

Teams

1st Place

Eric Zhu – P3
Sonia Kim – P3
Cassidy Treanor – P3
Jessica Xiao – P3

2nd Place

Richard Ko – P3
Maureen Ahn – P3
Siddharth Jain – P3
Sumie Kakehi – P3

3rd Place

Amy Hu – P2
Kiven Pang – P2
Jian Guo
(Ken Kwok) – P2

Honorary Team Submissions

Team 4

Prince-Harry
Mangondato – P3
Sam Golbin – PP2
Kristy Huang – P3
Ashita Debnath – P3

Team 5

Brandon Garcia – P3
Jessica Freydmann – P3
Sarah Bright – P3
Jae Hyun Lee – P3

Judges:

Dr. Saira Jan, Dr. Luigi Brunetti, Dr. Laura Pizzi, Dr. Allison Handler, Dr. Christina Baeta, Dr. Kavita Parmar, Dr. Layla Jaludi, Dr. Thuc Quyen Vu

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Foundation hosts an annual Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition inviting teams of four student pharmacists from schools of pharmacy across the United States to review a real-world drug for formulary addition to a hypothetical managed care plan. TYMLOS® (abaloparatide), a parathyroid hormone-related protein analog indicated for postmenopausal women with osteoporosis, was the drug of study for this year.

After the announcement of the drug, teams conducted a two-month deep dive into all clinical and economic data available. Teams extensively researched ongoing and completed clinical trials, analyzed real-world efficacy and safety pooled from multiple healthcare institutions, and evaluated numerous cost-effectiveness studies. Teams were tasked with reviewing an extensive drug electronic dossier created by the manufacturer, Radius Health, and conducting secondary research and literature searches.

The information is compiled into six assignment submissions: completed quality assessment questionnaires for individual studies, a report created using the Collaborative Effectiveness Research Tool that rates the entire body of evidence, a report analyzing the manufacturer's value proposition, a 35-page individual drug review formulary monograph, a report outlining the argument for and against placing Tymlos on specialty tier, and a PowerPoint presentation. These materials are reviewed by a panel of judges at each college of pharmacy, who each select one team that will continue on for a chance to compete at a national level.

A total of 65 schools of pharmacy registered to compete in the 2019 P&T Competition. This year, the competition underwent a complete overhaul where extra assignments required students to critically analyze the implications and consequences of their formulary decisions. On top of this overhaul, the competition's difficulty increases every year as schools incorporate complex managed care tools and evidence to bolster their submissions.

The Rutgers Team received five team submissions for one to be submitted to the national competition. Each team had submitted in depth final reports that included more information and material compared to previous years. This year's Rutgers Local P&T Competition winning team included students: Eric Zhu, Cassidy Treanor, Sonia Kim, and Jessica Xiao.

Below are some pearls from the Rutgers teams:

Develop clinical skills by evaluating trials:

As osteoporosis is an extremely prevalent and expensive disease with numerous products available, there were many clinical trials that had to be reviewed. The teams became experts of literature review by the end of the competition, and were able to critically analyze a clinical study, and recommend how they would design their own ideal trial.

Created and simulated economic models:

In order to stand out from the competition, the teams explored unique avenues to incorporate into their submission. The teams developed their own budget impact models to predict the potential economic and cost savings, over a two-year time horizon, of adding TYMLOS® onto the formulary.

Improve presentation skills: The top teams of each college present the PowerPoint slides from their submission to a panel of judges, which is factored into choosing the top team that will represent the school. Each team prepared for the presentation for several weeks, perfecting their delivery, and anticipating questions the judges may ask.

Utilize managed care tools: Teams incorporated managed care utilization tools such as a prior authorization, quantity limits, step therapy and specialty pharmacy tiers into their formulary recommendation. Teams also included Medicare advantage formulary recommendations along with commercial plan formulary recommendations.