

# Mississippi Pharmacist

Quarterly publication of the Mississippi Pharmacists Association | Fall 2022



How to say goodbye? By Sam Daniel  
In Honor of Dr. Mickey Smith

# 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention & Trade Show



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# Mississippi Pharmacist

VOL XLVII, No. 3 | Fall 2022 | Growing Stronger Together at MPhA

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This emblem designates *Mississippi Pharmacist* is a member of the State Pharmaceutical Editorial Association, recognizing its high journalistic standards in endeavoring to keep its members well informed on all developments relative to the pharmaceutical profession.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Members of MPhA,

It's Fall!! I am thankful for cooler weather, fall sports, and the opportunity to fellowship with family, friends and colleagues over the upcoming holiday season. October began a new fiscal year for MPhA. Every "new year" creates a built-in opportunity to assess the previous year, evaluate progress on current goals, and set new priorities. MPhA consistently strives to set goals that revolve around assisting Mississippi pharmacists, technicians, and students through Connection, Advocacy and Education.

MPhA is organizing several events for Mississippi pharmacists to connect with peers and colleagues. We held Fall District Meetings in October. Thank you to all of the members who attended and invited fellow pharmacists to join you. These meetings were educational and fostered communication and a time to build community.

The Government Affairs Committee is already meeting to discuss items for the upcoming legislative session. MPhA works to diligently monitor new regulation proposals, potential bills, and other initiatives that may impact the practice of pharmacy within the state of Mississippi. Recently, the MS Board of Pharmacy proposed new definitions for certain terms and a regulation to address the practice of shared pharmacy services. MPhA attended a public forum to discuss these measures and advocate for our membership. It is important that the leadership of MPhA hears from you, our members, on these and other important topics to accurately represent your thoughts and concerns. MPhA works with a lobbyist to advocate on your behalf. When renewing your membership this year, please consider giving to the MPhA PAC to further support these actions.

In closing, I would like to say thank you. Thank you for serving the citizens of Mississippi. Thank you for advocating for your patients and practice of pharmacy in this great state. Thank you for being a member of MPhA.

In Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tripp Dixon".

Tripp Dixon, PharmD

MPhA President

President@mspharm.org

## Correction to "Understanding Appropriate Heart Failure Treatment"

It was brought to our attention that the authors' names were inadvertently left off the final publication of the journal article in the summer issue. We apologize for this oversight. Thank you Dr. Mariam Philip and team for all of your hard work and research for the article.



**Author(s):**  
Mariam Philip, PharmD,  
BCMTMS

**Co-Author(s):**  
Jay Pitcock, PharmD, BCPS  
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## INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

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Greetings,

I am honored to serve as the Interim Executive Director for the Mississippi Pharmacists Association. I would like to congratulate our Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for their phenomenal leadership and service. I commend each of you for your arduous work and dedication to the profession of pharmacy.

These are exciting times to be in the profession of pharmacy! October was officially declared Pharmacist Month in the state of Mississippi in 2021. Throughout October each year, we shine a light on the important contributions pharmacists make to healthcare, the pharmacy profession and the significant positive impact in our communities. Every day, pharmacists are universally accessible to assist patients with numerous healthcare needs, and that is something to be extremely proud of. Thank you for making an impact on the lives of patients every day.

The profession is at a pivotal moment. We are faced with various challenges as a profession and also numerous opportunities to excel and become even greater. I have enjoyed engaging with students at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy at Oxford and look forward to being on the campus of William Carey University School of Pharmacy.

We had a great turnout for the Consultant Seminar last month, and our staff is working closely with Ole Miss to get your certificates sent out soon. Our District Meetings was an informative and educational discussion sponsored by Moderna. For pharmacists needing live CE credits and/or opioid/drugs of abuse CE credits, be on the lookout for an email and information regarding registration for our Last Chance Seminar.

I look forward to meeting and working directly with Mississippi Pharmacists, Pharmacy students and Pharmacy Technicians. I am excited about being able to implement innovative programs to assist us in advancing the profession of pharmacy and working to improve the awareness of the tremendous impact our pharmacists make every day on patients' health outcomes.

I am grateful and humbled to be able to serve in this capacity as our Association's Interim Executive Director. I eagerly anticipate working with each of you to elevate our profession.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mona Arnold-McBride".

Mona Arnold-McBride  
Interim Executive Director



# AND THE LAW

By Don. R. McGuire Jr., R.Ph., J.D.

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This series, **Pharmacy and the Law**, is presented by Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company and your State Pharmacy Association through Pharmacy Marketing Group, Inc., a company dedicated to providing quality products and services to the pharmacy community.

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## DO EMPLOYED PHARMACISTS NEED AN INDIVIDUAL PHARMACIST PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY POLICY?

Most employed pharmacists believe their employer's insurance policy protects them in the event of a professional liability claim. This is usually correct. The fact that it is not always correct is reason enough for pharmacists to consider buying their own individual professional liability policy. There are three factors, which when considered together, show the need for a pharmacist to obtain their own coverage.

1. **Control** – The employed pharmacist has no control over the coverage purchased by their employer. During my years as an employed pharmacist, I never saw my employer's policy. I worked on their word that I was covered. I did not know what the coverage limits were, what services the policy covered or even if employed pharmacists were an insured under the policy. If limits are too low or if the policy does not cover certain services, such as immunizations or MTM, the employed pharmacist is potentially left exposed. If this lack of control was not enough, the employee does not know if/when the policy lapses or if the employer fails to pay the premium. The worst time to find out these things is when you are facing a claim. While the typical individual professional liability policy is secondary or excess, it can drop down to provide primary coverage for the pharmacist when the employer's policy is missing or inapplicable.

2. **Coverage** - The typical employer's policy only provides the pharmacist with professional liability coverage for acts within the scope of their employment. In other words, the pharmacist is only covered while they are at work. For a pharmacist who volunteers at a senior center or a church, provides advice to friends and neighbors, or occasionally moonlights, their primary employer's policy does not cover them in these situations. An individual policy, on the other hand, covers the pharmacist 24 hours a day regardless of when or where they provide pharmacy services. It is also possible that the employer's policy may choose to not cover the employed pharmacist if the pharmacist violates the employer's policies or procedures. The additional protection provided by the individual's policy allows the pharmacist to give back without worrying about their personal exposure.

3. **Target** - There is one additional concern often expressed by risk managers and employers. That is that the existence of an individual professional liability policy makes the employed pharmacist a target for the plaintiff's attorney. Our experience has shown this not to be true. The trend is that plaintiffs' attorneys are naming the individual pharmacists as defendants many more times today than they were 20 years ago. A good plaintiff's attorney will bring all potentially liable persons into the suit. Most often, this happens even before the existence of the individual pharmacist's policy is known. We have even had cases where the individual policy was not discussed until two or three years into the litigation process. While I believe this target idea is a myth, even if it is true, it is outweighed by the other considerations above.

The ease of application and low cost of individual professional liability coverage make this choice even easier for the employed pharmacist. It provides an extra layer of protection over and above that carried by their employer. If there is a problem with the employer's coverage for the employed pharmacist, the pharmacist's individual coverage can provide the missing, and much needed, protection. This is especially important when it comes to the cost of defending lawsuits. Even winning a lawsuit can be expensive. Every pharmacist should take steps to protect their own career and reputation.

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© Don R. McGuire Jr., R.Ph., J.D., is General Counsel, Senior Vice President, Risk Management & Compliance at Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company.

This article discusses general principles of law and risk management. It is not intended as legal advice. Pharmacists should consult their own attorneys and insurance companies for specific advice. Pharmacists should be familiar with policies and procedures of their employers and insurance companies, and act accordingly.

# Last Chance Seminar

DECEMBER 11, 2022

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A Letter for New Practitioners:  
Free First Year Expiring December 31, 2022



Dear New Practitioner,

Thank you for your membership and service to the Mississippi Pharmacists Association. MPhA continues to ensure our state's new pharmacy practitioners (i.e. pharmacists who have graduated in the last seven years) have access to a connection with other pharmacists through membership in MPhA. The Mississippi Pharmacists Association represents all areas of the profession of pharmacy and is the voice for pharmacy in the state of Mississippi. MPhA provides a number of benefits for its members include networking, continuing education, and acting as an advocate for the profession in Congress, the Mississippi Legislature, and agencies across the state. Founded in 1871, MPhA is one of the oldest state pharmacy associations, and since that time, the association continues to work tirelessly to be a sounding board and resource for its members.

As your membership is set to expire in **December 2022**, please consider renewal for access to all the elements a membership in MPhA includes:

- **Networking opportunities:** Convention, seminar, district meetings, new practitioner meet-ups, and more serve as opportunities to reunite with classmates, other new practitioners, and seasoned pharmacists from across the state.
- **Registration Discounts & Continuing Education:** Members receive a discount on registration for all MPhA events including MidWinter Meeting, Consultant Seminar, and Annual Convention.
- **Quarterly journal:** Mississippi Pharmacist includes up to eight hours of free CE each year, association updates, event coverage, and academic articles. The journal is also an excellent publication opportunity for new practitioners and their ongoing research or projects.
- **Advocacy:** Government affairs representation at the Capitol – we have a lobbyist working on behalf of our members for things like pharmacist workload, DIR fees, reimbursement, pharmacist provider status, and other important initiatives.
- **Committee service opportunities:** The association has a number of committees for our members to serve and let their voices be heard. Many of you were active in numerous organizations as a student pharmacist; do not let your contributions diminish with graduation.

**Interested in service on our New Practitioner Committee?** Please contact Regan McIntosh at [rntyler801@gmail.com](mailto:rntyler801@gmail.com) following your renewal to become engaged in networking discussions and projects directly benefiting our NPs!

Renewing is easy, just fill out the form at this link (or scan the QR code on the right):  
<https://mspharm.z2systems.com/np/clients/mspharm/membershipJoin.jsp>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regan McIntosh".

Regan McIntosh  
New Practitioner Committee Chair



## How Do You Say Goodbye?

By Sam Daniel



The Fourth of July is a national holiday for most Americans; a time to celebrate, shoot fireworks and enjoy good barbecue. My wife and I were in Denison, Texas to settle her brother-in-law's estate. There was not much to do in Denison, so we retired early. The next day, July 5, 2022, turned out to be anything but an ordinary day. I received news that my good friend, colleague, professor, and everybody's favorite, Mickey Smith, had passed away. I was stunned, shocked, and left with a big hole in my heart.

Mickey and I rekindled our friendship after I moved back to Mississippi in 2019. Every time my wife and I were in Oxford, Miss., Mickey and I would visit to discuss pharmacy, his books, his travels, the Cardinals and our memories of Ole Miss. Oftentimes, Jimmy Bennett, Joe McCaskill, or Bob Broadus would join us for dinner. Oh, we had some grand times with lots of "Do you remember when" stories. Yes, we all remembered, and we cherished every time we got together.

How do you say goodbye to a dear friend who mentored you during pharmacy school, who always made you feel important, who shared his wonderful wit and who was always modest even though he was the penultimate pharmacy author?

Unable to attend his graveside service, I knew that I had to find some way to say goodbye for my own peace of mind. I called someone who always gives good advice – the world-famous, Corinth, Miss. pharmacist, Jimmy Bennett. He was vacationing on a beach in Mexico, but he took my call. We agreed to have a memorial service with all our rowdy friends to share their memories of Mickey; however, it was important to speak with Mickey's daughter, Becky, to ensure her approval of this unusual celebration of his life. Becky was pleased that we were doing something, and she volunteered to bring lots of pictures. We asked Tom Brown, John Bentley and Dewey Garner to help us organize and coordinate the event that was held on August 9, 2022.

We invited everyone who knew and loved Mickey and who might want to share some remembrances of him. The attire for the evening was "Hawaiian shirt casual," and gentlemen were encouraged to grow a handlebar moustache similar to Mickey's trademark.



About 35 people joined the soiree to regale each other with famous Mickey quotes:

- "Don't interrupt me while I'm interrupting," Winston Churchill.
- People don't buy drills; they buy holes.
- A man sat at the drugstore soda fountain manned by a young pharmacist. He asked if this pharmacy provides pharmacy services like urinalysis. The young pharmacist eagerly said indeed he does. The man replied, "Then wash your hands and fix me a hot dog."

Former Dean Ken Roberts shared fond memories of Mickey along with Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Noel Wilkin. Tom Brown and John Bentley spoke of the

leadership and friendship that Mickey provided for them in the Pharmacy Administration department. Dewey Garner recalled all the great times they had together playing tennis, especially their MPhA championship team. Jimmy Bennett spoke of the great times that we all had enjoyed together and remembered our dear friend Bob Broadus who dearly loved Mickey. Others provided humorous anecdotes that conveyed the love and admiration

that everyone felt for Mickey. It was a grand event.

In 2020, Bonnie Brown published a wonderful article in HottyToddy.com about Mickey. Please use this link to read the entire article. <https://www.hottytoddy.com/2020/07/16/bonnie-brown-qa-with-ole-miss-retiree-dr-mickey-smith/> With her permission, I will share part of the article that demonstrates the genius of Mickey and how he touched and continues to touch each pharmacy student's life.

**Brown:** After receiving your Ph.D., you left Ole Miss for a job elsewhere. Tell us about that experience.

**Smith:** I took a job with Pharmacia which had established a small presence in the U.S. It was a Swedish firm and I don't think they understood how unqualified I was for the job of Marketing Manager. I had had a couple of other interviews but liked the idea of the smallness. The man who hired me had visited STLCOP when I was in the master's program. So we had met. I used my two years there to learn, make industry contacts, and absorb everything I could. I made frequent trips to New York City to an advertising agency and then there were trips to Sweden, England, and Denmark. Big stuff for a small-town boy.

The second-year on the job I was enjoying a good reputation in the company. I got a call from George Kedersha, a professor I knew at Rutgers. He wanted me to teach a class in pharmaceutical marketing. Surprisingly, my bosses agreed to my driving to Newark one morning a week to teach. (The Swedes felt there was some prestige in this).

Finding no textbook, I immediately set about organizing my lecture notes into a manuscript, published three years later as my first book, Principles of Pharmaceutical Marketing, which has had four editions.

**Brown:** You are a prolific writer. How many books/journal articles have you written? How many were about your profession and how many about other interests?

**Smith:** This is where I need to quote a famous Mississippian and Cardinal star, Dizzy Dean, who once said: "If you done it, it ain't braggin'." So, I ain't braggin' but I can claim 26 books counting multiple editions, with translations into Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Russian. My publications number more than 400 papers in 100 different journals. I also founded three peer-reviewed journals. That's a lot of paper and ink, so I need to do what the Wall Street Journal calls "humble braggin'."

The highlight of the evening was group pictures of everyone sporting their "Mickey's Moustache." We couldn't do it as well as Mickey, but it sure was fun trying.

So, how do you say goodbye? I don't know if I will ever be able to say goodbye to such a good friend. I will always remember the twinkle in his eye, the captivating smile, the quirky trademark handlebar mustache, and the warmth I felt when he shared his wisdom and life experiences. I will always remember August 9, 2022, when many of his friends came together to share their memories with each other. Long live Mickey!





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What you will need for an audit:

1. Order
  - A signed order from an authorized prescriber **or**
  - A signed protocol that is up to date and includes specific vaccination(s) to be administered
    - When using a protocol, create a placeholder prescription with all prescription elements
2. Vaccination Information Statement (VIS)
  - Required to be given to patient prior to each administration
  - Be sure you have the most current VIS forms
3. Vaccination Administration Record (VAR)
  - Name of vaccine administered
  - Lot and Expiration Date of vaccine given
  - Site of administration (i.e. right arm)
  - Signature or initials and title of person administering
  - What VIS form was given
  - Form can be used as proof of receipt on audit

VAR and VIS forms, and information regarding what the CDC requires for health care providers to record, can be found on the [CDC website](#)<sup>1</sup>.

#### PAAS Tips:

- Check dates and vaccines on your protocols to ensure they are up-to-date
- Have current VIS forms printed for each vaccine you administer
- Have VAR forms printed and educate all staff on how to complete the forms
- All vaccines should be submitted using days' supply of "1"
- All vaccines administered with protocol should be submitted with origin code of "5" (pharmacy created)
- Be sure correct quantity is billed, typically 0.5 mL, may need to consult with software vendor for guidance
- Keep vaccine documents stored in a system that makes access easy in case of an audit

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**By Trenton Thiede, PharmD, MBA, President at PAAS National®, expert third party audit assistance and FWA/HIPAA compliance.**

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#### References:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/document-vaccines.html>



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# What is the DeSiard Pharmacy Network?



The DeSiard Pharmacy Network (DPN) is Vantage Health Plan's preferred network of independent pharmacies. Pharmacies participating in our DPN receive higher reimbursement (3 times the usual dispensing fee) by filling 100-day supply prescriptions and by helping to ensure that our members refill their maintenance medications in a timely manner, thereby improving their medication adherence.

## » **What is the purpose of the DeSiard Pharmacy Network?**

Vantage seeks to build lasting relationships with select independent pharmacies as we work together improving our members' medication adherence which will mutually benefit all parties.

## » **What is the benefit for the pharmacy?**

Participating pharmacies will receive higher dispensing fees for 100-day supplies of prescriptions. This higher reimbursement is applied automatically to eligible prescriptions as claims are processed. Vantage members and network providers will be notified as to which pharmacies participate in the DPN and about the benefits of utilizing these pharmacies. In addition to those benefits, cost savings are realized from decreased numbers of vials, bottles and supplies required when filling 100-day supply prescriptions, thereby reducing labor costs and daily workload as well.

## » **How does using pharmacies in the preferred network affect members?**

Vantage members will have \$0 cost share when filling most formulary Tier 1 medications at pharmacies in the DPN. This is a benefit that members desire and appreciate. The DPN pharmacies will also work with our members to ensure they are taking their medications correctly and refilling appropriately. Therefore, we strongly encourage the use of autofill for our members' maintenance medications.

## » **Why 100-day supply prescriptions instead of the usual 30- or 90-day supply prescriptions?**

It only takes three fills of a 100-day supply prescription for the member to be considered adherent for the entire calendar year (Proportion of Days Covered (PDC) >80%). If members fill three 90-day prescriptions, they will still fall short of the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) PDC goal for adherence. This simple but important change has the potential to help improve the pharmacy's CMS STAR ratings and the member's satisfaction.

**For more information, call (833) 969-2890.**



Become a member of two associations dedicated to your profession in pharmacy.

The Mississippi Pharmacists Association supports all areas of pharmacy, including health-system, academia, chain, independent, technicians and students. MPhA has over 1,000 members. Founded in 1871, Mississippi was the 6<sup>th</sup> state to form a pharmaceutical association. The association is led by an elected Executive Committee of pharmacists and an Executive Director. MPhA has nine districts throughout the state, ensuring communication and involvement with all members on a community level.

**MPhA Membership Benefits:**

- Representation as the one voice of pharmacy at the Capitol in Jackson and Washington D.C.
- Networking Opportunities
- Variety of continuing education programs
- Personal and professional member-only partnerships

MSHP is a professional society of pharmacists and related personnel practicing in organized healthcare settings. Founded in 1953, the MSHP society has over 500 members. MSHP is a state affiliate of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). MSHP has three districts throughout the state to facilitate member involvement on a local level. An elected Board of Directors governs MSHP.

**MSHP Membership Benefits:**

- Communication with colleagues
- Continuing education programs
- Consultant pharmacist certificate program
- MSHP website (www.msshp.org)
- Public relations opportunities
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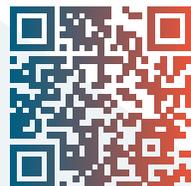


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