

## Message from the President

Greetings OCCP Members,

I am honored to serve as your president for 2022. I am grateful for everyone and their patience and flexibility while our organization has dealt with the struggles of the ongoing pandemic. As summer approaches and COVID cases decrease, our chapter is

looking forward to reuniting in person again soon. While we wait to meet in person once more, we are excited for our Spring Meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our planning committee has been hard at work and, in addition to

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### OCCP Leadership

**Jessica Hoover, PharmD, BCPPS**  
President

**Molly Amos, PharmD, BCACP**  
President-Elect

Steering Committee Chair

**Liz Fredrickson, PharmD, BCPS**  
Immediate Past President

**Amanda Mertz, PharmD, BCGP**  
Planning Committee Co-Chair

**Katie Knudsen, PharmD, BCPS**  
Planning Committee Co-Chair

**Bhavin Mistry, PharmD, BCIDP, BCPS**  
Planning Committee Co-Chair

**Bethany Crouse, PharmD, BCCCP**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Rachael Passe, PharmD**  
Membership Committee Co-Chair

**Joe Guidos, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP**  
Membership Committee Co-Chair  
SCCP chapter liaison

**Ellen Immler, PharmD, BCCCP**  
Nominations Committee Chair

**Ukwen Akpoji, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP**  
Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

**Katelyn Simmons, PharmD, BCACP**  
Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

**Kuan Sturgill, PharmD**  
Residency Advisory Committee Chair

**Julia Kuroski, PharmD, BCCCP**  
Communications Committee Co-Chair

**Zach Krauss, BSPS, MBA**  
Communications Committee Co-Chair

**Keith Posendek, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, BCCP**  
Newsletter Editor

## Virtual Fall Meeting

### Friday May 20th, 2022

We have an exciting program for the meeting, including:

- ◆ Continuing education credit for Ohio Pharmacy Law and Medical Safety (1 hour each)
- ◆ Resident virtual platform presentations

### Registration will be open through Friday May 13th, 2022

Registration is **FREE** for current OCCP members, residents, and students. Registration for non-members is \$50 and includes a complimentary 1-year OCCP membership.

## Message from the President continued

### *President Message continued from page 1*

platform presentations from Ohio pharmacy residents, we will offer both a law and medication-safety CE. As always, we welcome all feedback on ways to better meet the membership needs with our annual programming.

If you have not already done so, please remember to renew your membership dues for 2022 and consider volunteering for one of our many committees. Our organization's success is fully dependent on members, like yourself, getting involved and engaged with our organization.

More information on our various committees can be found on our website. OCCP thanks you for your continued commitment

to our organization and advancing clinical pharmacy practice in Ohio. Thank you for making OCCP a continued success!

Thank you,

Jessica Hoover



## Planning Committee Update

The Planning Committee welcomes new co-chairs Bhavin Mistry, Amanda Mertz, and Katherine Knudsen to the leadership team.

We look forward to the Spring Meeting, to be held virtually on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Registration is open through May 13<sup>th</sup> and is *free* for residents and current OCCP members, and \$50 for non-residents and non-members, which includes 1 year membership to OCCP.

There are several featured speakers — Dr. Amie Brooks from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy will present the Keynote Address, Dr. Katie Stabi from the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy will present the Law CE, and Dr. Alina Bulgar, the Coordinator of Medication Regulatory and Accreditation Services at Cleveland Clinic, will present the Medication Safety CE.

Residents will also be presenting the results of their year-long projects during the meeting. We look forward to seeing you all

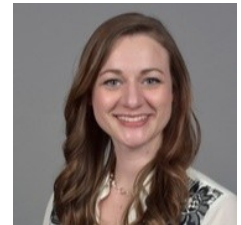
there and hope to resume in-person meetings at the Fall 2022 meeting at Tri-C Corporate College East Campus.

Thank you,

Katherine Knudsen

Amanda Mertz

Bhavin Mistry



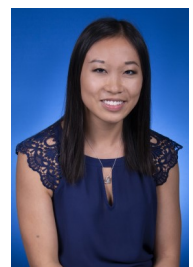
## Residency Advisory Committee Update

The residency advisory committee recently hosted a Journal Club Crash Course led by Mackenzie Lloyd, one of the committee members, who shared a mock journal club as well as offered tips and tricks for creating and presenting journal clubs.

Our next project will be working with the Planning Committee to develop a networking event aimed towards students and residents sometime during the week of the OCCP Spring Meeting.

Thank you,

Kuan Sturgill



## Advocacy Committee Update

The Advocacy Committee will remain focused on the planning of the 2022 Ohio Advocacy Forum which will tentatively be held in October.

This year's forum will be hosted by The Ohio State University. Keep your eyes out for an official Save-the-Date; we hope to have you there! For additional information and updates, see <https://www.occpweb.org/advocacy>.

As always, if you are interested in becoming part of this committee, please reach out to me or Ukwen.

Thank you,

Katie McMillan

Ukwen Akpoji



## Communications Committee Update

Thank you so much to all those who submitted articles for the Spring 2022 newsletter. Thank you to the members of the committee who spent time reviewing the submissions, as well!

If you are interested in writing an article or helping to review articles in future newsletters, please contact Zach Krauss ([zacharykrauss@cedarville.edu](mailto:zacharykrauss@cedarville.edu)), or submit an article via our website ([occpweb.org](http://occpweb.org)). Requirements include a maximum of approximately 500 words, a clinically relevant topic, and at least one author is an OCCP pharmacist member.

Follow us on our social media pages to stay up to date with all OCCP activities:

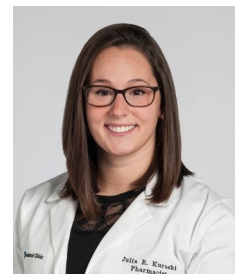
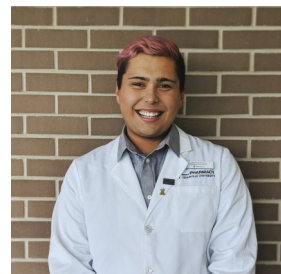
- ◆ Facebook: Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy
- ◆ Instagram: [\\_OCCP](#)

If you have general questions about your account or the OCCP website, please contact Julia Kuroski ([kuroskj@ccf.org](mailto:kuroskj@ccf.org)) or through the website at [occpweb.org/contact](http://occpweb.org/contact).

Thank you,

Julia Kuroski

Zach Krauss



## Steering Committee Update

The Steering Committee plans to meet shortly after the OCCP Spring 2022 Meeting to discuss future directions of the organization and how to provide quality programming and benefits to our membership.

We look forward to working with the Planning Committee to get our Fall 2022 Meeting scheduled, which is planned to be held in person at the end of October 2022 pending state and local guidance at the time.

We are also looking for people to join the Steering Committee, so if you are interested in joining and/or have any ideas for the future of the organization, please reach out to me!

Thank you,

Molly Amos



## Membership Committee Update

Joe Guidos and Rachael Passe are the new co-chairs for the Membership Committee. Please be on the lookout for a survey this summer for how we can better attract, serve, and retain our OCCP members.

The survey will also be asking for interest in upcoming opportunities to work with our SCCP chapters. However, feel free to send any new ideas or suggestions for pharmacist and student involvement at any time!

We will also continue to work on recruiting recent residency graduates who have accepted positions here in Ohio.

Finally, our committee wanted to say a big thank you to all of our continued members over these past two years and your

flexibility and patience as we navigated through virtual meetings and activities.

The committee is also exploring creation of a layered mentor model that would pair a PGY1 resident with a current practitioner so be on the lookout for more information about this!

Thank you,  
Rachael Passe  
Joe Guidos



## New Drug Update

### Apretude Drug Update

Zach Krauss<sup>1</sup> and Zach Jenkins, PharmD, BCPS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cedarville University, PharmD Candidate 2023; <sup>2</sup>Cedarville University, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are trending healthcare topics. As more patients are tested and more people gain access to medication for HIV, the rates of infection and progression to AIDS decrease, and survival rates increase. PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is an evidence-based method for preventing new HIV infection in those at greatest risk.<sup>1,2</sup> There are currently two oral options available for PrEP: Truvada® (emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) and Descovy® (emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide).<sup>3,4</sup> These two agents are both approved for HIV PrEP within similar populations, and are both formulated as one-per-day oral tablets. While the utilization of oral agents for PrEP has changed the landscape of HIV prevention, pill burden and gastrointestinal side effects have contributed to poor adherence in some patients.<sup>3,4</sup> In December of 2021, the FDA granted approval for the use of a new antiretroviral intramuscular formulation, Apretude® (cabotegravir) for at-risk adults and adolescents for PrEP to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infections.<sup>5,6</sup>

Apretude® is an HIV-1 antiretroviral drug that works to block integrase, one of the enzymes needed by the HIV-1 virus to take over host cells in the human body. This medication has a  $T_{max}$  of 7 days and a high distribution of 99.8% protein binding. The  $t_{1/2}$  is 5.6-11.5 weeks, and it is metabolized primarily by UGT1A1 in the liver.<sup>5,6</sup>

Apretude® can be initiated after an oral lead-in dosing schedule with oral cabotegravir in order to assess long-term tolerability trends. Dosing of the injectable Apretude® product is as a single gluteal injection with 600 mg (3-mL) intramuscularly every 4 weeks for the first two months. After the two-month initiation phase, the medication's dosing schedule is reduced to every 8 weeks. The medication is not approved for use in pediatric patients weighing less than 35 kg, and risk-benefit of use in patients who are breastfeeding should be assessed before initiation due to its long-lasting systemic circulation. No hepatic or renal dosing adjustments are required. This medication alone is not approved for the treatment of active HIV-1 infection; however, Cabenuva®, a long-acting injectable form of cabotegravir and rilpivirine together, was recently approved as a therapeutic option for HIV-1 infection.<sup>5,6</sup>

Apretude® has an adverse effect profile similar to other antiretroviral medications including: injection site reactions, diar-

rhea, headache, fever, and fatigue. This medication is contraindicated in those with hypersensitivity to any of its ingredients and those with unknown HIV-1 infection status. Other contraindications include use with carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, rifampin, and rifapentine due to decreases in plasma concentration. The patient may require more frequent monitoring or dosing adjustments when using in conjunction with rifabutin and/or methadone. There is a black box warning for risk of drug resistance with use of this medication in undiagnosed HIV-1 infection, so testing is required before initiation of therapy as well as before each injection.<sup>5,6</sup>

To date, there have been two major clinical trials conducted in order to assess the utility of Apretude® in HIV-1 pre-exposure prophylaxis. The HPTN083 [NCT02720094] and HPTN084 [NCT03164564] trials will be described in detail below.<sup>7,8</sup>

HPTN083 examined the use of Apretude® in HIV-1 uninfected men and transgender women who have sex with men and have evidence of high-risk behavior for HIV-1 infection. It was designed as a non-inferiority study involving 4,566 patients in a 1:1 randomization with Apretude® vs. Truvada®. The primary endpoint for the study was the incidence of HIV-1 infections in participants. The study showed Apretude® to have superiority over Truvada® with a hazard ratio of 0.31 (95% CI 0.16 to 0.58,  $p=0.0003$ ).<sup>7</sup>

HPTN084 examined the use of Apretude® in HIV-1 uninfected cisgender women at risk of acquiring HIV-1, and included 3,224 participants in a 1:1 randomization. The primary endpoint was the same as in HPTN083 trial. Apretude® was found to be superior within this study group. Overall, an increase in HIV-1 infection prevention was observed with a hazard ratio of 0.10 (95% CI 0.04 to .27,  $p<0.0001$ ).<sup>8</sup>

This medication is the first in its class to be offered as a long-acting extended-release injection, which provides a new avenue of PrEP administration for at-risk patients. This medication has a similar adverse event profile when compared to the other two PrEP agents available on the market, and it has the added advantage of ensuring adherence, which is crucial for patients taking PrEP to ensure adequate antiretroviral protection. This medication is competitively priced at \$3,700.00 WAC package pricing, which is comparable to a two-month supply of Truvada® (approximately \$3,684.56).<sup>9,10</sup> *New Drug Update continued on page 8*

## New Drug Update

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#### *New Drug Update continued from page 7*

Added costs could be incurred for in-office gluteal administration; however, it is likely that bi-monthly administration and improved adherence would provide clinical benefit within HIV preventative care. A review from *Pharmacotherapy* posited that this kind of formulation with extended dosing intervals could benefit those patients affected by pill fatigue, gastrointestinal side effects from oral therapy, and potential confidentiality concerns associated with frequent filling.<sup>11</sup>

#### References:

1. Jones A, Cremin I, Abdullah F, et al. Transformation of HIV from pandemic to low-endemic levels: a public health approach to combination prevention. *Lancet*. 2014; 384:272.
2. Grant RM, Lama JR, Anderson PL, et al. Preexposure chemoprophylaxis for HIV prevention in men who have sex with men. *N Engl J Med*. 2010; 363:2587.
3. Product Information: DESCOVY(R) oral tablets, emtricitabine, tenofovir alafenamide oral tablets. Gilead Sciences Inc (per FDA), Foster City, CA, 2019.
4. Product Information: TRUVADA(R) oral tablets, emtricitabine tenofovir disoproxil fumarate oral tablets. Gilead Sciences, Inc. (per FDA), Foster City, CA, 2013.
5. Product Information: APRETUDE(™) extended-release injectable suspension for intramuscular injection. GlaxoSmithKline Inc (per FDA). Research Triangle Park, NC, 2021.
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7. Landovitz RJ, Donnell D, Clement ME, et al. Cabotegravir for HIV Prevention in Cisgender Men and Transgender Women. *N Engl J Med*. 2021 Aug 12;385(7):595-608.
8. Scarsi KK. Chasing the cabotegravir tail: implications for prevention. *Lancet HIV*. 2020 Jul;7(7):e451-e453.
9. Apretude. REDBOOK (Micromedex Solutions). Greenwood Village, CO: Truven Health Analytics. 2021. Accessed December 27, 2021.
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11. Howe ZW, Norman S, Lueken AF, et al. Therapeutic review of cabotegravir/rilpivirine long-acting antiretroviral injectable and implementation considerations at an HIV specialty clinic. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2021 Aug;41(8):686-699.