Research Pharmacy Summit

VIRTUAL | SEPTEMBER 16 – 18, 2026

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

11:00 – 11:30 (ET)

Let's THRIVE: Research Pharmacy Summit Welcome & Kick-Off

Non-CE session

Welcome to the 2026 Research Pharmacy Summit!

More than just progress, this year's Summit focuses on thriving in a rapidly evolving research landscape. Together, we'll **transform** ideas into action, **harmonize** diverse perspectives, **research** with purpose, and **innovate** boldly. We'll create **value** and **empower** the research pharmacy community to flourish. When we thrive, so does the future of healthcare.

This interactive session will provide an orientation to the CVent platform to promote engagement and connection, using tools such as Chat, Q&A, Poll response, and personal networking tools.

11:45 – 12:45 (ET)

Bots, Brains, and Boundaries: AI in Research Pharmacy

0.1 CEU / 1.0 hours

Artificial intelligence (AI) is gaining attention in healthcare as a tool for supporting complex, information-heavy work, though its role in Investigational Drug Services (IDS) pharmacy practice is still developing. Because IDS pharmacists manage large amounts of protocol-driven information, AI may improve efficiency when applied appropriately. This session will examine practical IDS workflow areas where AI can assist with tasks such as organizing information, summarizing content, and supporting documentation, while emphasizing that it cannot replace pharmacist judgment or regulatory accountability. The discussion will also highlight the need for strong governance, including pharmacist oversight, validation of AI-generated output, data integrity, patient confidentiality, and compliance with institutional and regulatory standards. Drawing on published literature, early practice examples, and governance principles, this session will offer IDS pharmacists a practical framework for thoughtfully integrating AI into current workflows and planning for future use.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Explain how artificial intelligence may support IDS pharmacists in managing large volumes of protocol-driven information.

- Identify areas within IDS practice where artificial intelligence may add value when guided by pharmacist oversight and clear governance.
- Describe why governance is essential to the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

SPEAKERS

Abdulrahman Khormi, PharmD
Investigational Drugs & Research Pharmacist
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Craig Michael, PharmD
Data Science Pharmacist
UCSF Health

Donaciano Dominguez, PharmD, MBA
Investigational Drugs & Research Pharmacist
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Lisa Janssen Carlson, PharmD BCOP DPLA
Principal Medical Scientist
Gilead

Rosy Issa, PharmD, CCRP
Clinical Research Pharmacy Specialist
Brigham and Women's Hospital

1:00 – 1:30 (ET)

Masterclass Breakout: Effective AI Use in Research Pharmacy

Non-CE Session

Join the speakers in an interactive post-session discussion to explore topics and break into groups to share perspectives.

1:30 – 2:00 (ET)

Community Lunch Table & Social

Non-CE Session

Grab lunch and join an open networking table - no agenda, just connection.

2:00 – 2:30 (ET)

Keynote: From Surviving to Thriving – A Patient's Journey of Hope Through Cancer and Clinical Trials

Non-CE Session

This keynote brings the 2026 RPS theme of **THRIVE** to life through a powerful patient-centered conversation about cancer, clinical trials, resilience, and hope. Through a narrative featuring a cancer survivor, attendees will hear what it feels like to navigate a life-changing diagnosis, search for treatment options, evaluate clinical trial participation, and move forward amid uncertainty. The session will

spotlight the real-world barriers patients face—from information gaps and access challenges to fear, uncertainty, decision fatigue, and trust—and connect those experiences to the daily work of research pharmacy teams. Attendees will leave with a renewed sense of purpose and a clearer understanding of how research pharmacists and technicians help transform care, harmonize communication, support research with purpose, innovate around patient needs, create value, and empower patients to THRIVE.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Identify common information and access barriers patients may encounter when seeking clinical trial options.
- Recognize how the patient experience of diagnosis, treatment decision-making, and clinical trial participation can reshape the way research pharmacy teams approach their work.
- Identify practical ways research pharmacists and technicians can reduce barriers, improve patient comprehension, strengthen trust, and support safer, more informed clinical trial participation.
- Develop patient-centered practices by translating empathy, communication, and workflow awareness into more meaningful support for patients and care teams to improve the clinical trial experience.

2:45 – 3:45 (ET) Concurrent Session

Schedule One and Done: Navigating Schedule 1 Clinical Trials in Research Pharmacy

0.1 CEU / 1.0 hours

Clinical trials involving controlled substances require added regulatory and operational oversight beyond standard investigational studies, with even greater complexity for Schedule I investigational drugs. These trials are subject to heightened federal requirements related to licensure, security, storage, and accountability, yet research pharmacies often lack clear guidance or established best practices to support them. This session will share real-world experiences from two large academic, hospital-based research pharmacies that have collectively supported nearly a dozen Schedule I trials. Presenters will review key considerations across trial preparation, initiation, and ongoing maintenance, highlighting challenges and practical solutions. Attendees will gain a pragmatic framework to help research pharmacies confidently develop and sustain processes for supporting Schedule I controlled substance trials.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Describe the regulatory preparations required to undertake schedule I clinical trials
- Create pharmacy protocols and workflows that effectively manage schedule I substances
- Identify gaps in current documentation compared to Schedule I/controlled substance rules and prepare for audits

SPEAKERS

Bryan Le, PharmD
Research Pharmacist
OSUWMC Investigational Drug Services

Caitlyn Young, PharmD
Clinical Research Pharmacist Specialist
University of Michigan Health - Michigan Medicine

2:45 – 3:45 (ET) Concurrent Session

The Manual Matters: Breaking down Investigational Product Manuals

0.1 CEU/1.0 hours

Investigational Product (IP) Manuals, also known as Pharmacy Manuals, are the primary operational resource for managing study drug safely and consistently throughout a clinical trial. For new Investigational Drug Service (IDS) practitioners, they provide a foundation for understanding pharmacy responsibilities and sponsor expectations. For experienced practitioners, they remain essential for standardization, preventing deviations, and maintaining inspection readiness. This session will offer a practical overview of how IP/Pharmacy Manuals are organized and how to use them effectively from study startup through closeout. Attendees will learn to quickly locate key information, apply manual guidance to common operational situations, and incorporate manuals into IDS training and workflows. Participants will leave with practical strategies for using pharmacy manuals as active tools that support safe, compliant, and consistent IDS practice.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Recognize the role of IP/Pharmacy Manuals in supporting IP management, participant safety, regulatory compliance, and inspection readiness across the trial lifecycle.
- Analyze the structure of an IP/Pharmacy Manual to efficiently locate and interpret information needed for dispensing, accountability, storage, excursions, and close out.
- Apply IP/Pharmacy Manual guidance to common IDS operational scenarios to support consistent decision-making and appropriate sponsor escalation.
- Evaluate the pharmacist's role in utilizing the IP/Pharmacy Manual into IDS training and workflow requirements

SPEAKER

Crystal Crawford, PharmD
Investigational Drug Services Pharmacist
Northeast Georgia Health System

Thursday, September 17, 2026

11:00 – 12:30 (ET)

From Protocol to Practice: Building and Optimizing EHR Treatment Plans for Investigational Drugs

0.15 CEU/1.5 hours

The ordering of investigational drugs has evolved from paper-based processes to complex, protocol-driven treatment plans within the electronic health record (EHR). While these builds improve accuracy, safety, and compliance, they also introduce operational challenges and require close coordination across pharmacy, clinical research, and IT teams. This panel will feature leaders from prominent research institutions sharing practical approaches to designing and optimizing EHR treatment plans for investigational drugs. Panelists will discuss common challenges, including build timelines, validation, and system integration, and highlight strategies to streamline workflows, improve standardization, and support efficient study activation. Attendees will gain actionable insights and best practices to enhance collaboration, reduce variability, and strengthen the overall EHR build process.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Analyze common bottlenecks and inefficiencies in the investigational drug EHR build and activation process.
- Implement strategies to streamline treatment plan development, validation, and go-live workflows.
- Compare tools, technologies, and standardization approaches that enhance accuracy, consistency, and compliance in EHR builds.
- Develop best practices to improve turnaround times and strengthen coordination across pharmacy, clinical research teams, and IT stakeholders

SPEAKERS

Alison Grimsley, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, BCPPS
Pharmacy Manager, Investigational Drug Services
Children's Hospital Colorado

Maggie Ryan, PharmD, BCPPS
Manager, Investigational and Pediatric Oncology Pharmacy
OHSU

Michaela Myerson, PharmD, BCPS
Investigational Pharmacy Manager
NYU Langone Health

Vivian Bang, PharmD
Pharmacy Informatics Specialist
NYU Langone Health

12:45 – 1:45 (ET) Concurrent Session

Unpacking ICH E6(R3): Key Changes and Smart Implementation Strategies

0.1 CEU/1.0 hours

The International Council for Harmonisation (ICH) Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guideline serves as the global standard for the design, conduct, safety, and reporting of clinical trials involving human participants. The recent revision of ICH E6(R3) modernizes the guideline to better support risk-proportionate approaches, technology-enabled trial activities, data governance, and quality by design. This presentation will provide an overview of the foundational principles of GCP, highlight key changes from ICH E6(R2) to E6(R3), and discuss the operational impact of these updates for a research pharmacy and its practices. Practical strategies and useful resources will be shared to help institutions prepare for implementation and maintain compliance with evolving regulatory expectations.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Compare and contrast key changes between the ICH E6(R2) and ICH E6(R3) revisions.
- Develop operational strategies for research pharmacy workflows to remain compliant with the updated E6(R3) principles.
- Identify available resources and implementation strategies to support institutional readiness and ongoing compliance with ICH E6(R3).

SPEAKER

Kelly Zhou, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Investigational Drug Services
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

12:45 – 1:45 (ET) Concurrent Session

Networked Trials: A Technician-Led Blueprint for Regional Investigational Drug Distribution

0.1 CEU/1.0 hours

Large academic medical centers often serve as the “hub” for clinical trial access, but distance, transportation barriers, campus complexity, and limited capacity can hinder participation in patients who may benefit most. This session highlights how extending investigational drug services into smaller regional clinics and treatment centers can bring research closer to home, reduce patient burden, and support broader, more equitable trial participation. Drawing on a technician-driven model implemented across a Greater Houston cancer center network, speakers will walk through a practical, compliant approach to distributing and managing investigational products across multiple sites. Attendees will leave with a blueprint for building a durable distribution SOP, focusing on temperature control, inventory integrity, coordination, training, and cross-department partnerships, while proactively addressing the logistical and compliance pitfalls that can impact continuity of care and protocol adherence.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Describe a technician-driven workflow to manage distribution of investigational medications across a regional network of clinical sites.
- Develop a robust SOP for drug distribution including temperature control, inventory management, planning/coordination, and training.

- Provide insights into potential challenges and logistical considerations to ensure compliance and prevent treatment related issues.
- Determine important partnerships and intradepartmental collaborations necessary for success and sustainability.

SPEAKERS

Jason Xu, PharmD
Assistant Manager
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Jesse Paredes, PhTR, CPHT
Specialty Pharmacy Technician
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Moises Mendoza, PhTR
Specialty Pharmacy Technician
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

1:45 – 2:15 (ET)

Community Lunch Table & Social

Non-CE Session

Grab lunch and join an open networking table - no agenda, just connection.

2:15 – 2:45 (ET)

Sharing Solutions Block 1: RPS Moderated Discussions

Non-CE Session

Join a virtual group discussion and share your ideas, experience, and solutions. Each discussion is focused on central questions and led by an experienced moderator.

2:45 – 3:00 (ET)

Break

3:00 – 3:30 (ET)

Sharing Solutions Block 2: RPS Moderated Discussions

Non-CE Session

Join a virtual group discussion and share your ideas, experience, and solutions. Each discussion is focused on central questions and led by an experienced moderator.

3:30 – 4:30 (ET)

From Services to Sustainability: Unlocking IDS Revenue Opportunities

0.1 CEU/1.0 hours

Investigational Drug Services (IDS) programs are increasingly expected to deliver strong clinical oversight while operating as financially sustainable service lines. Yet many teams lack clear visibility into the financial structure of IDS and the levers available to improve revenue while staying compliant and mission-driven. This session will outline the core components of the IDS financial model and highlight key drivers of sustainability. It will also examine how intentional collaboration with stakeholders can improve alignment, increase efficiency, and support revenue optimization. Attendees will gain practical insight into how IDS fits within the broader research enterprise and how proactive partnerships can strengthen both financial performance and operational resilience. By the end of the session, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians will be better equipped to protect, maintain, and strategically optimize IDS revenue in a complex research environment.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Describe the financial structure and revenue model of an Investigational Drug Service (IDS).
- Identify key institutional stakeholders that influence, support and sustain IDS financial activities.
- Evaluate how cross-department collaboration contributes to financial sustainability, operational efficiency, and long-term IDS program success.

SPEAKER

Anu Pradhan, **RPh, PhD, BCOP, ACRP-CP**
Manager, Investigational Drug Services
Moffitt Cancer Center

Friday, September 18, 2026

11:00 – 12:00 (ET)

Now You See It, Now You Don't: Principles of Blinded Clinical Trials

0.1 CEU/1.0 hours

Blinding is a critical methodology used in clinical trials to reduce bias and preserve the validity of study outcomes. Pharmacy teams play a central role in implementing and maintaining blinding through investigational product selection, preparation, labeling, dispensing, masking, and controlled communication with study teams. As clinical trial designs become more complex, maintaining effective blinding can introduce operational and ethical challenges. Using real-world examples, attendees will gain practical solutions for implementing and optimizing pharmacy-led blinding processes.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Compare and contrast different methods of blinding used in clinical trials.
- Identify and delegate clear blinded and unblinded responsibilities of each study team member or group prior to implementing a blinded study, as documented in a site blinding plan.
- Propose a solution to 3 ethical or logistical barriers/concerns related to implementing blinded studies at research sites.

SPEAKERS

Alison Hanson PharmD, RPh, BCPPS
Clinical Trials Pharmacist
Massachusetts General Hospital

Diana Nicole Nowicki, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, AAHIVP
Clinical Research Pharmacist
UNC Health

Stephen Chu, PharmD
Clinical Research Pharmacist

12:15 – 12:45 (ET)

Masterclass: Blinding Principles

Non-CE Session

Join the speakers in an interactive post-session discussion to explore topics and break into groups to share perspectives.

1:00 – 1:30 (ET)

Sharing Solutions Block 1: RPS Moderated Discussions

Non-CE Session

Join a virtual group discussion and share your ideas, experience, and solutions. Each discussion is focused on central questions and led by an experienced moderator.

1:30 – 1:45 (ET)

Break

1:45 – 2:15 (ET)

Sharing Solutions Block 2: RPS Moderated Discussions

Non-CE Session

Join a virtual group discussion and share your ideas, experience, and solutions. Each discussion is focused on central questions and will by an experienced moderator.

2:15 – 2:45 (ET)

Community Lunch Table & Social

Non-CE Session

Grab lunch and join an open networking table - no agenda, just connection.

2:45 – 3:15 (ET)

RPS Award

Non-CE Session

Celebrate the recipient of the 2026 Research Pharmacy Summit Award for Excellence and Innovation as we honor a colleague whose impact helps our community THRIVE.

3:30 – 4:30 (ET)

Beyond the Pharmacy Walls: IDS Oversight for Hybrid & Direct-to-Patient Trials

0.1 CEU/1.0 hours

Decentralized clinical trials, including direct-to-patient (DtP) delivery and hybrid models, are reshaping research by broadening access, lowering participation barriers, and reaching patients beyond traditional study sites. As visits, procedures, and care move from large academic medical centers and regional hospitals to local settings, research pharmacies have new opportunities to provide innovative investigational drug services, including dispensing, preparation, compounding, and accountability. Presented by two practitioners working in these emerging environments, this session will examine key roles and responsibilities, regulatory considerations, and practical approaches for managing investigational products in evolving trial models. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to support hybrid trial designs and prepare for future growth.

Upon completion of the session, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will be able to:

- Explain the rationale and strategic value of decentralized clinical trials, including direct-to-patient (DtP) delivery and hybrid models.
- Identify key regulatory and compliance requirements for decentralized trial models.
- Define stakeholder roles, responsibilities, and oversight in hybrid and direct-to-patient trials.
- Apply best practices to implement decentralized trials and mitigate operational risks.

SPEAKERS

Danielle Vallandingham, PharmD
Associate Director, Pharmacy Services
Saveway Compounding Pharmacy, a Myonex Company

Marrisa Horrigan, PharmD, CCRPS
Research Pharmacist

Closing Remarks

Join us to say farewell and important information regarding obtaining CE credits, viewing session recordings On Demand sessions, and planning for next year's Summit!

Course Information

Registration Fee and Discounts

Early Pharmacists Registration: $300
Early Pharmacy Technician, Staff and Resident Registration: $200
Early Pharmacy Students: $50
Early Industry Professionals & Global Participants: $200
Early registration ends July 31st.

Standard Pharmacists Registration (Begins 8/1/2026): $350
Standard Pharmacy Technician, Staff and Resident Registration (Begins 8/1/2026): $250
Standard Students (Begins 8/1/2026): $50
Standard Industry Professionals & Global Participants (Begins 8/1/2026): $250

Contact McCreadie Group at info@mccreadiegroup.com (prior to registering) for a 20% group discount if 4 or more people from your site will be attending. Cancellations made by Sunday, September 13, 2026 will receive a 90% refund.

Continuing Education

Attendees can earn up to 7.5 live hours and 9.5 total Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) credits.
Note: The Industry Professionals & Global Participants ticket does not include CE credit.

Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) Information

The Research Pharmacy Sessions were developed with the support of the The National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education's Office of Interprofessional Continuing Professional Development (OICPD). The OICPD is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Following completion of the conference materials, participants must complete an activity evaluation and verification of attendance by November 1, 2026. Submissions for Enduring CE credits are due December 18, 2026. Participant data will be submitted to The Monitor within fourteen (14) days.