



InSites: Summer Edition 2023

Industry Perspectives on OTCs

Connor Geddis, Class of 2024

Warren, New Jersey –

My first block rotation was at Haleon, formerly known as the GSK Consumer Health Division. This rotation significantly deepened my understanding of the Medical Affairs functional area roles, responsibilities, and skill sets necessary to succeed. I was quickly immersed into the workflow, while meeting and learning from other professionals within a variety of functional areas, including the Regulatory, Clinical Development, and Commercial teams. My experience at Haleon was tremendous, allowing me to develop a thorough understanding of medical affairs, providing me with the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals, and strengthening my passion for pursuing a career within medical affairs.

For this APPE rotation, I worked in the Pain Team with Richard Petruschke, PharmD, an excellent preceptor who truly wants you to learn and grow professionally during your time at the company. During the experience, I was also able to learn valuable insight and collaborate with the current fellow, Ashley Andrew, PharmD. I am extremely thankful for both of these mentors providing an invaluable experience at Haleon.

Over the counter medications are the most accessible symptom relief options available to patients at every pharmacy. With effective, affordable, and safe options readily available to patients, the initial approach to symptom relief often involves these treatment choices. As a world-leading consumer health company, Haleon is focused on providing readily accessible treatment options that are trusted by millions around the globe.

The Medical Affairs Team serves as an essential resource to the company while interpreting scientific information, engaging with key opinion leaders, and generating data to support additional claims. Participating in advertisement promotional boards to ensure marketing claims are accurate and can be supported with data is one of the many responsibilities... (cont. page 2)



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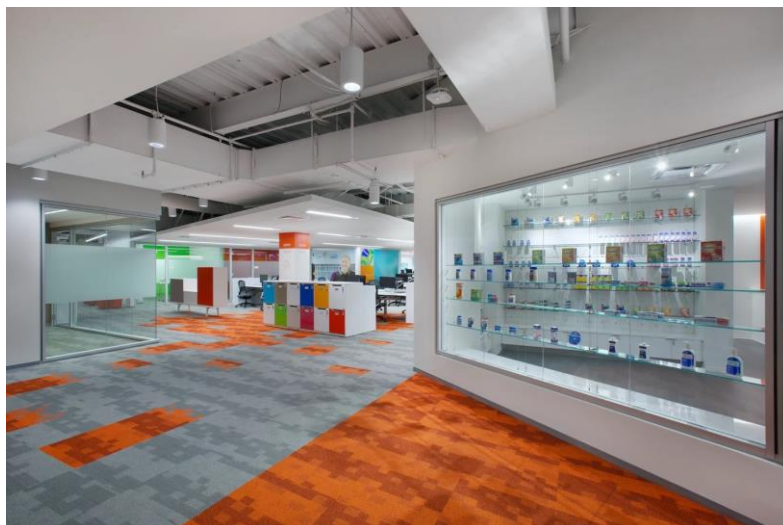


Connor Geddis, PharmD Candidate 2024

HALEON

Throughout this rotation, I had the opportunity to sit in on a variety of meetings which strengthened my understanding and appreciation for the processes involved. Along with this, I was able to support the Rx to OTC Team with a label comprehension study, which highlighted the diligent process involved in bringing prescription treatments to OTC status. I was also provided the opportunity to present relevant clinical data to the Pain Team, present an informational CE presentation on the OTC treatment of allergic rhinitis that supported the Respiratory Team, and assist with medical intelligence by reviewing supplemental labeling of consumer products while documenting changes associated with patient reviews and post marketing requirements.

Students will often overlook this career path as opportunities are not highlighted similar to the community, hospital, or ambulatory care positions. The non-traditional role of pharmacists within the industry seems to be a growing career path with significant potential for growth, in addition to having the opportunity to address unmet clinical needs. Now more than ever, there are expanding opportunities for pharmacists to utilize their well-rounded clinical expertise within the regulatory, commercial, medical affairs, or clinical development functional areas.



Above and below, Haleon Headquarters in Warren, New Jersey.

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I would highly recommend any student that is interested in or curious about the industry to participate in this APPE experience as it provides a well-rounded overview of medical affairs and highlights the importance of pharmacists within the pharmaceutical industry.

What's next for WNE COPHS students?

Connor Geddis, Class of 2024:

“I plan to pursue a Medical Affairs fellowship in the near future. During these two years, I hope to build upon my professional skill set and positively impact the lives of many.”



Diving into a Virtual APPE

Kerrin Hollis, Class of 2024

Stoughton, Massachusetts –

My second rotation as an APPE student was with Shields Health Solutions as an APPE pharmacy intern on the clinical contracting team. This rotation was the best six weeks of pharmacy school I have had yet. It has opened doors that have made me even more excited to be entering the pharmacy field in 2024. Shields enlightened me on the limitless opportunities that pharmacists have upon graduation. My rotation with this amazing specialty pharmacy was both challenging and rewarding.

Before starting at Shields, I was worried about the obstacles that can come from a remote APPE and working from home. However, it was not long before my preceptor threw me into projects, meetings, and presentations. Within my first week, I was diving into patient profiles and dissecting adherence concerns from their second quarter data analytics. I was receiving reports from different teams at Shields and working together with pharmacists to return their data with analyzed adherence patterns. Dan, a clinical pharmacist and crucial member on the contracting team, had reached out and given me a specific site to investigate. In the upcoming weeks of my rotation, he soon became a mentor and my go-to-man with questions or concerns.

“Before starting at Shields, I was worried about the obstacles that can come from a remote APPE and working from home. However, it was not long before my preceptor threw me into projects, meetings, and presentations.”

Additionally, I was able to work on projects that would help new clinical pharmacists in the future. Shields Health Solutions supplies specialty pharmacy services that require further education for the pharmacists. I was able to update their mood disorder, sleep disorder, and lung cancer documents which clinical pharmacists will use to bring the best and most updated care to their patients. There are many ways that show how Shields offers the highest care to patients, and this was one way I could make a contribution.

Dr. Brooke Ruhland, PharmD has been the best preceptor a student could ask for. From my first day, she made me feel welcome and introduced me to her team. Even with her overloaded schedule, she would make sure to meet with me whenever possible. She gave me the opportunity to connect with all the different teams at Shields that have a niche pharmacy role, such as the clinical pharmacist’s education and development team, the pharmacy outcomes team, the accreditation team, the integration team, and more. I cannot thank her enough for all she has done for me and my future career as a pharmacist!



What’s next for WNE COPHS students?



Kerrin Hollis, Class of 2024:

“After graduation, I hope to be able to work for a company like Shields as a clinical pharmacist, with the possibility of joining one of their specialty pharmacists’ roles after gaining experience. Shields gives their employees the opportunity to change their position, gain new skills, and see what they enjoy best. After speaking to multiple pharmacists during my rotation, I have realized that many of them have taken roles that they never would have seen themselves doing upon graduation. Additionally, I also plan to work at the independent pharmacy in my hometown. I have worked in this family-run pharmacy for 4 years and love the impact they have in my community.”

An IPPE Full of Firsts



Flen Hix, Vice President of the inaugural Distance Learning Program (DLP) class at Western New England University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

Flen Hix, Class of 2027

Dayton, Ohio –

I had the opportunity to do my IPPE rotation at Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio (RIO) at Encompass Health in Dayton, Ohio. This rotation allowed me to expand my horizon and gave me a strong idea of what it is really like to become a pharmacist in a rehabilitation setting. I never knew that rehabilitation was an option for pharmacists until now.

Under the guidance of my preceptor, Pharmacy Director Dr. Ann-Elizabeth Hensel, PharmD, I was given the opportunity to engage in medication reconciliation. This is when pharmacists reconcile all admission orders. This involves reviewing medication profiles, progress notes, home medications,

and discharge orders from referring facilities and compiling a list of admission orders that is accurate, detailed, and targeted for the rehabilitation patient. The pharmacists also manage the discharge medication reconciliation process- preparing the discharge medication profile and examining the medical record to determine need for prn meds, and changes to the patient's home medications.

I learned quite a bit about anticoagulation management. In this management the pharmacists monitor patient response and laboratory data to assist physicians in adjusting anticoagulant regimens. Antibiotic stewardship was very intriguing. The pharmacists analyze cultures/sensitivities and assist the physician with selection and duration of antimicrobial therapies. Pharmacists assist in pharmacokinetic dosing of vancomycin/aminoglycosides.

Being the first student pharmacist here is an honor and a privilege. It is without reserve that I recommend Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio to any pharmacy student looking for a place to learn the profession of pharmacy.

Site Visits – Coming to a pharmacy near you!

We may not always make it all the way from Western New England to places like the Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio, but the experiential team strives to stop by and touch base with our preceptors whenever possible.

Right: Operations Coordinator for Experiential Education at WNE Dominic DeFilipi, Preceptor Ann-Elizabeth Hensel, and student Flen Hix during a site visit this summer.



An IPPE Full of Firsts, continued

I was also engaged in quality assurance and performance improvement. The pharmacy analyzes trends in medication errors, adverse drug events, profile overrides, narcotic discrepancies, and antimicrobial stewardship. Compiled data is reviewed to identify opportunities for improvement and develop action plans to reach quality benchmarks.

This unique setting has opened my eyes to the realm of rehabilitation. On this rotation, I was given the pleasure of seeing patients leave the facility better than they were after being discharged. I observed patients in the practice daily activities that restore them back to daily function. Such activities included laundry, cooking, getting out of bed, and bathroom activities. Watching some of the patients return to these essential activities made me realize how we take these tasks for granted. When a patient has made remarkable progress, there is a "Go Green." During this ceremony, staff lines up at the entrance and the patient that is being discharged travels through the doors with his or her family. There is a round of applause, cheers, and warm smiles. I was honored and privileged to participate in a few of these ceremonies.

Being the first student pharmacist here is an honor and a privilege. It is without reserve that I recommend Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio to any pharmacy student looking for a place to learn the profession of pharmacy. I could not ask for a better true-life education than this. This experience has allowed me to learn more things hands-on that I do not see in the classroom.

Although I am strongly considering practicing in the hospital pharmacy setting, I am still considering other sectors of pharmacy as my journey is simply beginning.

What's next for WNE COPHS students?

Flen Hix, Class of 2027:

"Although I am strongly considering practicing in the hospital pharmacy setting, I am still considering other sectors of pharmacy as my journey is simply beginning."

Introducing Chantel Burnett



Springfield, Massachusetts –

Our newest member in the office of Experiential Affairs is Chantel Burnett. Chantel started at Western New England University working in the office of Enrollment Services, where she supported the Registrars' Office and Financial Aid team.

In her new role as the Experiential Distance Learning Pathway (DLP) Coordinator, Chantel is focused on establishing affiliation agreements with health systems all over the country, from Hawaii to Puerto Rico, where our distance learning students will complete rotations close to their homes.

To reach out regarding DLP-related experiential needs, including experiential site suggestions, affiliation agreements, and preceptor orientations, feel free to contact Chantel through email at chantel.burnett@wne.edu, or by phone at (413) 796-2410.

In her free time, Chantel enjoys spending time with her family, reading, cooking, and crafting with her girls.

What's next for WNE COPHS graduates?

Emily Scurka, PharmD
Class of 2023:

"I am currently a PGY1 pharmacy resident at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut! I have interests in both infectious diseases and ambulatory care. I love the challenging content, and all the difference that exists in the ID world amongst each patient, and I love the direct patient interaction that I get in the ambulatory care setting.

Directly working with patients and having a positive impact on their treatment is such a great feeling, and something that I am very passionate about. There is no better feeling than having a patient that genuinely appreciates everything you have done to help them! I am loving residency so far and am so excited for the year ahead to explore all of the opportunities that Hartford has to offer, and to grow more as a young pharmacist!

The future is so bright, and I wouldn't be where I am if it were not for the amazing professors at Western New England!"

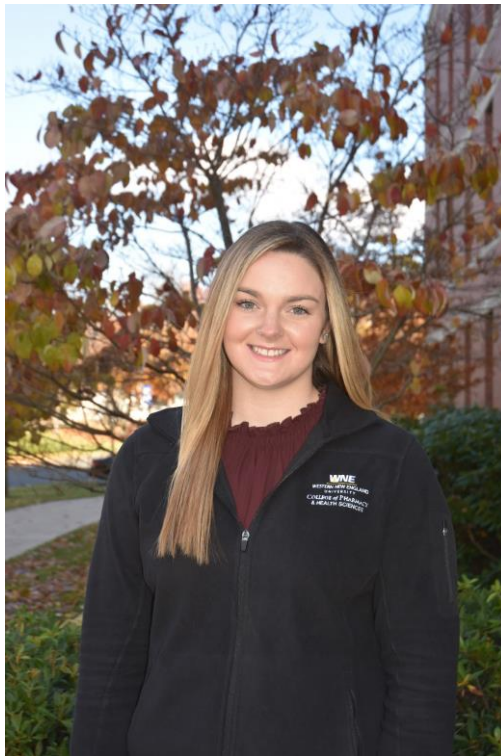
Four Months in Melrose

Emily Scurka, PharmD, Class of 2023

Melrose, Massachusetts –

I had the opportunity to complete a four-month long longitudinal APPE rotation during Blocks 3, 4, and 5 at MelroseWakefield Hospital in Melrose, Massachusetts.

During Block 3, I worked in the ambulatory care anticoagulation clinic with Dr. Toni DeQuevedo, PharmD as my preceptor. In the clinic, I assisted with warfarin dosing, DOAC monitoring, Lovenox bridging, inpatient anticoagulation monitoring, and I even got to teach a patient how to use Lovenox at home. This rotation was so rewarding because I got to speak to patients daily and follow them for six weeks throughout their treatment journey. I very much enjoy speaking to patients, and this was one of my favorite rotations! I learned so much about anticoagulation on this rotation and had a great time in the clinic with Toni, Ellen, and Paige. Not only did I get to help patients with their medication therapy, but I also got to hear so many interesting stories that some of the patients would share; I even helped one patient set up her voicemail on her cell phone. The patients were always super thankful for all of our help, and it was an extremely rewarding rotation!



In Block 4, I completed my institutional APPE rotation with a student from MCPHS Boston under our preceptor Dr. Jonathan Tionson, PharmD's guidance. On this rotation, I had the chance to work with Jonathan to help dose vancomycin and warfarin. I completed medication reconciliations daily and ran different reports to assess medication safety. I also learned to love med recs, because I was able to talk to patients again, hearing so many unique stories. This rotation was a lot of fun because I also got to go to the cardiac catheterization lab for a day and watch some procedures there (which was really cool)! Additionally, I completed an Alzheimer's disease final presentation while on this rotation, learning much more about a new monoclonal antibody Aducanumab, used in the management and potential treatment for dementia. Pharmacy week also fell during this rotation block, and the team made it so much fun! Every day there were different activities and goodies to show appreciation for all of the pharmacy staff, and it was awesome that the APPE students got to join in on the fun as well.

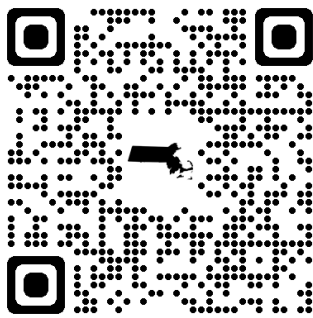


For Block 5, I completed an infectious diseases rotation with my preceptor Dr. Ruchit Marfatia, PharmD, from whom I learned so much. Each morning, I would review the positive blood cultures that resulted from the previous day, review the patient's chart, and then make sure the antibiotic therapy the patient was receiving was appropriate. I also rounded with one of the infectious disease physicians, both in her office and on the floor, which was an amazing experience.

Become a Community First Responder

Use the following links and QR codes to access 10-minute long online naloxone training courses specific to Massachusetts and Connecticut:

[Massachusetts:](#)



[Connecticut:](#)



If you would like to schedule a free one-hour live training seminar for your group, or a free one-hour CE program accredited for pharmacists, nurses or licensed mental health counselors: [Please click here to request a live program.](#)

Four Months in Melrose, continued

I saw some fascinating diabetic foot infections and many cases of cellulitis. I had been following the case of a younger adult who came to the ER infected with necrotizing pneumonia, so my final presentation was a case discussion based on this patient. It was amazing to see their path from very sick in the ER, to admission to the floor, to finally being discharged home and doing so much better. Infectious disease is an area that I am very interested in and passionate about, so this rotation was so much fun to experience!

During each rotation, I also participated in resident-run journal clubs, various topic discussions, disease state and patient case presentations, and attended many different meetings. The staff at MWH were all super nice, helpful, and fun to work with. From day one, I always felt welcomed and a part of the team. I absolutely loved my time at Melrose. I learned so much, grew so much as a person, met so many great people, and became close with many students from other schools who were also on rotation. I highly recommend this site to any student who is looking for a well-rounded experience with great preceptors and staff. I cannot thank MWH enough for all that they did for me, and for all that they taught me.

Dr. Melissa Mattison Receives \$50K Grant for Naloxone Education

Springfield, Massachusetts –

Western New England University Clinical Associate Professor of Community Care Dr. Melissa Mattison, has been selected as the sub awardee of a \$50,000 grant under the University of Rhode Island (URI) for naloxone education. The grant aims to educate healthcare professionals and the community about naloxone, a life-saving medication that can rapidly reverse opioid overdose.

Naloxone is an FDA-approved medication that works as an opioid antagonist, binding to opioid receptors and reversing and blocking the effects of other opioids such as heroin, morphine, and oxycodone. When administered to someone showing signs of opioid overdose, naloxone provides temporary treatment and its effects do not last long. As such, it is crucial to obtain medical intervention as soon as possible after administering or receiving naloxone.

Naloxone can be given by intranasal spray (into the nose), intramuscular (into the muscle), subcutaneous (under the skin), or intravenous (into the vein) injection. Healthcare practitioners must assess the need to prescribe naloxone for patients receiving medication-assisted treatment (MAT) or considered at risk for opioid overdose.

The grant will focus on promoting on-line modules and resources to community partners and residents and other healthcare professionals, including students, about naloxone administration, its importance, and the proper steps to take in case of an opioid overdose. With the rising prevalence of opioid use, such education will be crucial to save lives and prevent further harm to the community. URI is partnering with institutions across New England to bring education to rural counties.

"Receiving this grant is an honor, and I look forward to utilizing it to raise awareness about naloxone and its life-saving benefits," said Dr. Mattison. "By educating community members and healthcare professionals about naloxone administration, we can take significant steps towards preventing opioid overdose and improving public health."

Dr. Mattison is an Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Assistant Dean of Experiential Affairs with over 25 years of experience in the community providing quality care to patients. She is committed to advocating for public health and implementing evidence-based interventions to improve patient lives and outcomes.

Save the Date! WNE Preceptor Development Conference 2023

Springfield, Massachusetts –

The Western New England University Office of Experiential Affairs is pleased to announce that our annual Preceptor Development Conference will take place on **Tuesday, October 17th from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM EST** in Rivers Auditorium on the Western New England University campus in Springfield, MA.

The conference will feature live continuing education focused on best practices in experiential learning, precepting techniques, and a pharmacy law and regulation review, among other topics.

The conference will be open to all Western New England pharmacy preceptors, as well as any other pharmacists who may want to attend. **The conference is a hybrid format, so guests are invited to attend in-person or over Zoom.**

Registration information will be sent via CORE Elms messages, so look out for updates in the coming weeks.



Experiential Lunch and Learns Beginning this Fall



Beginning this September and continuing on the third Wednesday of each month, from 12:00 – 12:30 PM EST via Zoom, the Western New England University OEA will offer a lunch and learn series on topics related to experiential education topics, software (CORE Elms and other tools), as well as best precepting practices. However, we need your help!

Please fill out this survey to let us know what you most want to learn during these sessions using this link.

Upcoming Lunch and Learn Dates:

- Wednesday, September 20th, 2023
- Wednesday, November 15th, 2023
- Wednesday, January 17th, 2024

We hope to see you there!

Are you interested in virtual CE opportunities?

Continue to the last page to view upcoming continuing education offered by the Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association.

Experiential Golf Tournament 2023



Friday, September 22, 2023

8:00 a.m. | Oak Ridge Golf Club

850 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

The Experiential Award is open to any student registered in a professional program within the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Funding will help students cover the costs associated with experiential rotations including, but not limited to Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE), Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE), and Fieldwork.

Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association CEs

WMPHA provides monthly CEs over Zoom.

Use the following link to register!

www.wnerxce.org/user/login

Upcoming WMPHA CEs

Date & Time	Topic	Presenter
Wednesday, 9/20/23 at 7:30 PM EST	Pharmacy Law	David Baker, RPh, JD, MBA WNE Professor of Pharmacy Administration
Wednesday, 9/27/23 at 7:30 PM EST	Immunization Conundrums in the Pharmacy	Melissa Mattison, PharmD, CDCES, Assistant Dean of Experiential Affairs
Wednesday, 10/18/23 at 7:30 PM EST	Anti-coagulation	Erika Prouty, PharmD Clinical Staff Pharmacist at Baystate Medical Center

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