Recognizing the value and extraordinary contributions pharmacists provide to improving the vaccination rates in their communities

2015 Awards

& Presentation & Reception

Sunday, March 29, 2015 • San Diego, California

The APhA Immunization Champion Awards program is supported by Merck and Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics.
About the APhA Immunization Champion Awards

The American Pharmacists Association established these special awards in 2008 to recognize the value and extraordinary contributions pharmacists provide to improving the vaccination rates in their communities. Across the country, more than 260,000 pharmacists have completed training as immunization providers. In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, pharmacists have the authority to administer vaccines. Pharmacists and student pharmacists have assumed one or more roles as immunization educators, facilitators, and vaccine administrators, becoming integral immunization stakeholders in their communities. Pharmacists, in collaboration with physicians, public health officials, and other immunization stakeholders, are increasing public access to vaccines across the lifespan and are recognized members of the immunization neighborhood. Millions of vaccines are administered by pharmacists each year.

The APhA Immunization Champion Awards consist of six categories of recognition, including individual practitioners, friend of pharmacy’s immunization efforts, corporation/institution, partnership with other health care providers and public health, community outreach, and pharmacy team member. Nominees were evaluated based on the areas of impact, collaboration, originality, and overcoming challenges and creating opportunities for pharmacists. More than 50 nomination packets describing innovative immunizing pharmacists were received this year. APhA applauds all pharmacists who are working toward improving the health of the people in their communities. APhA also recognizes Merck and Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics for their support of this awards and recognition program.
Program
Sunday, March 29, 2015

5:30 PM  Reception Opens
5:45 PM  Opening Remarks
5:55 PM  Presentation of Awards

INDIVIDUAL PRACTITIONER
Honorable Mentions
• Mary Choy (New York, New York)
• MAJ Brandi Schuyler (Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar)
• Maria Young (Detroit, Michigan)

National Winners
• Kelechi Aguwa (Ironwood, Michigan)
• Kenneth McCall (Portland, Maine)

FRIEND OF PHARMACY
National Winner
• Paul Jarris (Arlington, Virginia)

CORPORATION/INSTITUTION
Honorable Mention
• H-E-B Pharmacy (San Antonio, Texas)

National Winner
• Walgreens Co. (Deerfield, Illinois)

PARTNERSHIP
National Winner
• Garth Reynolds (Springfield, Illinois)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Honorable Mention
• Safeway Pharmacy (Pleasanton, California)

National Winner
• Mayank Amin (Lansdale, Pennsylvania)

PHARMACY TEAM MEMBER
National Winner
• Louis Jimenez III (Chandler, Arizona)

6:40 PM  Reception Continues
7:00 PM  Adjournment
Individual Practitioner

National Winner

Kelechi Aguwa, PharmD
Kmart Pharmacy

Kelechi Aguwa is the pharmacy manager and immunizations mentor at Kmart Pharmacy in Ironwood, Michigan. Dr. Aguwa has developed and implemented a growing immunization program at his practice site by collaborating with local physicians, nurses, businesses, and schools to provide education on and increasing accessibility to immunizations. Through Dr. Aguwa’s efforts in 2014, his pharmacy administered more than 600 vaccinations—including influenza, pneumococcal, zoster, Tdap, and HPV immunizations—to residents of the small community he serves, which has a high poverty rate and low access to health care. His passion and commitment to the local community led directly to the increase of immunizations at his pharmacy.
Individual Practitioner
National Winner
Kenneth McCall, PharmD
University of New England

Kenneth “Mac” McCall was a founding faculty member of the University of New England College of Pharmacy. Dr. McCall serves on the Maine Pharmacy Association (MPA) Board of Directors. Through his experience and advocacy activities working with others, Maine became the 50th state to enable pharmacists to administer vaccines in 2009. As president of the MPA from 2010 to 2014, Dr. McCall led efforts to further expand the role of pharmacists as immunizers. In 2012, he successfully advocated for legislation that expanded the scope of practice for pharmacist-immunizers to include all adult vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2010, Dr. McCall began precepting student pharmacists while volunteering at the Maine VA Healthcare System; under his supervision, student pharmacists have administered more than 2,000 influenza and pneumonia vaccinations to veterans annually. In 2012 and 2013, he successfully advocated for a bill that defined the scope of practice for pharmacy interns, which included pharmacy interns being allowed to administer vaccines under the supervision of an immunizing pharmacist. Dr. McCall has demonstrated impact, collaboration, and originality in addition to addressing challenges through providing opportunities for students and pharmacists.
Individual Practitioner
Honorable Mention
Mary Choy, PharmD, CGP
Touro College of Pharmacy

Mary Choy is an associate professor at Touro College of Pharmacy, a clinical pharmacist at Metropolitan Hospital, immediate past president of the New York City Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NYCSHP), American Society of Health-System Pharmacists faculty liaison, NYCSHP faculty liaison, a pharmacist immunizer, and a board certified geriatric pharmacist. She has trained more than 500 students and pharmacists to administer vaccines and the skills necessary to become a primary source of vaccine information and administration. In fall 2014, Dr. Choy led NYCSHP to close the immunization gap for low-income families and reduce immunization disparities by organizing an influenza clinic to improve vaccination rates. The immunization clinic was held at the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), located in an underserved area in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and was the first pharmacist-led clinic coordinated at the CPC office. Other immunization stakeholders included Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Assemblyman Peter Abbate Jr., and Walgreens Pharmacy, all of whom worked together to coordinate the event, design the multilingual informational flyer, find appropriate distribution outlets, and promote the event through advertisements in Chinese- and Spanish-language newspapers. Community members registered through the CPC office to receive the free immunization. This was the first collaborative effort among the groups in improving immunization rates and it led to more than 120 community members receiving the influenza vaccine.
Individual Practitioner
Honorable Mention
MAJ Brandi Schuyler, PharmD, BCNP
U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center–South West Asia

In 2012, MAJ Brandi Schuyler was assigned as chief of the Clinical Advisory Division and later as chief of the Special Handling Section at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center (USAMMC) in Europe. She is currently deployed serving as the chief of Clinical Operations for the USAMMC–South West Asia in Doha, Qatar. Extraordinary effort is required to protect service members from vaccine-preventable disease prevalent worldwide. MAJ Schuyler was charged with ensuring influenza vaccine distribution to 14 countries in the Middle East. She worked in concert with key leaders and planners to determine the number of vaccine doses needed, which proved especially challenging as troops were projected to return home and deploy to the Middle East during flu season. Prior to flu season, she communicated with the outlying distribution points to ensure proper refrigeration could be maintained for larger shipments and reviewed each delivery schedule. Through her oversight and leadership, over 9,000 multi-dose vials were distributed to more than 200 locations in 14 countries with zero cold chain or vaccine losses. She has received and filled requests in support of operations in Iraq for polio vaccine due to concerns published by the World Health Organization regarding the wild poliovirus type 1 outbreak. In May 2014, smallpox was no longer a mandatory vaccine in her area. During one of the hottest times of the year, MAJ Schuyler packed and retrograded all remaining smallpox vaccine stock to Germany without product loss, saving tax payers’ money and increasing force health protection for those requiring the vaccine. Most recently, she has provided input for the Ebola mission in Liberia.
PAST RECIPIENTS

2014
National Winners
Eric Crumbaugh
Julie Gambaiani

Honorable Mentions
Carlisha Gentles
Todd McWilliams
George Veltri

2013
National Winners
Donald Auwinger
Kerri Okamura

Honorable Mention
Carl Wright

2012
National Winner
Marty Feltner

Honorable Mentions
Karen Horbowicz
Paras Chokshi
Dan Heller

2011
National Winners
C. Derris Hurley
Michelle G. Johnson

Honorable Mentions
Ruben D. Atencio
Ashley Branham
Monali N. Majmudar

2010
National Winners
Dennis C. Galluzzo
Katherine Schmoll Probst

Honorable Mentions
Louis Carl Fontana
Adam C. Welch

2009
National Winners
Vincent A. Hartzell
Paul A. Schiav

Honorable Mentions
Edward Christofano
Joe Heidrick
Individual Practitioner

Honorable Mention

Maria Young, BSPharm
University Pharmacy at Wayne State

Maria Young is sole proprietor of University Pharmacy, a community pharmacy in Detroit, Michigan. She has developed collaborative relationships with the Children’s Center, University Physician Group (Wayne State University), and Park Medical Center of metro Detroit and has established herself as a vital provider in the employee wellness programs for local businesses. Immunization is an important part of her approach to promoting wellness, which also includes health screenings, health education, and medication therapy management. Young also precepts student pharmacists at the Wayne State University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy.

When starting her immunization services in 2008, Young reached 3,000 individuals needing influenza vaccinations. In 2009, she nearly doubled her influenza vaccinations when the community needed to address the H1N1 epidemic. Today, she reaches 8,000 people annually. Young also provides vaccinations for pneumonia, zoster, MMR, Tdap, and TB. In 2012, she began a collaboration with Park Medical Center, a network of medical offices providing primary care services. The medical director, Dr. Robert Brown, needed immunization services for his patients, but did not have the staff or the time to implement the service; Young screens patients at the clinic during their visits and identifies those needing pneumonia and influenza vaccinations. She also partners with other health care professionals in employee wellness programs, including the Wellness Warriors, which is a health promotion and disease prevention program offered to Wayne State University employees and their families.
PAST RECIPIENTS

2014
William Schaffner, MD

2013
Carolyn Buxton Bridges, MD

2012
Deborah Wexler, MD

2011
Elizabeth Rosenblum, MD

2010
RADM Newton E. Kendig, MD

2009
Litjen "LJ" Tan, PhD
Friend of Pharmacy

National Winner

Paul Jarris, MD, MBA
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Paul Jarris is the executive director of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), which represents public health agencies in the United States, its territories and freely associated states, and the more than 100,000 public health professionals that these agencies employ. Dr. Jarris has successfully utilized his position to bring together health care providers and community leaders around a common focus of improving the health of our communities. September 2009 opened a new chapter in enhancing the relationship between public health and pharmacy. Under his leadership, ASTHO began concerted efforts to foster partnerships between state health agencies and pharmacies that are today resulting in increased collaboration in areas beyond immunizations. ASTHO created a pharmacy advisory committee with representatives from the national pharmacy associations and state health departments to explore barriers to the engagement of non-physician immunization providers and the establishment of immunization neighborhoods. Several additional immunization advisory groups and projects have been established including ASTHO’s Advisory Group on Public Health and Pharmacy Partnerships to Distribute and Administer Pandemic Vaccine as well as projects exploring alternative models for the delivery of patient care services related to antiviral medications and vaccinations. Recognizing that pharmacy and public health had similar challenges, Dr. Jarris facilitated meetings with America’s Health Insurance Plans to explore provider recognition and immunization coverage issues. He also made sure pharmacists were at the table in discussions regarding registries, documentation, and models to improve medical countermeasure response. Dr. Jarris continues to advocate for solutions that engage pharmacists and other health care providers.
Corporation/Institution

National Winner

Walgreens Co.

Walgreens has expanded its nationwide capacity to provide immunizations for all adult and adolescent vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In March 2014, Walgreens’ immunization services expanded to include comprehensive travel health consultations in more than 1,500 pharmacies serving as Travel Health Centers of Excellence. Walgreens’ immunization programs are staffed with more than 29,000 health care providers in more than 8,500 points of care in America’s communities to allow for greater vaccine access. In 2014, Walgreens’ health care professionals administered 9 million immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases. Walgreens has implemented efforts to improve coordination of care while helping to implement the immunization neighborhood.
PAST RECIPIENTS

2014
National Winner
Safeway

Honorable Mention
Osterhaus Pharmacy

2013
National Winner
Target

Honorable Mention
CVS Caremark

2012
National Winner
Rite Aid

Honorable Mention
Children’s Medical Center–Dallas, Texas

2011
National Winner
Walgreens

Honorable Mention
Tim Mitchell Medical Inc.

2010
National Winner
The Kroger Co. Family of Pharmacies

Honorable Mention
West Milford Pharmacy

2009
National Winner
Safeway
Corporation/Institution
Honorable Mention
H-E-B Pharmacy

H-E-B Pharmacy offers many comprehensive health and wellness solutions, including health screenings, medication therapy management, disease state management, and its largest and longest standing program—immunizations. H-E-B partners with a variety of local and state organizations and works closely with the Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas State Board of Pharmacy, and Texas Pharmacy Association to support the profession and improve patient health. H-E-B also has partnered with a local physician and a local independent school district to improve childhood immunization rates by holding a mass immunization clinic. The school provided access to the needed records, the physician provided a patient assessment and any necessary prescriptions, and H-E-B pharmacists administered the vaccinations. During one clinic, H-E-B provided over 300 immunizations for more than 100 unique students. H-E-B also partnered with the University of Texas College of Pharmacy to offer a pharmacist residency training program, highlighting the importance of immunizations within community pharmacy, in addition to management, teaching, and pharmacy-based health and wellness services. Increasing public awareness of immunizations is an important goal of H-E-B Pharmacy. In addition to regular monthly screening events, H-E-B participates in community health fairs, offers health fairs for their own employees, and holds an annual health expo for the community.
PAST RECIPIENTS

2014
National Winner
White County, Arkansas
Local Health Unit
Honorable Mention
Lifetime Health Medical Group

2013
National Winner
The University of Texas at El Paso
Student Health Center
Honorable Mention
IPHARM

2012
National Winner
University of Missouri–Kansas City
School of Pharmacy
Honorable Mention
Tieton Village Drugs

2011
National Winner
Buffalo Psychiatric Center, New York
State Office of Mental Health
Honorable Mention
U.S. Public Health Service/Indian Health Service/Phoenix Indian Medical Center

2010
National Winner
Touro College of Pharmacy
Honorable Mention
Washington State University
College of Pharmacy

2009
National Winner
Oregon Pharmacists Association
Partnership
National Winner
Garth Reynolds, BSPharm
Illinois Pharmacists Association

Garth Reynolds is the executive director of the Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA) and a strong advocate of immunizations and the role of pharmacists. He serves as a resource for the pharmacists and other immunization stakeholders within Illinois and Missouri, building bridges within the physician, nursing, and public health communities. Reynolds has appeared on local media discussing the value of immunizations and pharmacists as important providers within the immunization neighborhood. He is the pharmacist advisor to the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Project Immunization and a regular speaker at their immunization symposia and webinars. Previously, Reynolds was the pharmacy supervisor and immunization program coordinator for Dierbergs Markets Inc., a grocery store chain based in Chesterfield, Missouri; for each of the 28 pharmacies in the chain, he developed, organized, trained, and managed the immunization and clinical programs. Reynolds is the chair of the APhA Immunization Special Interest Group (SIG) Policy Committee and most recently served as the Immunization SIG’s Political Action Committee leader.
Community Outreach

National Winner

Mayank Amin, PharmD
BAPS Charities

Through BAPS Charities, Mayank Amin founded a health and safety initiative to provide education and services to children and families who otherwise may not receive care. Dr. Amin’s vision for Children’s Health and Safety Day, which he pioneered locally, set a foundation leading to the expanded program that exists today. To date, it is one of the largest nationwide curriculum-based children’s health and safety day programs conducted under one umbrella from a nonprofit charity. Dr. Amin has inspired many pharmacists and student pharmacists to launch the program in their cities. He currently oversees 25 centers that conduct these events nationally reaching out to thousands of lower-income and undereducated families, where parents and children may not know about the importance of vaccines or get the services. Dr. Amin has created collaborations with pharmacy schools that send their student pharmacists to these health and safety days to discuss the importance of vaccines and staying up to date with immunization records. Dr. Amin has been an advocate to expand immunization services at BAPS Charities’ 37 health fairs, which occur annually reaching out to more than 15,000 patients and families. In collaborative efforts with Walgreens and other pharmacy providers, Dr. Amin has helped more than 1,500 uninsured patients during this past year to receive immunizations; in nearly all these cases, the patients would not have received the respective vaccine due to a lack of education of its importance or a lack of ability to pay for the vaccine. Additionally, through Walgreens, Dr. Amin has gone to many nursing homes, corporate organizations, community centers, and other locations, where he has educated and vaccinated many individuals.
PAST RECIPIENTS

2014
National Winner
Monali Majmudar
Honorable Mention
Allison Dering-Anderson

2013
National Winner
University of California–San Diego
Student-Run Free Clinics
Honorable Mention
University of Oklahoma

2012
National Winner
University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Pharmacy

2011
National Winner
Pequot Pharmaceutical Network (PRxN) FluCru
Honorable Mention
University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

2010
National Winner
Ukrop’s Pharmacy
Honorable Mention
Share Our Selves Free Medical Clinic

2009
National Winner
H-E-B Pharmacy
Community Outreach

Honorable Mention

Safeway Pharmacy

Safeway Pharmacy focused their 2014 community outreach efforts on donating vaccine and immunization services to underserved populations. In collaboration with a range of community organizations, especially the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists, Safeway increased public awareness of the importance of immunization and increased access to care. As of mid-November 2014, Safeway administered nearly three-quarters of a million doses of flu vaccine. Beyond this achievement, Safeway donated flu vaccine and immunization services to nearly 1,000 members in communities nationwide in order to improve immunization rates for homeless, non-English speaking, and other underserved individuals. Collaborating with local organizations and student pharmacists across the country, Safeway’s pharmacy teams identified underserved groups and protected them from vaccine-preventable illnesses in thoughtful, strategic ways. Engaging pharmacists and future pharmacists gave Safeway the additional opportunity to mentor emerging community leaders—reflecting their vision to make this level of outreach standard practice in pharmacy.
PAST RECIPIENTS

2014
National Winner
Marianne Reed

2013
National Winner
Debbie Isakson

2012
National Winner
Michelina Gleason
Pharmacy Team Member

National Winner

Louis Jimenez III
Walgreens

Assistant Manager Louis Jimenez is an exemplary technician who has gone above and beyond ordinary measures to help his community. Jimenez created a partnership with Walgreens and St. Vincent de Paul in Arizona to help to fulfill their goals to help feed, clothe, house, and heal needy individuals in the state. Through this partnership, Jimenez and his pharmacy team members completed 50 free health screenings to inform patients of their blood pressure, cholesterol levels, blood glucose, and body mass index. They also delivered 200 free influenza vaccines to help this underserved patient population. Jimenez’s ability to address the needs of this patient population in their entirety is commendable and the reason why he was selected to receive this recognition.
Examples of Immunization Activities From the More Than 50 Award Nominations Received

- Demonstrate how well pharmacists can be part of the immunization delivery team and collaborate toward increasing the vaccination rates, especially in underserved areas.

- Conduct a letter-to-the-editor writing campaign to every major newspaper, educating everyone about this public health issue, and discuss the issue on news stations.

- A warm and calm manner in building bridges with the pediatricians, physicians, nurse practitioners, and nurses, which has allowed pharmacist inclusion in discussions and educational opportunities where we were never previously invited.

- Having an exhibit and speaking at multiple programs with state and county public health departments has truly improved communications and our collaborative goals in improving vaccination rates.

- Immunizations are a year-long responsibility that should be promoted to patients beyond the peak interest of flu season.

- The pharmacist set up approximately 60 off-site flu shot clinics, and personally worked 29 of those events.

- There is a distinct need for services which increase access, maximize pharmacists’ immunization authority, employ pharmacists’ medication expertise and accessibility to optimize non–self-administered medications such as immunizations, and include pharmacists as providers in addressing immunization needs. By maximizing these services, we can better achieve our goals of contributing to public health, achieving quality, and reducing costs.

- Shocked and deeply unsettled that hospitalizations and deaths in his area could be prevented from a vaccination, he was determined to impact his rural community.

- Often contacted by nurses at the local nursing home as a resource regarding the appropriate age recommendations and indications for vaccinations.

- Supplied volunteers for immunization clinics in medically underserved areas. Volunteers promoted immunizations by advertising free immunizations and assisting community members in completing forms to receive complimentary preventive care, which helps not only the individual but also the community by decreasing the prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases and the associated costs.

- Pharmacists face the challenge that health care providers face across the nation, the myths about immunizations. This is where the pharmacist’s accomplishments all come together. Actions speak louder than words. Many preach about their philosophies but it takes an exceptional leader to make these ideas happen. With every vaccination, with every outreach event, with every patient that understands the importance of immunizations, herd immunity, and preventive medicine because of the actions of pharmacists and student pharmacists, the immunization effort grows in strength. Immunization myths quiet down compared to the immunization efforts that the community can’t help but notice.

- A good neighbor in the immunization neighborhood means working with other health care professionals, health entities, and community partners to meet the needs of the public.
• The Physical Therapy Department held a health fair, providing education and clinical services for young children and their parents/caregivers. The pharmacy student organization accepted the invitation to have interprofessional collaboration through providing patient education on vaccines and providing influenza vaccinations to individuals ages 8 years and older. This inaugural interprofessional collaboration was a huge success and we are further exploring more opportunities of this nature in the future.

• The Part D team has organized 13 clinic health fairs designed to assist beneficiaries with selecting the best patient-specific Part D plan and performing medication therapy management. In doing so, students are trained to identify various health care issues through the use of screening. Immunization status for influenza, pneumococcal, and Tdap are checked and if necessary the patient is immunized on the spot. By targeting an at-risk population such as seniors, patients who don’t even realize they are at risk can be properly protected.

• Developed a collaborative travel health consultation service with a local family physician practice clinic. In communication with the local physician group, the pharmacist identified that consultations and vaccinations related to international travel were something the physician group was struggling with, yet something that pharmacist had a passion for. Therefore, they developed a referral process for patients to receive immunizations and the proper counseling prior to international travel.

• Provided allocated stores with shingles posters, which substantially helped to increase the number of vaccinations given.

• The pharmacy team has been trained on how to approach patients and offer vaccinations that they may need, which can be administered on a walk-in basis.

• Putting up a poster board in her store splashed with the words FLU or SHINGLES worked well to attract passing shoppers’ attention. Once engaged in conversation, all staff are armed with information to get that vaccine delivered.

• Developed a vaccine information flyer to speak to local schools and federal employees restating the benefits of their insurance and reinforcing the need for vaccination.

• If pharmacists are encouraged to get out into our neighborhoods to promote vaccinations by organizing on-site flu, shingles, and pneumococcal vaccine clinics that is good for business and good for the health of the people we serve.

• Perhaps one of the biggest challenges is to find adequate staff to help with events. A win/win answer was to reach out to the local college of pharmacy. It was a chance to be a preceptor as well as have a partnership with a team of providers that could accommodate the needs of the communities and work groups.

• Every customer that comes into the pharmacy gets asked if he or she wants a flu shot. [The pharmacists] also set up hepatitis B vaccines for the local school districts when the local Health Department stopped providing vaccinations. They also set up agreements to give flu shots outside the pharmacy including a local assisted living center, a dentist’s office (for the employees), and for employees at two local community colleges. Occasionally, one of our pharmacists will go to give a flu shot at a patient’s house if the patient is housebound.

• A wheelchair-bound patient could not make it to the pharmacy due to a terrible snow storm. The pharmacist took it upon himself to visit the patient and administer a flu shot. He even shoveled the sidewalk and driveway!
• As a first year internal medicine/pediatric resident, I am a new prescriber. Therefore, I rely on the assistance of the pharmacist to ensure my patients are immunized appropriately. His knowledge and information regarding immunization is impressive. I consider him my own personal immunization consultant.

• The pharmacist pioneered an on-site immunization clinic at one of the area’s largest manufacturing facilities.

• The pharmacist organized a flu information booth in the lobby of the health care facility where both pharmacists and pharmacy students offered information about preventing transmission of the flu. The walk-in pharmacy flu clinic was then held for four consecutive Saturdays during October. This proved to be a convenient option to help keep people healthy.

• The pharmacist began a program with the local YMCA this year focused on offering influenza vaccinations to low-income families, children, and senior citizens. Among the events she has helped to organize were vaccination clinics during the YMCA’s local back to school night as well as its senior fall prevention course and during a Halloween celebration. During these events, the pharmacist also helped to ensure all children were eligible for vaccines.

• When the pharmacist sees customers purchasing prenatal vitamins or discussing a new grandchild, she informs them of the importance of the Tdap shot. Similarly, when she identifies prescriptions commonly filled by individuals embarking on international travel, she will ask about their need for typhoid, hepatitis A, and hepatitis B vaccinations. Whether focusing on seasonal needs like the influenza vaccine, or helping maintain her customers’ long-term health, she is always ready to give it her best shot.

• When additional vaccines are recommended by the pharmacist, the pharmacy contacts the physician for a prescription for the recommended vaccines, if the patient consents. If the team does not hear back within 1 week, they follow up with the physician to address any additional barriers that exist. Once a vaccine prescription is received, the team calls the patient to schedule an appointment for vaccination. At this time, the pharmacist reminds the patient of the importance of the recommended vaccine. If the patient misses the appointment or does not schedule within 1 week, the pharmacist follows up once again to remove barriers preventing proper immunization. The results of this simple program have been great! Prior to implementation, the pharmacy administered on average fewer than three non-flu vaccines per week. Once she implemented this program, the average jumped to more than nine vaccinations per week.

• The pharmacist instituted vaccination days for local school districts, providing vaccinations to administrators, teachers, and staff members.

• The pharmacist is always posting immunization awareness links on his Facebook account. This shows that he has true passion for raising awareness and getting people immunized.

• The pharmacist created programs to give opportunities for health care networks, organizations, practices, universities, and pharmacies to work together toward a common goal of educating children and their families about the importance of health and safety issues and promoting awareness about the importance of prevention with vaccines.

• We have a great leadership team that truly believes in health and wellness. Our pharmacy embodies the idea of an immunization champion.
• The pharmacist has made reviewing complete patient profiles, including immunization history, a part of his routine. When he identifies immunization opportunities for a patient, he makes it a point to have a face-to-face conversation with the patient and explain why he is recommending an immunization. The pharmacist’s conversations often result in an immunization given and a lifelong patient.

• We created educational videos, workflow processes, and continuing education programs. Slowly, but surely, pharmacists became immunizers of their own accord. We started with influenza and, as our program grew, created immunization coordinator positions to support our pharmacist immunizers during this peak immunization season. These store-based pharmacists leave their store responsibilities during flu season and focus their efforts on supporting the flu campaign. They teach immunization classes, provide support and education to pharmacists, help set store immunization goals, manage marketing materials, and work closely with the corporate office. This regional immunization lead also serves as a local contact to businesses in the communities that we serve. They work with employers, churches, and insurance brokers to set up on-site immunization clinics for a variety of groups. Turnkey solutions for these groups allow them to offer preventive services, while also maintaining efficiency in their work environment. Today, we offer a variety of in-store immunizations on an everyday basis.

• A restaurant worker was diagnosed with hepatitis A and our pharmacy was called to provide access to hepatitis A vaccine for restaurant patrons. Over the course of several weeks, thousands of patrons could have been exposed. We quickly mobilized to create a plan, process, and secure inventory so that a solution was in place within 12 hours.

• Another distinctive area of vaccination for our facility includes participation in caring for a significant number of migrant workers in the rural farms, who do not routinely receive health care. Through our hospital, once a week in the evenings, a team of providers load an RV to travel out to one of the camps of migrant workers at the farms to provide on-site care. Pharmacists have just this year joined this brigade. From August through November, care is provided with a rotation of sites each week. Originally it was to assist the medical residents involved with clinical decision making in relation to medications based on a very limited formulary. Once this began, we quickly realized there was a much bigger need in terms of vaccinations. One of our pharmacy residents took the initiative to set up a program to provide the education and vaccinations to these patients.