



# Georgia Board of Pharmacy *NEWS*

March 2023

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

To my colleagues,

It is a privilege to serve on the Board that oversees our profession. It is an even greater privilege to have the opportunity to serve as the Board's President this year.

As Board members we are appointed by the Governor to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Georgia. Reflecting on that charge, ensuring the most appropriate balance between the acts of protecting, promoting, and preserving (what I will collectively refer to as advocating for patient care) is of greatest importance to me.

I not only have a desire to ensure there are appropriate guardrails within our rules which protect the safety and welfare of Georgia patients from harm, whether intentional or unintentional, but I also have a desire to promote and

preserve the public health through innovation by minimizing and eliminating unnecessary barriers to the practice of pharmacy and the business of pharmacy. To the extent possible, within the confines of the laws in Georgia, it is my desire for this Board to create, modify and in some cases even eliminate rules with the goal of enhancing pharmacists' ability to advocate (protect, promote, and preserve) for patient care in all settings. By focusing too heavily on any one of those three charges of patient care advocacy, we run the risk of doing an injustice to the citizens of Georgia.

Finally, I want to encourage all pharmacists in Georgia to hold this and future Boards accountable to the spirit of this charge and the healthy balance it attests to. When I first became a licensed pharmacist in 2002, I had no desire to be involved in pharmacy-based associations, the regulatory affairs of the profession and certainly not to serve on the Board of Pharmacy. Over time, as I progressed in my career, I became more passionate about my desire to advocate for patient care through the practice of pharmacy. I quickly learned that the only way to encourage change and progress is to be involved, build relationships, and always have the patient's best interest in mind. It is my hope that each of you will find ways to exhibit your passion for patient care through pharmacy by being involved and shaping the future of our profession.

Thank you for all that you do,  
Michael Azzolin

## **GEORGIA DRUGS AND NARCOTICS AGENCY UPDATE**

It is the Mission of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency (GDNA) to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring all laws pertaining to pharmacy, dangerous drugs, and controlled substances are followed by both registrants and any others who handle or possess pharmaceuticals. As the enforcement arm of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy, our agents inspect every licensed pharmacy in the State of Georgia. Agents conduct investigations of these pharmacies related to public complaints and administrative issues. Agents also conduct criminal investigations regarding prescription drug abuse throughout the state which may or may not involve licensed pharmacies.

The State of Georgia, along with most other states, is in the middle of a long, entrenched fight against opioid abuse. GDNA is an agency directly involved in this fight by ensuring Pharmacy Board registrants and other healthcare entities adhere to the laws, rules, and regulations relating to the appropriate dispensing and distributing of opioid prescription medication. Along with the Pharmacy Board, GDNA is proud to be of service to the citizens of Georgia.

If you are interested in applying for a position with the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, please visit our website at [www.GDNA.Georgia.GOV](http://www.GDNA.Georgia.GOV). We are currently accepting applications for the Special Agent position in Southwest Georgia. If you live in or around Southwest Georgia and you have at least two years of professional experience as a pharmacist, we encourage you to apply.

Dennis M. Troughton Sr.  
Director GDNA

Michael Karnbach  
Deputy Director GDNA

## **LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS UPDATE**

### **BOARD OF PHARMACY STATEMENT REGARDING EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDED RULES**

**The Secretary of State's Office has accepted the filing of the Board's amendments to, and issued effective dates for the following Rules of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy:**

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
480-9-.03. Conditions	February 28, 2023
480-13-.06. Drug Distribution Control	February 28, 2023
480-15-.02. Registration of Pharmacy Technicians and Continuing Education Requirements	February 20, 2023
480-15-.03. Use of Registered Pharmacy Technicians and Other Pharmacy Personnel	February 28, 2023
480-22-.07. Requirements of Schedule III, IV and V (C-III, IV, V) Controlled Substance Prescription Drug Orders	February 28, 2023
480-28-.10. Loss or Theft of Controlled Substances	February 20, 2023
480-31-.01. Patient Counseling	February 28, 2023
480-34-.15. Additional Compounds Under Schedule V*	February 28, 2023

\* Repeal of Rule 480-34-.15 will be effective upon the date noted above.

## **GENERAL UPDATES**

### ***Board Member Retires***

Bill Prather recently announced his retirement after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the Georgia Board of Pharmacy. Bill started his career in the Blue Ridge mountains of North Georgia as an Independent pharmacy owner and served the citizens of that community for many years. During that time Bill became deeply involved with the Georgia Pharmacy Association and served in various capacities and roles. Bill's reputation as a strong leader led to his appointment to the Georgia Board of Pharmacy soon thereafter. Bill served the Board of Pharmacy with a deep commitment to protect the citizens of this great state and served as a mentor to many colleagues over the years as well. Bill's presence on the Board will be sorely missed but his friendship will remain forever.

### ***New Board Member Appointed***

We would like welcome and congratulate Michael E. Farmer on his appointment to the Georgia Board of Pharmacy. Michael is the owner / operator of Farmer's Prescription shop with locations in Winder, GA. and Watkinsville, GA. Michael is very active in the Georgia Pharmacy Association and is a past President of the organization. We look forward to Michael's tenure on the Board so please help us congratulate him on this accomplishment.

### ***Upcoming Board Meeting:***

Date: March 8, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Mercer University College of Pharmacy

3001 Mercer University Dr.

Atlanta, GA 30341

### ***Board Members***

President: Michael Azzolin

Vice President: Chuck Page

Dean Stone

Michael Brinson

Young Chang

Cecil Cordle

Michael Farmer

Consumer Member: Jim Bracewell

### ***Public Board Meetings***

January 18, 2023

February 15, 2023

March 8, 2023

April 12 & 13, 2023

May 24, 2023

June 14, 2023

July 19, 2023

August 16, 2023

September 13, 2023

October 18, 2023

November 15 & 16, 2023

December 13, 2023