

Pharmacy Leadership Spotlight: Julie Bartell

by Brekk Feeley, MA, 2018 PharmD Candidate

The Road Less Traveled

For years, Julie Bartell has played an integral part in the development of ambulatory care services in southwestern Wisconsin; this picture would have looked very different had her path gone the direction she originally laid out. Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, she ventured to Washington University in St. Louis for a Bachelor's in biology and Spanish. Four years later, with degree in hand, she was bound for medical school. However, instead of settling back into the busy school routine, she opted to travel throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East for a few months. While abroad, it became apparent that medical school might not be the correct path.

Back in the U.S. and with her path still uncertain, she started work as a Research Assistant at William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. During this time, she had the opportunity to shadow in their pharmacist-run Medication Management Clinic at the hospital. That was it. She loved it! Managing chronic disease states and working one-on-one with patients in healthcare was her path. Julie went on to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy and a PGY-1 residency at William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital.

During her residency, she happened upon a job posting for Monroe Clinic in Monroe, Wisconsin. They were looking for a pharmacist that could establish clinical services within their system and develop a residency program. A tall order to fill, but one Julie felt certain she could do. Upon acceptance of this new position, she set off to accomplish the tasks before her. Although the job was

demanding at times, she strived to develop relationships with providers, nurses and other clinical staff to create collaborative practice agreements and in 2008, just a few months in, she received her first referral.

While the collaborative practice agreements began to come together, Julie grew the residency program from just an idea, took her first resident within the year, and now has three PGY-1 pharmacy residents actively participating in all aspects of both inpatient and outpatient pharmacy. She credits the success of the residency program to hard-working and dedicated preceptors within Monroe Clinic.



Accomplishments

Julie is currently a Clinical Pharmacotherapist and the Pharmacy Residency Director at Monroe Clinic. She is a Certified Anticoagulation Care Provider, is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, chairs the Networking Committee, for the Ambulatory Care

Practice and Research Network of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and is Region A director on the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin Board of Directors. In 2009, she was awarded the Jennings Murphy Award from the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin for her paper, "Implementation of a Pharmacotherapy Clinic," which was published in *The Journal of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin*. In 2011, Julie was presented with the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin's Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award.

Impressive as these honors are, Julie will be the first to point out all the hard work and time spent on her passion for ambulatory care that was needed to achieve them. When considering the major challenges that she had to overcome, she recalls the large amount of time she has spent working with providers. She did not just talk to them, but educated them on the role pharmacists could have in a clinic setting. Julie works collaboratively, often seeking providers out for their opinion or including them in decision-making. This results in building mutual respect. She has made it a practice to emphasize the "we" more than the "me."

Apprehensions

Julie says that ambulatory care is now at a crossroads: it could be boom or bust. Continuing to expand

services, particularly in the private setting, may not be sustainable unless payment models change. This may include pharmacists being recognized as providers by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), or by private insurers so that they can secure reimbursement for professional services and be more marketable. Hospital administrators know

there is a long-term benefit, but in the short term, they lose money. Pharmacists need to be seen by administrators as an integral part of the medical team - not as a way to bring in more revenue, but to improve patient outcomes. As new physicians come into practice, views about pharmacists are slowly changing: new physicians bring with them the knowledge that pharmacists do play a crucial role as part of the medical team.

To the Next Generation of Pharmacists

Julie's advice to future pharmacy leaders is clear: "Follow your dream career path." You may not know what that is yet. Get the diversity of experiences to find your niche and go with it. Not everyone can be fortunate enough to get their dream job in the beginning. Take every opportunity that comes your way to learn more, to expand on your skills, and use those skills to advance the profession and your pharmacy career.

She also recommends finding a mentor. As a resident, she found someone that encouraged her and was there for support when she needed it. Knowing that they were accessible made all the difference. Now a mentor herself, Julie has used these experiences to guide how she is of use to her own residents. Striving to be positive, encouraging and accessible she says, "They each have my cell phone number and know that they can contact me at any time."

There is no doubt that ambulatory care at Monroe Clinic is encouraging a new understanding of how pharmacists play a role in healthcare. From the humble beginnings of an anticoagulation clinic that consisted of just herself and an exam room, it has now developed into a multiservice ambulatory care clinic with pharmacists, residents, student pharmacists, a licensed practical nurse and office administrators. Julie has taken rural pharmacy to a new level with the hope that other pharmacists will be inspired to follow suit. ●

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