



KENTUCKY BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Christopher P. Harlow – Executive Director

At its December 15, 2021 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy named Christopher P. Harlow, PharmD, RPh, as the executive director to replace Larry A. Hadley, RPh, who retired as of January 15, 2022. Dr Harlow's appointment was effective January 16, 2022.

2022 Board Officers

The Board has elected **Peter Cohron, JD, RPh**, as president and **John Fuller, RPh**, as vice president for 2022. This is Mr Cohron's first term as president and his fifth year on the Board. This is Mr Fuller's first term as vice president and his fourth year as a Board member.

New Board Members

Jason S. Belcher has been appointed by Governor Andy Beshear to the Board for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2025. Mr Belcher is a former United States Air Force captain, Iraq veteran, and analyst for the Science Applications International Corporation. He lives in Harold, KY, with his wife of 21 years, Elaine, and their two children.

Meredith Figg, PharmD, RPh, has been appointed by Governor Beshear to the Board for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2025. Dr Figg is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. She practiced for six years as pharmacy manager at Walgreens in Louisville, KY, before moving to Ohio County where she has operated Rice's Pharmacy for the last 13 years. Dr Figg is a leader in the Kentucky Independent Pharmacy Alliance and has been instrumental in the organization and advancement of CPESN Kentucky. She currently serves on the Kentucky Pharmacy Technical Advisory Committee. Dr Figg now resides in Beaver Dam, KY, with her husband, David, who is also very active in pharmacy advocacy. They have two children, Andrew and Ava.

Anthony Tagavi, PharmD, JD, RPh, has been appointed by Governor Beshear to the Board, filling a vacancy that expires on January 1, 2025. Dr Tagavi is a graduate of both the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy (2006) and College of Law (2009). He currently works for University of Kentucky HealthCare as the director of retail and community pharmacies. Dr Tagavi is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association, the Kentucky Pharmacists Association, and the Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Dr Tagavi resides in Lexington, KY, with his wife, Paige.

2022 Board Calendar

- March 30, 2022
- June 1, 2022
- July 27, 2022
- August 31, 2022
- October 26, 2022
- November 30, 2022

Meetings are held virtually until pandemic restrictions are lifted and begin at 9 AM. Pharmacists and the public are invited to attend.

New KASPER Functionality

Information in this article is provided by the Kentucky Office of Inspector General.

The Office of Inspector General is excited to announce the rollout of the first phase of Direct Messaging. Direct Messaging is a secure way to communicate within the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) system. This first phase focuses on mass communications to all or a specific subset of KASPER users and their delegates. These communications may include educational information, statutory or regulatory updates, and alert notifications regarding diversion and prescription forgeries.

Prescribers and their delegates will receive an email notification that a message is available in KASPER. Messages can be viewed by logging in to KASPER, clicking on the Direct Messaging tab, and viewing new messages in the inbox. To ensure that you will receive these notifications, please confirm that your email address in KASPER is up to date.

For more information on Direct Messaging, register for a webinar on KASPER Direct Messaging Basics or email eKASPERHelp@ky.gov.

APhA and NASPA Launch Confidential Portal for Pharmacy Personnel to Report Their Experiences in the Workplace

The [American Pharmacists Association \(APhA\)](#) and the [National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations \(NASPA\)](#) announced the launch of the first confidential reporting mechanism of its kind to collect anonymous reports from pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists about their positive and negative experiences in the pharmacy workplace.

The Pharmacy Workplace and Well-being Reporting (PWWR) portal was developed in response to the desire by pharmacy personnel across many practice settings for a venue to address workplace concerns and suggest improvements without fear of retribution. The reports will be collected and analyzed by the Alliance for Patient Medication Safety, a federally recognized patient safety organization, to help tell a collective, powerful story to spark change and improvement in pharmacy personnel well-being and patient safety. The information collected is protected by the confidentiality and privilege provisions of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. Submissions to the PWWR cannot be disclosed or subpoenaed and are not subject to discovery in a legal proceeding.

“Pharmacists and pharmacy personnel workplace issues and their relationship to personal well-being continue to be a critical, complex issue across all practice settings,” said APhA President Sandra Leal, PharmD, MPH, FAPhA, CDCES. “In recent decades, considerable work has been done to identify and understand medication errors, including near misses, and characterize the root causes. What has been lacking in the research is a critical examination of workplace factors and solutions to determine how they affect pharmacy personnel well-being and patient safety.”

“Pharmacists have asked for a way to discuss these issues without fear of retribution. They want to learn about solutions colleagues have instituted to make real changes in their pharmacy practice to better take care of their patients,” said Garth Reynolds, BSPHarm, RPh, MBA, president of NASPA. “PWWR was developed by APhA and NASPA to address their request. What is learned from their positive and negative experiences and solutions can serve as the foundation of best practices, education, and recommendations to enhance the pharmacy workplace, patient safety, and pharmacy personnel well-being.”

Biosimilar Substitution Notification Requirement

Recently, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved interchangeable biosimilar products for popular brand-name biological products, including Lantus® and Humira®. To be considered interchangeable, a biosimilar product must be structurally highly similar to the reference biological product; have no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety, purity, and potency; and demonstrate the ability to produce the same clinical result as the referenced biological product in any patient. FDA maintains and publishes the *Purple Book: Lists of Licensed Biological Products with Reference Product Exclusivity and Biosimilarity or Interchangeability Evaluations* (“Purple Book”) with the acceptable interchangeable products.

Per Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 217.822, pharmacists receiving prescriptions for brand-name biological products must dispense a lower-priced interchangeable biological product if one is in stock. Patients and practitioners may request that pharmacists dispense the brand-name biological product. If the interchangeable biological product is dispensed, pharmacists or their

designees are required to notify the prescribing practitioner of the name and manufacturer of the dispensed biological product. This notification must occur within five business days following the first dispensing. The notification may be made via telephone, fax, or electronic communication to the prescriber or prescriber's office personnel.

Links:

- [KRS 217.822 Substitution of equivalent drug or interchangeable biological product](#)
- [201 Kentucky Administrative Regulations 2:116. Substitution of drugs, biologics and biosimilar products.](#)
- [FDA Purple Book](#)

Official Method of Notification

The *Kentucky Board of Pharmacy Newsletter* is considered an official method of notification to pharmacists, pharmacist interns, pharmacies, wholesalers, and manufacturers credentialed by the Board. **These Newsletters will be used in administrative hearings as proof of notification.** Please read carefully. The Board encourages you to store them electronically in a folder or keep them in the back of the *Kentucky Pharmacy Law Book* for future reference.

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