimonthly, electronic, student-operated newsletter publication by the St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Rho Chi Beta Delta chapter



[FB.com/RhoChiPost](https://www.facebook.com/RhoChiPost)



rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost



[@RhoChiPost](https://twitter.com/RhoChiPost)

THE RHO CHI SOCIETY

The Rho Chi Society encourages and recognizes excellence in intellectual achievement and advocates critical inquiry in all aspects of Pharmacy.

The Society further encourages high standards of conduct and character and fosters fellowship among its members.

The Society seeks universal recognition of its members as lifelong intellectual leaders in Pharmacy, and as a community of scholars, to instill the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry to advance the profession.



St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
8000 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica, NY 11439

Website: <http://rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost>

Facebook: <http://fb.com/RhoChiPost>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/RhoChiPost>

Technical Support: (929) 266-POST

CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD



Shivani, Sona, Connie, Ashley, Oudit, and Hajin (from Left to Right),
pictured with Dr. Joseph Etzel (Back)

President: Shivani Shah

Vice President: Sona Goswami

Secretary: Connie Liang

Treasurer: Ashley Leung

Historian: Oudit Balkaran

Development & Outreach Coordinator: Hajin Yang

Chapter Advisor: Dr. Joseph Etzel

Have something
interesting to say?

Wish to publish your
poster presentation?

Want to review a
new drug on the
market?

Write to us at
RhoChiPost@gmail.com

or

visit our website:

[http://rhochistj.org/
RhoChiPost/](http://rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost/)

Remember,
Rho Chi
Honor Society
membership
is NOT a
requirement for
submitting articles
to the
Rho Chi Post!

We are always looking for creative and motivated students to join our team!

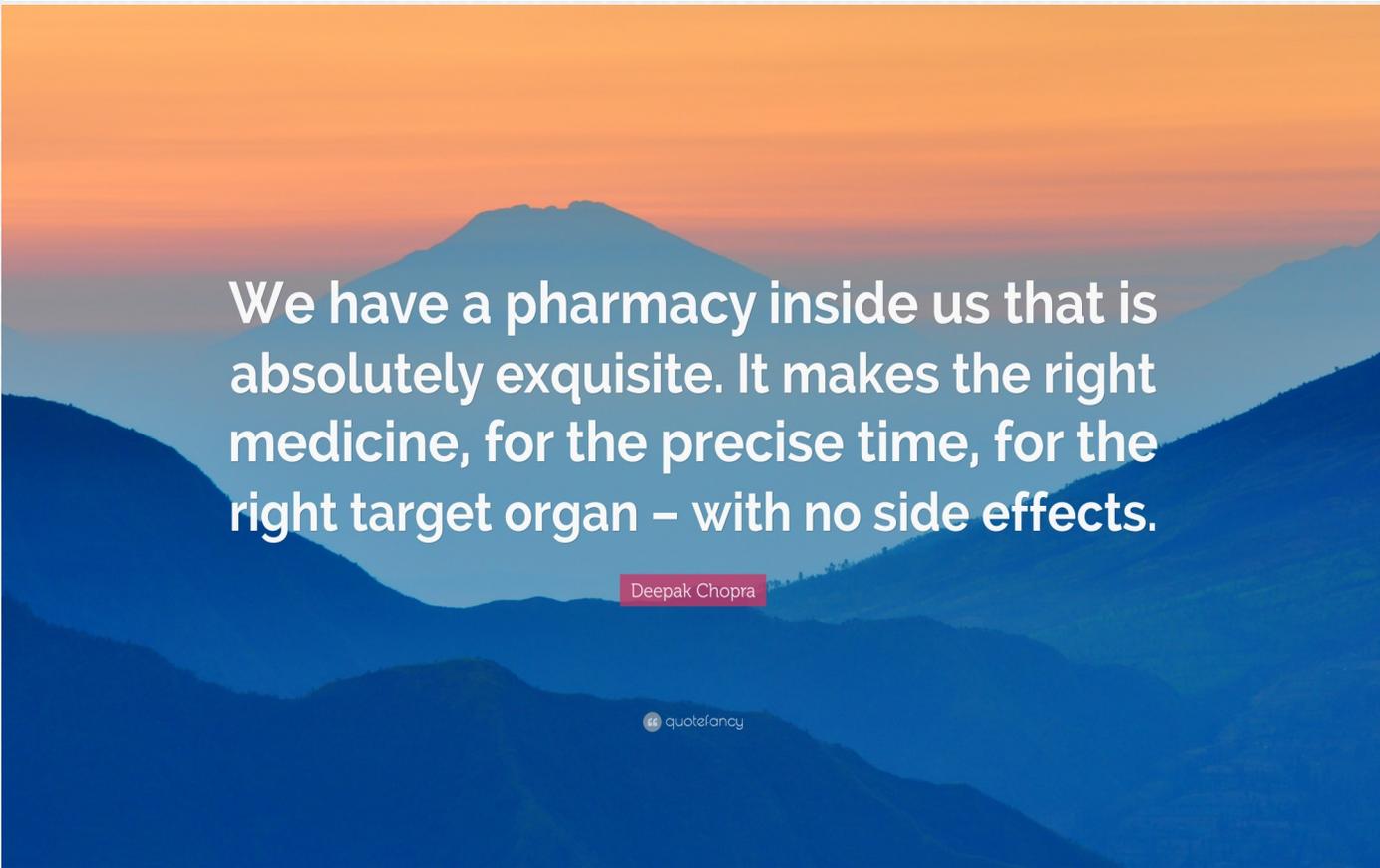
If you are interested in becoming a Rho Chi Post editorial team member, visit:

[**rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost/
Application**](http://rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost/Application)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves patisiran (Onpattro™): America's first RNA-based therapy</u>	5
<i>By: Michael Lim, PharmD Candidate c/o 2020</i>	
<u>Potential complications posed by hypocalcemia in wound healing</u>	7
<i>By: Sarah Hewady, PharmD Candidate c/o 2020</i>	
<u>The expanding role of the specialty pharmacy team in care of oral oncology patients</u>	8
<i>By: Vasantha Kolluri, PharmD Candidate c/o 2019</i>	
<u>Team Members</u>	11
<u>Back Cover</u>	14

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



We have a pharmacy inside us that is absolutely exquisite. It makes the right medicine, for the precise time, for the right target organ – with no side effects.

Deepak Chopra

 quote fancy

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves patisiran (Onpattro™): America's first RNA-based therapy

By: Michael Lim, PharmD Candidate c/o 2020

In the investigation of gene function and its role in health care and disease management, RNA interference is an important scientific tool. Possessing the ability to individually turn off nearly 22,000 genes upon introduction into human cells, small interfering ribonucleic acids (siRNAs), while useful in research settings, have been difficult to translate into robust therapies.^{1,2} In August 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), approved patisiran (Onpattro™), an siRNA treatment. It is the first treatment type in the United States that combats disease by silencing the genetic components driving it and represents a new class of drugs.^{1,2}

Patisiran is an infusion approved for the treatment of peripheral nerve disease due to hereditary transthyretin-mediated amyloidosis (hATTR), a rare condition in adults affecting fewer than 5,000 people in the United States and 50,000 people globally.^{1,2} In hATTR, abnormal deposits of amyloid protein fibers accumulate in organs and tissues. This interferes with their normal functioning. While deposits may appear in a variety of organs, including the heart, kidneys, and eyes, deposition occurs most frequently in the peripheral nervous system. This may manifest as loss of sensation, pain, or immobility in the hands, legs, arms, and feet.²

In contrast with prior treatments which prioritized symptomatic management, patisiran targets the source of the disease by silencing a disease-causing portion of RNA that produces an abnormal form of transthyretin (TTR) protein. When injected, patisiran delivers an enveloped siRNA in a lipid nanoparticle for infusion to the liver, where the silencing subsequently leads to the alteration or cessation of disease-causing protein

production. By impeding the creation of abnormal TTR, patisiran can assist in the management of hATTR by reducing the accumulation of amyloid deposits in peripheral nerves and thereby improving symptoms.²

Patisiran demonstrated its efficacy in a clinical trial involving 225 patients. One treatment arm of 148 patients received patisiran infusions once every three weeks for eighteen months while the other arm of 77 patients received placebo infusions at the same frequency. The patients receiving patisiran revealed better outcomes on measures of polyneuropathy, including muscle strength, sensation, reflexes, and autonomic symptoms compared to the placebo group. Furthermore, better scores on assessments of walking, nutritional status, and ability to perform activities of daily living were found in the patisiran treatment arm.²

The recommended dosage of patisiran in patients weighing less than 100 kg is 0.3 mg/kg. Patients weighing more than 100 kg are recommended a dosage of 30 mg. Patisiran may cause infusion-related reactions (IRRs), so monitoring for signs and symptoms such as flushing and arthralgia is recommended. Furthermore, to reduce the risk of IRRs, it is required that patients receive premedication at least one hour prior to the start of patisiran infusion. These premedications include an intravenous corticosteroid such as dexamethasone 10 mg, oral acetaminophen 500 mg, an intravenous H1 blocker such as diphenhydramine 50 mg, and an intravenous H2 blocker such as ranitidine 50 mg. Pharmacists can promote safe medication use by ensuring that these agents or their oral equivalents are dispensed prior to patisiran infusions. In addition, patisiran may reduce

serum vitamin A levels, therefore, patients are advised to supplement with the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A throughout the duration of therapy. If ocular symptoms such as night blindness are suggestive of vitamin A deficiency, referral to an ophthalmologist is merited.³

Patisiran's manufacturer, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, estimates that the cost of the drug for the average patient would be four hundred and fifty thousand dollars annually or three hundred and forty-five thousand dollars after rebates. However, Alnylam also stated that via agreements with health insurers, including Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, a portion of the cost would be refunded to patients who do not have sufficient health benefits.¹

With its origin rooted in Dr. Andrew Fire and Dr. Craig Mello's 2006 Nobel Prize winning RNA interference research in physiology and medicine, patisiran represents not only a significant achievement in the realm of pharmacotherapy but also genetic technology.⁴ Currently, RNA interference shows the most promise in rare disease states based in liver cells which absorb large-molecule drugs, such as those used to target RNA, more easily than the rest of the body.¹ Furthermore, according to Dr. Mello, investigator at Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, optimism is justified for the future development of RNA interference drugs in the treatment of other diseases.¹ From the pharmacy perspective, patisiran represents a new option in the therapeutic management of hATTR and pharmacists can play a role in ensuring its proper dosing and safe usage. To conclude, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D. commented, "This approval is part of a broader wave of advances that allow us to treat disease by actually targeting the root cause, enabling us

to arrest or reverse a condition, rather than only being able to slow its progression or treat its symptoms... New technologies like RNA inhibitors, that alter the genetic drivers of a disease, have the potential to transform medicine, so we can better confront and even cure debilitating illnesses."²

SOURCES:

1. Loftus, P. New kind of drug, silencing genes, gets FDA approval; alnylam's onpattro, approved to treat a rare nerve disorder, features the latest technology for fighting disease. Wall Street Journal (Online). Published 08/10/18. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/fda-approves-first-drug-based-on-gene-silencing-research-1533923359>. Accessed 08/31/18.
2. Food and Drug Administration. FDA approves first-of-its kind targeted RNA-based therapy to treat a rare disease. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm616518.htm> Published 08/10/18. Accessed 08/31/18.
3. Onpattro™ (Patisiran) [package insert]. Cambridge, MA; Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Revised 08/10/2018.
4. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2006. The Nobel Prize. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2006/summary/>. Published 10/02/06. Accessed 08/31/18.

Please like our
Facebook page
@ FB.com/
RhoChiPost

Potential complications posed by hypocalcemia in wound healing

By: Sarah, Hewady, PharmD Candidate c/o 2020

Calcium's fundamental importance in the early hemostasis phase of wound healing has been established through its role as a cofactor in the blood-clotting cascade, facilitator of platelet aggregation with von Willebrand factor, and activator of protein kinase C, ultimately leading to glycoprotein IIb/IIIa's increased binding affinity for fibrinogen.^{1,2} The current investigation of calcium's role in the later proliferation stages of wound healing could further validate its importance to the wound healing process. The following case illustrates the potential complications posed by hypocalcemia in wound healing.

A twenty-seven year old female underwent a cesarean section with a low transverse abdominal incision. The patient received prophylactic antibiotics prior to her skin incision and had sutures removed five days after the procedure. She presented to the clinic eleven weeks post-surgery concerned about prolonged incision site healing. The incision, measured at twelve centimeters, presented no clinical manifestations of infection (pus, fever, inflammation, pain). Physical examination revealed a healthy periwound (the tissue surrounding the actual wound). Upon questioning, she admitted to a decreased intake of dairy products during and after her pregnancy due to intolerance. Her comprehensive metabolic panel revealed a corrected calcium level of 7.6 mg/dL (falling below the therapeutic range of 8.5 – 10.2 mg/dL) and she was initiated on 500 mg calcium supplements to be taken twice daily. A scheduled follow-up appointment seven days later revealed significant incision site healing and wound contraction. The patient exhibited continued healing in her next few follow-up appointments.

The patient's restricted calcium intake throughout and after her pregnancy was found to be responsible for this clinically significant hypocalcemia which ultimately resulted in decelerated wound healing after her cesarean section.³ It is easy to overlook deviations in calcium levels when presented with an intricate case such as this one, yet, it is promising that the patient's hypocalcemia was easily reversed after initiation of calcium sup-

plements, and that the associated benefits were observed within a single week. Identifying hypocalcemia as the cause of impaired wound healing is easier in a clinical setting as lab values are readily accessible and the possibility of infection can be ruled out through examinations and lab tests. However, community pharmacists can also play a significant role in addressing such physiological abnormalities. Milder symptoms of this electrolyte's imbalance may present on a much smaller scale, calling for community pharmacists to consider hypocalcemia as a possible cause of impaired wound healing, particularly in patients who are on antiepileptics, bisphosphonates, aminoglycosides, and proton pump inhibitors, which are classes of medications known to cause hypocalcemia.⁴ Other symptoms of hypocalcemia can also present as muscle cramps, lightheadedness, slow heartbeat, and even depression, memory loss, and hallucinations.⁴

Although further research is required to elucidate calcium's direct role in the later stages of the wound healing process, pharmacists in all practice settings must be mindful of the risks hypocalcemia poses to all patient populations and remedy the situation through supplementation, dietary modification, and physician referral.

SOURCES:

Palta S, Saroa R, Palta A. Overview of the coagulation system. *Indian J Anaesth.* 2014;58(5):515-23. doi: 10.4103/0019-5049.144643

Smith SA, Travers RJ, Morrissey JH. How it all starts: Initiation of the clotting cascade. *Crit Rev Biochem Mol Biol.* 2015;50(4):326-36. doi: 10.3109/10409238.2015.1050550

Moe AM, Golding AE, Bement WM. Cell healing: Calcium, repair and regeneration. *Semin Cell Dev Biol.* 2015;45:18-23. doi: 10.1016/j.semcd.2015.09.026

Liamis G, Milionis HJ, Elisaf M. A review of drug-induced hypocalcemia. *J Bone Miner Metab.* 2009;27(6):635-42. doi: 10.1007/s00774-009-0119-x

Submit your articles to the Rho Chi Post!

Send us an email: RhoChiPost@gmail.com

The expanding role of the specialty pharmacy team in care of oral oncology patients

United States maternal mortality crisis: A new approach

By: *Vasantha Kolluri, PharmD Candidate c/o 2019*

With the recent advancement of oral oncology drugs, there has been an ever-growing need for specialty pharmacy services. Although these oral agents allow for patients to receive therapy at home, clinical outcomes heavily depend upon patient adherence and management. Specialty pharmacy is a niche area of pharmacy practice that has recently received major attention in the healthcare system. It strives to achieve high quality clinical services by utilizing value-based patient care and patient-centered management.

An online survey conducted by North Star Opinion Research of 400 physicians with specialties in oncology, infectious diseases, hematology, and other fields who prescribe specialty medications to their patients, showed high levels of satisfaction with specialty pharmacies. Physicians commented that specialty pharmacies have the expertise to provide a range of clinical services for patient care management. Approximately thirty-eight percent of oncology patients receive their specialty medications from specialty pharmacies.¹ Specialty pharmacy teams are expanding their role by creating patient focused care plans, providing patient education, increasing accessibility and affordability of oral oncology drugs, and monitoring for patient safety. They have ongoing training to ensure their staff adheres to patient care protocols and provide remediation training when necessary. They also have to meet the terms and conditions of payers in order to be included in their preferred network.²

Specialty pharmacies build relationships with physicians and their staff through consultations regarding drug-specific patient care. The operations of specialty pharmacies set a benchmark for the highest degree of quality for patients and healthcare providers. Clinical outcomes are measured on a patient-to-patient basis through patient care programs. In the oncology specialty, patient outcomes can be improved by utilizing pharmacy services as listed in Table 1.³

Patient education is a huge component of the specialty pharmacy team's expanded role in patient care. Medication adherence and adverse event management can be challenging for cancer patients. Non-adherence directly results in poor outcomes and higher total healthcare costs.³ These patients go through rigorous

treatments that may involve surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and adjuvant medication therapy. The costs and side effects of the specialty drugs, drug-drug interactions, co-morbid conditions, moderate to severe pain, socioeconomic status, cultural barriers, and lack of support and knowledge can contribute to non-adherence.⁴ Specialty pharmacies have come up with different drug ad-

Table 1: Oncology specialty pharmacy strategies to improve patient outcomes

Patient-specific drug utilization strategy to optimize drug therapy and cost for the patient
High standards of storage, shipping and handling services to ensure the drug product is delivered in optimal conditions to the appropriate patient
Care coordination between healthcare providers, infusion services, and skilled nursing services
Patient counseling that focuses on patients as a whole and addressing their concerns
Cancer education and oncology drug information for patients
Pharmacist to physician consultations to address patients' gaps in care, side effects, safety and adherence to drug regimens
Medication review and record keeping that is critical during transitions of care

herence strategies as a part of patient care management like screening for side effects, assessing for drug administration difficulties through monthly evaluations, and reminder calls. Patient-centered care management programs lower the risk of cancer relapse and progression of disease as pharmacists monitor patient adherence as a component of the program.⁴

During my advanced community patient care rotation in the summer of 2018 at a Walgreens community pharmacy in Florida, under the guidance of Randy Mehlhop, RPh, Pharmacy Manager, I learned how specialty pharmacists actively identify at-risk patients who are non-adherent and engage them in care planning and goal setting. They notify the prescribers of patients who are having trouble adhering to therapy. They provide personalized intervention by performing a complete medication review to identify the root cause of non-adherence and provide recommendations to patients and their providers. If nec-

essary, specialty pharmacists are also able to look at lab data and adjust medication therapy. Specialty pharmacies establish home deliveries with tracking ability to ensure patients who have transportation barriers can still get their therapy and that there are no delays in treatment.

Making sure patients receive their medications on time each month is one of the top priorities for specialty pharmacies. With costs in the tens of thousands at times, new medications can be overwhelming for patients who are newly diagnosed with cancer, especially when they discover that they cannot afford drug therapy. In an already difficult time, this can add much stress and anxiety to the patient and their loved ones. Specialty pharmacies have expanded their role in breaking down financial barriers by utilizing specialists to obtain methods of payment for patients. Navigating through insurances and getting financial assistance by themselves can be overwhelming to patients so they usually depend on pharmacy staff and their caregivers to get access to medications. Specialty pharmacy teams have extensive experience in expediting prior authorizations from prescribers, and third-party payers, since they are aware of all the requirements to successfully obtain approvals. As a result, they reduce the time between diagnosis and medication initiation, which offers excellent patient and provider satisfaction. Specialty pharmacists work with manufacturers, third party financial programs, private non-profit foundations, and co-pay assistance programs to personalize the financial assistance of each patient through copay cards and coupons. They also obtain consent and enroll eligible patients into patient assistance programs from a range of sources. Specialty pharmacies that help lower out of pocket costs have substantial effects on patient fill and adherence rates.

The pharmacist-patient care process uses principles of evidence-based practice. Specialty pharmacists are the epitome of this dynamic pharmacy service. Pa-

tients are assessed upon initiation of therapy and asked a series of questions regarding their medication. Pharmacists then collect patient information and information regarding history of medication use including prescription medications, non-prescription medications, herbal products, vitamins and supplements. They then assess the clinical outcomes of each patient by evaluating medication appropriateness, efficacy, and safety. Drug safety depends on several factors and is unique to each cancer patient which makes it imperative to assess adverse events regularly. In order to maintain a continuous care process, monitoring cancer patients at regular intervals once they are initiated on oncology drugs is necessary.⁵ Specialty pharmacists document adverse events when encountered and notify providers. In most cases, specialty pharmacies collaborate with drug manufacturers and are obligated to report drug-specific adverse events. They play an integral role in post-marketing surveillance programs for an increasing number of specialty drugs approved for new indications. One such program is the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) program which is a United States Food and Drug Administration drug safety program that is required for certain medications with serious adverse event concerns. The REMS program protects patients who may benefit from therapy which poses risks of adverse events. Specialty pharmacists are trained to triage patients who present with previously undiscovered adverse events and notify prescribers and manufacturers. They also follow up and re-assess those patients proactively. As a result, patient satisfaction and healthcare outcomes are improved, and hospitalization costs are reduced.⁶

With specialty pharmacy's expanding role, there is a greater demand for specialty pharmacy-specific accreditation. One of the accreditations specialty pharmacies can obtain is from the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC). URAC was originally founded in 1990 as an independent non-profit third-party

Read Something Interesting in the News?

Want to share it with your Peers?

Submit your articles to the Rho Chi Post!

Send us an email: RhoChiPost@gmail.com

healthcare quality validator. The goal of URAC accreditation is to advocate for the highest standards of practice in the pharmacy profession. This includes providing high quality and value, continuous quality improvement, and safeguarding patient health.⁷ Although there are many ways to provide high quality care to patients and advance specialty pharmacy practice, the URAC accreditation process is likely the most important step. Specialty pharmacy accreditation is being recognized by payers and pharmaceutical manufacturers as a major validation factor. Many times, payers and manufacturers look at URAC accreditation before they do business with specialty pharmacies. URAC accreditation provides clinical oversight while complementing national professional standards of care, which interests providers. It provides competitive advantage with operational efficiency and reduced liability, which is acknowledged by insurance companies. URAC accreditation also offers great value to other stakeholders, including regulators and legislators, because it allows specialty pharmacies to keep up with changes in healthcare, provides transparency and accountability, and reflects the best practices due to impartial evaluation. The validation of specialty pharmacy clinical services is critical because they serve patients with complex chronic diseases where outcomes are of the utmost importance. A URAC accredited specialty pharmacy has the proper policy and procedures to make sure patients have access to specialty medications and adheres to drug safety protocols. A patient who gets their medications at a specialty pharmacy can be assured of ongoing procedures for quality management, maintenance, and reporting. URAC accredited specialty pharmacies meet specific performance standards for timeliness and accuracy of dispensing medications and providing customer service.^{2,8}

Specialty pharmacies have become a crucial part of the therapeutic management of patients receiving oral oncology drugs. The role the specialty pharmacy team plays is expanding and includes complete patient-centered care which involves building a rapport with patients and physicians, breaking down financial barriers, and becoming URAC accredited for continuous quality improvement. This all leads to great strides towards the ultimate end goal - increasing patient care and improving patient outcomes.

SOURCES:

1. North Star Opinion Research. Key findings from the survey of New York physicians regarding specialty medications. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association. Published on 05/18/2015. Accessed on 12/14/2018.
2. Anderson J. The importance of accreditation for specialty pharmacy organizations. Pharmaceutical Commerce. Published 04/30/2014. Accessed on 12/14/2018.
3. PBM specialty pharmacies improve patient outcomes and reduce costs. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association. Published 04/2017. Accessed on 12/14/2018.
4. Powers J. The role of the pharmacist as part of a multidisciplinary cancer care team. Specialty Pharmacy Times. Published 05/15/2018. Accessed on 12/14/2018.
5. Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners. Pharmacists' patient care process. Published 05/29/2014. Accessed on 12/14/2018.
6. Cast K.G and Berger A. Maintaining compliance in the global pharmacovigilance landscape. Specialty Pharmacy Times. Published 10/09/2013. Accessed on 12/14/2018.
7. Pharmacy quality management programs: specialty pharmacy accreditation. URAC. Accessed on 12/14/2018.
8. Davis LE and Jessee Q. Competitive advantages of accreditation. Specialty Pharmacy Times. Published 12/05/2011. Accessed on 12/14/2018.

Please like our
Facebook page
@ FB.com/
RhoChiPost

RHO CHI POST: TEAM MEMBERS



@ Anna Diyamandoglu
5th Year, STJ; Editor-in-Chief

Throughout my time in the PharmD program, my understanding of pharmacy as a profession has evolved and deepened as much as my desire to create awareness, particularly to non-science students, about the diverse role pharmacy plays in various healthcare and non-healthcare settings. I have always had an affinity for writing and look forward to combining my interests in literary composition, editing and pharmacy to produce relevant issues which both pharmacy students and non-pharmacy students alike will find relatable and take an interest in.



@ Karen Lin, PharmD
Graduate Copy Editor [Content-Focused]

The Rho Chi Post allows me to have an appreciation for interactive pharmacy learning as well as the art of writing. With each newsletter, my goal is to provide current information to readers who come across the Post. As an editor, I hope to make the newsletter one-of-a-kind and motivate and influence writers to explore science with their creative talents.



@ Matthew Kahn
6th Year, STJ; Graphics Editor

I've always loved graphic design, so I was thrilled at the opportunity to be a part of the Rho Chi Post team and contribute to future publications. I'm excited to explore new ways to make the Post even better, and also to be continuously exposed to new ideas in the pharmaceutical field.



@ Nicollette Pacheco, PharmD
Graduate Editor [Graphics-Focused]

As a member of the Rho Chi Post team, I have a vast appreciation of what it means to be a pharmacist in the rapidly evolving world of healthcare. As a graduate editor, I will continue to bring my passion for science and creativity to the Rho Chi Post.



@ Mei Fung, PharmD
Graduate Copy Editor [Content-Focused]

It's always interesting to see how the healthcare field evolves and all the advancements in pharmacy come to fruition. I joined the Rho Chi Post because it brings together a variety of these topics with distinguishing perspectives from our peers in pharmacy practice. I am ecstatic to join the team in continuing Rho Chi Post's endeavors in promoting the profession.



@ Davidta Brown, PharmD
Graduate Copy Editor [Content-Focused]

My two great loves are innovative science and quality writing; the Rho Chi Post is an insightful combination of both. As an editor, I look forward to bringing relevant information and fresh perspectives to the student and faculty of St. John's University, as well as to making the Rho Chi Post a newsletter that offers something new to every reader.

RHO CHI POST: TEAM MEMBERS



@ Jonathan Mercado
6th Year, STJ; Finance and Outreach Manager, Staff Writer

The Rho Chi Post breaks barriers for students that want a glimpse of their future and acts as an inspiration to work harder to achieve their goals. It is an embodiment of the motivation and intelligence that drives pharmacy students to be the most informed and capable professionals they can be. I am glad to a part of that mission and to channel my passion and interests through this newsletter.



@ Gabrielle Flavoni
Graduate Staff Editor

Writing has always been an enormous passion of mine, and I'm blessed to join such an amazing team that encourages me to explore it. As a new Staff Writer for the Post, my goal is to aid others in staying up-to-date about the pharmacy world, while also utilizing a creative outlet to make an impact on those around me.



@ Sarah Hewady
5th Year, STJ; Staff Editor

The importance of staying updated on relevant healthcare matters cannot be overstated. I appreciate the mission of Rho Chi Post in that it successfully compiles clinically relevant and up-to-date information for its audience. Wanting to contribute to this cause is what sparked my interest to become a staff editor. I hope to broaden the scope of knowledge of the public as well as aid healthcare practitioners in the clinical decision-making process.



@ Kathleen Horan
5th Year, STJ; Staff Editor

I have always loved writing, and I hope to couple my passion for writing with my interest in clinical pharmacy by becoming a writer and staff editor for the Rho Chi Post. As a writer and staff editor for the Rho Chi Post, I hope to write and edit informative and interesting articles that relate to the world of healthcare and pharmacy. I am so excited to join this team of student pharmacists and writers.



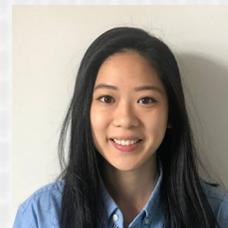
@ Katharine Russo
4th Year, STJ; Staff Editor

In my first two years as a pharmacy student, I was exposed to numerous opportunities to write medical based articles for classes and clubs. This is what first sparked my interest in health care literature and I look forward to being a Staff Writer for the Rho Chi Post in hopes of being able to share my passion and enthusiasm in writing health-care related publications.



@ Yao Jiang
6th Year, STJ; Staff Editor

Writing for the Rho Chi Post allows me to bridge the gap between class and the real world. It gives me a reason to focus on topics that are relevant to me as a practicing student pharmacist and explore new medications, laws, and ventures in our evolving profession. This process of researching, teaching oneself, and finally, teaching others is what we will ultimately do as future pharmacists. I am honored for this opportunity to be further exposed to what pharmacy has to offer all while giving back to the community that has taught me so much.



@ Karen Chen
6th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

I am honored to be writing for the Rho Chi Post. The Rho Chi Post allows me to creatively express my opinions on various topics in pharmacy as well as communicate and share new information about our ever evolving profession. This platform connects students, allows us to educate each other and helps us all stay up to date. I have always loved writing and hope that by being a part of the Rho Chi Post team, I can continue to research and write articles that are relevant and inspiring.

RHO CHI POST: TEAM MEMBERS



@ Alex Chu
6th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

With a constantly evolving healthcare field, it is imperative that we keep ourselves up to date with the latest news. This is what led me to join the Rho Chi Post, which constantly comes out with interesting and informative topics. It is an honor to write for the Rho Chi Post, and I wish to always contribute innovative articles.



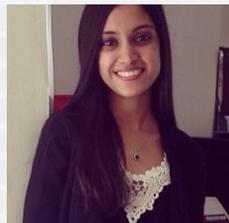
@ Yeonah Suk
5th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

As a student interested in various branches of healthcare, the Rho Chi Post has provided me the opportunity to be part of an organization that discusses this field in a broad scope. As modern society continues to amalgamate and globalize multiple disciplines, it is important that we harmonize these elements and keep ourselves updated on their interactions. I joined the Rho Chi Post to both learn and contribute to a team that has immense diversity and my goal is to continue exploring innovative ideas through writing.



@ Michael Lim
5th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

In the spirit of advancing the pharmacy profession, the Rho Chi Post never ceases to produce valuable content showcasing the innovation and diversity of the career. As a Staff Writer for the Post, I am honored to have the opportunity to use writing to both educate and push readers to strive for excellence in their professional pursuits. I hope that my contributions to the newsletter are able to foster growth in an informative and accessible manner.



@ Shivani Shah
4th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

As students in an dynamic healthcare profession, it is important to keep up to date with literature and publications regarding the pharmacy profession. Rho Chi Post serves as a great outlet for students to catch up on pharmaceutical innovations and progress going on in the career. Being a staff writer motivates me to constantly research and share new, exciting advancements with fellow students. I look forward to reading articles in the Post and hope to spark others curiosity and interest!



@ Joseph Eskandrous
6th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

In the world of pharmacy, knowledge becomes outdated within hours of when you learned it. The miracle drug that used to be considered the standard of therapy is replaced by the latest and greatest. My role as a Staff Writer for the Rho Chi Post is to bring these changes to the forefront in order to empower future pharmacists and to improve the quality of patient care.



@ Thanessa Graham
6th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

As a writer for the Rho Chi Post, I have the unique opportunity to convey my knowledge, discoveries and interests to the general public. I will be able to enlighten individuals about issues that will not only impact them, but also their families, and communities. I look forward to supplying this newsletter with valuable and relevant information about the evolving field of pharmacy.



@ Shireen Farzadeh
6th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

I am excited to join Rho Chi Post and contribute to the award-winning newsletter for students to share ideas, opinions, and pertinent topics! Writing for the Rho Chi Post is an opportunity to express our appreciation for pharmacy and educate ourselves and our peers. I hope to inspire students to discover their passion for writing and to stay up to date on our evolving profession!



@ Mah Noor
4th Year, STJ; Staff Writer

Rho Chi Post is an amazing student-operated newsletter publication that is doing an astonishing job delivering updated news as well as giving students the opportunity to give back to the pharmacy community. As a staff writer, I hope to play a key role in educating students on the different aspects of pharmacy and how much growth takes place in this field. Reading the Post since freshman year has helped me gain a better understanding of what it means to be a pharmacist and I hope to achieve that same understanding in students who read my articles.

MISSION

The Rho Chi Post is an award-winning, monthly, electronic, student-operated, faculty-approved publication that aims to promote the pharmacy profession through creativity and effective communication. Our publication is a profound platform for integrating ideas, opinions, and innovations from students, faculty, and administrators.

VISION

The Rho Chi Post aims to become the most exciting and creative student-operated newsletter within St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Our newsletter continues to be known for its relatable and useful content

Our editorial team continues to be known for its excellence and professionalism

The Rho Chi Post essentially sets the stage for the future of student-operated publications in pharmacy

VALUES

Opportunity

Teamwork

Respect

Excellence

GOALS

To provide the highest quality student-operated newsletter with accurate information

To maintain a healthy, respectful, challenging, and rewarding environment for student editors

To cultivate sound relationships with other organizations and individuals who are like-minded and involved in like pursuits

To have a strong, positive impact on fellow students, faculty, and administrators

To contribute ideas and innovations to the Pharmacy profession