

Up Front: It Takes a Team

by Amanda Margolis, PharmD, MS, BCACP

This summer has been interesting, to say the least. While we are navigating the new challenges of traveling again and attending an in-person conference this fall, in my household, we also tried something new: team sports!

My 7-year-old missed out on some opportunities last year due to COVID-19. This year, we thought softball might be safe for her to try; even though her league is unmasked and her age group is not indicated for vaccination, they are outdoors, and the sport is naturally socially distanced. She has only participated in individual extracurriculars so far, so trying something with a team and learning good sportsmanship was the goal.

Somehow, I also ended up as the head coach for her team, the Cyclones. I played softball in high school and figured I could handle a U8 team. It has been a blast to watch the girls improve and, more importantly, work together to attempt to make plays. While they don't always succeed, it is a thrill to watch them work together and to cheer each other on.

In addition to the Cyclones themselves, I also find myself part of the coaching team. Just like a healthcare team, we all have our role managing the Cyclones. This includes myself as head coach, our coach who pitches for the girls, our team parent who helps everyone stay organized, and others. One fun fact about our team: Matt Sorum is one of the assistant coaches (husband of PSW's Executive Vice President, Sarah Sorum). He has had a lot of fun encouraging the girls to work together and to cheer each other on.

Why do I share all of this in *JPSW*? In my role at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, I manage an assessment completed on Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences called the Individual Teamwork Observation and Feedback Tool (iTTOFT). This summer, I have been conducting a project evaluating how preceptors perceive the tool and how they truly use it. While not the original intention of the work, one emerging theme has been the importance pharmacists place on



interprofessional teamwork. While I'm sure many readers see this as well, there have been direct parallels watching the Cyclones grow and work together, watching the coaching team find our groove, what I see and do in practice at the Madison VA, and what others have been sharing in my work evaluating how iTTOFT is used.

I will leave you with this: *The Journal* is also a team. We have an editorial team, the Editorial Advisory Committee, contributors, and our peer reviewers. The issue you read today had at least 55 individuals directly contributing in some capacity. If you are looking to join a new team, consider becoming a peer reviewer or joining *The Journal's* team. We look forward to working with you!

- Amanda Margolis, PharmD, MS, BCACP
Pharmacist Editor, *The Journal of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin*

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