



MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MSHP Recognizes Pharmacy Leaders With Prestigious Awards

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP), a practice section within the Michigan Pharmacists Association, has recognized several pharmacy leaders with prestigious distinction for notable contributions to their field:

- **Edward Szandzik**, BS Pharm, MBA, of Grosse Pointe Woods, was named the MSHP Pharmacist of the Year.
- **The University of Michigan Hypertension Pharmacists Program**, founded by the late Dr. Hae Mi Choe, received the MSHP President's Award.
- **Cole Orlikowski**, Pharm.D., MBA, of Sparta, received the Professional Practice Award
- **Rox Gatia**, Pharm.D. MSHA, BCPS, of Bloomfield Hills, was the recipient of the Joseph A. Oddis Leadership Award.
- **The Bronson Methodist Hospital Inpatient Pharmacy Team** was the inaugural recipient of the Excellence in Wellness Practice Award.

### Pharmacist of the Year



**Edward Szandzik** earned his BS in Pharmacy (1980) and MBA (1986) from Wayne State University. He began his career as a clinical pharmacist at Henry Ford Hospital and advanced through leadership roles. In 2015, he was named vice president of pharmacy services for the Henry Ford Health System, overseeing pharmacy operations across six hospitals. In that role, he unified and standardized services system-wide, driving improvements in patient care and operational efficiency.

His leadership led to major initiatives, including embedding pharmacists in clinics for chronic disease management, expanding residency programs, launching an antibiotic stewardship program and implementing a pharmacist-led anticoagulation service. He also championed the adoption of automation technologies to streamline operations. Szandzik earned regional and national recognition as an exceptional leader in pharmacy. Appointed adjunct faculty at Wayne State University College of Pharmacy in 1985, he provided both didactic and experiential instruction. He co-developed a longitudinal advanced pharmacy practice program for Pharm.D. students at Henry Ford – an innovative model now adopted nationwide.

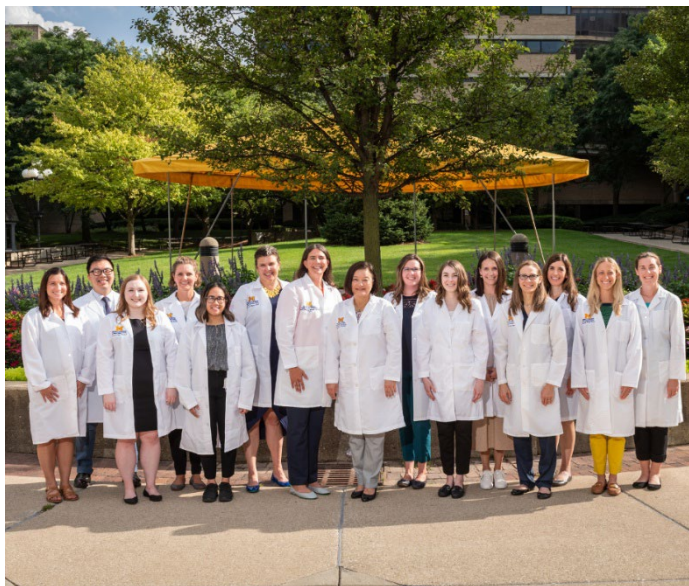
Szandzik served as president and chair of the Michigan Pharmacists Association and led the Southeastern Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists. His honors include the MSHP Joseph A. Oddis Leadership Award, Wayne State's Distinguished Alumni Award, ASHP Fellowship (2013) and MPA Pharmacist of the Year (2020). After retiring, he served as executive

vice president of MSHP until 2025. Szandzik has mentored countless leaders and is known for his core belief: leadership is all about relationships.

### **MSHP President's Award**

#### **The University of Michigan Hypertension Pharmacist Program**

was developed under the visionary leadership of the late Dr. Hae Mi Choe. This innovative model utilizes embedded clinical pharmacists within primary care clinics and partners with regional Meijer pharmacies to improve blood pressure control across the University of Michigan Health system. Through medication management, patient education and strong collaboration with primary care teams, the program has demonstrated significant success in helping patients achieve and sustain target blood pressure goals.



Over the past 18 months, the program has expanded to include targeted outreach efforts focused on reducing disparities in blood pressure control among Black patients. By providing home blood pressure monitors and personalized follow-up, the team has made measurable progress in closing this gap.

The Hypertension Pharmacist Program has received national recognition and serves as a model being scaled across other states through partnerships with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This work reflects University of Michigan Health and the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy's commitment to advancing health equity and improving cardiovascular outcomes through pharmacist-led care.

### **Professional Practice Award**



**Cole Orlikowski, Pharm.D., MBA**, is a PGY-2 infectious diseases pharmacy resident at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He completed his PGY-1 residency at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City after earning his Doctor of Pharmacy and MBA from the Ferris State University College of Pharmacy. As a student, he published a study titled "Evaluating Risk Factors for Short Versus Long Hospital Stay for Cellulitis to Guide the Development of a Long-Acting Lipoglycopeptide Use Decision Algorithm." The study led to the development of an emergency department dalbavancin protocol aimed at treating cellulitis and preventing unnecessary hospitalization and was ultimately implemented across the Munson Healthcare

system during his PGY-1 year. That same year, he also evaluated perioperative cefazolin use among  $\beta$ -lactam-allergic surgical patients under a system-wide “cefazolin for all” pharmacy-to-dose policy spanning three hospitals, helping to characterize practice patterns, assess safety outcomes and identify opportunities for broader implementation.

His current interests include antimicrobial stewardship in both inpatient and outpatient settings, infectious diseases pharmacotherapy, and implementation science – applying evidence-based interventions to improve diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making, streamline clinical workflows, and promote sustainable stewardship models. Following completion of his PGY-2 residency, he plans to pursue a clinical position as an infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist.

### **Joseph A. Oddis Leadership Award**



**Rox Gatia, PharmD, MHSA, BCPS**, is vice president of pharmacy shared services at Henry Ford Health, where he leads system-wide integration and oversight of pharmacy services, medication management, and the pharmaceutical supply chain. He is responsible for the health system drug formulary and policies, automation, pharmacovigilance, business services and strategic initiatives to ensure safe, cost-effective, evidence-based medication use. Gatia was instrumental in creating the Centralized Pharmacy Services Center, transforming the pharmacy enterprise into a strategic asset and care partner supporting high quality, innovative pharmacy services.

With more than 20 years of progressive leadership experience spanning academia, health-system, managed care and outpatient practice, Gatia has developed numerous innovative pharmacy practice models and business services that have yielded transformative benefits to health systems, communities and the profession. He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy from Wayne State University and a master’s degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan. He is an adjunct associate professor at Wayne State University and a long-time preceptor of residents and students.

Gatia is active nationally and locally as a member of ASHP, ACHE, ACCP, AMCP, MPA, MPF, MSHP and SMSHP. His past recognition includes Crain’s Detroit 2024 Healthcare Hero, SMSHP Pharmacist of the Year, Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award and Crain’s 40 Under 40.

## Excellence in Wellness Practice Award

The winner of the inaugural Excellence in Wellness Practice Award is **Bronson Methodist Hospital's Inpatient Pharmacy Team**. Key contributors are Stacy Brousseau, Chris Selles, Natalie Washburn, Mark Wilson, Marissa Barry and Becky Maynard. The team has made a meaningful impact on the wellness culture of the health care sector through a variety of annual activities, including:



- The Pharmacy Amazing Race, consisting of more than 50 racers competing to solve clues and fun challenges at local businesses and team members' homes
- Chili Cookoff, with a night of trying over 20 homemade chilis with prizes for the top chili chefs in the department
- Bronson Music League, aptly named "I Wanna Rocuronium," where participants compete for most-liked songs across six rounds of varying themes
- Kalamazoo-area Christmas family adoptions, with wrapped personalized presents, money donations and household essentials for local families in need
- Pharmacy Book Club
- Holiday parties and life event celebrations
- Pharmacy Week and Pharmacy Technician Day celebrations with personalized appreciations for technicians
- "Pharm Animals" walk/run team to support the Bronson Children's Hospital Run and Walk fundraiser
- Residency Year-End and Year-Beginning Party to celebrate outgoing and welcome incoming residents, and to present the resident-created preceptor awards

### About Michigan Pharmacists Association

*The Michigan Pharmacists Association strives to serve members by providing support, advocacy and resources that ultimately improve patient care, safety, health and the practice of pharmacy. For more information, visit [MichiganPharmacists.org](https://MichiganPharmacists.org).*