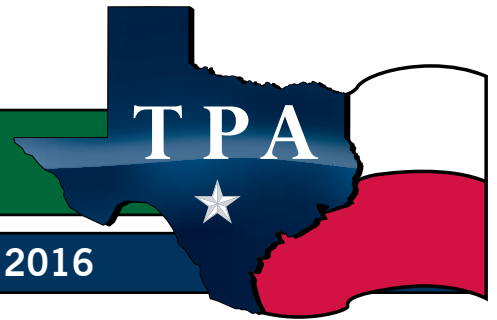


Texas Pharmacy Association

A Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress • February 2016



Advocacy

TPA Secures Recognition for Pharmacists Through Critical Life Saving Measure Receives Statewide and National Press

The Texas Pharmacy Association continues a long tradition of moving the profession forward and positioning our pharmacist to play an ever greater role in extending the life and health of their patients. On January 1, Texas' new pharmacist-administered epinephrine law went into effect and the media took notice. News outlets around the state and the nation highlighted this essential law as an important step in saving lives as well as emphasizing the greater role pharmacists can play as a member of the healthcare team.



“TPA and TPA members were instrumental in getting the law passed! “I am extremely excited by the media attention that this new law is receiving” said Justin Hudman, TPA Division Director of Public Affairs. “This is a great way for the public to see pharmacists as not just dispensers of medication, but as highly educated and trained healthcare professionals. Hudman continued, “I also am thrilled with the knowledge that this law and the future actions of our pharmacists will result in countless lives being saved. ”

Media Coverage

News media coverage of the new law (House Bill 1550 – sponsored by Texas Representative John Zerwas -R) allowing pharmacists to administer epinephrine in an emergency situation has continued as additional news outlets spread the word. The national articles listed below follow other positive television and print stories about the benefits of this legislation in expanding patient access to care through pharmacists as well as TPA's leadership role in initiating and pushing this legislative success – the first in the country by most accounts.

- KXAN TV (Austin)
- Pharmacy Times
- KRIS TV (Corpus Christi)
- American Pharmacy Association
- Total Pharmacy Supply
- GaPundit
- Allergic Living

Throughout the next year, TPA looks forward to continued media attention as pharmacists throughout the state are able to take advantage of this new law.

Brookshire's Joins TPA's East Texas Hypertension Program

Brookshire's Pharmacies recently joined the list of participating pharmacies in East Texas to help patients receive better outcomes from their anti-hypertensive medications. TPA's program, which is available to any Texas pharmacy at no charge, joins efforts by Texas Department of State Health Services and other health care organizations in the area.

Heart disease is responsible for one out of every four deaths in the United States. The TPA project is easy to implement and is designed to help improve the public's awareness of pharmacists as healthcare providers. When the patient (or caregiver) is paying for their prescription(s), pharmacy staff utilizes a handout from the CDC's Million Hearts Campaign® to emphasize the importance of medication adherence.

Community pharmacists have a unique relationship with their patients—and are therefore ideally suited to help with blood-pressure management. They are trusted healthcare partners located within the community with easy access and often with extended hours. Pharmacists are medication experts—they bring their extensive training to the table in identifying and resolving drug therapy problems, such as non-adherence. Working with patients and their physicians, pharmacists can provide important services that improve treatment outcomes and improve patients' quality of life.

Like Brookshire's Pharmacies, TPA encourages pharmacists and technicians throughout Texas to download information and remind patients to take their medications as prescribed. Also, there is a free continuing education program on hypertension for those completing the program enrollment form. If you would like additional information, please contact: kroberson@texaspharmacy.org



In the News

TPA Celebrates New Permanent Location with Open House



TPA celebrated its new location at 3200 Steck Avenue, Ste. 370 Austin, TX 78757 in style, with an open house wine and cheese reception on January 14, showing off the 5,000 square foot space that is the Association's permanent home. The TPA Board of Directors was on hand for the festivities, welcoming colleagues and members of the pharmacy family.



Above: Mary Ann Parker with former TPA CEO Luther Parker were among the visitors.

Left: TPA Board members (left to right) Raj Chhadua; Chris Alvarado; Kim Stengel; Nario Cantu; Sharon Rush; Carole Hardin-Oliver; Charlotte Weller Mary Klein, Rene Garza, David Spence and Ron Jencopale pose with a plaque dedicated in their honor.

Pharmacy Summit Meets

The Texas Pharmacy Summit—a coalition representing six of the state's seven pharmacy organizations established in 2014 in an effort to unify the profession—met on February 3 at TPA's headquarters. The group, which includes the Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA); Texas TrueCare Pharmacies; Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas (AIP); Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP); Texas Federation of Drug Stores (TFDS); and Texas Independent Pharmacies Association (TIPA) focused on important public policy issues and on developing a cohesive legislative plan for the 2017 session.

"The goal of the Pharmacy Summit was to find consensus in four general issue areas," said TPA CEO Joe DaSilva. "Those were: Enhanced Patient Services; PBM Reforms; Medicaid Managed Care; and Pharmacy Technicians. We came a long way in understanding the issues better, and recommitted to working together."

"This was a great opportunity for TPA and our pharmacy leadership to sit down with our colleagues representing the leaderships of the other pharmacy organizations and discuss issues impacting pharmacy," added TPA President-Elect Rene Garza.



Left: The Texas Pharmacy Summit met on February 3, at TPA's new offices.

TPA Board Takes Big Steps Forward on a Number of Important Issues

During its meeting on Friday, January 15, the TPA Board of Directors took action on various critical issues including finalization of the Association's policy priorities for 2016-2017, creation of a for-profit corporate subsidiary, adoption of its 2016 budget and creation of a special task force to look at workplace issues that may impact patient safety and productivity.

TPA's actions are focused on innovative pharmacy practice and an effective practice environment. Both will shape the future of pharmacy practice in Texas. The new division will help train and support pharmacists providing patient care services. New services are under development and will be announced in early fall. **Please refer to the Public Policy Priorities insert to see the details!**



Colleges of Pharmacy

TPA's Hudman Visits Texas Tech at Abilene

On January 8, TPA's Division Director of Public Affairs Justin Hudman had the opportunity to visit with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy students at their Abilene campus. His presentation was broadcast live to Tech's multiple campuses. Hudman gave the students a good picture of what TPA has to offer, and the importance in participating and getting involved—with the goal of advancing the pharmacy profession.

"Not surprisingly, the vast majority of the students are getting into pharmacy today for the purpose of patient services—few are interested in simply dispensing medications," said Hudman. "This, is of course, warrants a change in current statutes to allow the pharmacist to provide additional services," said Hudman.



Justin Hudman at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy

TPA Member Spotlight

Amanda Beck, Houston Methodist Hospital

While working on her Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M College Station, Amanda Beck met someone who helped define her career path. Shane Lechler, who at the time was Director of Pharmacy at the College Station Medical Center instantly saw in Beck the kind of person who would thrive in the pharmacy profession.



"I met Shane while I was volunteering for the College Station Medical Center," says Beck "He told me my future was in pharmacy, and I shifted my focus to pharmacy at A&M and started working as a technician."

After receiving her BS from A&M in 2011, Beck enrolled at the University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy, where she greatly enjoyed the program. During that time she was TPA student director for the student executive council, and served on the TPA Board of Directors as a student member. Working with TPA's Lisa Goerlitz, Beck developed the Student Self-Care Championship in 2013.

"I was exposed to so many opportunities through TPA, and developed a respect for all the different types of pharmacy," says Beck. "TPA fueled the fire in me—a passion for the profession."

"Feik School of Pharmacy was amazing. They have very professor-specific attention for students, and offer smaller classes. The professor who had the biggest impact on me was Dr. Kathleen Lusk.

"I did a rotation with Dr. Lusk in internal medicine at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in San Antonio. That changed my whole outlook. I worked on a collaborative team with physicians and pharmacists, making rounds with patients daily. It was at that time that I decided I wanted to work in a hospital or clinical setting."

Beck's decision was further bolstered when she did a rotation helping lung transplant patients with Dr. Amaris Fuentes at Houston Methodist Hospital.

"As a pharmacist working with Dr. Fuentes, I was involved with the physicians' team and daily post-operative patient care. That allowed me to see what kind of impact pharmacists could have on direct-patient care. It's critical for transplant patients to follow a strict medication protocol after surgery to avoid organ rejection," says Beck, who received her Pharm D. in 2015.

At Houston Methodist Beck is now working with Alex Varkey, former Director of PGY1/PGY2 Pharmacy Administration Residency and current Director of Pharmacy at the Texas Medical Center.

"I met Dr. Varkey through my involvement in the American Pharmacists Association (APhA)," says Beck. "He opened my eyes to what opportunities were out there for pharmacists in administration residency programs."

Beck has continued her education past her Pharm.D. and is now finishing up a dual degree program at the University of Houston where she'll receive her Masters of Science in Pharmacy Administration and Management.

"The further training in pharmacy business and administration will give me the tools to succeed as a manager," says Beck. "I will complete the degree in May 2017, and at that time I will finish my pharmacy administrative residency. I'm open to a lot of opportunities—the sky's the limit!"



Education/Events

Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery (Austin)	March 20, 2016
2016 TPA Leadership Symposium (Austin)	March 20-21 2016
2016 TPA Chain Pharmacy Symposium (Austin)	March 29-31 2016
2016 TPA Annual Conference & Expo (Austin)	July 15-17, 2016



Visit www.texaspharmacy.org for details

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SAVE THE DATE!

**2016 TPA
LEADERSHIP
SYMPOSIUM**

**March 20-21, 2016
Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol
Austin, TX**

For more information, contact Lisa Goerlitz at lgoerlitz@texaspharmacy.org or 512-615-9169