

## PSW Leadership Spotlight: Sirr Grice

by Madeline Gallo, 2022 PharmD Candidate, Jessica Vander Koy, 2022 PharmD Candidate

### A Leader in Pharmacy

“Lead by example.” This is the motto that Dr. Sirr Grice follows, not only in his personal life, but in his professional life as a pharmacist. Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wis., Dr. Grice pursued pharmacy due to his passion for helping others and his relatable nature. He graduated with dual PharmD and MBA degrees from Concordia University. Grice first started his pharmacy career at Walgreens as a technician, where he discovered his passion for serving others. Because leadership has always been natural for Grice, he was drawn into a leadership role immediately after earning his PharmD. Post-graduation, he accepted a position at Walgreens as a pharmacy manager. Currently, Grice is the pharmacy supervisor at Aurora West Allis outpatient pharmacy, where he manages a small team of pharmacists and technicians. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Grice implemented curbside delivery to help better serve his community. Additionally, he is a member of the PSW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team, which was recently initiated in June 2020. The PSW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team focuses on bridging equity gaps based on race, income, or other social/economic factors. His mission as a member of this team is to engage pharmacists throughout Wisconsin in meaningful conversations about equity and inclusion, and to enhance diversity in the pharmacy profession.

As a leader in pharmacy, Grice prides himself on having impactful patient relationships and supporting others to reach their goals. His leadership style is to lead by positive example and to sacrifice himself to support others’ goals. As a mentor and preceptor, Grice strives to be an example of how hard work and effort get you places. The importance of his mentors at Walgreens, Concordia, and in his personal life has motivated him to incorporate mentorship into his leadership style.

### Words of Wisdom

Throughout Grice’s own journey in pharmacy, he realized that it is unfair for educators and leaders to tell students that it is acceptable to not have a plan for the future. Instead, Grice encourages his students to understand the field they pursue so they can be better prepared. Looking back on his own career, Grice would have only changed one thing: discovering his passion for pharmacy sooner, so he could have been better prepared to serve the underserved earlier in his career, which is his true passion. The best advice that Grice has for pharmacy students today is to work hard, and to not burn any bridges along the way. He notes that impressions you make in the pharmacy community are lasting, because pharmacy is a small world. Grice adopted the philosophy that, to create lasting impressions, it is not what you say to people, but how you say it.

### Future of Pharmacy

When discussing one’s future, Grice advises early-career pharmacists and students to have an end goal, so you can be more prepared in the long-term. Pharmacy is an evolving field of practice right now. Therefore, it is crucial to be a pharmacy advocate by attesting to the skill set and the roles that pharmacists can fill. In an ideal setting, Grice envisions the profession of pharmacy shifting from a dispensing role into a clinical role over the next 10 years. Pharmacists are positioned well through their doctoral education to manage patient medication regimes while simultaneously reducing healthcare costs through appropriate medication use. Throughout his pharmacy career, he has been supported by various mentors, including professors, supervisors, and colleagues. Grice is truly an outstanding leader in pharmacy who finds the greatest sense of achievement through supporting both his patients and colleagues to succeed.



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