

Caring for COVID patients and vaccinating the state

You know that moment when an Olympian is running their victory lap and they have members of their family or coaching team join them in the lap? We want to invite Wisconsin vaccinators and pharmacy department operations teams to join us for this part of the celebration. PSW and its members are part of the reason Wisconsin is in the top 10 for percentage of residents fully vaccinated, and Wisconsin is the number one state for rapid vaccine distribution.

The PSW staff, including me, have spent thousands of hours on COVID vaccine operations and advocacy discussions, partnership building, education, communication, and problem-solving. Our weekly COVID vaccine webinars, which we created in a matter of days, have provided absolutely essential information over the past several months. *FastFacts* has been full of information synthesized for Wisconsin pharmacists from countless meetings and information sources.

The provision of timely information from PSW included several virtual town halls on COVID-19, creating a [COVID-19 resource page](#) (and keeping it up to date!), and many special alert emails. I was reminded this past week of the collaborative calls PSW facilitated around the logistics of patient transfers to the Alternate Care Facility at State Fair Park. I was also reminded of the instrumental role PSW and our members played in the ethical allocation of bamlanivimab and other monoclonal antibody supplies. We've been through a lot, and PSW has served as a venue to connect and quickly adapt to improve patient care.

We know that we have lots of laps to go. We aren't going to stop running.

I have a vision for PSW

PSW is striving to be an inclusive leader that facilitates connection, engagement, and action together to advance our profession, strategically. The PSW Board of Directors has developed a [Plan 2025](#) that we can rally around. It includes breakthrough initiatives that build inclusivity and expand practice opportunities.

The servant leader in me is humbled by the selfless work that our members and our profession have done, day in and day out over the past year. I'm impressed seeing the walk-in vaccination clinics, the equity projects, and the investment in operational time creating new services and service models. I'm inspired by members' willingness to share, solve problems, and mentor residents and students virtually, and by pharmacy teams' work in understaffed crisis situations.

We've had a year like no other, a challenge like never before, and we have so much opportunity on the path ahead. All of this deserves cheerleading and celebration. As servant leaders, we lead with ours hearts and would perhaps prefer to blend in, letting others take the accolades instead of standing up and taking a bow at the applause. But, it's time to take that bow, make some noise on behalf of PSW, and take a victory lap before we run the next one.

- Sarah Sorum, PharmD
Executive Vice President & CEO

Congratualtions to 2018-2020 JPSW Open Access Coordinator

Nicholas Friedlander, the 2018-2020 JPSW Open Access Coordinator, received the Best Resident or Fellow Poster (Prime Therapeutics; "Multiple Sclerosis Disease Modifying Drugs: Expenditure, Utilization, and New Start Trends among 15 Million Commercially Insured Members.") from the AMCP Foundation and CVS Health at Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) 2021. The semi-annual Competition garnered 114 authors presenting cutting-edge research. Best Poster judges evaluated their research based on scientific merit, evidence that the research conducted was innovative and practical, strength and clarity of conclusions, and knowledge of the subject matter. Student pharmacists, residents, and fellows conducted live chats with over 2,000 leaders and professionals in the managed care setting.



I am a Pharmacy Professional and I... Learned a New Skill

Luiza K. Brenny, PharmD, BCPS

*Clinical Pharmacist - Acute Care and Primary Care
UW Health, Madison*

During the pandemic my new husband and I got a “COVID Puppy” named Cobalt. My new skill has been learning how to be a doggy mom and how to train him to be a little gentleman. We found an online puppy school and have been teaching him manners as well as some fun tricks. Having a new puppy over the summer months got us moving and doing more outdoor activities, like walking, going to the park, and having puppy playdates. In the winter, we’ve learned about unconditional love for another living being as we shiver in the extreme cold for potty breaks. We never would have gotten a puppy at this point of our lives if it weren’t for COVID, but we had the opportunity to become puppy parents and are so in love with our little buddy. This season taught us to slow down and gave us more time for training/acclimating to our new fluffy household companion.



July/August 2021

Theme: I am a Pharmacy Professional and I... Enjoy Summer Activities

Email your response to mgrant@pswi.org by June 1.

Responses should be <100 words and include a photo.



Lynn Buss, RPh, BCPS

*Clinical Pharmacist
Froedtert Hospital, Milwaukee*

Inspired by my daughter, a talented euphonium player, I have been teaching myself to play the euphonium during the pandemic. I love the dark, rich, mellow timbre of this brass instrument. “On Wisconsin” was one of my first songs I learned!! My elderly parents, confined to their home due to the pandemic, enjoy impromptu outdoor performances of my burgeoning pastime. Currently, I am working on tone quality and expanding my range, with the goal of transitioning from the flute section to the euphonium section in the New Berlin Community Band.

Brittany Mejaki, PharmD, BCOP

*Oncology Pharmacist
Aurora Cancer Care, Milwaukee*

This fall, I volunteered to be the Outdoor Shelter Manager for the Urban Cat Coalition, a Nonprofit Organization dedicated to helping humanely reduce the homeless cat population in Milwaukee through trap-neuter-return (TNR). Despite never having built a shelter before, I learned how to do it! This winter I built and distributed over 30 shelters in the community. I was even able to record and present a video on how to build your own at the 2021 Virtual Great Lakes Pet Expo! I also learned how to socialize foster kittens; 3 of our 4 kittens have since been adopted!

