FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA

HEALTH CONNECT PARTNERS
20TH ANNIVERSARY

HOSPITAL PHARMACY

ROSEMONT
(CHICAGO O'HARE)
OCTOBER 26-28, 2026

Baxter — TITLE SPONSOR

MONDAY OCTOBER 26

8:00am–7:00pm	**SUPPLIER REGISTRATION**
8:00am–10:00am	**PROVIDER BREAKFASTS** *(BY ASSIGNMENT)*
10:30am–11:40am	**EXECUTIVE CONNECT MEETINGS** *(BY INVITATION ONLY)*
11:30am–4:00pm	**PROVIDER REGISTRATION** This special Provider Registration is for all Hospital Pharmacy Leaders and GPO Executives. Relax and enjoy a light meal and networking with your peers as you register for the conference. Lunch for Providers will be served between 11:30am and 3:00pm. **Sponsored By:** Kedrion Biopharma, Medi-Dose EPS, West, Progressive Medical, S/T Health Group Pharmacy Data Analytics, Samson Medical Technologies L.L.C.
11:30am–4:00pm	**SUPPLIER SHOWCASE** Select Suppliers will showcase their products, services and technology. Showcases are designed to provide a limited number of supplier attendees with an opportunity to demonstrate their products, services and solutions for the provider executives. To maximize this experience for everyone, all Providers and only Supplier attendees from companies with a showcase exhibit will be permitted into the showcase area. Please contact us to learn how you can participate. Please note that lunch is not provided for Suppliers or Showcase exhibitors. There are several restaurant outlets in the hotel which are available at your convenience.
2:00pm–2:30pm	**SUPPLIER ORIENTATION** All Suppliers are welcome to attend this orientation meeting. This informational orientation meeting is an excellent opportunity for first time Supplier attendees to gain a clear understanding of our conference, specifically the **Reverse Expo** and how it works.
4:15pm–5:30pm	**PROVIDER ORIENTATION & SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT** All Hospital Pharmacy Leaders and GPO Executives are required to attend this orientation meeting, which will provide important information pertaining to the conference and introduce a few of our sponsors.
5:30pm–6:00pm	**WELCOME RECEPTION** *(ALL ATTENDEES)* **Sponsored By:** CardinalHealth OptiFreight® Logistics
6:00pm–7:00pm	**HOSPITALITY SUITES HOSTED BY OUR SPONSORS** *(PROVIDERS ONLY)*
7:00pm–9:00pm	**HOSPITALITY SUITES HOSTED BY OUR SPONSORS** *(ALL ATTENDEES)*

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TUESDAY OCTOBER 27

7:00am–6:00pm

REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
Our Registration Desk will be staffed throughout the conference. If you have questions or need assistance with anything, please stop by and let us know. We are happy to help.

7:00am–8:00am

BREAKFAST *(ALL ATTENDEES)*

8:00am–9:30am

Sponsored By:

SERB Pharmaceuticals

OPENING REMARKS & KEYNOTE ADDRESS *(ALL ATTENDEES)*

THE BUCKET LIST LIFE – CREATE MORE EXPERIENCES, SHARE MORE STORIES, AND LIVE MORE FULFILLED

KENYON SALO

One of only five members on the Denver Broncos Thunderstorm Skydive Team, Kenyon Salo is seen each week flying into Broncos Stadium at 60+mph, ending with a soft tip-toe landing on the ten-yard line. With over 6000 skydives under his belt and travels that have taken him all around the world, he's determined to live life to the fullest and help others do the same.

Through his passions for adventure, storytelling, and connecting with people, he found a simple process to guide others on a path to what most of us crave – living a more fulfilled life. In this session, you'll receive actionable steps that will help you, both personally and professionally, to achieve anything you desire.

We hope you're as excited as we are and look forward to seeing you at the event soon!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *How to Create More Experiences - Everything we do in this life is an experience. How we see the world, move about in this world and feel alive in this world. Experiences are about self. It's about creating your own experience, but also creating great experiences for others in your life, career and/or business.*
- *Encouragement to Share More Stories - Every company, organization and person has a powerful story. It's the ability to share that story with others in a way that people want to be around you, share with you in return and do business with you.*
- *Methods to Live More Fulfilled by Helping Others - Ultimately this is why we are on the planet. To help others, be of service and to make a difference. Helping others is about community.*

9:30am–9:45am

NETWORKING BREAK

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9:45am–10:45am

EDUCATIONAL SESSION

BUILDING THE PHARMACY GROWTH ENGINE: SPECIALTY, INFUSION, AND REVENUE RECOVERY

BRETT BENFIELD, PHARMD, MS, FNHIA

Vice President, Infusion Consulting | Fairview Pharmacy Solutions

Brett Benfield has been with Fairview Pharmacy Services, LLC, since 2013 and has served as the Director of Home Infusion and 503A Compounding for four years before stepping into a new opportunity as VP of Infusion Consulting. In this role, he aids health systems in recapturing infusion patients leaving systems due to site of care denials.

He is also recognized for his work within the home infusion community. He is a Fellow of the National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) and serves on the National Home Infusion Foundation board.

He received his Master of Social Administration and Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy, and his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota.

MEL NELSON, PHARMD, CSP

Vice President, Specialty Consulting Services | Fairview Pharmacy Solutions

Mel Nelson leads Fairview Pharmacy Solutions' specialty pharmacy consulting practice, partnering with health systems nationwide to develop, launch, and optimize specialty pharmacy programs that improve patient access, operational performance, and financial sustainability. She brings more than 20 years of pharmacy experience, including the past 12 years dedicated to specialty pharmacy leadership and strategy.

Mel has been with Fairview Pharmacy Services for more than 18 years and most recently served as Director of Specialty Pharmacy before assuming her current consulting leadership role. She advises health systems on specialty pharmacy program development, payer and limited distribution drug strategy, accreditation, medication access services, technology optimization, and specialty pharmacy revenue capture. Through this work, she helps organizations build scalable programs that support long-term growth.

Mel earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy in 2011. She is a Certified Specialty Pharmacist, serves on the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy Education Committee, and is an active member of the Health-System Owned Specialty Pharmacy community.

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Sponsored By:

Rx2GO EXPRESS DELIVERY

CHRIS SMITH, RPH

Vice President, Product Development -
Revenue Recovery | Fairview Pharmacy Solutions

Chris Smith leads the development and scaling of products and services that support revenue recovery and revenue integrity for health system pharmacies. He brings more than 25 years of experience leading teams and growing businesses across community pharmacy, pharmacy technology, and pharmacy revenue cycle management.

During more than a decade in pharmacy technology, Chris held product leadership roles at RxSense and Inmar Intelligence. He directed the full lifecycle of enterprise platforms - from strategy and product roadmaps through delivery - and expanded analytics and business intelligence capabilities that gave health system and pharmacy clients greater visibility into operational performance and revenue trends.

Earlier in his career, Chris led pharmacy services development at SpartanNash and held pharmacy and district leadership roles at Walgreens. He earned his pharmacy degree from Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and previously served on the Michigan Pharmacists Association Executive Board.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *Identify strategic opportunities to expand health system pharmacy revenue through specialty pharmacy, home infusion, and revenue recovery initiatives.*
- *Describe the operational, clinical, data, and technology capabilities required to build and sustain high-performing pharmacy service lines.*
- *Evaluate strategies to improve patient and prescription capture, reimbursement performance, and access to therapy across the pharmacy continuum.*

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TUESDAY OCTOBER 27

11:00am–12:00pm

EDUCATIONAL SESSION

SCALING CLINICAL AI IN HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACY

MODERATOR:
CHRIS MADJERICH, PHARMD, RPH DIRECTOR, CDSP PRODUCT SPECIALISTS

Chris Madjerich is a seasoned clinical sales leader and Director of CDSP Product Specialists at Wolters Kluwer. He leads a national team of clinicians who partner with sales, product, and executive stakeholders to deliver strategic clinical insights and drive adoption of solutions including UpToDate, UTD Lexidrug, UTD Patient Education, and Medi-Span.

With more than 17 years of experience across clinical decision support, medical devices, and healthcare sales, Chris has built a track record of exceeding revenue goals, influencing C-suite decision-making, and shaping go-to-market strategy. His background spans Academic and Hospital Sales, Marketing, Product Management, and frontline clinical practice as a pharmacist, giving him a uniquely comprehensive perspective on customer needs and clinical workflows.

Chris holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Creighton University, along with a Master of Science in Exercise Physiology and a Bachelor of Science in Sports Medicine from The University of Akron.

PRESENTER: THOMAS CAREY, PHARMD

Thomas Carey received his Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Creighton University in 1996. For three years he worked as a Clinical Pharmacist at Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Illinois. Since 2000, he has developed a growing team of over 150 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians across both ambulatory and acute care areas across UW Health Northern Illinois and is responsible for both operational and clinical activities.

Dr. Carey is an Adjunct Instructor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy and precepts students from multiple colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Carey received the "Preceptor of the Year" award from Midwestern University in 2003 and was the Illinois Pharmacist of the Year in 2024.

Dr. Carey's primary focus in his role is expanding clinical and operational pharmacy services to optimize patient care and safety. Examples including establishing one of the first emergency room clinical pharmacy programs in Illinois; establishing a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency program; establishing on-site Anticoagulation Clinic which is the only clinic in Illinois to achieve "Anticoagulation Center of Excellence" recognition; established one of the first fully operational hospital-owned Specialty Pharmacies in Illinois.

CO-PRESENTER ON NEXT PAGE

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PRESENTER: GRANT SIVLEY, PHARMD, BCPS

Grant Sivley serves as Director of Pharmacy Data Analytics for Lifepoint Health. He completed PGY1 and PGY2 residencies in Pharmacy Informatics through Lifepoint Health and Lipscomb University. In his current role, he leads enterprise pharmacy analytics initiatives that support formulary management, financial stewardship, and operational performance across a large multihospital health system. He partners with pharmacy leaders to use data to support decisions and improve consistency across the organization.

As a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist, Dr. Sivley's areas of expertise include pharmacy operations and healthcare analytics. He also has a professional interest in the evolving role of artificial intelligence and its practical application in healthcare. His goal is to help pharmacy teams apply data and technology in ways that improve patient care and strengthen health system performance.

Sponsored By:

Wolters Kluwer

PRESENTER: CHRISTOPHER JONES, PHARM.D., MHA, BCPS

Christopher Jones currently serves as the Director of Pharmacy Operations at Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Illinois. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University, followed by his Pharm.D. from Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Christopher began his clinical pharmacy career at Advocate Sherman Hospital, where he progressed through several key roles including Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Coordinator, and Pharmacy Manager. He later served as Director of Pharmacy at UW SwedishAmerican before returning to Advocate Sherman in his current leadership role. He also holds a Master of Health Administration (MHA) from Ohio University. Throughout his leadership tenure, Christopher has maintained a strong focus on patient safety, disaster preparedness, driving initiatives through interdisciplinary collaboration, and utilizing technology to improve operations. Christopher has a passion for technology and has presented multiple times on artificial intelligence over the last 2 years to hospital leaders, Pharmacy leaders, and through the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *Assess and prioritize high-value AI opportunities across medication management, pharmacy operations, patient safety, and clinical workflows.*
- *Compare governance models, validation approaches, and oversight structures required to deploy and sustain AI safely within health systems.*
- *Apply lessons learned from real-world implementations to address workflow redesign, technology integration, clinician adoption, data quality, and change management challenges.*
- *Develop an outcomes framework for evaluating clinical, operational, financial, and adoption metrics that support scaling AI initiatives beyond pilot programs.*

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TUESDAY OCTOBER 27

11:45am–1:00pm	**LUNCH**
12:15pm–1:15pm	**LUNCH & LEARNS** *(BY ASSIGNMENT)*
1:30pm–3:30pm	reverseexpo **SESSION 1** The Hospital Pharmacy Leaders and GPO Executives host the exhibit booths in this very unique **Reverse Expo**. **Sponsored By:** MEDIVANT® HEALTHCARE
4:00pm–5:00pm **Sponsored By:** SMARTSENSE BY DIGI	**EDUCATIONAL SESSION** ***THE AI-READY PHARMACY LEADER: STRATEGY, REGULATION, AND REAL-WORLD IMPLEMENTATION*** **SOUMI SAHA, PHARMD, JD** Soumi Saha is a pharmacist and lawyer with a national reputation for shaping federal policy, driving enterprise strategy, and advancing system-wide healthcare transformation. A trusted bipartisan advisor to policymakers, industry leaders, and health systems, Soumi is known for integrating clinical expertise, legal insight, and strategic leadership to deliver evidence-based, patient-centered solutions to complex healthcare challenges.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	• *Differentiate key AI terminology to ensure consistent communication across pharmacy, IT, and executive leadership.* • *Analyze the current federal and state regulatory landscape for AI, including implications for HIPAA, data privacy, and payer models.* • *Evaluate strategies for implementing AI in the absence of clear regulatory guidance, including risk mitigation, governance structures, and operational safeguards.* • *Apply real-world examples and business case methodologies to assess return on investment, financial impact, and sustainability of AI solutions in clinical and operational pharmacy workflows.*

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JOIN US TUESDAY NIGHT FOR DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT AT

LIVE MUSIC WITH:

FUNK ALMIGHTY

JOE'S Live & BUB CITY EAT USA DRINK

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Joe's Live is a mega music venue and barbecue restaurant all under one roof. The venue hosts weekly lineups of music's biggest names, up-and-comers, local talent, DJs and more. We will be joined by one of their favorite local bands: Funk Almighty is a nationally touring Pop/R&B band that has toured with some of the biggest names in the industry, including Justin Timberlake, Madonna, and Pink. Performing music from the 70s to today's hits, they deliver a fresh take on timeless songs infused with soulful R&B elements and an electrifying live show you won't forget. Come prepared for an evening full of wonderful BBQ & Southern comfort food, open bars, and dancing 'till late. Connected to Joe's Live is Bub City, for a quiet conversation or if your feet get too tired from the dance floor.

Shuttles will run continuously between the Hyatt Regency and Joe's Live from 5:45pm–9:30pm.

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28

7:00am–12:30pm

REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
Our Registration Desk will be staffed throughout the conference. If you have questions or need assistance with anything, please stop by and let us know. We are happy to help.

7:00am–7:45am

BREAKFAST *(ALL ATTENDEES)*

8:00am–10:00am

reverseexpo **SESSION 2**

The Hospital Pharmacy Leaders and GPO Executives host the exhibit booths in this very unique **Reverse Expo**.

Sponsored By: MEDIVANT® HEALTHCARE

10:30am–11:30am

EDUCATIONAL SESSION

FROM STRATEGY TO SPEND: OPERATIONALIZING PHARMACY SUPPLY CHAIN DECISIONS IN A VOLATILE MARKET

TYLER VEST, PHARM.D., M.S., M.S.S.C.M., BCPS, BCSCP, FNCAP

Tyler Vest, is a Research Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy and a recognized leader in healthcare supply chain and hospital pharmacy operations. His work focuses on advancing pharmacy supply chain, developing procurement strategy, drug shortage management, improving the medication use process, and operational excellence across health systems.

Dr. Vest completed his pre-pharmacy studies at the University of Kentucky and earned his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy. He went on to complete a Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a specialization in Health-System Pharmacy Administration at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, as well as a Master of Science in Supply Chain Management from the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics. He also completed both a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and a PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration Residency at the University of North Carolina Medical Center.

Dr. Vest is known for bridging strategic supply chain initiatives with frontline pharmacy execution, helping organizations improve medication access, reduce financial risk, and optimize purchasing and inventory performance in volatile market conditions. Dr. Vest is actively engaged in advancing the pharmacy profession. At the state level, he is involved with the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists (NCAP) and the Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP). Nationally, he serves in multiple roles within the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), contributing to initiatives focused on pharmacy leadership, practice advancement, and supply chain resilience. Through his academic, research, and professional efforts, Dr. Vest continues to collaborate with pharmacy leaders, buyers, and health systems nationwide to strengthen pharmacy operations and elevate the role of pharmacy within the broader healthcare supply chain.

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Sponsored By:

BLUESIGHT™

SPEAKER:
MICHAEL STEPANOVIC, PHARM.D., M.S

Dr. Michael Stepanovic, is an Assistant Professor at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and a leader in pharmacy administration, leadership development, patient safety, and medication supply chain strategy. His work focuses on preparing pharmacists for strategic and administrative roles within complex healthcare systems, with an emphasis on pharmacy operations, leadership, and the medication-use process.

Dr. Stepanovic completed his Doctor of Pharmacy at Purdue University and went on to complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership Residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He also earned a Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a specialization in Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership from the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Stepanovic actively collaborates with health systems, academic institutions, and professional organizations to translate evidence into practice and to develop training models that prepare the next generation of pharmacy leaders. Through his interdisciplinary background, he brings a unique perspective that bridges pharmacy practice, engineering, and leadership to advance the role of pharmacists within the evolving healthcare landscape.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *How to apply structured decision-making approaches to pharmacy purchasing in shortage conditions*
- *Identify strategies to balance cost control with medication access and patient care*
- *Evaluate sourcing options and mitigate risks across primary and secondary channels*
- *Incorporate data and analytics into daily purchasing and inventory decisions*
- *Learn to align purchasing activities with broader pharmacy and health system priorities*