

Washington Report: HHS Secretary Azar Responds to ACCP's Medication Management Questions

*John K. McGlew
Director of Government Affairs*



On January 29, 2018, Alex Azar, a former drug industry executive, was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Azar will serve as the Trump administration's second HHS leader. His predecessor, Tom Price, resigned after widespread criticism of his use of expensive private charter planes for official business travel at taxpayers' expense.

With an annual budget of over \$1 trillion, HHS is the largest department within the federal government and has jurisdiction over the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as well as organizations such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and National Institutes of Health.

Azar is no stranger to HHS, having previously served under President George W. Bush as general counsel from 2001 to 2005 and later as deputy secretary. However, Azar's nomination was controversial to many Democrats, given his background in the pharmaceutical industry as president of Indianapolis-based Lilly USA and his public opposition to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). His nomination was eventually confirmed in the Senate by a vote of 55-43. Seven Democrats voted for Azar's confirmation, and one Republican, Sen. Rand Paul (KY), opposed him.

As part of the Senate nomination hearing, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) introduced the following questions on behalf of ACCP to Azar related to his positions on policy approaches to improving medication use among Medicare beneficiaries:

Question: *You served at the Department of Health and Human Services during the initial implementation of the Medicare Part D program. That program has been successful in ensuring that seniors have coverage for the medications that their doctors prescribe. In addition to covering the cost of drugs for seniors, the Part D law included medication therapy management (MTM) services to help seniors take their medications correctly and to obtain the greatest health care benefit. Unfortunately, that part of the program has not been as successful as we had hoped. A recent report by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission indicated that the MTM programs are "falling short" of their goal to reduce unnecessary expenditures and improve quality. The report also indicated that physicians might be reluctant to accept recommendations on medication management from Part D drug plans. Given that MTM in the Part D program isn't meeting its intended goals, what more should we do to help seniors use their medications effectively? Do you think we should do more to make sure proven medication adherence programs such as comprehensive medication management and medication synchronization are available to seniors in Medicare? How can we make sure that doctors and clinical pharmacists are collaborating to help Medicare beneficiaries take the right drugs in the right ways at the right times?*

Response: *As I indicated in my opening statement, one of my top four priorities as secretary, if confirmed, will be to use the power of Medicare to drive transformation of our health care system from a procedure-based system that pays for sickness to a value-based system that pays for quality and outcomes. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (the Innovation Center) will be a critical part of these efforts. I understand that the Innovation Center currently has an ongoing model, the Part D Enhanced MTM Model, which offers an opportunity and financial incentives for basic stand-alone*

Part D Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) in selected regions to offer innovative MTM programs in lieu of the standard CMS MTM model, aimed at improving the quality of care while also reducing costs. I believe CMS is also testing changes to the Part D program that aim to achieve better alignment of PDP sponsor and government financial interests while also creating incentives for robust investment and innovation in MTM targeting and interventions. If confirmed, I look forward to coordinating with CMS as they work toward their goal of fostering an affordable, accessible health care system that puts patients first.

Azar also testified that his broad priorities as secretary would include working to make health care more affordable, altering Medicare to reward providers for promoting good health, and tackling the opioid epidemic.

Carper has established himself as a leading voice in the Senate on issues related to medication use. At a 2017 Finance Committee hearing to mark up legislation aimed at improving care for chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries, Carper—together with his Republican colleague from Kansas, Sen. Pat Roberts—introduced an amendment requiring the secretary of HHS to establish a process, beginning in plan year 2020, by which a Medicare Part D plan sponsor may submit a request to HHS for claims data under Medicare Parts A and B.

Although it is clear that amid stalled legislative efforts to repeal the ACA, Azar will lead the administration's efforts to scale back the 2010 law through regulation, Azar is on record as supporting Obama-era efforts to rein in Medicare spending by shifting payment structures that measure and pay for quality and

outcomes rather than volume. ACCP's Government and Professional Affairs staff will continue to explore legislative and regulatory opportunities to secure the integration of comprehensive medication management services within evolving Medicare Alternative Payment Models that both Congress and CMS have formally embraced.

For more information on any of ACCP's advocacy efforts, please contact:

John K. McGlew
Director, Government Affairs
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
1455 Pennsylvania Ave. Northwest
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20004-1017
(202) 621-1820
jmclew@accp.com

Research Grants Available from ACCP Research Institute—Online Application Due: June 1, 2018



The ACCP Research Institute (RI) Futures Grants program invites student, trainee, and early-career ACCP members to apply for developmental research grants. Futures Grants may range from \$5000 to \$40,000, depending on applicant eligibility and the proposal's requisite budget. Up to \$100,000 in mentored, developmental research awards will be granted through the Futures Grants program in 2018. To access detailed instructions, visit www.accpri.org/futures.

A large banner with a blue and white background. On the left side, there are three small images: a mountain range with snow, a city skyline at night with the Space Needle, and a public market with colorful produce. The text 'SAVE THE DATE' is written in large, white, bold letters at the top. Below it, in blue text, is '2018 ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy', 'October 20-23, 2018', and 'Washington State Conference Center Seattle, Washington, USA'. The ACCP logo is in the bottom right corner of the banner.

SAVE THE DATE

2018 ACCP Global Conference on
Clinical Pharmacy

October 20-23, 2018

Washington State Conference Center
Seattle, Washington, USA

The ACCP logo, consisting of the letters 'accp' in a stylized font with a blue-to-green gradient, and the text 'American College of Clinical Pharmacy' below it.

All applicants are required to complete a set of online eligibility questions before submitting an application. Applicant responses will provide an immediate determination of eligibility for the student/resident or junior investigator awards and display the appropriate online application form. Responses to the eligibility questions and partly completed applications may be saved and continued later by retaining the return access code provided.

To determine eligibility and submit an application, visit <https://accp.com/18futuresapp>. For all other questions, contact:

Jessie Culley, Project Coordinator
ACCP Research Institute
(913) 492-3311
E-mail: jculley@accp.com

Register Now for ACCP's Board Certification Prep Courses to Be Held in April

ACCP's newest educational offering—regional Board Certification Prep Courses—will be presented April 21–22, 2018, in Pomona, California. Registration is now open at <https://www.accp.com/meetings/reg18>. The discounted, advance registration rate is available through Monday, April 2.

The courses will include Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and Pharmacotherapy, as well as two new courses, Cardiology Pharmacy and Infectious Diseases Pharmacy, and will be presented at the Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy in Pomona, California.

ACCP will also offer preparatory courses at Updates in Therapeutics® 2018 on February 16–18 in Jacksonville, Florida. The regional ACCP Board Certification Prep Courses in Pomona are designed for the convenience of attendees in California and surrounding states who may be unable to travel across the country to attend Updates in Therapeutics® 2018.

The regional ACCP Board Certification Prep Courses will be condensed for presentation over a 2-day period to minimize attendees' travel time, travel expense, and time away from their professional practices. Attendees will, however, receive the full, 3-day Updates in Therapeutics® 2018 course experience. Each attendee will receive access to supplemental course content delivered online, which will be included in the full registration fee for the regional ACCP Board Certification Prep Courses.

For full course information and to register, visit the ACCP website at <https://www.accp.com/meetings/reg18>. Register by April 2 to take advantage of the discounted, advance registration rate.

Ellingrod Appointed to the PPI Board of Directors



Vicki L. Ellingrod, Pharm.D., FCCP, has been appointed by Jill M. Kolesar, ACCP president, to the Pharmacotherapy Publications, Inc. (PPI) Board of Directors (BOD), upon the BOD's recommendation. Ellingrod is an associate dean of research and graduate education at the University of Michigan, the John Gideon Searle Professor of Clinical and Translational Psychiatry, and a professor of psychiatry and psychology.

Ellingrod earned her B.S. and Pharm.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in psychopharmacology/pharmacogenetics at the University of Iowa. As faculty at the University of Iowa, she completed a K08 training grant funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). In 2006, she joined the University of Michigan as an associate professor.

Ellingrod's research has primarily been funded by NIMH and focuses on the pharmacogenomics of mental health treatment. She is a founding member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists and a full member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Ellingrod is a scientific editor for *Pharmacotherapy* and editor for the 11th edition of the DiPiro textbook *Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach*.

Dr. Leigh Ann Ross, PPI BOD chair, comments that "Vicki's expertise and proven track record make her a terrific addition to the Board of Directors. She joins the board at an exciting time for PPI and ACCP—we look forward to working with her!"

Emerge from the Crowd: How to Become a Standout Residency Candidate



EMERGE FROM THE CROWD
How to Become a Standout Pharmacy Residency Candidate

Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy
Pomona, California • April 21 or 22, 2018

On April 21 and 22, ACCP will conduct two 1-day Emerge from the Crowd workshops at the Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy in Pomona, California. This unique program has been designed to help first-, second-, and third-year pharmacy students maximize their ability to secure a residency position upon graduation. Student participants will be given the opportunity to walk away with tangible results, including

a revised curriculum vitae and a letter of intent—vital components of their residency application. They will also take part in interactive programming on attending the ASHP Midyear meeting, applying for a residency, and interviewing successfully. Registration is open at www.accp.com/meetings/ec18/.

Inside the Journal: The Rise and Role of Themed Issues

Inside the Journal

C. Lindsay DeVane, Pharm.D.,
FCCP, BCPP

Editor-in-Chief,
Pharmacotherapy

Many ACCP members can recall when a print issue of a monthly biomedical journal was occasionally accompanied by a separately bound addendum designated as a supplement. These are stand-alone issues or parts of regular issues. They have been used to archive meeting abstracts, summarize the results of invited conferences, and promote special topics of interest to a journal's readership.

Publication of supplements often entails additional production costs outside what is normally provided by a publisher. Among medical and pharmacy journals, supplements have widely been underwritten by the pharmaceutical industry. Benefits to the sponsor include an ability to profile the characteristics of a new drug in development or to promote the benefits of an old drug with a new indication. Many articles in a single supplement can be devoted to a related topic. These issues can be distributed as a bound series of reprints rather than a bundling of several articles on a similar topic from different journals.

Marketing budgets and advertising practices in the pharmaceutical industry have been transformed in recent years, stimulated by guidelines from professional organizations, institutions, and regulatory agencies regarding drug promotion. Some reorientation of marketing budgets has resulted from the relaxation of direct-to-consumer advertising. One result has been waning support for the production of journal supplements. Although funding sources can bias the content of supplements, collections of articles that cover a related topic comprehensively are needed. The editors of *Pharmacotherapy* believe that themed issues have a place in meeting this need.

Pharmacotherapy has a history of publishing related articles in single issues that focus on a specific topic. In recent years, entire issues, or designated sections of a single issue, have been devoted to specialty themes.

Some of the topics covered include the use of vancomycin, anticoagulation, women's health, the rising cost of pharmaceuticals, precision medicine, and the opioid crisis. A goal of themed issues is to provide the readership with state-of-the-art research and reviews to address topics of broad interest.

Themed issues that explore contemporary topics in pharmacotherapy are planned for publication several times each year in future volumes of *Pharmacotherapy*. This plan allows invited guest editors to serve for a limited time in the role of a scientific editor to develop a journal issue on a specific topic. The principles recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors covering editorial practices apply equally to themed issues and all published manuscripts. Guest editors are responsible for selecting authors, manuscript referees, and content in the development of a special section or themed issue. The authors of articles that appear in themed issues can be expected to be authorities in their field. The editor-in-chief assumes responsibility for the work of guest editors and retains the authority to reject manuscripts with or without external review. Disclosures related to potential conflicts of interest apply equally to all accepted articles for *Pharmacotherapy*.

Themed issues complement, but do not replace, the publication of unsolicited manuscripts. Invited and spontaneously submitted research articles and reviews remain *Pharmacotherapy's* indispensable source of relevant content. One goal in developing themed issues is to provide comprehensive coverage of a topic from several authors with differing points of view. Themed issues give the editor-in-chief and scientific editors more latitude in presenting relevant content to ACCP members and the greater readership.

Letters of Intent for Investigator Training Programs



Are you planning to apply to the ACCP Research Institute (RI) Mentored Research Investigator Training (MeRIT) or Focused Investigator Training (FIT) program? Letters of intent for either program are due February 28, and FIT and MeRIT program applications will close March 31, 2018. This year's MeRIT and FIT programs will be held June 25–29, 2018, on the campus of the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The MeRIT Program seeks candidates who are pharmacy faculty or practitioners who would like assistance with developing the abilities necessary to conduct investigator-initiated research. The FIT Program's ideal applicants are mid-career, fellowship-trained, tenure-track, or research-focused pharmacists who are ready to undergo intensive research proposal development work in preparation for a submission/resubmission to the National Institutes of Health or other major funding source.

For more information about the FIT and MeRIT programs, or to download an application form, visit the RI's Investigator Development page at www.accpri.org/investigator/. All inquiries about these programs, letters of intent, and completed applications should be e-mailed to Carla Scarborough at cscarborough@accp.com.

Register Now for the 2018 ACCP/ASHP Oncology Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course

Mark your calendar for the [Oncology Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course](http://www.oncologyprepcourse.com) to be held Thursday through Saturday, May 3–5, 2018, in San Diego, California. Registration is now open at www.oncologyprepcourse.com.

This popular program is designed to help pharmacists prepare for the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination. In addition, oncology practitioners not planning to sit for the BPS examination will find the course valuable in assessing the knowledge and skills needed to remain current in all aspects of this practice area.

Part of a professional development program offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the course is accredited for 25.25 contact hours of CPE by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and is approved by BPS for recertification credit for Board Certified Oncology Pharmacists. Course enrollment is limited to 300 participants, and early registration discounts end March 23, 2018.

Visit the [ACCP website](http://www.accp.com) for more information.

2018 ACCP/ASHP Oncology Pharmacy Home Study Syllabus for Recertification Now Available in Online Format

Offered twice a year, the ACCP/ASHP *Oncology Pharmacy Home Study Syllabus for Recertification* consists of a collection of journal articles that focus on advances across the four domains of oncology specialty pharmacy practice. Approved for Board Certified

Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP) recertification credit by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS), the home study syllabus is a series of current articles from the primary oncology literature, each with learning objectives, and a web-based posttest covering the full series of articles. Purchase the ACCP/ASHP *Oncology Pharmacy Home Study Syllabus for Recertification* today at www.accp.com/bookstore/opc18hssr.aspx.

Save on shipping! New for 2018, the *Oncology Pharmacy Home Study Syllabus for Recertification* is available in a new online-only format. The first volume is available now, with the second volume to be released in July 2018. Each volume will offer at least 8.0 hours of BCOP recertification credit.

Topics in the two volumes include:

Volume 1 – Available Now

- Chronic Pain Management
- Sarcoma
- Oncology Pharmacy Administration
- Ovarian Cancer
- Oncology Drug Literature: Biostatistics and Study Design
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Urothelial Carcinoma

Volume 2 – Released July 2018

- Acute Leukemia
- Breast Cancer
- Pharmacogenomics
- Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Multiple Myeloma
- Prostate
- Lung Cancer
- Lymphomas

The ACCP/ASHP *Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Home Study Syllabus for Recertification* includes many web-based recertification tests. BCOPs who read each article included in the home study syllabus and successfully complete the web-based posttests on the content of the articles will earn oncology recertification credit.

The posttests for volume 1 of the home study syllabus must be submitted by July 15, 2018, to be eligible for recertification credit. The posttests for volume 2 of the home study syllabus must be submitted by December 31, 2018, to be eligible for recertification credit.

Don't miss this opportunity to earn BCOP recertification credit—order one or both volumes of the *Oncology Pharmacy Home Study Syllabus for Recertification* [today!](#)

2018 ACCP Clinical Research Challenge Is Under Way



ACCP is pleased to announce that competition is under way in the third annual Clinical Research Challenge (CRC). Research and scholarship contributes to improved health outcomes for patients and advances in the profession of clinical pharmacy. Critically evaluating and applying the primary literature is an essential skill for students pursuing a career in clinical pharmacy. This innovative and unique competition offers teams of three students (those in the first two professional years of their degree program) the opportunity to compete in round 1: Online Journal Club. Teams achieving the top 40 scores will advance to round 2: Letter of Intent Submission. Teams with the top 20 scores after round 2 will advance to the third and final round: Research Protocol Development.

The competition began February 12 with 79 teams vying for a spot in round 2. The Online Journal Club examination was based on the following literature:

Tai V, Leung W, Grey A, et al. Calcium intake and bone mineral density: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2015;351:h4183. Including all Supplementary Appendices.

Teams advancing to round 2 will be given a clinically focused research question and have 2½ weeks to develop and submit a letter of intent following the criteria outlined [here](#). Teams advancing to round 3 will be announced March 23.

For complete information on the CRC, visit www.accp.com/stunet/crc/eligibility.aspx.

Register for an Upcoming ACCP Academy Teaching and Learning Webinar



The ACCP Academy Teaching and Learning Certificate Program (TLCP) is offering an upcoming webinar. This webinar, open to all ACCP members and nonmembers, will offer 1.0 hour of CPE credit. Participants enrolled in the TLCP can also earn credit toward a certificate of completion. Below are the webinar details:

Technology Ideas to Increase Engagement and Improve Student Learning

Wednesday, February 21, 2018; 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Presented by Brianne L. Dunn, Pharm.D.
Associate Dean for Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation
Clinical Associate Professor
University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy
Columbia, South Carolina

For full details, please [click here](#).

Participation in the webinar is limited to 100 registrants, so register today! For more information on the TLCP, visit www.accp.com/academy.

ACCP's 2018 Board Certification Prep Courses

Ambulatory Care
New—Cardiology
New—Infectious Diseases
Pharmacotherapy

April 21 & 22, 2018
Western University of Health
Sciences, College of Pharmacy
Pomona, California



Register now at www.accp.com/reg.



ACCP National Resident Advisory Committee Applications Due June 15

Are you a resident or fellow who is interested in becoming more involved in ACCP? The American College of Clinical Pharmacy encourages postgraduate trainees who want to enhance their leadership skills, network with colleagues across the country, and interact with clinical pharmacy leaders to apply for appointment to the ACCP National Resident Advisory Committee.

The National Resident Advisory Committee is a standing committee composed of residents, fellows, and graduate students appointed each year by the ACCP president-elect. Members serve a 1-year term, and the committee typically has 8–12 members. Appointed leadership positions include the chair (1-year term) and the vice chair (1-year term).

The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the ACCP Board of Regents and staff, providing feedback and assistance in developing new programs and services for resident members consistent with the College's vision of clinical pharmacy practice, research, and education.

The committee will meet in person at the ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy in October and communicates via conference calls and e-mail to complete its assigned charges. Appointees to the National Resident Advisory Committee will receive a complimentary meeting registration to attend the ACCP Annual Meeting. For additional information on the application process or to enter your application, please visit www.accp.com/membership/rac.aspx. The deadline for applications is June 15, 2018.

ACCP National Student Network Advisory Committee Applications Due June 15

Attention student pharmacists: Would you like to become more involved with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy? ACCP student members who want to develop leadership skills, expand opportunities for student pharmacists within ACCP, and introduce other students to the many facets of clinical pharmacy are encouraged to apply for appointment to the ACCP National Student Network Advisory Committee.

The National Student Network Advisory Committee is an ACCP committee composed of student members appointed each year by the ACCP president. Members generally serve a 1-year term, and the committee typically has 8–12 members. Leadership of the committee is also appointed by the ACCP president.

Leadership positions include the chair (1-year term), the vice chair (2-year term; serves the first year as the vice chair and then assumes the chair position during the second year), and the secretary (1-year term). If you are a student interested in serving on the ACCP National Student Network Advisory Committee, either as a member-at-large or in a leadership role, please visit www.accp.com/stunet/advisoryCommittee.aspx for more information about the committee and how to apply. The deadline for applications is June 15, 2018.

ACCP Is the Voice of Clinical Pharmacy in Washington: Introducing the ACCP-PAC Governing Council

A well-funded Political Action Committee (PAC) provides ACCP with important financial resources to support its friends on Capitol Hill. ACCP-PAC is the only political action committee dedicated to electing members of Congress who are committed to advancing the College's Medicare Initiative.

Like many of ACCP's other initiatives, ACCP-PAC is member-driven, and strategic policy decisions—including those related to which candidates to support—are made by the ACCP-PAC Governing Council. The current governing council consists of the following ACCP members:

President

- Sara Brouse, ACCP Regent

Treasurer

- Gary Matzke, ACCP Past President

Secretary

- Michael Maddux (supported by ACCP staff member John McGlew)

Members

- Brad Phillips, University of Georgia
- Daniel Nam, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and former Congressional Fellow
- Tracy Hagemann, ACCP Regent

All decisions regarding financial contributions to candidates are made by the ACCP-PAC Governing Council on the basis of certain established criteria:

- Position on key health care committees in Congress
- Proven support for pharmacy and health care-related issues
- Previous health care experience

Contributions from ACCP-PAC to members of Congress help raise the College's profile on Capitol Hill, improve its standing among key lawmakers, and provide unique opportunities to discuss the College's Medicare Initiative with potential congressional champions. ACCP-PAC will also help ensure that elected officials who support the College's initiative remain in office to advance the goals of the proposal in the future.

Only ACCP members are eligible to contribute to the PAC and allow the College to make these vital political contributions. With its almost 18,000 members, ACCP is in a position to become one of the most prominent pharmacy PACs in Washington. To do this, the College needs the widespread support of its membership.

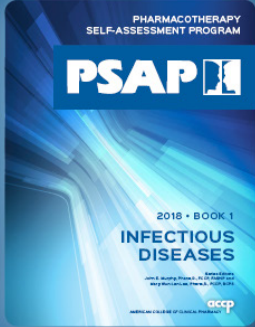
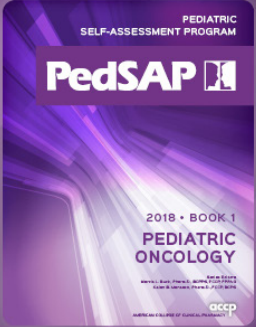
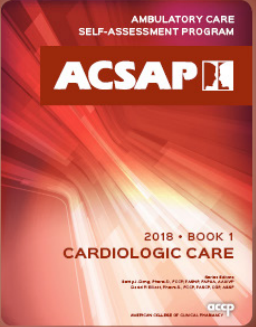
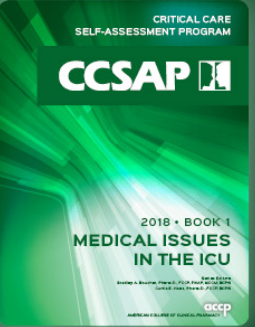
If each ACCP member contributed just \$25, ACCP-PAC would raise over \$350,000. All ACCP members should consider donating at least \$25 to ACCP-PAC. [CLICK HERE](#) to support your PAC today!

Member Recruiters

Many thanks to the following individuals for recruiting colleagues to join them as ACCP members:

James Baker	Jungeun Lee
Megan Bauer	Michael Liguori
Bernadette Belgado Daniels	Kalen Manasco
Renan Bonnel	Natasha Niemeyer
Jill Borchert	Nancy Nystrom
Sheryl Chow	Neena Palathinkal
Melissa Dahlgren	Quynh Pham
Hosannah Marie Dalogdog	Jeremy Prunty
Katherine DiPalo	Deanna Rattray
Tyler Eastep	Krista Riche
Sandy Estrada	Gisela Robles
Rachael Hiday	Julie Rubin
Kevin Horbowicz	Krystal Scinto
Barkha Jain	Andrea Sikora
Paul Juang	Dana Simonson
Ryan Kammer	Stephanie Tang
Lynn Lamkin	Lily Vitali
	Eric Wright

New SAPs Available Now

<p>AVAILABLE FOR BCPS —CREDIT—</p>	<p>AVAILABLE FOR BCPPS —CREDIT—</p>	<p>AVAILABLE FOR BCACP —CREDIT—</p>	<p>AVAILABLE FOR BCCCP —CREDIT—</p>
 <p>PSAP 2018 Book 1</p>	 <p>PedSAP 2018 Book 1</p>	 <p>ACSAP 2018 Book 1</p>	 <p>CCSAP 2018 Book 1</p>