

2022 AKPhA Board of Director Bios

Brittany Keener

Hello AKPhA members! My name is Brittany Keener and I am a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service. In my current role, I serve as a clinical pharmacist and manager of the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Internal Medicine and Specialty Clinics Pharmacy. I have been with ANMC for over fourteen years. I earned my PharmD from West Virginia University in 2007, became Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy in 2011, and completed a Masters in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Promotion in 2016. I am also certified as an Immunizing Pharmacist, have earned the Cardiovascular Disease Risk Management Certificate, Pain Management Certificate, Opioid Rapid Response Team and Pharmacist Opioid Overdose Response training. In addition, I have completed the Indian Health Service Leadership Training Program, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Leadership and Management program, and the Arbinger Developing and Implementing an Outward Mindset workshop. I have been involved with AKPhA since 2009, served as the Annual Convention Planning Committee Chair in 2014, awarded the Distinguished Young Pharmacist in 2015, Fellowship designation in 2021, and am currently on the Board of Directors.

While we all know the past few years have been challenging to say the least, however, with challenges come great opportunities. Some of our biggest challenges include pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and white bagging, continuing to fight for provider status, and expanding the role of our technicians. We have a fantastic pharmacy community here in Alaska and I have no doubt that we will be successful as long as we work together for the profession. I would be honored to serve as the President-Elect of the Association and look forward to working with everyone over the next few years.

Michelle Locke

Michelle Locke, PharmD, BCACP is the Transitions of Care Pharmacy Program Coordinator and Clinical Pharmacist at the award-winning Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), a 173-bed, level 2 trauma which offers a full range of medical specialties, primary care services and labs. Michelle, a South Dakota native, attended South Dakota State University and obtained a bachelor's of science degree in both biology and pharmaceutical sciences, followed by her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She went on to complete a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at ANMC following graduation and became a board certified ambulatory care pharmacist in 2020. Michelle remains very active in a variety of local, state, and national pharmacy and Public Health Service organizations and activities. She has served on the board previously for 6 six years and has coordinated the Annual Convention and served as co-chair to the ASHP-AKPhA Health-System Academy for a number of years. She is currently the AKPhA Director of Continuing Education and is working on providing new and innovative continuing education opportunities and avenues to members.

Christopher Chong

Christopher Chong is an integrated clinical pharmacist at the *Benteh Nuutah* Valley Native Primary Care Center/Southcentral Foundation in Wasilla, Alaska. He was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, graduated from Dimond High School, and completed pre-requisites at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Montana in 2014, commissioned as an officer with the United States Public Health (USPHS) and completed his post-graduate year residency training at Southcentral Foundation the following year. He is board-certified in pharmacotherapy and has received national certifications in asthma education, diabetes management, and anticoagulation care. Chris has also held various leadership positions, including President of the local Commissioned Officers Association branch in Wasilla and group supervisor on two deployments with the USPHS.

Chris has actively served several roles with AKPhA since moving back to Alaska in 2014. He was the co-chair for the 2017 Convention, actively involved with the convention planning committee, and presented topics related to asthma/COPD during past Conventions. He is also an active member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and a member of the USPHS Provider Status Workgroup. Chris hopes to continue championing for pharmacists to attain provider status and pharmacy technicians to practice at the top of their license. He would like to focus on building relationships with local community partners including healthcare professionals, legislators, and policymakers and partner with national pharmacy organizations. Chris would also like to actively engage in empowering pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Alaska to ensure their voices are heard and as a united front, address barriers and increase awareness of our profession so that we can best serve our communities.

James Fischer

Dr. James Fischer, a resident of Alaska since 1996, completed his undergraduate work at UAA and went on to Washington State University to complete his doctorate in pharmacy. After graduating WSU in 2012 he went to Yakima Memorial Hospital to complete his PGY1 residency. In 2013 James returned to Alaska to work at Providence Alaska Medical Center, the largest healthcare facility within Alaska, as a clinical pharmacist. In 2014 he was promoted to the role of pharmacy informaticist responsible for maintaining clinical health information services across 8 discrete healthcare facilities situated in Anchorage, Kodiak, Valdez, Soldotna, and Seward. James is active in the community supporting a number of volunteer initiatives, including the Alaska Assisted Living Home Immunization Program, serving as a preceptor to pharmacy students and residents.

Aimee Young

Greetings to my fellow Alaska pharmacy members! My name is Aimee Young and I am the Inpatient Pharmacy Clinical Manager at the Alaska Native Medical Center. I am also a Commissions Officer in the US Public Health Service. I am a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist, and the first provider in Alaska to become a Certified Pain Educator. You have likely heard me talk at some point in time, as I love to educate and teach any chance I can get. I am a certified trainer through APhA and AzPA for pharmacist and technician immunization certifications and have certified over 300 pharmacists and techs to date. I have completed numerous leadership, public health and clinical trainings throughout my 16-year pharmacist career. Additionally, I have extensive retail pharmacy experience as a tech/intern/pharmacist (since 1996!) and just celebrated my 20-year anniversary at Costco Pharmacy in April of 2021. With my diverse background I feel as though I will bring a wide range of perspectives to the board.

My involvement with AKPhA began shortly after I moved to Alaska in 2012 when it was discovered that I was certified to teach the APhA Immunization Training Course. AKPhA sent me to become an APhA Diabetes trainer shortly thereafter and I have been coordinating regular trainings since then. I have extensive experience with leading various advocacy groups. In 2018 I was the Chair of the Pharmacy Professional Advisory Committee, and I am currently the President of the Palliative Care Alaska Network. I believe my leadership and motivation will be assets to the board, and I look forward to positively impacting pharmacy practice in Alaska.

Kylea Goff

Dr. Goff is a 2010 graduate of the West Virginia School of Pharmacy. She began her career by moving to Alaska right after graduation. She worked for Southcentral Foundation for 5 years in both Anchorage and in the Wasilla clinic. She then moved to Nome in 2015 to work for Norton Sound Health Corporation. While in Nome she has served as the Assistant Director and Director while also having worked with students and residents. Currently she is the Population Health Pharmacist – this role has allowed her to work with pediatric population and improve care across the region and now she is more closely working with the electronic health record, pulling data and working to improve all population outcomes across the region.

Historically, AKPhA has also be at the forefront of conquering issues that either directly impact pharmacy practice or will impact pharmacy in the future. Currently, the one of the most important issues would be continuing to get pharmacist recognized as a health care provider in the state of Alaska. This will help with many facets of pharmacy and help others to understand the care pharmacist provided. It is also important, as someone intimately familiar with rural Alaska, to continue to be an advocate for the needs of that pharmacist and patient population.

Brittany Karns

I am a born and raised Fairbanksan! I did most of my undergrad work at UAF, pharmacy school at University of Minnesota, a PGY1 Residency st VA Boston, worked at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital for 5 years, and now serve at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center IHS facility as a staff pharmacist and the COVID-19 Vaccine Coordinator. Outside of work I enjoy helping produce the Dark Winter Nights Alaskan storytelling show (always looking for more storytellers!), baking, sewing, hiking, and volunteering at community vaccine clinics. My current top goal for AKPhA and pharmacists in AK is to continue addressing widespread misinformation and trying to repair and further build public confidence in both science and healthcare that seems to have eroded in the past few years. I have enjoyed serving on the board in the past and would love to continue doing so!