

## PSW Welcomes Kate Hartkopf

**K**ate Hartkopf received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2008 and completed a PGY-1 community pharmacy practice residency with University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in 2009. She has been a clinical pharmacist at UW Health in the community pharmacy and ambulatory care areas, the Supervisor of Clinical Education and Program Expansion for the UW Health ambulatory pharmacies, and most recently the Pharmacy Manager of Ambulatory Care Services and PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program Director. Her responsibilities have included expansion and oversight of pharmacist services in community pharmacies, primary care, and specialty clinics; involvement in UW Health's Population Health program development; and collaboration for patient transitions of care with an emphasis in the ambulatory care setting. Her professional interests include implementation and advancement of pharmacist services in the ambulatory care setting, team-based care collaboration, population health strategies,

and adult learning principles.

Kate has also served as a preceptor for student pharmacists and pharmacy residents throughout her professional career and has assisted as a co-coordinator for the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy Resident Teaching Certificate Program. Formal leadership positions have included the New Practitioner Representative for the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy and the Wisconsin Pharmacy Alumni Association; appointed member of the PSW Ambulatory Care Advisory Committee; and Region A Director of the PSW Board of Directors. Kate is a 2011 participant of the Decker/Temple Leadership Pharmacy Conference. She has been awarded the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy Alumni Association Young Alumna of the Year award and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Master Preceptor Recognition.

Outside of work, Kate keeps busy with family activities. She and her husband, Eric (also a pharmacist and PSW member!), are the proud parents of two daughters, Josie (7) and Cecilia (4). As a family, they stay very busy following the girls' many co-curricular activities, including

dance, gymnastics, swimming, skating, softball/t-ball, and music. This year, they enjoyed their first Badger hockey games as a family of four and the time-honored tradition of singing "Varsity." They enjoy annual family vacations to Door County and LOVED their Disney Cruise in 2022; a fan favorite that will likely be repeated. They live in Waunakee and often enjoy local performances and sporting events, play dates, the neighborhood pool, and Governor Nelson State Park when the weather cooperates.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY STUDENT WRITING CLUB:

# Leadership Spotlight: Kate Hartkopf

*by Doha Awad, 2025 PharmD Candidate, Mara Gosch, 2025 PharmD Candidate***Editor's Note:**

Since the time of this interview, Dr Hartkopf has taken a role with the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin. She started April 1, 2023 at PSW. See the previous article "PSW Welcomes Kate Hartkopf" for her introduction.

**K**ate Hartkopf, PharmD, BCACP is the Pharmacy Manager of Ambulatory Care Services and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program Director at UW Health. With a vision for advancing pharmacy practice while delivering high quality patient-centered care, Hartkopf has dedicated her career to mentoring students, growing pharmacist services, and supporting pharmacists' efforts at an administrative level in addition to clinical practice.

Hartkopf graduated from the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy in 2008 and completed her postgraduate year one (PGY1) community pharmacy residency at UW Health. Post-residency, Hartkopf gained experience in the community and clinic setting at UW Health as a clinical pharmacist before transitioning into the role of Supervisor for Education and Program Expansion. In the initiative to move forward with many elements of the Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative (WPQC), Hartkopf worked with providers to develop delegation protocols as well as dedicated many efforts to expand direct pharmacist-patient care such as vaccination services. For the past six years, her role has evolved into providing oversight for pharmacists in the ambulatory care setting and accelerating the implementation of pharmacist services in primary care.

More recently, she has been working in partnership with primary care providers and population health departments to increase pharmacists' delegated authority. Such efforts have been particularly influential during the pandemic as pharmacists supported the treatment of COVID-19-positive patients who required outpatient oral and infused therapies. Delving into more novel patient care responsibilities she developed a drive-through influenza

vaccine service, and upon the availability of COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment, she also served as a liaison for eligible patients. Until the start of the pandemic, Hartkopf had continued her clinical practice in community pharmacies and the anticoagulation clinic. Now through her current role, she supports pharmacists in their delivery of efficient, patient-centered care and facilitates the expansion of pharmacist services.

Hartkopf's unique journey also includes her dedicated involvement with PSW. As a new member she gave presentations, attended poster sessions, and attended meetings. Her involvement further increased as a PGY-1 resident, then later becoming a member of PSW's Ambulatory Care Advisory Committee before her election to the Board of Directors.

## Expanding Pharmacist Services

One of the current challenges Hartkopf has faced in expanding pharmacist services has been raising awareness on the training pharmacists receive that makes them exceptionally qualified to support medication management activities within primary care services. She shares the pharmacist perspective with other health professionals, emphasizing the missed improvements in the patient care experiences when pharmacists' roles are limited to medication renewals and technical functions. She educates professionals about the unique perspective pharmacists bring to the care team and their qualification as the medication experts, demonstrated by their certification with the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) within two years of onboarding at UW Health.

Hartkopf recognizes these efforts in advocacy take time, patience, and bravery.

Although it may be difficult to keep the momentum going in these ongoing pursuits, seeing some of the fruits of this labor has been rewarding and many unexplored practice advancement areas remain.

Hartkopf sees opportunity for pharmacists to expand their role to areas in which data demonstrates improved patient care. She also knows pharmacists can facilitate care team interactions within primary clinic areas, as well as within specialty clinic areas where the outcomes can be very impactful for patients. Finally, Hartkopf notes pharmacogenomics as an innovative and growing priority at UW Health where there is potential for pharmacists to be a "precise and careful component of the patient care team". Through advocating for the value pharmacists bring to all these areas of patient care and challenging uninformed perspectives, Hartkopf has patiently and bravely led the conversations that are shaping the expanding role of clinical pharmacists.

## Paying It Forward

Hartkopf has dedicated a significant portion of her career to mentoring and precepting aspiring student pharmacists. She was recently recognized as a 2022 Master Preceptor by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Hartkopf cites the award as one of her proudest professional achievements because it reflects her strong commitment to the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy and well-rounded professional organizational involvement through PSW.

Feeling incredibly humbled by this recognition, Hartkopf expresses her strong admiration for the preceptors and mentors who helped shape her own interactions with student pharmacists. She finds the compilation of work that has led her towards this accomplishment



to be a reflection of their teachings. Now recognized for her positive influence on students, she hopes she is paying it forward.

Hartkopf views the students she interacts with more as colleagues than learners. She believes each learner brings a fresh perspective with different lived experiences, priorities, values, and strengths. She enjoys seeing her students perform at a highly-independent level, offering them the space to think creatively and “set [their own] roadmap”. Hartkopf is proud to observe the professional and personal growth of her students over the course of their rotations and careers as they stay in touch.

### Advice to Future Leaders in Pharmacy

Hartkopf encourages aspiring leaders in pharmacy to have a flexible frame of mind as they navigate the opportunities presented

to them. She believes there is “no one way to get to any endpoint” and urges students to re-evaluate their goals after each experience. Hartkopf references a conversation early in her career with former preceptor and mentor David Zilz who challenged her to consider what she wanted her legacy to be. This conversation helped Hartkopf align her career aspirations with her values of patient care, professional advocacy, and leadership. Since taking on the role of the mentor herself, she encourages students to develop professional goals informed by their values and to review them often throughout their careers to ensure they are in alignment with their desired legacy.

Sharing another valuable piece of advice she once received, Hartkopf notes that it would be remiss to evaluate one’s progress while forgetting to acknowledge the wins. With the challenges to expanding pharmacist services in mind, Hartkopf

stresses the importance of celebrating progress and success, no matter how incremental. She reminds us, “it’s okay to celebrate and pat ourselves on the back. It propels us forward for those new opportunities.”

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Doha Awad and Mara Gosch are 2025 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidates at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy in Madison, WI.

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