



Welcome to the National Hispanic Pharmacists Association's July 2024 Quarterly Newsletter!

Message From the President

Dear NHPA Members,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we embrace the warmth and energy of summer, I am delighted to introduce the new NHPA Leadership team for the upcoming year. It is an honor to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals:



NHPA Board of Directors, 2024-2025

- NHPA President: Lisa Marie Serrano, PharmD
- Immediate Past President: Maria Gil-Flores, PharmD
- President-Elect: Debbie Pereles, PharmD
- Treasurer: Cynthia Perez, PharmD
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- West Regional Director: Yvonne Alva, PharmD
- South East Regional Director: VACANT
- North East Regional Director: Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, Pharm. D., FAPhA, FNAP

We are excited to continue building on the incredible work of our past leadership and drive forward initiatives that empower and support our community.

One of our key focuses this year is collaboration. I encourage all chapters and regions to work together, share ideas, and support each other in our collective mission to enhance the health and well-being of our Hispanic community. Together, we can achieve great things.

I would like to take a moment to recap our Annual Meeting held in March 2024 in Orlando. This event was a tremendous success, bringing together passionate professionals dedicated to advancing health equity. We were honored to have **Michelle Clark, Dean of Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy (COP)**, as our keynote speaker. Dean Clark provided an insightful overview of the breakthrough health disparities curriculum at the College of Pharmacy. She highlighted how this curriculum is translating into clinical work that addresses social determinants of health, showcasing the important role of pharmacists in achieving health equity. Her presentation inspired us all and reinforced the critical impact of our work.

As we look ahead, I want to draw your attention to Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15th to October 15th. This is a prime opportunity for us to showcase our culture, our contributions, and our commitment to health and wellness. We urge all chapters to participate in health fairs and other community events during Hispanic Heritage Month. To support these efforts, we are offering resources and materials. Please ensure that all requests for these materials are submitted by August 30th to nhpa@nhhfx.org.

I encourage each chapter to work closely with your regional directors to shape your academic year's activities. Let's challenge ourselves to think outside the usual activities and promote innovative efforts that highlight health equity and the vital role pharmacists play in our communities.

We have partnered with the **American Pharmacists Association (APhA)** and the **Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)** for focus group discussions on the role of pharmacists in increasing access to RSV vaccines in pregnant women. These discussions emphasized the importance of pharmacists as trusted vaccinators in the communities they serve.

Let's make this Hispanic Heritage Month a memorable and impactful one. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. I look forward to seeing the amazing contributions each of you will bring to our community this year. Your engagement and contributions to the newsletter are always welcome, and I encourage you to share your successes and stories to strengthen our chapters.

Warm regards,

Lisa Marie Serrano, PharmD

President, National Hispanic Pharmacists Association (NHPA)

NHPA Gala Recap

[2024 NHPA 6th Annual Conference](#)

The National Hispanic Pharmacist Association held its 6th Annual Conference on March 23rd, 2024. It featured networking opportunities, presidential remarks, and a presentation by the Dean of the Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy at Nova Southeast University, Dr. Michelle A. Clark. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who played a part in making this conference a triumph. From the esteemed speakers and presenters whose expertise enriched our sessions to our esteemed guests, alongside the generous backers and sponsors, we were thrilled to bring together another remarkable assembly of individuals dedicated to advancing Hispanic health professionals' welfare and fostering community well-being.



NHPA Student Chapter Highlight

WesternU

The initiatives devised by our newly founded NHPA chapter at WesternU this year focus on fostering a united community that embraces cultural diversity.

Our vision goes beyond serving the Hispanic population; we aim to foster representation and a sense of belonging for everyone in our chapter and community.

- One of our key initiatives involves organizing health fairs to provide screenings, medication reviews, health education, immunizations, and language support and encourage continuity of care.
- Our second initiative includes engaging with local schools to raise awareness of our organization and the pharmacy profession, by speaking in schools, participating in career fairs, and hosting mentorship programs.

Through these initiatives, our NHPA chapter is dedicated to making a meaningful impact, ensuring that our community thrives with comprehensive healthcare access and fostering the next generation of pharmacy professionals.

We are also dedicated to advocating for our profession and would like to call upon any interested NHPA members to join us, especially those who live in California. California State Senator Scott Weiner has introduced Senate Bill 966 (SB 966) to address the challenges that community pharmacies face in providing medications to their patients. This legislation will ensure patients access to affordable medications throughout the state and a fair, transparent pharmacy landscape.

We need your help to pass this important piece of legislation. If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions about how you can support in other ways, please reach out **Dr. Micah Hata** at mhata@westernu.edu.

Opportunities & Updates

[Kaiser Permanente](#)

[NHHF Scholarship](#)

Kaiser Permanente will be exhibiting at the NPhA | SNPhA Convention on Saturday, August 10th, and Sunday, August 11th, 2024 at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott.

<https://www.kaiserpermanentejobs.org/pharmacy-careers>

The 2024 Hispanic Health Professional Student Scholarship is open to any current, full-time students, or recently admitted full-time students, for the 2024-2025 academic year. When applying, students should have a minimum of two years of study left before they expect to complete their degree.

Click to Apply!

NHPA Recognized

We are thrilled to announce that the National Hispanic Pharmacists Association (NHPA) was honored at the 30th Anniversary celebration of the National Medical Health Association (NMHA) and the National Hispanic Health Foundation (NHHF). This recognition underscores the significant contributions and leadership of NHPA in advancing Hispanic health and healthcare.



Alongside the Hispanic Health Professions Leadership Network (HPLN), NHPA's efforts in promoting health equity and supporting Hispanic healthcare professionals were celebrated. We are especially proud of Dr. Debbie Pereles, our President-elect, who represented NHPA at this prestigious event.

This recognition not only highlights our achievements but also reaffirms our commitment to continuing our mission of enhancing the health of Hispanic communities through advocacy, education, and the empowerment of Hispanic pharmacists.

CPhA-Sponsored Legislation

This bill requires that all PBMs be licensed and regulated by the Department of Insurance and disclose basic information regarding their business practices to the licensing entity. **In addition, SB 966 enacts other pro-consumer requirements and prohibitions:**

- 1) Prohibits steering patients to affiliated pharmacies and instead allows patients to choose which in-network pharmacy best meets their needs.
- 2) Prohibits spread pricing, where PBMs charge a plan more for a drug than it pays a pharmacy.
- 3) Requires that the PBM pass through all negotiated drug rebates to the payers or patients.
- 4) Outlaws making any untrue, deceptive, or misleading statements.
- 5) Prohibits PBMs from negotiating exclusive arrangements with manufacturers for drugs, devices, or other products.
- 6) Limits how fees may be charged and require transparency in fees



Dr. Liseli Mulala: Championing Health Equity at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital

Meet Dr. Liseli Mulala, the Transitions of Care Pharmacist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. As a Zambian-American raised in Lima, Peru, she is fluent in Spanish and proficient in French; she utilizes her linguistic abilities to enhance health access and equity for diverse communities.

Currently, Dr. Mulala is involved in several projects aimed at reducing health disparities in minority communities. As a transition-of-care pharmacist, she finds fulfillment in educating patients about different disease states and how medications work to treat them. Additionally, she conducts outcomes research multiple times a year, presenting her findings to hospital leadership and at national conferences.

Her words of wisdom for future pharmacists are simple yet profound: **“Find what you like/love about Pharmacy and try to find a job where you get to do more of that!”**

Dr. Mulala’s commitment to community engagement extends beyond her role at the hospital. She has been actively involved with NHPA, serving as a preceptor for several health fairs with the UCSF NHPA chapter at the San Francisco Mexican Consulate.

We thank you Dr. Mulala for your dedication to advancing health equity and continued support for NHPA.

NHPA Members Corner

We want to hear from you!
Contact us at nhpa@nhhfx.org for more information.

Why Join NHPA?

- Serve as a Mentor for NHPA Pharmacy Students
- Serve as a Mentee to meet Pharmacists
- Serve as a Speaker for NHPA Webinars/Student Chapters
- Access other members in our Social Circles
- Eligible to apply for the NHHF Hispanic Health Professional Student Scholarship

Join Current members: Don't forget to renew your membership to retain your status as an active member of NHPA.

Renew Click to see our membership options:

Membership options include individual, institutional, and corporate memberships with varying benefits. Learn more!

Membership: Start an NHPA Student Chapter at your school

If you are interested in starting a student chapter at your school, please visit our website for more information and fill out an online application.

Support NHPA

We ask that you please consider making a \$25 donation to **help NHPA improve the health of Hispanics** through the pharmacy arena.

Donate

Contact Us!

To help you raise any questions, comments, or ideas you have for NHPA, please use this guide:

- NHPA Student Chapters: Please message your *Regional Director* and your *Assistant Regional Director*.
- Assistant Regional Directors: Please message your *Regional Director*.
- **Regional Directors:** Please message *NHHF Programs Team*
- Programs Committee Subcommittee Chairs: Please message *Programs Committee Chair, Gabriela Camacho Cipriano, Pharm.D, BCACP*.
- Development Committee Subcommittee Chairs: Please message *Development Committee Chair, Dr. Maria HERNANDEZ-RIVAS, PharmD*.
- Membership or Other: Please contact us at nhpa@nhhfx.org and we will help to either answer your question(s) and/or re-direct to the appropriate NHPA leader(s).

The National Hispanic Health Foundation | 1516 U St NW | Washington, DC 20009 US

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