

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF PHARMACY STUDENT WRITING CLUB:

# Leadership Spotlight: Adam Gregg

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**A**dam Gregg, PharmD, BCPS, is the PGY1 pharmacy residency program director, program manager for pharmacy continuing professional development, and pharmacy technician training program director at Gundersen Health System. Gregg began his journey by earning a PharmD from Drake University. Afterward, he pursued post-graduate residency training in primary care pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. Upon completing training, he was undecided on which direction to take his career. This led him to Gundersen Health System. At the time, Gundersen was looking for a hospital pharmacist and sought to expand into the ambulatory pharmacy sector. He viewed this as an opportunity to make a lasting impression.

Gregg credits his success in professional development to the challenges he overcame throughout his career. For example, although he intended to build an ambulatory clinical pharmacist presence at Gundersen, it did not go as planned. He was disappointed at the time, but this ultimately led him to other opportunities for lateral growth within Gundersen. He emphasizes that while failure can be discouraging, it is necessary and valuable for professional growth. In Gregg's case, he was able to apply his skills to acute care pharmacy services. He also revitalized the learning infrastructure at Gundersen for students, residents, and technicians.

Gregg oversees all aspects of the training and education of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians throughout Gundersen in his role as residency program director and pharmacy technician training program director. Additionally, he oversees the education of pharmacy students who come to Gundersen for Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs). Gundersen has fostered relationships with pharmacy schools across the tri-state

area, including Concordia University of Wisconsin, Drake University, the Medical College of Wisconsin, the University of Iowa, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, through their APPE or IPPE programs. Notably, Gundersen is one of the few hospitals in the nation that hosts a progressive in-house technician training program that Gregg oversees.

Gregg shares a very humbling view of his achievements. To him, "achievements are not measured in steps or accomplishments." He believes mentoring students, residents, and coworkers provides him with personal and professional fulfillment. He views working with residents as a luxury because he sees them develop into well-rounded pharmacists. Gregg considers aiding residents and helping them reach higher to achieve their goals his most outstanding achievement. Within Gundersen's pharmacy department, you can find a wall of past pharmacy residents they have hosted. On difficult days, you can find Gregg here, finding perseverance by remembering the impression he has made within pharmacy.

## Concerns Today

Gregg acknowledges that one of the most significant threats the pharmacy profession faces is the chronic undervaluing of what pharmacists bring to healthcare. The public often views pharmacists' role as simply dispensing medications, rather than the patient care they can provide. Although progress has been made through policy changes and new legislation initiatives—such as pharmacist provider status—Gregg acknowledges that more progress must be made. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst to transform the public perception of pharmacists. Through vaccinations, the public was exposed to the side of pharmacy that provides direct patient care.

Ultimately, Gregg would like to see the profession unify to make the vast number of health services that pharmacists can

provide common knowledge. He hopes to reach a point where patients see the pharmacist they regularly go to as "their pharmacist." Developing this relationship with patients could lead to a more evolved pharmacy care model, where pharmacists take a patient-centered approach and fully use their expertise as medication therapy experts. For example, pharmacists covering ambulatory care services provide complete patient care, which includes precision medication adjustments, clinic follow-ups, and navigating medication access barriers. Overall, the long-term goal would be integrating pharmacy-specialized knowledge in a patient-centered approach to providing direct care.

## Advice for Future Leaders

Dr. Gregg advises prospective leaders to cultivate their radars. It is essential to be aware of the opportunities surrounding you. He believes you should avoid saying no to opportunities reflexively, but only after truly considering them. Although some opportunities may seem challenging, you should trust in yourself and your education to guide you to success. Through exposure to these experiences, you may find an area of pharmacy that you genuinely enjoy or expand your perspective beyond your current view to see areas of opportunity and improvement.

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