

NEWSLETTER



Celebrating American Pharmacists Month

As the leaves change and the fall new season begins, we take this opportunity to honor the resilience, dedication, and progress of Nevada's pharmacy professionals. Pharmacists, pharmacists' technicians, residents, and interns each play an essential role in advancing patient care and improving the health of our communities. From ensuring safe and effective medication use to providing immunizations, expanding clinical knowledge, and promoting healthier lives, pharmacy professionals continue to make a lasting impact across every area of healthcare. On behalf of NVSH, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who contribute to the pharmacy profession. Thank you for your unwavering commitment, compassion, and leadership in advancing the field and making a difference every single day.



2025 Annual NPA/NVSH Meeting Recap

The 2025 Annual NPA/NVSH Meeting brought together Nevada's pharmacy community for an unforgettable two-day event filled with networking, education, and celebration. From Friday's opening sessions to Saturday's closing reflections, the energy, collaboration, and pride in the profession were unmistakable. The success of this year's Annual Meeting is a testament to the strength and dedication of Nevada's pharmacy professionals. As we carry forward the lessons learned, we do so with pride, optimism, and a renewed commitment to advancing pharmacy in every corner of our state.



NVSHP NEWSLETTER

2025 FALL



Explore This Edition

2025 Annual NPA/NVSHP Meeting Recap

A weekend of connection, inspiration, and celebration — featuring award recipients, educational sessions, and member spotlights.

Celebrating Award Winners

Honoring the dedication of Nevada pharmacists who advance patient care and elevate the profession every day.

Meet The New 2026 Board of Directors

Get to know NVSHP's newest leaders who are shaping the future of pharmacy in Nevada

Residency Corner

Insightful pharmacy manuscripts written by residents to communicate evidence-based research that can improve pharmacy practice, education, and patient care.

Upcoming Events: 2025 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition

The 2025 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting offers 200+ educational sessions, networking events, poster presentations, and showcases—designed to spark brilliance, inspire new ideas, and empower every stage of your pharmacy career. Don't miss this milestone celebration of innovation, collaboration, and excellence in healthcare!



2025 ANNUAL NPA/NVSHP MEETING



Friday Highlights: Networking, Learning & Celebration

Friday's sessions set the tone for the meeting with vibrant networking opportunities among NPA/NVSHP members, pharmacy leaders, and medical vendors. Attendees connected with peers, shared ideas, and explored new partnerships—reminding us that pharmacy is built on collaboration. The medical vendors showcased innovative tools and services that are shaping the future of pharmacy operations, sparking ideas for how technology can improve safety and efficiency. Educational growth was front and center with continuing education presentations led by ASCP members. These sessions gave attendees new skills, practical strategies, and evidence-based insights to take back to their practice settings. There was also an amazing Q & A session panel with members from both organizations speaking on their role and how their contributions affect the pharmacy practice. The evening concluded with an exquisite dinner and awards ceremony, where outstanding pharmacists, technicians, students, and community partners were recognized. The awards honored excellence and reminded us of the many leaders shaping the future of Nevada pharmacy.



2025 ANNUAL NPA/NVSHP MEETING



Saturday Highlights: Collaboration & Future-Focused Innovation

Saturday continued the momentum with more engaging educational sessions. Presenters addressed clinical advances, public health challenges, and the evolving scope of pharmacy practice. Interactive discussions encouraged attendees to share experiences across all career levels—students, residents, technicians, and seasoned pharmacists. These conversations reflected the inclusive spirit of the meeting and the shared commitment to professional development. The day ended with reflection and renewed purpose. Attendees left with practical knowledge, stronger networks, and a shared excitement for what lies ahead in Nevada pharmacy.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS

2025 PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR

ADAM PORATH, PHARM.D,
BCACP, BCPS, CPEL, FASHP

Vice President of Pharmacy
Renown Medical



Dr. Adam Porath has long been a driving force in advancing pharmacy through leadership, advocacy, and dedicated service. As an NVSHP board member, he played a pivotal role in passing landmark pharmacy legislation in 2011, 2017, and 2021 that expanded pharmacist practice across Nevada. Nationally, he has represented the profession as an ASHP delegate since 2012, chaired the ASHP Council on Public Policy in 2022, and earned distinguished honors including the Bowl of Hygeia Award (2016) and ASHP Fellowship (2021). Appointed to the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy in 2024, Dr. Porath continues to shape the future of pharmacy and promote public health statewide.

Dr. Aspen Bryant, a clinical pharmacist at St. Rose Hospital-Siena Campus, is a passionate leader in pharmacy education, mentorship, and patient care. As the director of the Southern Nevada Technician Certificate Program since 2025, she has implemented innovative initiatives that enhance residency training and empower future pharmacists. Her professionalism, compassion, and commitment to excellence continue to make a lasting impact on pharmacy practice in Southern Nevada.

2025 PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR

ASPEN BRYANT, PHARM.D

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at
St. Rose Dominican Hospital-
Siena Campus



2025 PRESIDENTS AWARD

ROSEANN VISCONTI, PHARM.D

Associate Chief, Clinical
Pharmacy Programs at the VA
Southern Nevada Healthcare
System



Dr. Roseann Visconti, Pharm.D., serves as the Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Programs and PGY1 Residency Director at the Southern Nevada Healthcare System, where she leads a team of over 40 clinical pharmacists, mentors residents, and provides primary care services. A former Roseman University faculty member, she earned her Pharm.D from Long Island University and completed her residency at VASNHS. Honored with Nevada's Bowl of Hygeia Award in 2018, Dr. Visconti is celebrated for her exceptional leadership, mentorship, and dedication to advancing clinical pharmacy practice.

Dr. Ragini Bhakta, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Cardiology and Associate Professor at Roseman University, brings over a decade of expertise in cardiovascular care and pharmacy education. She actively mentors students, collaborates with cardiology teams, and leads efforts in formulary management and policy development. Her research on antithrombotic therapy in acute coronary syndromes has been featured at major conferences including CSHP, NVSHP, ACCP, and AHA. As President of NVSHP and a dedicated member of ACCP and ASHP, Dr. Bhakta continues to advance clinical excellence and leadership within the pharmacy profession.

2025 PRESIDENTS AWARD

RAGINI BHAKTA PHARM.D,
BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Cardiology

Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice,
Roseman University of Health Sciences
College of Pharmacy





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ROSEANN
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EDUCATION: NORTH



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Aijay Denzel Manez, PharmD

Aijay Denzel Manez, a PGY-1 pharmacy resident at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System and 2024 PharmD graduate from Roseman University, is passionate about acute care medicine. His MUE project focuses on evaluating the initiation of empagliflozin in patients with acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF). Through his residency, he continues to build the skills and experience needed to advance clinical pharmacy practice and contribute to the profession.



Facility-Level Initiation of Empagliflozin During Hospitalization and at Discharge for Patients with Acute Decompensated Heart Failure (ADHF)

This manuscript reports on the 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA heart failure guidelines recommending SGLT2 inhibitors as part of guideline-directed medical therapy (GDMT) for acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF). Empagliflozin is the formulary SGLT2 inhibitor at VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System (VASNHS), but data on its inpatient utilization were limited. This medication use evaluation (MUE) assessed empagliflozin initiation during hospitalization and at discharge, along with the impact of clinical pharmacist practitioner (CPP) interventions.

Key Methods:

- A retrospective chart review was conducted from September 2023 to September 2024 using the VA's computerized electronic record system (CPRS).
- Inclusion: Adults admitted with a primary diagnosis of ADHF.
- Exclusion: Patients with genitourinary infections, ketoacidosis, AKI, eGFR <20 mL/min/1.73m², SBP <100 mmHg, or hypersensitivity to SGLT2 inhibitors.
- A randomized sample of 70 patients was selected using the VA medication evaluation toolkit based on Joint Commission and ASHP standards.

Conclusion:

The MUE project concluded that the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System is successfully meeting heart failure guideline recommendations for the use of empagliflozin (SGLT2 inhibitor) in eligible acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF) patients. It also highlighted the valuable role of clinical pharmacist practitioners in facilitating appropriate medication initiation. However, the study faced several limitations, including a small sample size, evaluation of only one GDMT agent (empagliflozin), and data extraction inaccuracies due to misclassification from ICD-10 coding. Recommendations include expanding future evaluations to include larger patient populations and other GDMT therapies for a more comprehensive assessment of facility-wide guideline adherence.





Amanda Jeppesen, PharmD

Amanda Jeppesen graduated from Boise State University with a Bachelor's of Science in 2020 and from Idaho State University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2024. She went on to complete her PGY1 pharmacy residency at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada. She has a professional passion for patient education and quality improvement initiatives.



Implementation of Pharmacist Counseling for Inpatient Chemotherapies

This manuscript is a report on a quality improvement project and feasibility study that evaluated the implementation of a pharmacist counseling program for new-start inpatient chemotherapy regimens at Renown Regional Medical Center. The project aimed to assess the feasibility and impact of this program, which was initiated in September of 2024, given that pharmacist counseling is less common in the inpatient setting compared to ambulatory care.

Key Methods:

- Retrospective chart review of adult patients receiving their first cycle of inpatient oncolytic therapy on the Cancer Nursing Unit (CNU) between October 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025.
- Intervention: A face-to-face counseling session with a clinical pharmacist for new-start inpatient chemotherapy patients. This replaced the historical model where a registered nurse (RN) provided general education, and pharmacists were only involved upon request.
- Primary Goal: Evaluate the number of new-start chemotherapy patients who received a full counseling session with a pharmacist.
- Secondary Goals: Determine the mean time spent with the patient, the number of additional pharmacist interventions made, and the day of therapy counseling was completed.

Conclusion:

The study concluded that the addition of pharmacist counseling for new antineoplastics in the inpatient setting is feasible and beneficial. It is time-efficient and allows pharmacists to proactively identify supportive care needs and manage adverse reactions. Although time constraints were initially a concern, pharmacist counseling sessions averaged only 13 minutes, proving feasible within existing workloads. However, a major barrier was the limited availability of educational materials—only 48% of chemotherapy regimens had complete resources. When full-regimen guides were unavailable, pharmacists spent up to 30 extra minutes compiling individual drug materials, often resulting in longer, more complex information for patients.





Jack Vo, PharmD

Jack Vo, originally from Southern California, earned both his Bachelor of Arts in Applied Sciences and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from the University of the Pacific, Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy. He completed his PGY1 pharmacy residency at Dignity Health St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Henderson, Nevada, and is currently pursuing a PGY2 residency in Medication-Use Safety and Policy at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California.



IV Epinephrine vs. IV Norepinephrine in Post-ROSC Cardiac Arrest Patients

This manuscript is a report of a retrospective chart review, conducted at Dignity Health St. Rose Dominican Hospitals, compared IV norepinephrine and IV epinephrine as vasopressors in adult patients who achieved Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) after cardiac arrest. Post-resuscitation shock, driven by vasoplegia and myocardial dysfunction, is often treated with epinephrine; however, its strong beta-adrenergic effects may worsen cardiac stress. Norepinephrine, with greater alpha activity and fewer beta effects, may offer safer hemodynamic support.

Key Methods:

- Retrospective chart review conducted at Dignity Health St. Rose Dominican Hospital campuses, including Siena, San Martin, and Rose de Lima. Data were collected from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024.
- Patients: Adults (≥ 18 years old) who achieved ROSC after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) or Emergency Department (ED) cardiac arrest and received either IV epinephrine or IV norepinephrine.
- Exclusions: Patients with Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders within 24 hours, incomplete documentation, or receipt of both agents within 30 minutes post-ROSC.
- Primary Outcome: Incidence of recurrent cardiac arrest.
- Secondary Outcomes: Survival to hospital admission, survival to hospital discharge, use of ≥ 3 additional vasopressors, use of vasopressin, and incidence of tachycardic arrhythmias.

Conclusion:

Among 84 patients (61 norepinephrine, 23 epinephrine), baseline characteristics were similar. Recurrent cardiac arrest occurred in 11.5% of norepinephrine patients versus 26.1% of epinephrine patients. Survival to admission was higher with norepinephrine (52.5% vs. 30.4%), and survival to discharge also trended higher (9.8% vs. 4.4%), though none reached statistical significance. The study suggests norepinephrine may reduce recurrent arrest and improve survival outcomes post-ROSC, consistent with its pharmacologic profile, but findings were limited by small sample size, single-center design, and retrospective methodology. Recommendations included larger prospective trials to further evaluate norepinephrine as a potential first-line vasopressor in post-resuscitation management.



Celebrating
60 Years!

Brilliance

Spark

ashp**MIDYEAR**2025
Clinical Meeting & Exhibition

2025 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting | Clinical Exhibition

Come Visit The
NVSHP Table & See
What's New In
Nevada Pharmacy!

Sunday, December 7th
11 AM - 5 PM

Monday, December 8th
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, December 9th
9 AM - 11 AM

2025 Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition

Location: Las Vegas, Nevada

Date: December 7-10, 2025

This Is Where Brilliance Begins:

- Learn from world-class experts and earn CE.
- Engage in poster sessions, roundtables, and dynamic educational programming.
- Connect with trailblazers, future colleagues, and industry leaders.
- Explore new career pathways and meet top recruiters.
- Join a global community committed to excellence in every facet of pharmacy.

Let this be your moment to spark ideas, spark connections—Spark Brilliance at the Midyear