



SPPCP 2026 Virtual Conference Speaker Information

Speaker Name & Session	Speaker Bio	Headshot
<p data-bbox="107 207 533 277">Precision Pain Relief Through Pharmacogenomics</p> <p data-bbox="107 326 625 396">Jessica B. Emshoff, PharmD, BS, RPh, BCPS, BCGP</p>	<p data-bbox="688 207 1455 591">Dr. Emshoff is a Professor in Pharmacy Practice for Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Pharmacy and Palliative Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. She received her BS in Biology and PharmD from Ohio Northern University and completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. Dr. Emshoff maintains Board Certification in both Pharmacotherapy and Geriatric Pharmacy. Her teaching, research, and patient care practice focuses on optimizing quality of life through interprofessional symptom management for patients with chronic pain or life-limiting illnesses.</p>	
<p data-bbox="107 719 646 789">Levorphanol as a Methadone Sparring Agent</p> <p data-bbox="107 837 632 907">Benjamin Kematick, PharmD, BCPMP, BCACP</p>	<p data-bbox="688 719 1455 1459">Ben received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University at Buffalo (UB) School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2015. After graduation Ben completed his PGY-1 Community Pharmacy Residency at UB and Mobile Pharmacy Solutions. While a resident he started a clinical pharmacy consult service at an outpatient pain management clinic in Williamsville, NY. He then completed a PGY-2 Pain Management and Palliative Care residency at Dana- Farber Cancer institute and was the first pharmacy fellow in the Harvard Medical School Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship. He currently is an outpatient advanced practice palliative care pharmacist at DFCI with research interests in pharmacogenomics of pain, quality improvement in palliative care, and treatment of pain and substance use disorders in a palliative care population. He is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and Pain Management Pharmacy. Ben currently serves on DFCI's Opioid Management and Drug Diversion Committee and is one of the authors of the "Pink Book" (pinkbook.dfci.org). Ben has previously served on the Board of Trustees with SPPCP.</p>	

Milligram Doses of Buprenorphine for Pain

Taylor Butler, PharmD, BCOP

Taylor Butler, PharmD, BCOP, is a Clinical Pharmacist Specialist in supportive and palliative oncology with expertise in symptom management and evidence-based supportive care strategies for patients with advanced cancer.



Medical Aid in Dying: Laws & Lived Experience

Rabia Atayee, Pharm.D., BCPS, APh, FAAHPM

Dr. Rabia Atayee is the Associate Dean for Admissions and Recruitment and a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California, San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS). A board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist and advanced practice pharmacist, she specializes in palliative care. In 2006, she became the first pharmacist in Southern California to obtain a DEA license, allowing her to initiate controlled substances for palliative care patients.

Her research focuses on palliative care and pharmacy education, with 90 PubMed-indexed publications and numerous regional and national presentations. Dr. Atayee's dedication to teaching has earned her multiple awards, including the AACP Teacher of the Year (2013), UC San Diego SSPPS Teacher of the Year (2014), and the UC San Diego Distinguished Teaching Award (2018). She was a founding member and past president (2017) of the Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists.

Her recent honors include the UC San Diego Palliative Care Values in Action Award (2022), FAAHPM fellowship, and recognition as an AAHPM Visionary in Hospice and Palliative Care (2024). She has also received the Renee Holder Literature Award in 2020, 2023, and 2025.

Dr. Atayee enjoys life in San Diego with her partner, two teenagers, and two Shih Tzus. She loves beach walks, paddleboarding, retail therapy, and binge-watching shows with her family. She is passionate about mentoring future

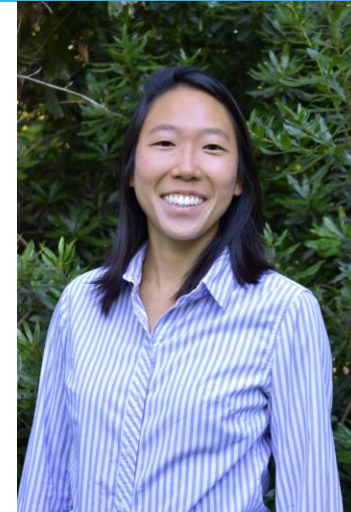


pharmacists and she finds joy in guiding the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Medical Aid in Dying: Laws & Lived Experience

Lytia Jian Yin Lai, PharmD

Lytia Lai completed pharmacy school at UC San Diego, PGY1 training at VA Greater Los Angeles, and PGY2 at University of Washington Medicine, specializing in Pain Management and Palliative Care. She is currently the Residency Program Coordinator of the UW Medicine PGY2 program and is the clinical pharmacist on the Acute Pain Service at UW Medicine Harborview Medical Center. In her clinical role, she also supports the inpatient palliative care service and the inpatient addiction service. Lytia has a particular interest in addressing health disparities and promoting gender affirming healthcare.



Medical Aid in Dying: Laws & Lived Experience

Alban Holyoke, MD

Alban Holyoke, MD, is a Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellow at UC San Diego. A graduate of Wright State University School of Medicine, Dr. Holyoke completed his emergency medicine residency at Yale and previously practiced as an emergency physician in the Bay Area. He is deeply interested in the ethical and clinical dimensions of medical aid in dying, advocating for thoughtful approaches that honor patient autonomy and dignity.



Complex Case Discussions

Case 1: Intractable Family Dynamics

Grayson Cooley, PharmD

Grayson Cooley, PharmD is originally from Waukesha, WI and attended undergraduate and pharmacy school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison – go Badgers! He completed his PGY-1 at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital & Clinics (“Madison VA”) specializing in Ambulatory Care and is now navigating his PGY-2 at the Madison VA in Pain Management & Palliative Care. While post-residency plans remain undecided at this time, he looks forward to integrating interdisciplinary teamwork, direct patient care, and teaching into whatever role he steps into.



Complex Case Discussions

Case 1: Intractable Family Dynamics

Diane Johnson, PharmD, BCPS, BCPMP

Diane Johnson, PharmD, BCPMP, BCPS is a clinical pharmacy practitioner (CPP) in pain management and the residency program director (RPD) of the PGY2 Pain Management and Palliative Care Pharmacy Residency at the William S. Middleton Memorial VA Hospital in Madison, WI. She received her PharmD from the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy in 2007. She completed the Pharmacy Practice PGY1 Residency at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital and then joined the pharmacy team as a Clinical Pharmacist in August 2008. Her practice has primarily been in the Chronic Pain Management clinic, and added the palliative care clinic in 2023. She has an appointment through the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy as a clinical instructor and precepts 4th year pharmacy students, in addition to PGY1 and PGY2 residents. Dr. Johnson sits on the Pain Committee, Opioid Safety Initiative committee, CARA workgroup, and Whole Health committee. She is member of the VA CPPO Pain Management Field Engagement group. In her free time, Dr. Johnson enjoys being outside, and particularly enjoys taking walks over the lunch hour.



Complex Case Discussions

Case 2: Managing Pain in Sickle Cell Disease Post Bone Marrow Transplant

Grace Ukazim, PharmD

Dr. Grace Ukazim earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The University of Texas at Austin, completed her PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center, and is the current PGY-2 Pain Management and Palliative Care resident at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Ukazim’s professional interests include pain management, substance use disorders, and palliative care.

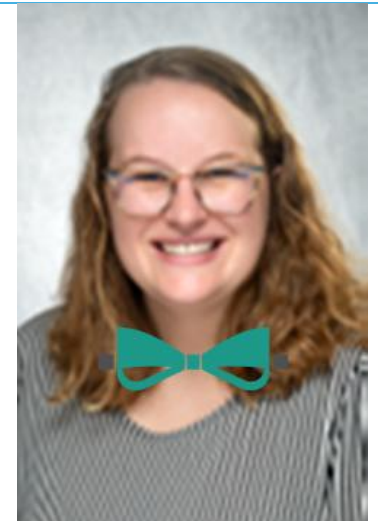


Bowtie Banter: The 2026 Jeff Fudin Debates

Debate 1: Suzetrigine: The Journey to the Center of Maybe Solving the Opioid Epidemic

Brooke Brodzinski, PharmD

Brooke Brodzinski is the Opioid Stewardship Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. She completed her PGY-2 Palliative Care/Pain Management residency at the University of Iowa in June 2025 and PGY-1 Acute Care at Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH in June 2024. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family (especially her almost 1-year-old niece), hanging out with friends, reading, going to parks, and crafting. She winds down after work playing with her two tuxedo cats *bow ties not included.



Bowtie Banter: The 2026 Jeff Fudin Debates

Debate 1: Suzetrigine: The Journey to the Center of Maybe Solving the Opioid Epidemic

Abby Thomas, PharmD, BCPMP

Abby Thomas, PharmD, BCPMP is a graduate of The Ohio State University where she received her BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctorate of Pharmacy. She then completed an Acute Care PGY1 at Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH. After her PGY1, she went into her PGY2 in Pain Management and Palliative Care and Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. Abby is currently the Clinical Specialist Pharmacist in Pain Management and Palliative Care at University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, MD. She is interested in expanding the role of pharmacists within the interdisciplinary team. Her career interests include palliative care, pain management, health equity, and academia. Outside of work, she enjoys watching Ohio State football, spending time with her family and friends, working out, and cuddling with her cat.



Bowtie Banter: The 2026 Jeff Fudin Debates

Debate 2: Gabapentin for Pain Management: Well Done or Overdone?

Lorin Fisher, PharmD, BCACP

Lorin Fisher is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice & Science and the Interim Director of Experiential Education at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. She is board-certified in ambulatory care and practices as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Adult Supportive & Palliative Care Clinic at University Iowa Health Care. In her clinical practice, Lorin closely collaborates with interprofessional team members to manage symptoms, including pain, for patients living with serious illnesses. Lorin enjoys precepting student pharmacists, pharmacy residents, and hospice and palliative medicine fellows, and she was recognized as the 2024 University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Faculty Preceptor of the Year. She is the former program director of the PGY2 Palliative Care/Pain Management Pharmacy Residency at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. In the classroom, Lorin educates PharmD students about pain management and palliative care. She has diverse research interests including the exploration of barriers to prescription opioid access and the evaluation of cancer-directed therapy toxicities.



Bowtie Banter: The 2026 Jeff Fudin Debates

Debate 2: Gabapentin for Pain Management: Well Done or Overdone?

Emily E. Leppien, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP

Emily Leppien, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP is a Clinical Associate Professor at Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She provides didactic and experiential education in the areas of neurology, psychiatry, pain management, and substance use disorders. As part of her faculty appointment, Dr. Leppien established a clinical practice at Guthrie Binghamton Pain Care, where she provides comprehensive pain management. Within this practice, she integrates the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders into chronic pain care. Dr. Leppien's professional and research interests focus on the safe use of psychotropic medications, non-opioid therapies for chronic pain, pain management in patients with opioid use disorder (OUD), and the integration of behavioral health services within chronic pain care. In addition to her service within the Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists (SPPCP), Dr. Leppien is actively involved in the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP) and American Pharmacists Association (APhA).



Bowtie Banter: The 2026 Jeff Fudin Debates

Debate 3: Ketamine Use for Refractory Symptoms in Hospice

Maria Felton Lowry, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP

Maria Lowry is the Clinical Director of Pharmacy Services at UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute where she provides pharmaceutical expertise to the palliative care service line within the UPMC health system. Her practice sites include the inpatient palliative care consult service at UPMC Shadyside and palliative care clinic at Hillman Cancer Center. She serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics at Pitt Pharmacy and is Co-Director of the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Area of Concentration. Dr. Lowry is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist and a Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist.



Bowtie Banter: The 2026 Jeff Fudin Debates

Debate 3: Ketamine Use for Refractory Symptoms in Hospice

Jessica Geiger, PharmD, MS, BCPS

Dr. Jessica Geiger is the Director of Clinical Services at EdLogics. She obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Findlay College of Pharmacy and completed the PGY-1 residency at St. Rita's Hospital in Lima, OH. She has served in many clinical and leadership roles in the specialty areas of hospice, palliative care, and pain management, including the Palliative Care Clinical Coordinator at OhioHealth from 2015-2023 and Facility PMOP Coordinator at the VA Illiana Health System from 2023-2026. She currently serves as a clinical consultant for Integrated Pain Solutions and adjunct faculty at the University of Findlay College of Pharmacy.



Bowtie Banter: The 2026 Jeff Fudin Debates

Session Planner & Moderator

Lee Kral, PharmD

Dr. Kral is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with the Department of Anesthesia at the University of Iowa Health Care. She also services as a Clinical Assistant Professor for the Department of Anesthesia at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.