

PRECEPTOR NEWSLETTER

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Preceptor Highlight: Andrew Giaquinto, PharmD

Prepared by Diana Protsiv, PharmD Candidate 2023

Background:

Dr. Andrew Giaquinto completed his PharmD degree at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. After graduation, he completed his PGY-1 residency and PGY-2 pharmacotherapy residency at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, New Jersey. He is now an ambulatory care/cardiology pharmacist at Hunterdon Cardiovascular Associates in Flemington, NJ. He is also a clinical assistant professor at Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP). Besides being a cardiology pharmacist and an EMSOP faculty, he is also the president of the NJSHP North Central Chapter.

What motivated you to pursue pharmacy as a career?

What motivated me the most was my love for science and helping others in the community. I grew up with most of my family having some healthcare-related profession (nursing, administration, physical therapy, etc.), and I have seen the good these professions can do. I originally went to school for biology with the aspiration of going to medical school, but I pivoted last minute because of my love for chemistry (which, ironically, we don't do very much in clinical pharmacy).

Why did you decide to specialize in ambulatory care/cardiology, and what do you find most rewarding about your specialty area?

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Andrew Giaquinto, PharmD

I wouldn't say I liked cardiology in school and didn't truly find my love for it until I had an APPE rotation in the CCU of a local hospital. However, ambulatory care was always a passion of mine. As ambulatory care pharmacists, we help address barriers to care for our patients, such as cost, adherence, and overall understanding of medications. One of the most rewarding things I have experienced in ambulatory care is when patients fully comprehend all their medications, which subsequently leads to greater adherence and them feeling much better overall.

What is your typical day like, and how do you balance your time between precepting students and caring for your patients at the site?

This is a harder question to answer because, in ambulatory care, my day is always different. However, as a general overview, the morning usually encompasses patient chart reviews and making recommendations to providers. Then the afternoon includes in-person and telephone visits with patients to address adherence concerns, medication issues, and general counseling. Balancing students and clinic responsibilities was something I struggled with initially, but now my students are an integral part of my practice. Therefore, I include them in most of the patient care I perform to help me reach more patients effectively and give the students a more robust rotation where they can learn and practice clinical skills.

Why did you decide to join EMSOP?

I decided to join EMSOP because I have a passion for teaching. I love helping students connect the dots between disease states, especially in topics most students find difficult to understand, like atrial fibrillation and heart failure. In addition, it is a way that I can give back to the profession. I aspire to be like the faculty members who initially gave me the drive and motivation to pursue clinical pharmacy when I was in pharmacy school.

What do you hope your students gain from your rotation, and in what ways do you support their professional growth and development?

One of the main things I hope for my students on my rotation is to see them be more comfortable with their clinical knowledge when they leave. I run my rotation under the philosophy that everyone is at different levels, and a very important thing to me is seeing their improvement and growth. Rotations are a time when students pull out the vast array of knowledge they obtained during their didactic years in school and apply it to clinical practice. It isn't easy to perform this effectively, so I hope to help students do that in a safe and controlled environment. My goal is to help all my students achieve their overall goals, and I think it's important to acknowledge that every student has a different goal, and that is acceptable.

Outpatient Suboxone Clinic at St. Joseph's Medical Center



By Isabel A. Alvarez, PharmD Candidate 2023

As a P4 nearing graduation in four months, I have been able to reflect on all the opportunities I have experienced over the final year of my education. Being able to participate in various fields of practice and expand on the knowledge learned during my didactic portion of my education has truly been an eye-opening experience and has shifted the way I view the healthcare field and the role of pharmacists within it. One of the most memorable lessons I learned was on my cycle 6 rotation on Dr. Greer's psychiatry rotation: breaking down barriers.

I was among the first group of students to be able participate in St. Joseph's Medical Center's new outpatient suboxone clinic. Tucked away in the outpatient building, the clinic was not what one would expect. Only two rooms are allocated to addiction management, and since the clinic only runs for three hours on Wednesdays and Fridays, it was always packed with both appointments and walk-in patients seeking care. The three hours dedicated to the clinic was fast-paced and overwhelming at times. However, the experience itself and the dedication of the staff working there inspired me to go back several times throughout the course of my rotation. No day at the clinic resembled a previous one, and each day presented itself with its own challenges: medication coverage (or lack thereof), transportation barriers to get to and from the clinic, and breaking down stigma surrounding opioid use disorder just scratch the surface of what was done.

The most remarkable part of the clinic was how the attending physician and the interprofessional team collaborated with outside resources and dedicated their time in making patient care a priority. It wasn't merely about writing a prescription for buprenorphine or suboxone and sending the patient on their way to fill it on their own.

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Outpatient Suboxone Clinic at St. Joseph's Medical Center

The team worked with the patient to ensure that the prescription was covered, affordable, and as close to the clinic as possible so that access was not a barrier. The team also worked with local resources within Paterson, such as Eva's Village, to ensure patients had other resources in their recovery journey such as food, shelter, transportation, and support groups so that they had all the elements to succeed without encountering any halts in their recovery journey. If a patient happened to miss their appointment, the team would call them and strategize how to get them the care they needed without judgement and misconception. Waiting a day for prior authorization for a prescription or insurance coverage can be the difference between continuing the path to recovery and stumbling into relapse. Potential new patients were guided through the process of therapy and, if needed, were admitted to the hospital across the street so that care could be started immediately.

In pharmacy school, we learn about how barriers of care can affect the quality of patient adherence and we learn not to stigmatize addiction. Despite this, I have found that it is one thing to learn about it in class and another to experience it. Many patients with opioid use disorder still face an uphill battle when combatting stigmatization of their disease state and access to care.

St. Joseph's outpatient addiction clinic has reinvigorated the way that I look at opioid use disorder. It was truly an inspiring part of my rotation and has taught me that compassion, empathy, and comprehensive understanding are all essential in connecting with vulnerable patient populations.



St. Joseph's: Breaking Down Barriers

While continuous work is still needed within addiction management medicine, the team at St. Joseph's is tackling all the potential barriers and providing excellent patient care to the underserved patient population within Paterson, New Jersey. I hope to bring that level of understanding and compassion with me in my future practice as a healthcare professional.



What Happens in Vegas, Does Not only Stay in Vegas

A Reflection on ASHP Midyear 2022 as a KNIGHT Scholar

SYEDA MALIHA, PHARMD CANDIDATE 2023

As a P4 student, I had the opportunity to attend the 57th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. This is the first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic, with a return to Las Vegas, which added an extra layer of an excitement! It was the Knight Scholar program that truly made Midyear such a positive and meaningful experience to me.

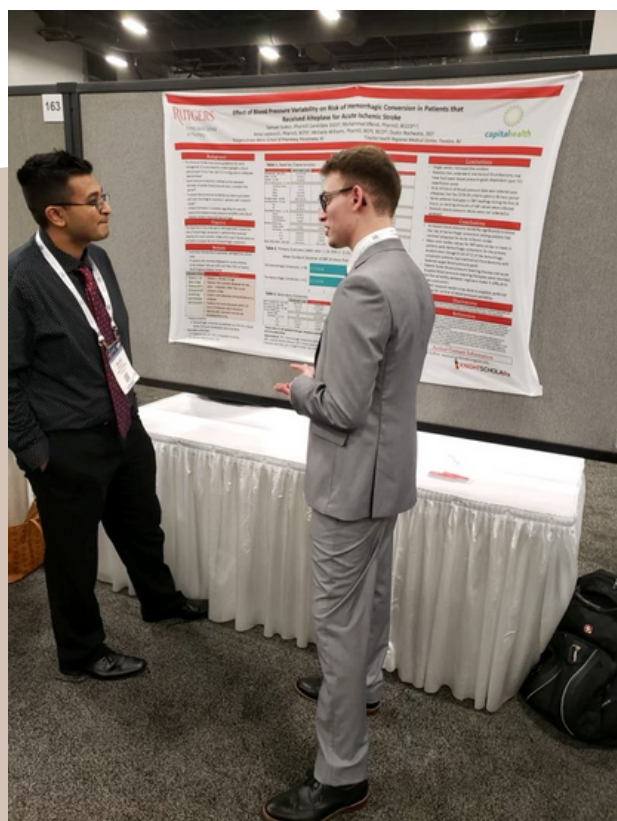
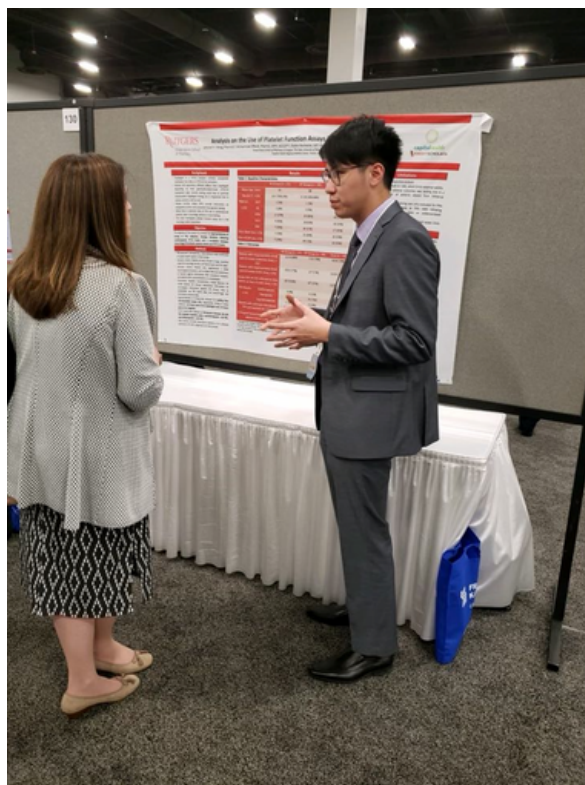
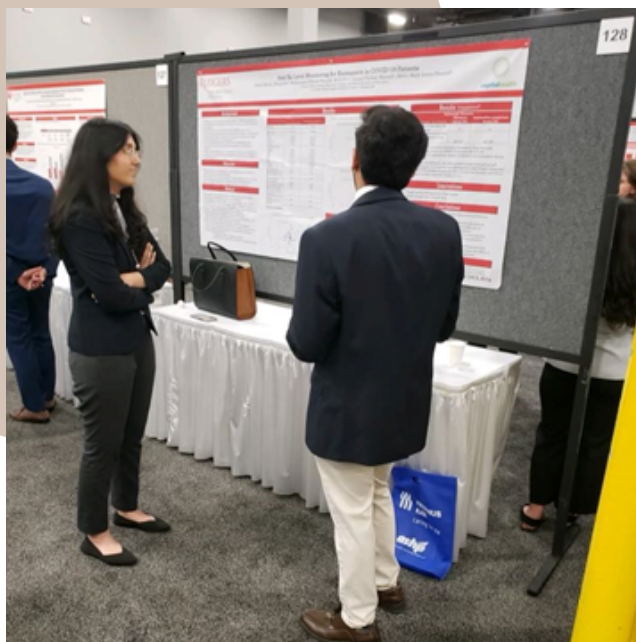
I attended ASHP Midyear due to my interest in pursuing a career in the pharmaceutical industry and present a poster about my findings from my research project from the KNIGHT (Knowledge Networking Innovative Graduate Health-System Training) Scholar program. The program develops scholarship, leadership, and professionalism in PharmD candidates through a diversified block of APPEs in a single health-system and offering programming like mock interviews, CV reviews, among other activities. With these skills, I confidently pursued the Personnel Placement Service (PPS), pharmacy's largest in-person job fair hosted onsite at Midyear. I used this service for the first time to register and interview for some fellowship positions. It was exciting, but also nerve-wracking to see various companies and fellows on site. It did feel a bit overwhelming with the almost never-ending tables and what felt like thousands of pharmacy professionals walking around the convention hall. Despite certain stressful conditions, I was well prepared and even was able to speak to my research that I conducted at my KNIGHT scholar site, Capital Health.

At Capital Health, I designed and executed an IRB-approved single center research study assessing the relationship between enoxaparin dosing and anti-Xa levels. I conducted a retrospective chart review and analyzed it for pertinent trends in clinical outcomes. The KNIGHT Scholar Program was crucial in my poster development and presentation. My preceptor, Dr. Effendi and a previous Knight Scholar, Gaurav Pathak provided helpful feedback in creating an easy-to-follow poster. Furthermore, the program even organized an opportunity to present our posters to other KNIGHT Scholars from other sites and their respective preceptors.

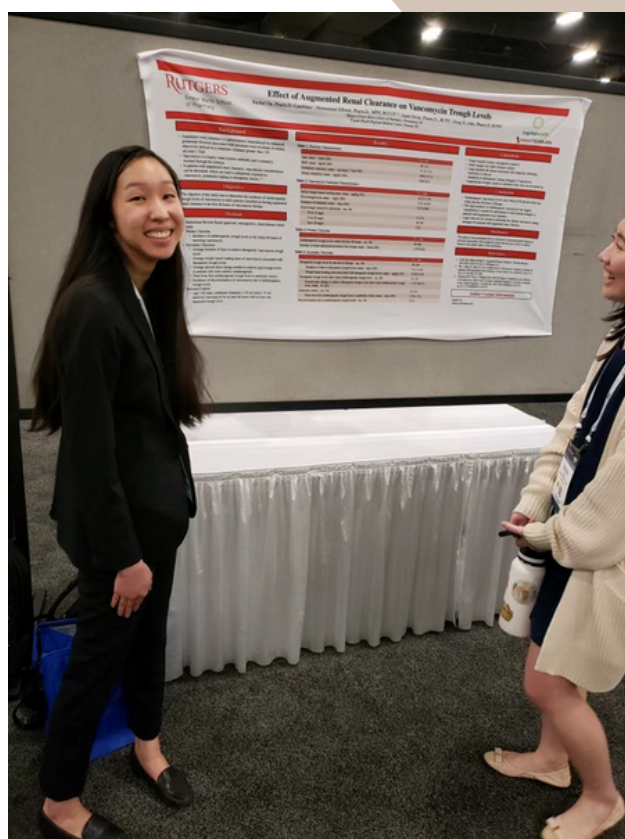
Thus, when it came to the day to present, I was more than ready. I had familiar and some not-so-familiar faces visit and ask about my poster. I had friends who were first year fellows, residents, and other P4s stop by to hear about my research. To my surprise, there were many students and residents who were interested in my poster and asked thoughtful questions. The poster presentation was my favorite part of Midyear. I enjoyed the scientific discussion and exchange facilitated by Midyear. Much like the bountiful buffets at Vegas, I wish I had more time to explore and sample all the offerings! Overall, it was a memorable and enlightening experience.

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Pictures from ASHP Midyear Conference



"These (k)nights will never be forgotten!"





Save the Date! Upcoming Virtual Preceptor CE

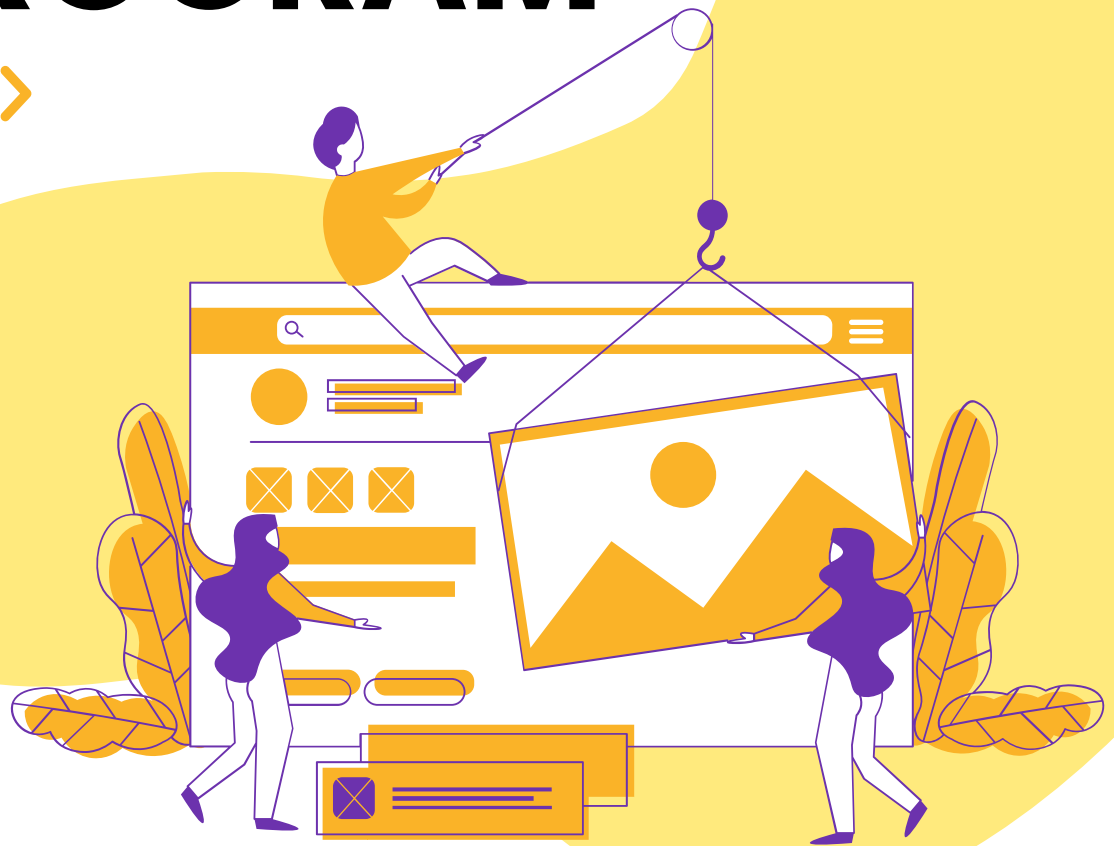
The Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy will be hosting the next virtual Preceptor continuing education program on Thursday, April 27th, 2023 from 10AM to 12PM. We will be offering 2 contact hours for preceptors on the topic of generational differences in teaching and learning style. More information on registration will be announced via Core ELMS. We hope you can join us!

FYI- FUTURE INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION DATES

At EMSOP, we believe that interprofessional education (IPE) is vital in training competent future pharmacists. All students must participate in at least one IPE event during their APPE's. Here are some upcoming IPE events that the students may be participating in:

THU	EMERGENCY MEDICINE SIMULATION Thursdays of every month (Feb 2, March 2, April 6) 8AM - 12PM (virtual)
FRI	SPICE DENTAL CASES Friday afternoons 2PM-4PM (virtual)
THU 2/16	JOINING FORCES VETERAN'S HEALTHCARE PROGRAM 2PM-5PM (virtual)
MON 4/3	ONCOLOGY/HOSPICE INTERPROFESSIONAL CASE CONFERENCE 2PM-5PM (virtual)

TEACHING & LEARNING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



The Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy will be hosting a Teaching & Learning Certificate Program for pharmacy student preceptors on **Wednesday, June 14, 2023 from 8:30AM to 2:45PM**. We will be offering 5 contact hours for preceptors on various topics in teaching and precepting pharmacy students. This will be an in-person program, and more information about location and registration will be announced via Core ELMS. We hope to see you there!

