MEGAN PENNER

My name is Megan, and I am a faculty member at the UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program. I started this position immediately after completing a PGY1 pharmacy residency at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences nearly five years ago. I practice in internal medicine at Mat Su Regional Medical Center where I serve on the Opioid Stewardship Committee. In my spare time, I enjoy ice skating, skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

In alignment with the Alaska Pharmacy Association's mission, I would like to serve on the Board of Directors to preserve, promote, and lead the profession of pharmacy in Alaska. These three actions are things I already do daily: preserving the profession by educating future pharmacists, promoting the profession by working at the top of my license in an inpatient setting, and leading the profession through my service to the AKPhA Academy of Health Systems Pharmacy. I love seeing AKPhA at the steering wheel of driving where our profession is going in Alaska. Ihave already seen many positive changes since I moved to Alaska nearly five years ago: passing of HB 145, increasing engagement with the board of pharmacy, and growing membership across the state. Now that my service as Co-Chair and Chair of the Academy of Health Systems Pharmacy is complete, I want to continue my service to AKPhA in a new way!

SHAWNA KING

“I am interested in serving on the Alaska Pharmacist Association Board of Directors to serve all pharmacists in our state and support them in caring for their patients. Throughout my entire career, I have worked on multi-disciplinary healthcare teams and know the positive impact we make each day through collaborating with other healthcare professional. I am proud to be a pharmacist in Alaska and believe that AKPhA will continue to play a major role in moving us in a positive direction. I would be honored to be part of that effort.”

I am currently practicing as the Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Pharmacist at Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC) in Anchorage, Alaska. I received a Doctor of Pharmacy in 2005 and completed a PGY1/PGY2 Pharmacotherapy Residency both at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in Amarillo, Texas. Prior to moving to Alaska in 2017, I was a critical care pharmacist, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, clinical manager, and pharmacotherapy residency program director. I have been in a variety of roles at PAMC but plan to stay in my current role for a long as possible and enjoy collaborating with the infectious diseases specialist, hospitalists, and other pharmacist in the department while caring for patients on antimicrobials. I also enjoy precepting pharmacy students and residents and believe this is the best way to give back to the profession that has done so much for me. I am currently serving as the Chair of the AKPhA Academy of Health-system Pharmacy and am looking forward to other leadership opportunities to serve Alaska pharmacists. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and 3 boys and all their activities but also coach volleyball to get in some girl time.

TORRIE BORCH

I would be honored to serve on the AKPhA Board of Directors to be a voice for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the State of Alaska, and to advocate for every Alaskan who necessitates expanded access to healthcare services. Pharmacists are the most accessible, and often most trusted, healthcare providers in the community; it's time we are recognized by insurance companies as such. In addition, I want to expand the pharmacy network and create more connections amongst pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in different fields of pharmacy throughout the state so we can better serve our fellow Alaskans and provide valuable feedback and ideas to one another.

Torrie began her pharmacy career at age 7 when her grandmother suffered a debilitating stroke, and she took on the role of preparing her medications in a weekly pill planner; her grandfather aptly called her his 'Little Pill'. It wasn't until Torrie's Senior year (2008) at Chester-Joplin-Inverness High School in North Central Montana she would realize a seed had been planted for a career in pharmacy. Torrie participated in a school-to-work program at a local independent pharmacy, Liberty Drug; she enjoyed the patient interactions, learning about the different medications, and seeing how the local community trusted and sought the opinion and knowledge of their local pharmacists. At this point she was sure
she wanted to continue her education and become a pharmacist. Torrie attended Montana State University-Northern in Havre, MT and graduated with her B.S in Biology. She then hit the road to Pullman, Washington to attend pharmacy school at Washington State University, GO COUGS! The program moved to the health sciences campus in Spokane and Torrie worked as a Pharmacy Intern at Walmart in Spokane Valley. During her fourth-year rotations she grew a passion for ambulatory care, specifically diabetes management and immunizations. Torrie was on the medical staff at Camp STIX for two summers and created an immunization management rotation for Walmart. Torrie accepted a job with Island Pharmacy working for Bruce and Barry Christensen in Ketchikan upon graduation in 2017. Torrie implemented an immunization program for Island Pharmacy in 2020, bringing the first viable COVID-19 vaccine to Ketchikan. She has also assisted in creating a perpetual inventory system, designing/remodeling the pharmacy, and is currently focused on increasing access to diabetes management and treatment, travel vaccines and medications, and billing for other medical services for the community residents through pharmacist-provided care.

BRITTANY KEENER

It has been an absolute honor serving AKPhA as a board member and as the President. I have witnessed the growth and rejuvenation over the last few years and it has been so satisfying to see member reengagement, innovative solutions, and statewide collaboration. It is an exciting time for the profession and the association, but we have a lot of work to do to get to where we need to be. Building off the relationships we've established, we need to continue to engage with the Board of Pharmacy, the ISU/UAA Doctor of Pharmacy program, AKPhA members, and other stakeholders to enable pharmacists and technicians to truly practice at the top of their licenses (increasing access to safe, effective care), be able to be reimbursed for non-dispensing services, and to continue our legislative efforts. We've made great strides with implementing our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Meeting these goals and objectives will allow for continued stability and growth, especially with the leadership of the Board of Directors and our Executive Director. It would be a privilege to once again serve as the President-Elect for AKPhA.

I started my career in Alaska after graduating from the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy in 2007 as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). I have served with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) at the Alaska Native Medical Center as an Outpatient Staff Pharmacist, Mediset Pharmacist, Internal Medicine/Specialty Clinic Pharmacist and Manager, and currently serve as the Ambulatory Pharmacy Manager. I oversee the daily operations of four ambulatory pharmacies and supervise 61 staff members. I also currently serve as the Chair of the USPHS Expanding Patient Access to Medical Services by Pharmacist workgroup. I became Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy in 2011, and completed a Masters in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Promotion in 2016. In addition, I am certified as an Immunizing Pharmacist, earned the Cardiovascular Disease Risk Management Certificate, Pain Management Certificate, opioid Rapid Response Team and Pharmacist Opioid Overdose Response training. I have completed the ANTHC Leadership Foundations, USPHS Advanced Leadership Development Program, NASPA State Pharmacy Association Leadership Conference, 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 an active member of AKPhA since 2009 and a member of the Academy of Health Systems Pharmacists since its inception in 2017. I received the AKPhA Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award in 2015 and AKPhA Fellowship designation in 2021. I served as the Annual Convention Planning Committee Chair from 2014-2015, was selected to the Board of Directors in 2021, served as the Awards Chair from 2021-2022, co-Treasurer from 2022-present, and as President from 2023-2024. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, taking advantage of all the Alaskan outdoor activities from hiking, biking, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and spending time with my husband, dog, and friends.

BRIAN MCKNIGHT

Brian McKnight is a lifelong Alaskan who is proud to call Anchorage his home. He has worked as a pharmacy technician in both retail and health system settings since 2011. Brian is currently a pharmacy technician supervisor with the Southcentral Foundation. He co-supervises a team of 20 technicians that span over two pharmacies: The Anchorage Native Primary Care Center Pharmacy and the Rural Anchorage Service Unit Pharmacy. Brian currently holds an Advanced National Pharmacy Technician Certification. He is an advocate for promoting the role of a pharmacy technician as a viable and important career in healthcare, and the need for continued advancements within that role.