



*Recognizing the value and  
extraordinary contributions  
pharmacists provide  
to improving the  
vaccination rates in  
their communities.*

# **2022**

## ***Awards Presentation & Reception***

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022**  
**San Antonio, TX**

The 2022 APhA Immunization Champion Awards program  
is supported by CDC, Merck, Moderna, Pfizer, and VaxServe

**APhA2022**  
Annual Meeting & Exposition  
San Antonio, TX | March 18-21

# *Celebrating Pharmacists' Contributions to the Immunization Neighborhood*

# 2022

## **About the APhA Immunization Champion Awards**

**T**he American Pharmacists Association established these special awards in 2008 to recognize the value and extraordinary contributions pharmacists provide to improving the vaccination rates in their communities. Across the country, more than 400,000 pharmacists and student pharmacists, and 100,000 pharmacy technicians have completed training as immunization providers. In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, pharmacists have the authority to administer vaccines. Members of the pharmacy team have assumed one or more roles as immunization educators, facilitators, and vaccine administrators, thereby reducing vaccine-preventable morbidity and mortality across the lifespan.

Pharmacists, in collaboration with physicians, public health officials, and other immunization stakeholders, are recognized as important members of the immunization neighborhood and are developing solutions to increase access to vaccines and other public health services. Millions of vaccines are administered by pharmacists each year, and the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the significance of the profession's contributions to public health. The profession's dedication to meeting the public's immunization needs and protecting people from vaccine-preventable diseases is evident in the work of this year's nominees and the many thousands of immunizing pharmacy team members practicing in communities nationwide.

The APhA Immunization Champion Awards program consists of six categories of recognition, including individual practitioners, friend of pharmacy's immunization efforts, corporation/institution, community outreach, pharmacy team member, and travel health (not awarded in 2022). In addition, this year we recognize an individual for their lifelong career achievements, impact on pharmacists' role and our nation's public health.

Nominees were evaluated based on the areas of impact, collaboration, originality, and overcoming challenges, as well as for creating opportunities for pharmacists. The nomination packets received this year described the work of innovative immunizing pharmacists, practices, and community leaders. APhA applauds all pharmacists who are working toward improving the health of the people in their communities. APhA also recognizes CDC, Merck, and Vaxserve for their support of this awards and recognition program.

### ***Special recognition...***

We applaud and thank all pharmacists and pharmacy personnel who responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. These individuals demonstrate the value that the pharmacy profession provides to our communities and they deserve a special THANK YOU for taking care of individuals in need of our services. You endured challenges and did what was needed to address the needs of individuals and communities.



# P R O G R A M

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022**

5:30 PM RECEPTION OPENS

5:45 PM OPENING REMARKS

5:55 PM PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

### **Individual Practitioner**

#### *Honorable Mention*

Jacinda C. Abdul-Mutakabbir (Loma Linda, CA)

#### *National Winner*

Alexandria Rothey (Pittsburgh, PA)

Jordan Smith (Carmel, IN)

### **Corporation/Institution**

#### *Honorable Mention*

University of Southern California School of Pharmacy -  
Los Angeles City COVID-19 Vaccination Program  
(Los Angeles, CA)

West Virginia University School of Pharmacy (Morgantown, WV)

#### *National Winner*

Kroger Health (Cincinnati, OH)

### **Community Outreach**

#### *Honorable Mention*

Mayank Amin (Schwenksville, PA)

Edmond Hudon (Boyertown, PA)

#### *National Winner*

Jennifer Twilla (Memphis, TN)

### **Pharmacy Team Member**

#### *National Winner*

Amanda Hittle (Springdale, AR)

### **Friend of Pharmacy**

#### *National Winners*

William Chang (Washington, DC)

### **Lifetime Achievement**

Michael D. Hogue (Loma Linda, CA)

6:40 PM RECEPTION CONTINUES

7:00 PM ADJOURNMENT

**APhA2022**  
Annual Meeting & Exposition  
San Antonio, TX | March 18-21



## Individual Practitioner Past Recipients

### 2021:

#### *National Winner*

Krista Capehart

#### *Honorable Mention*

Grace Lee

### 2020:

#### *National Winner*

Heather Stewart

#### *Honorable Mention*

Erica Mahn

### 2019:

#### *National Winner*

Kimberly McKeirnan

#### *Honorable Mention*

Cherokee Layson-Wolf

Sarah Mahdy

### 2018:

#### *National Winners*

Andrew Demotto

Holly E. Gurgle

#### *Honorable Mention*

Tuong-Lan Nguyen

Luis Rosago

### 2017:

#### *National Winners*

Jeff Jackson

Alanna Isobe

#### *Honorable Mention*

Mihran Chaprazian

### 2016:

#### *National Winner*

LCDR Holly Van Lew

#### *Honorable Mention*

Deanne Hall

Anne Skoe

### 2015:

#### *National Winners*

Kelechi Aguwa

Kenneth McCall

#### *Honorable Mention*

Mary Choy

MAJ Brandi Schuyler

Maria Young

### 2014:

#### *National Winners*

Eric Crumbaugh

Julie Gambaiani

#### *Honorable Mention*

Carlisha Gentles

Todd McWilliams

George Veltri

### 2013:

#### *National Winners*

Donald Auwinger

Kerri Okamura

#### *Honorable Mention*

Carl Wright

### 2012:

#### *National Winner*

Marty Feltner

#### *Honorable Mention*

Karen Horbowicz

Paras Chokshi

Dan Heller

### 2011:

#### *National Winners*

C. Derris Hurley

Michelle G. Johnson

#### *Honorable Mention*

Ruben D. Atencio

Ashley Branham

Monali N. Majmudar

### 2010:

#### *National Winners*

Dennis C. Galluzzo

Katherine Schmoll

Probst

#### *Honorable Mention*

Louis Carl Fontana

Adam C. Welch

### 2009:

#### *National Winners*

Vincent A. Hartzell

Paul A. Schiavi

#### *Honorable Mention*

Edward Christofano

Joe Heidrick

# Individual Practitioner

## Honorable Mention

### Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir, PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Medicine  
Loma Linda University



Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir, PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP

Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir, PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP has been dedicated to improving immunization access, education, and vaccination rates; especially among minoritized communities. Jacinda began educating on COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020 when the vaccines became available. She has been a part of several educational podcasts and has given over 20 talks explaining the COVID-19 vaccines.

Jacinda has served as the lead clinician and pharmacist for the Loma Linda University (LLU) COVID-19 vaccines and is dedicated to vaccinating minoritized communities in "pop-up" clinics to decrease barriers to access. When LLU began their COVID-19 vaccination clinics, it was quickly realized that Black vaccinees were underrepresented among those being vaccinated. In response, Jacinda and LLU leveraged relationships with Black faith leaders to engage them in increasing vaccine uptake. Jacinda has served as an educator, preceptor, and leader for over 10 clinics conducted at churches within minoritized communities, easily accessible by transportation. To date, the "pop-up" clinics have vaccinated over 2,000 individuals of minoritized, Black and Latino/LatinX groups.

Jacinda utilized several creative approaches to increase vaccine delivery, including the advocacy for a paper-based vaccination registration form that captured the necessary information for individuals to sign-up and decreased the barrier of minoritized individuals needing to have internet access and the capacity to navigate an online registration system. Jacinda also included students (pharmacy, medicine, dentistry) as the vaccinators. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that students understand the necessity of delivering equitable care.

Jacinda served as the first author for the manuscript describing the outcomes of the first clinic, "A three-tiered approach to address barriers to COVID-19 vaccine delivery in the Black community," published in The Lancet Global Health. She continues to participate in vaccine education webinars and has begun to include information pertaining to influenza vaccines; as minoritized individuals more often perish due to vaccine-preventable diseases.







# Individual Practitioner

## National Winner

### Alexandria Rothey, PharmD

Pharmacy Manager  
Hilltop Pharmacy



Alexandria Rothey,  
PharmD

Alexandria Rothey, PharmD is the pharmacy manager at Hilltop Pharmacy, an independent community pharmacy in Pittsburgh, PA. The patient population of the pharmacy is underserved, to say the least. Not only is it located in a food desert, but Hilltop's patients also have an average literacy level of the sixth grade. Health literacy and access to care are severely lacking. Patients often miss immunizations, check-ups, and other preventive care measures.

When Hilltop Pharmacy was cut out of receiving more vaccines from the government, Alex and her father, Patrick Lavella, worked with state legislators to ensure more vaccines would be on the way. Additionally, she spoke with reporters and news crews to advocate for the COVID-19 vaccine. As a result, Alex was able to secure vaccines for this deserving population. Clinics began small on Christmas Eve and grew to the ability to vaccinate 1,000 people in one day. These clinics increased access immensely; patients who had no access to a car were bussed to clinics to ensure no patient was left behind. When patients were unable to attend clinics, Alex offered home vaccinations.

As the full-time pharmacy manager, Alexandria worked tirelessly to ensure every clinic had adequate staffing. Organizing these clinics required help from student pharmacists, medical students, nurses, EMTs, and many others. Alex reached out to local universities to gain students as volunteers. Alex gained a volunteer staff of over 50 volunteers to help with everything from crowd control and vaccinations. She secured fire halls or gymnasiums to hold these clinics.

She took every phone call with questions about the efficacy and safety of the vaccine and spoke with confidence to reassure and educate patients. Additionally, she made sure every vaccination was inputted into Pennsylvania's State Vaccine Registry to ensure other health care providers could see a patient's immunization status.

Alex's clinics provided 13,000 COVID-19 vaccinations. In recognition of the impact of these efforts, and thanks to the Lavella family, the City of Pittsburgh issued a proclamation naming June 2nd as Hilltop Pharmacy Day.







# Individual Practitioner

## National Winner

### Jordan Michele Smith, PharmD, AAHIVP

Healthcare Supervisor  
Walgreens



Jordan Michele Smith,  
PharmD, AAHIVP

As Healthcare Supervisor for Walgreens, Jordan Michele Smith, PharmD, AAHIVP manages about 240 pharmacists, 470 pharmacy technicians, and 60 employed interns in central Indiana. She leads medication management therapy programs and serves on the Community Advisory Board of the Indiana Pharmacists Association.

In partnership with the CDC, Jordan was responsible for ensuring end-to-end on-site clinic services and compliance for 184 long-term care facilities in the Indianapolis area, providing 24,020 COVID-19 vaccines to residents and staff over three months (Jan-Mar, 2021).

Jordan simultaneously coordinated in-store clinics across the state for Indiana's Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, an initiative that immunized 2,532 patients and caregivers across 60 pharmacy locations in March 2021.

Beginning in April 2021, Jordan partnered with Purdue University's Center for Health Equity and Innovation and Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana to design and pilot a drive-through COVID-19 vaccination model for people experiencing food-insecurity in Marion County, Indiana. Dr. Smith spearheaded the organization and execution of seven drive-thru vaccination events at two food pantry locations in Indianapolis, conceptualizing where to place tents and staff, ordering and providing all necessary supplies, and often adapting on the spot to address unforeseen challenges that arose through this event model. For example, when language barriers were identified at the first event, she found creative ways to identify and recruit Spanish-speaking pharmacists, technicians, and students on rotation for subsequent events, working personally with store managers to adapt staffing schedules as needed.

Jordan excels at adapting to circumstances to meet community needs. She coordinates operations and logistics, navigates internal and external challenges, hosts monthly clinical outreach calls, shares compliance updates, communicates staffing needs, attends partnership meetings, and engages in ongoing discussions about how to educate patients, improve clinic efficiencies, and reduce vaccine hesitancy in Indiana.

Jordan's unwavering commitment to the communities she serves is evident in all that she does. She says attitude reflects leadership and the state of Indiana is a healthier place thanks to her leadership and positive attitude. Jordan has worked tirelessly to ensure that patients throughout the state, particularly people from vulnerable and historically underserved communities, have access to quality care. Without her efforts, Indiana's COVID-19 vaccination rates would be significantly lower.



## Corporation/Institution Past Recipients

### 2021:

#### *National Winner*

Rhode Island Pharmacist Association

#### *Honorable Mention*

Purdue University Pharmacy

### 2020:

#### *National Winners*

Sand Run Pharmacy  
Walgreens Co.

#### *Honorable Mention*

Red Lake Indian Health Service Pharmacy  
Rite Aid

### 2019:

#### *National Winner*

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic Pharmacy

#### *Honorable Mention*

FDA PHS Vaccine Clinic

### 2018:

#### *National Winner*

Albertsons Companies

### 2017:

#### *National Winner*

Norton Sound Health Corporation

### 2016:

#### *National Winner*

Giant Eagle Pharmacy

#### *Honorable Mention*

Realo Discount Drugs,  
SUPERVALU Pharmacies

### 2015:

#### *National Winner*

Walgreens Co.

#### *Honorable Mention*

H-E-B Pharmacy

### 2014:

#### *National Winner*

Safeway

#### *Honorable Mention*

Osterhaus Pharmacy

### 2013:

#### *National Winner*

Target

#### *Honorable Mention*

CVS Caremark

### 2012:

#### *National Winner*

Rite Aid

#### *Honorable Mention*

Children's Medical Center  
Dallas, TX

### 2011:

#### *National Winner*

Walgreens

#### *Honorable Mention*

Tim Mitchell Medical, Inc.

### 2010:

#### *National Winner*

The Kroger Co. Family of Pharmacies

#### *Honorable Mention*

West Milford Pharmacy

### 2009:

#### *National Winner*

Safeway



# Corporation/Institution

## *Honorable Mention*

### West Virginia University School of Pharmacy



The West Virginia University School of Pharmacy (WVU SoP) faculty played an integral role in the COVID-19 immunization response

for the state of West Virginia. With a clear focus on immunization of the most vulnerable people first, faculty provided immunizations for residents and staff of three long-term care facilities with first doses given in December 2020 and continuing on a monthly basis for new patients and staff.

WVU SoP faculty were among the first in the nation to administer COVID-19 immunizations at long-term care facilities. They developed and implemented new processes for administering vaccines on a large scale at long-term care facilities and at University clinics. Their innovation to “go first” is evident by recognition (<https://pharmacy.hsc.wvu.edu/news/?category=SchoolofPharmacy&tags=covid19>) from national and international news organizations.

The WVU SoP also organized and facilitated the COVID-19 immunization effort for the main and Health Sciences campuses of the entire University, and ran over 40 clinics from December 2020 through May 2021.

Faculty members solicited student pharmacists and other health science student volunteers to assist in the clinics and set up separate, smaller clinics for student athletes and critical University personnel. At the request of local health departments and community groups, faculty provided COVID-19 immunizations to patients in their homes, curbside, and at other locations to improve access for those who may not otherwise have been able to receive the vaccines.

With no blueprint on how to conduct vaccination clinics at a large university, the team quickly developed a strategy and modified it as needed. Initially vaccine availability was a challenge, so the team was meticulous in product preparation and planning efforts. They were able to find patients for all extra doses until the end of April by prescheduling all patients then have a priority list of backups which followed CDC guidelines. Faculty worked together to make sure clinics had an appropriate number of pharmacists and to cover faculty responsibilities for each other.

Partnering with outside institutions has promoted the role of pharmacists as essential members of the immunization community and led to opportunities for future vaccine efforts.



# Corporation/Institution

## *Honorable Mention*

### **The University of Southern California (USC) School of Pharmacy (SOP) – Los Angeles City COVID-19 Vaccination Program**

#### **USC School of Pharmacy**

The University of Southern California (USC) School of Pharmacy (SOP) – Los Angeles City COVID-19 Vaccination Program—in partnership with the City of Los Angeles (Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles Fire Department), Carbon Health, Curative, and the nonprofit Community Organized Relief Effort

(CORE)—is a one-of-a-kind public-private collaboration facilitating the mass distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to Angelenos between December 2020 and September 2021. USC worked closely with all partners and played an important role in developing the clinical, operational, and logistical considerations for the program.

The collaboration began in September 2020 when Mayor Garcetti launched a pilot program with the USC SOP to provide flu shots at COVID-19 testing sites across the city. When the COVID-19 vaccines began arriving in mid-December 2020, that flu vaccine pilot program evolved into a larger vaccine distribution effort. On December 30, the city's first COVID-19 point of dispensing (POD) site opened at Lincoln Park, across the street from the USC Health Sciences Campus. USC took a lead role at this site. This was the first public (non-hospital based) POD for COVID-19 vaccines in the city and the state of California.

USC pharmacists were involved in the operational and logistical pre-planning and implementation of the vaccine clinics and provided clinical training to medical and non-medical personnel from city and private partners. USC also contributed to the rapid-cycle, quality improvement process for vaccine storage, handling, and administration processes. USC committed to hiring nearly 40 pharmacists and intern pharmacists to join the vaccine program team to work across all of the sites (at least 6 mass vaccination sites at Dodger Stadium, USC University Park Campus, Los Angeles Southwest College, Cal State University Los Angeles, Los Angeles International Airport, Union Station, and 12 mobile sites set up at local libraries, churches, parks, and schools.

As the program grew, pharmacists played a crucial role in the program. Pharmacists were added to each new site opened to serve as the lead. The lead clinical pharmacist from USC oversaw the dose preparation process, managed inventory, ensured quality control, provided clinical oversight and consult, and supervised student and volunteer inoculators. The pharmacist worked with a team of clinicians (including student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nurses, physician assistants, medical assistants, EMTs, and other health professionals) at each site.





# Corporation/Institution

## National Winner

### Kroger Health



As one of the most accessible health care partners in the United States, Kroger Health has played a critical role in helping distribute and administer the COVID-19 vaccine in collaboration with public health officials and community partners. Kroger Health was equipped to respond quickly to the need to report

COVID-19 vaccination to public health authorities, supported by their automated immunization registry reporting.

To combat transportation insecurity, Kroger Health partnered with Lyft Healthcare, Inc. to provide discounted rides to and from vaccine appointments. After patients schedule a vaccine appointment, communities with high social vulnerability in 31 states receive a Lyft ride code covering travel to and from each scheduled appointment.

To improve care coordination, Kroger implemented an industry-leading, connected care platform through partnership with health care technology company, AssureCare to create a seamless experience for providers with enhanced access to health information, including vaccine records and population health alerts for indicated vaccines patients have not yet received.

Kroger Health hosted hundreds of mass vaccine off-site clinics while continuing to realize the impact of being accessible through its community grocery stores. Pharmacy technicians also stepped up to complete immunization trainings and vaccinate their communities.

Kroger invested in initiatives to provide education and encourage vaccination like the Vaccine Support Call Center through a partnership with IBM Watson to create an AI-powered, seamless phone experience for patients. Kroger also implemented vaccine text messaging to inform patients when they became eligible for a vaccine and provide a link to the appointment scheduling tool for quick access.

To help increase vaccination rates in underserved communities, Kroger was honored to partner with the Major League Baseball Players Association's "Take One for Your Team".

Increasing COVID-19 vaccine rates was Kroger's main opportunity and challenge. They sponsored a #CommunityImmunity giveaway campaign with prizes like one of five \$1 million payouts and 50 chances to win free groceries for a year.

The company's collaboration with large employers, school systems, and long-term care facilities are sought after to vaccinate people in a coordinated effort. It's undeniable that their commitment and support has improved immunization rates across the country.





## Community Outreach Past Recipients

**2021:**

*National Winner*

Brian Winbiger

*Honorable Mention*

Jeffrey Marentette

**2020:**

*National Winner*

Zeshan Mahmood

*Honorable Mention*

Sara Fietsam

**2019:**

*National Winner*

Leslie Hurst

*Honorable Mention*

Elizabeth Skoy

Melvin Baron

**2018:**

*National Winner*

Reeves-Sain Drug Store

**2017:**

*National Winner*

Duquesne University

School of Pharmacy

**2016:**

*National Winner*

Pratik Patel

*Honorable Mention*

West Penn Hospital  
Immunization Clinic

**2015:**

*National Winner*

Mayank Amin

*Honorable Mention*

Safeway Pharmacy

**2014:**

*National Winner*

Monali Majmudar

*Honorable Mention*

Allison Dering- Anderson

**2013:**

*National Winner*

University of California-  
San Diego Student-  
Run Free Clinics

*Honorable Mention*

University of Oklahoma

**2012:**

*National Winner*

University of Illinois  
at Chicago College  
of Pharmacy

**2011:**

*National Winner*

Pequot Pharmaceutical  
Network (PRxN) FluCru

*Honorable Mention*

University of Georgia  
College of Pharmacy

**2010:**

*National Winner*

Ukrop's Pharmacy

*Honorable Mention*

Share Our Selves  
Free Medical Clinic

**2009:**

*National Winner*

HEB

# Community Outreach

## Honorable Mention

### Mayank Amin, PharmD

Chief Patient Advocate, Owner  
Skiptack Pharmacy



Amin Mayank, PharmD

Mayank Amin, PharmD is Chief Patient Advocate and Owner of Skiptack Pharmacy. Montgomery County, PA was hit very hard at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. At one point, the county had the highest number of cases in the state. As a small, independent community pharmacy owner, Dr. Amin (aka Dr. Mak or “Superman”) knew there was a great need in the community for protection against the virus and wanted to help in any way possible.

When he heard that pharmacies would be able to help with the distribution of the COVID- 19 vaccines, he jumped at the opportunity. Dr. Mak started planning what was needed to successfully house and administer the COVID-19 vaccines—everything from storage to training to locations. He actively engaged his interns, staff and community volunteers to launch his approach to address the public health needs of his community.

The first event was a mass vaccination clinic at the Skiptack Fire Company on February 7, 2021. Despite eight inches of snow, Dr. Mak and all Skiptack Pharmacy volunteers agreed to persevere to get shots in arms. Patients temporarily waited outside in the snow. Upon seeing a wheelchair bound patient struggling to get in line, two individuals jumped out of line to help carry the chair over the snow. The community was so grateful and excited that this one event grew into a whole COVID- 19 task force of employees and volunteers putting on several vaccine clinics that provided thousands with vaccines.

Skiptack Pharmacy also accepted requests from health care facilities and individuals who required at- home vaccinations. Skiptack Pharmacy partnered with the Montgomery County Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) in Norristown, PA to help get vaccines to socially disadvantaged and homebound patients. Through this partnership, Skiptack Pharmacy helped many in the community receive vaccines and build confidence in the vaccine.

Thousands of volunteers were recruited for mass vaccination clinics as well as daily pharmacy appointments. The network of volunteers included health care providers and community members. Together they reached more than 70,000 patients who were struggling to find a vaccine, including those with special needs. No one was turned away, even if it took up to 30 minutes to get a vaccine into an arm.

Dr. Mak—in Superman attire—and volunteers traveled from the clinic to provide vaccinations to patients up to 100 years old! What started out as a costume to cheer kids up, has now become a nationwide symbol of pharmacists and many health care professionals during this pandemic. It symbolizes pharmacists’ super-power commitment to their patients and communities.







# Community Outreach

## Honorable Mention

### Edmond Hudon, RPh

Owner, The Medicine Shoppe



Edmond Hudon, RPh

Edmond Hudon, RPh, owner of The Medicine Shoppe, has been dedicated to providing vaccinations for his Boyertown, PA community. His efforts have allowed many patients to catch up on and receive vaccines they never had before. Ed organizes annual flu and shingles vaccination clinics specifically for nursing homes, has walk-in availability for routine vaccinations anyone can receive, sends alerts to remind patients of vaccines they need, and counsels patients on vaccines when they pick up their prescriptions.

Perhaps the largest challenge encountered over the past year was vaccine hesitancy. Many patients grew weary of the COVID-19 vaccine—and all vaccinations—after copious misinformation was spread on the internet and news. Ed met with local newspapers and news stations to deliver message to the community about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines. He was the first to advocate for vaccination when a patient was unsure about it. His ability to take those extra 10 minutes to speak with a patient one-on-one, identify their hesitations, and counsel them accordingly made a difference. He never once forced anyone to get a vaccine, nor shamed them for avoiding it. He simply wanted to give patients the information they needed to make educated decisions about their own health. His ability to relate to people, explain complex ideas in a simple manner, and his passion for providing the best care to improve patient's health, resulted in overcoming any challenge he faced.

Ed coordinated with various health care providers to assist in community vaccination efforts. For example, a local physician agreed to sign all vaccine standing orders.

Ed coordinated with a state representative and the department of health to bring 40,000 vaccines to Berks County by advocating for the value of community pharmacies. Immediately upon hearing the news that vaccines were approved, Ed began planning three 5,000 dose vaccine clinics with the limited resources that The Medicine Shoppe had as an independent pharmacy.

Ed was also able to coordinate with the Boyertown Area School District to host mass vaccination clinics at the high school every weekend. He then reached out to fellow pharmacies, nursing homes, assisted living, and continuing care facilities to have ample vaccinators available to assist with the event such as nurses, physicians, and fellow immunizing pharmacists and pharmacy interns. Ed sent notices to the community for volunteers, to vaccinate individuals ranging from elementary school students to elderly adults, to help with patient intake and data entry of vaccines. The entire community was involved in this effort, thanks to Ed's outreach and presence as the "neighborhood" pharmacist.



# Community Outreach

## National Winner

### Jennifer Twilla, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP

Assistant Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services  
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare - University Hospital



Jennifer Twilla, PharmD,  
BCPS, FCCP

Jennifer Twilla, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP has worked tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide COVID-19 immunizations to not only hospital associates but also the community at large.

When COVID-19 vaccinations first became available to health systems in December 2020, Dr. Twilla immediately recognized the need and established herself as the vaccine coordinator and was promoted to an interim director of pharmacy role. The Memphis community's COVID-19 vaccine efforts were disrupted in March 2021 after the Tennessee State Department of Health revoked

Shelby County's authority due to concerns about mismanagement of the vaccine process. The state instead reached out to Methodist University Hospital, who in turn placed this responsibility squarely on Dr. Twilla's shoulders, despite her concomitant duties, and Dr. Twilla seamlessly rose to the challenge.

Under her management, the program rapidly prospered, opening multiple community sites across the county to more efficiently and rapidly vaccinate the population. Over 17,000 people have been vaccinated since she assumed command.

She reached out to large corporations in Shelby County to create events to bring vaccinations to the corporation rather than ask the employees to travel to a clinic. Specifically, coordinated drive-thru vaccination opportunities located at the central distribution center. Dr. Twilla saw an opportunity for pharmacists to step up to meet the community's needs, placing pharmacy at the forefront of vaccine administration.

Upon receiving the initial COVID-19 vaccines, Dr. Twilla established a vaccination process and systematized a process and traffic flow to ensure efficiency and safety. As the pandemic progressed, she recognized that the health system had an opportunity to reach hospital patients. In addition, she established a way to record vaccinations in both the electronic health record and state immunization registry.

Community education and access to COVID-19 vaccinations has been a primary goal for Dr. Twilla. Dr. Twilla arranged for a media presence on both radio and television to allow the community to receive accurate information and have the ability to ask questions.

Dr. Twilla continues her vaccine efforts by guiding the community's decisions about vaccines, expanding and coordinating vaccine sites for booster doses, and setting up an immunocompromised vaccine clinic for solid organ transplant patients. She also volunteers to work at these community vaccine outreach events to provide staff support.





Pharmacy Team Member Past Recipients

**2020:**  
*National Winner*  
Christine Ramos

**2019:**  
*National Winner*  
Casey Haycock

**2018:**  
*National Winner*  
Cecilia Dudero

**2017:**  
*National Winner*  
Celia Sadler

**2016:**  
*National Winner*  
Kathie Smith

**2015:**  
*National Winner*  
Louis Jimenez III

**2014:**  
*National Winner*  
Marianne Reed

**2013:**  
*National Winner*  
Debbie Isakson

**2012:**  
*National Winner*  
Michelina Gleason

# Pharmacy Team Member

## National Winner

### Amanda Hittle, BS, CPhT

Certified Pharmacy Technician  
Community Pharmacy of Springdale



Amanda Hittle,  
BS, CPhT

Amanda Hittle, BS, CPhT, has been instrumental in the delivery of over 30,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccinations since January 5, 2021. Even prior to technicians having the ability to administer vaccines under the PrEP Act, Amanda's efforts were crucial in planning, organizing, and executing over 30 vaccine clinics. She collaborated with pharmacists, student pharmacists, nurses, nursing students, volunteers and EMTs to ensure success of clinics serving as many as 900 patients in 6 hours.

As soon as she could, Amanda became trained to administer vaccines. When the demand for large vaccine clinics fell, Amanda continued efforts to develop an efficient workflow process to continue to reach as many patients as possible. Amanda and other team members administered 1,300 COVID-19 vaccines during the month of August 2021—an average of 59 per day.

When the vaccine first became available in Arkansas, health care workers and first responders were the first groups eligible to be vaccinated. Amanda made a list of area schools and ensured that no one was overlooked, no matter how large or small the school. She reached out and collaborated with lead nurses to ensure they had timely access to the vaccine.

Amanda went above and beyond in demonstrating her dedication to collaboration and communication at a local poultry plant where most of the patients did not speak English. She collaborated with staff to assist the workers in the completion of their consent forms.

A clinic was provided at a local facility that fosters skills of independent living among adults with developmental delays or disabilities, on St. Patrick's Day. Amanda leveraged her holiday "flair" to help patients feel more at ease by wearing green to help patients who feel less fearful.

Amanda utilizes her public health degree and her desire to help underserved populations and reach patients within Northwest Arkansas' Latinx, Marshallese, and Pacific Islander communities, who were disproportionately affected by COVID-19 from the time of its arrival into our state. She even took a semester off from her graduate program to dedicate more of her time to this effort.

When streamlined scheduling was needed for patients, Amanda learned how to update the website and Facebook page. Amanda worked 14-hour days never failed to step up to do whatever was, providing a calm and reassuring voice to a scared patient or parent. She's always willing to do what it takes to keep educating, vaccinating, and protecting our community.



## Friend of Pharmacy Past Recipients

### National Winners

#### 2021:

Mike Popovich

#### 2020:

Michelle Martinez

#### 2019:

Kyle Pohl, MD

Jay Flynn, MD

#### 2018:

Kimberly Battreall, LPN

#### 2016:

Bruce Gellin, MD, MPH

#### 2015:

Paul Jarris, MD, MBA

#### 2014:

William Schaffner, MD

#### 2013:

Carolyn Buxton Bridges, MD

#### 2012:

Deborah Wexler, MD

#### 2011:

Elizabeth Rosenblum, MD

#### 2010:

RADM Newton E. Kendig, MD

#### 2009:

Litjen "LJ" Tan, PhD

**Friend of Pharmacy:** an individual who is a non-pharmacist and has supported, facilitated or advocated for pharmacists' role in immunizations. Individuals could include a coalition leader, community leader, policy maker, physician, public health official, reporter, etc.

# Friend of Pharmacy

## National Winner

### William Chang, JD

Vice President of Regulatory Policy and Chief Legal Counsel  
McKesson Corporation



William Chang, JD

Will Chang was employed at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) early in the pandemic and utilized his understanding of the accessibility of the pharmacy workforce in guiding decisions for each amendment to the PREP Act which resulted in fully enfranchising the pharmacy workforce throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally, it was the effort to make HIV prevention prescriptions available to the uninsured and underinsured that taught Mr. Chang about engaging pharmacists to expand access to lifesaving therapy. In fact, he asserts that if pharmacists and the federal pharmacy network are not effectively engaged, there would be no practical way to assure access and equity in the face of a public health crisis.

It was this insight that was brought to bear as the global COVID-19 pandemic began to infect people in the United States, bringing significant morbidity and mortality to our citizens. Early amendments to the PREP Act enabled pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests. As vaccines became available in late 2020, subsequent amendments to the Act quickly expanded the number of pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians who were able to secure and administer these vaccines. During that same timeframe it was observed that childhood vaccination rates dramatically declined and pharmacists, student pharmacists, and technicians were also empowered to administer all approved vaccines to individuals aged 3-18 years old.

The profession of pharmacy and the citizens of the United States owe a great deal to Will Chang and his colleagues at HHS for their insights and advocacy for the roles the pharmacy workforce needed to stem the damage from COVID-19.





# Outstanding Career Achievement Past Recipients

**2019:**  
Jeffery Goad, PharmD, FAPhA, FCPPhA, FCSHP

**2018:**  
William L. Atkinson, MD, MPH

**2012:**  
Dennis Stanley, RPh

**2010:**  
Stephan L. Foster, PharmD, FAPhA



# Lifetime Achievement

## Michael D. Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP

Dean and Professor, Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy Professor of Preventive Medicine, Loma Linda University School of Medicine; Director, Loma Linda Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice; APhA Liaison, CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices



Michael D. Hogue,  
PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP

Michael D. Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP is an exceptional leader in the field of immunization. As an expert in vaccinology, a president of APhA, and a college of pharmacy professor, Dr. Hogue has tirelessly given his time and efforts toward the prevention of vaccine preventable diseases. Over his entire professional career, Dr. Hogue has emphasized immunization as the defining component of his career.

Dr. Hogue was involved in the creation and teaching of the first immunization training program in Mississippi in 1996 which evolved into the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) Pharmacist-based

Immunization Certificate Program. This program has educated more than 400,000 pharmacists and student pharmacists in the U.S.

As an independent pharmacy owner, Dr. Hogue became the first pharmacist in the state of Alabama to administer vaccines in a community pharmacy. He blazed so many trails to increase access to vaccines in Alabama that he was inducted into the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame in 2018.

After a robust immunization program in private practice, Dr. Hogue joined the faculty at Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy and in 2019 he was appointed the Dean of Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy in California.

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic started, Dr. Hogue was appointed to be the COVID-19 Vaccine Incident Commander for the entire Loma Linda University Health System. In addition to staffing the clinics himself, he rallied students and faculty from across the health sciences to join him. This clinic received a special visit and commendation from California's Governor for their approach in utilizing healthcare students to address the pandemic.

Dr. Hogue has been elected to many state and national association leadership positions. For APhA, Dr. Hogue was elected the APhA Academy of Student Pharmacy National President, Board of Trustees member, Speaker of the House, and the President of the association. In his many positions, he has influenced the education programs of students and practicing pharmacists alike. He is a significant contributor to helping the profession serve their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, hosting webinars or consulting with practitioners on implementing patient care services.

Recently he was appointed as the APhA pharmacy representative on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) COVID-19 working group and APhA's liaison representative to ACIP. His ability to collaborate within and outside of the profession of pharmacy has supported pharmacy's integration into multidisciplinary, high-level discussions that have resulted in expanded pharmacy engagement.

# Past Immunization Champion Award Categories

## Travel Health Past Recipients

### 2020:

#### *National Winner*

Karl Hess

#### *Honorable Mention*

UNC Campus Health Pharmacy

### 2019:

#### *National Winner*

Crockett Tidwell

## Partnership with Other HealthCare Providers Past Recipients

### 2018:

#### *National Winner*

Project VACCINATE

### 2017:

#### *National Winner*

Margie Padilla

#### *Honorable Mention*

Michigan Pharmacists Association

### 2016:

#### *National Winner*

Maryland Partnership for Prevention

#### *Honorable Mention*

Cape Fear Clinic

### 2015:

#### *National Winner*

Garth Reynolds, Illinois Pharmacists Association

### 2014:

#### *National Winner*

White County, Arkansas Local Health Unit

#### *Honorable Mention*

Lifetime Health Medical Group

### 2013:

#### *National Winner*

The University of Texas at  
El Paso Student Health Center

#### *Honorable Mention*

IPHARM

### 2012:

#### *National Winner*

University of Missouri–Kansas City  
School of Pharmacy

#### *Honorable Mention*

Tieton Village Drugs

### 2011:

#### *National Winner*

The Buffalo Psychiatric Center,  
New York State Office of Mental Health

#### *Honorable Mention*

USPHS/ISH/Phoenix Indian Medical Center

### 2010:

#### *National Winner*

Touro College of Pharmacy

#### *Honorable Mention*

Washington State University College of Pharmacy

### 2009:

#### *National Winner*

Oregon Pharmacists Association

## Additional examples of immunization activities from nominations received

*More than 60 nominations were submitted for the 2022 Immunization Champion Awards program. The nominations reflected a tremendous amount of work by pharmacists to support the immunization neighborhood through a variety of collaborations, partnerships, and innovation. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to manage COVID-19 vaccinations motivated pharmacists to take their work to an even higher level. Much of the work being recognized included:*

- **Recruiting and training student pharmacists and volunteers**
- **Implementing new business models**
- **Adding and/or leveraging technology**
- **Dedication to the profession of pharmacy**

**Here are a few examples of other great work being done by some of the 2022 nominees:**

- The Georgia Department of Public Health and DEA contacted a compounding pharmacy for help when hospitals and health care facilities in the state began to experience drug shortages and could not obtain the life-saving ventilator drugs that were required of ICU patients afflicted with coronavirus COVID-19. Working with the state and local authorities, the pharmacy changed its business model to become a "COVID- fighting pharmacy," taking on a 24-hour work schedule to increase the production of these medications and providing more than 50,000 sterile compounded preparations to major healthcare facilities and hospitals around Georgia.
- Beginning in late 2020 when COVID- 19 vaccines arrived at the Health Science Center , the pharmacy director coordinated pharmacy efforts for massive-scale vaccination clinics. She collaborated with professionals from all health disciplines and others in her community by serving as the pharmacist representative for the COVID- 19 Vaccination Taskforce led by the City. She worked tirelessly recruiting pharmacist colleagues to supervise student pharmacists vaccinating, both on-site and off-site with the City , County Health Department, and Health Program. She has sent out weekly, sometimes more frequent, email messages to student pharmacists indicating open volunteer shifts that have a pharmacist supervisor attending. Shifts with a pharmacist supervisor are consistently filled following these emails, and the continual participation from pharmacists and student pharmacists made it clear that pharmacists are integral members of the immunization neighborhood.
- The Vaxi Taxi team in Ankeny, Iowa delivered 1,500 doses of COVID 19 vaccine from March through August 2021. Of the vaccines administered by Vaxi Taxi, 40% were delivered to homebound patients, 25% were administered to pop-up clinics targeting specific minority groups, and 35% were administered to patients at employer- focused clinics and the general public. Pharmacists, acting as independent contractors, provided 100% of the homebound vaccines to the largest county in Iowa [population 500,000] and served several high-risk patients in surrounding counties. By providing home immunization services early

in the pandemic, Vaxi Taxi pharmacists were able to prevent numerous physician visits, emergency department visits, life- threatening situations, and the need for additional services in a health care system strained by COVID- 19.

- The pharmacist established a volunteer call center with the area Rotary Clubs. This allowed them to have a team of 40 volunteers calling thousands of people daily to schedule vaccine appointments and assess eligibility without disrupting pharmacy operations. This approach to addressing a community in need was a creative and innovative way to fill thousands of appointments daily at community mass vaccination clinics across the southwest and central Arkansas area. This included drive-thru clinics that required careful coordination of hundreds of volunteer vaccinators and local law enforcement to safely control traffic.
- The pharmacist brought the vaccine clinic to the people—the local senior living facilities in the community, home bound patients, and to the children at the local schools. And the University Health COVID-19 Vaccination Team i worked with community organizations to arrange transportation for those needing help reaching vaccine sites and assisted with underserved populations. The team partnered with the County to take vaccination directly to the community via the 513 Relief Bus, a mobile vaccination unit that visited churches, businesses, and community events.
- The provision of a vaccination drive-thru clinics was an innovative way to enable a safe environment for patients, especially those greater than 70 years of age with mobility concerns. By being in their car, social distancing was maintained in addition to the convenience of not needing to walk and stand in line.
- The COVID-19 vaccine has very specific storage criteria, requiring ultra-low temperature storage which created a challenge in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) due to lack of appropriate storage options. In addition, the BOP only received limited quantities of vaccine each week. The BOP, under the direction of a pharmacist, developed dashboards to track all inmates and risk criteria. A novel hub and spoke method to distribute vaccine to multiple sites was established. This hub and spoke concept was considered a best practice by the White House Countermeasures Acceleration Group (CAG).
- A patient care call center partnered with a regional community pharmacy chain to provide telephonic patient engagement services in support of the network of local pharmacies. The network experienced an unprecedented increase in calls from patients seeking information on COVID- 19 vaccinations and vaccine availability. "We needed a solution to take pressure away from our pharmacy staff so they could focus on patient care," said the company's president. Through this unique pharmacy- centric model, outreach is conducted through eight nationwide contact centers staffed by more than 800 pharmacists, technicians, and student pharmacists. Telephonic patient engagement services include direct patient outreach, vaccine appointment setting, data entry, and more.



***Thank you***  
*to the more than 400,000  
trained pharmacists and  
student pharmacists,  
and more than 100,000  
pharmacy technicians who  
are improving the public  
health of their communities.*

**APhA2022**

**Annual Meeting & Exposition**

San Antonio, TX | March 18-21