

OPTA Review

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ONCOLOGY PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION | JUNE 2021

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A pharmacy technician at Florida Cancer Specialists
leverages technology for patient safety.



BRANDI GUDWIEN APPRECIATES THE VALUE OF PHARMACY TECHS

BY BRANDI GUDWIEN, CPhT
ALABAMA Rx



Brandi Gudwien

Brandi Gudwien, CPhT, recently became one of OPTA's co-chairs. Gudwien also is a member of NCODA's Region 7, which comprises Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia.

She originally became a certified pharmacy technician in 2013 when she began working in a specialty pharmacy.

Recognizing early on that patients needed more of a multidisciplinary approach to care, she left specialty pharmacy to earn her master's in public health, specifically healthcare policy.

Gudwien began working as a patient advocate at Alabama Rx, the medically integrated dispensing pharmacy at Alabama Oncology, in 2017.

Her pharmacist, who is actively involved with NCODA, recommended she join as well. Shortly afterwards, she learned about NCODA's oncology pharmacy technician

association (OPTA) and all of its benefits.

As part of OPTA, she has opportunities to connect with other technicians, as well as learn more about treatment options and better ways to assist patients. She uses this platform to promote the value of pharmacy technicians on the multidisciplinary team, and advocate for her patients.

Patient care became even more important to her after experiencing first-hand how cancer affects not only the patient, but also their families. Her mother-in-law was diagnosed with late-stage cancer in April 2018 and passed away a short 27 days later.

Gudwien says she values time with family and friends even more now, and enjoys the simple things with them.

She loves spending time with her two boys creating stop motion videos, playing video games and watching all the Marvel and Star Wars movies on their outdoor projection screen.

Barash discussed the indications for LUMAKRAS™, which is for the treatment of adult patients with KRAS G12C-mutated locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer who have received at least one prior systemic therapy.

HOT TOPIC: Accreditation was the hot topic discussion. Newsome presented the top accreditation programs with a brief overview of each and sharing a table that compared the cost, timeline, and general areas of evaluation.

Brandi Gudwien and Emily Zimdars contributed to the discussion with personal experiences from each of their pharmacies. Many on the call utilized the chat box to share their thoughts on the accreditation process.

MAY MEETING RECAP

BY TARYN NEWSOME, CPhT
OPTA COORDINATOR | NCODA

JUNE 9 WEBINAR: The June Webinar was moderated by OPTA Leader Emily Zimdars (M Health Fairview) who also read the mission statement.

Ginger Blackmon, PharmD (NCODA) provided OPTA updates which included 6 new members since last meeting, totaling 468 OPTA members! Blackmon welcomed Taryn Newsome to the NCODA team as OPTA Coordinator.

A Save the Date announcement was presented for the 2021 NCODA Fall Summit on October 20-22 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Newsome called for volunteers to be the next Technician in Focus.

NEW DRUG PRESENTATION: LUMAKRAS™ was presented as the new drug update by Alana Barash, PharmD Candidate, Class of 2022.

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- Linda Grimsley, CPhT
- Christine Robinson, CPhT
- Emily Zimdars, CPhT
- Brandi Gudwien, CPhT
- Teri Roberts, CPhT
- Sara Eisenhart, CPhT
- JoJo Sanchez, CPhT
- Becki Tinder, CPhT

OPTAOpportunities

MEETING PRESENTATIONS

OPTA members are invited to participate in monthly meetings by providing:

- Drug Updates
- Peer Presentations
- Technician / Practice in Focus

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- NCODA National Monthly Webinar
- NCODA Conferences/ Meetings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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OPTAResources

NCODA DISCUSSION BOARD

<https://www.ncoda.org/discussion/pharm-tech/>

BASECAMP DOCUMENT STORAGE

<https://3.basecamp.com/3780922/reports/progress>

NCODA/OPTA WEBSITE

<https://www.ncoda.org/oncology-pharmacy-technician-association-opta/>

NEXT OPTA MEETING:

3 p.m. EST, Wednesday,
July 14, 2021

Members will receive
a calendar invitation

DRUG UPDATE

SOTORASIB: A NEW OPTION FOR NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

BY ALANDA A. BARASH

PharmD CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2022 |
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

LUMAKRAS™ (sotorasib) is indicated for treatment of adult patients with KRAS G12C-mutated locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), as determined by an FDA-approved test, who have received at least one prior systemic therapy.¹

Simply put, the drug blocks KRAS signaling and inhibits cell growth to promote cell death of KRAS G12C cell lines.

The recommended dosage of sotorasib is 960 mg (eight 120 mg tablets) orally once daily until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. This medication should be taken at the same time every day with or without food. Swallow tablets whole. If a missed dose occurs, the dose should be taken as long as six hours have NOT passed. If six hours have exceeded, skip missed dose.¹

Potential adverse events include warning signs for hepatotoxicity or pulmonary toxicity. Patients should have liver function tests conducted every three weeks for the first three months of treatment and once monthly thereafter. Adjust doses as needed to address severity.^{1,2} This drug should not be prescribed if patient is pregnant.²

Avoid strong CYP3A4 inducers and substrates because they may decrease sotorasib concentration. If patient uses a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) or H2 receptor antagonist, they must be administered four hours before or 10 hours after taking sotorasib.²

Common side effects of this drug include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, fatigue,

cough, hepatotoxicity and musculoskeletal pain.²

Financial assistance is available that can help patients with cost. The Amgen FIRST STEP Program is available for commercially-insured patients to help meet deductibles or copays. Amgen Assist 360 is available for government insured patients. Amgen Safety Net Foundation is a non-profit patient assistance program for patients without insurance.³

Contact 888-4ASSIST (888-427-7478) 9 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST Monday to Friday for help.³

REFERENCES:

1. LUMAKRAS [package insert]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen; 2021. Available from: https://www.pi.amgen.com/~/_/media/amgen/repositorysites/pi-amgen-com/lumakras/lumakras_pi_hcp_english.ashx.
2. Lexi-Drugs. Lexicomp. Hudson (OH). Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc 1978. Riverwoods, IL. Sotorasib; Accessed June 7, 2021. Available from: <http://online.lexi.com>.
3. Amgen Assist 360. Support Designed Around You. Accessed from: <https://www.lumakras.com/Support>.



HOT TOPIC

PRACTICE ACCREDITATION: TIPS FOR ACQUIRING ESSENTIAL BENCHMARKS FOR YOUR PHARMACY

BY EMILY ZIMDARS, CPhT
& BRANDI GUDWIEN, CPhT

OPTA members had a great hot topic discussion about accreditation at our most recent monthly webinar. Taryn Newsome started the discussion with a graphic and a brief overview of the most recognized accrediting agencies. There are many types of practice accreditation that your facility can obtain including URAC, ACHC, QOPI, The Joint Commission and CPPA.

We all have a common goal of providing the best possible care for our patients. Maintaining accreditation standards is important because it offers benchmarks for assessing the standard of care your organization is providing.

OPTA leader Brandi Gudwien noted earning accreditation sets pharmacies and providers apart from others in the industry. She added many apply for accreditation

“Don’t forget to check the expiration dates on the cleaning products that you use in your pharmacies and patient care areas.”

to meet payor network requirements or use it as a tool to identify areas for performance and/or quality improvement.

Gudwien gave a first-hand account of the accreditation process, as Alabama Rx was recently reaccredited with ACHC with a Distinction in Oncology. OPTA leader Emily Zimdars stated her practice at M Fairview Health is accredited with The Joint Commission.

For pharmacy technicians who are currently involved in the process of accreditation or about to begin, we recommend a couple of procedures. First, know where

your policies and procedures are stored – whether that is on a shared computer drive, intranet or printed in a binder. It is okay if you don’t know some of them word for word, but knowing where to find them is important.

Second, if you don’t already have a site preparation checklist in place for your practice, put one together. It will come in handy during your next reaccreditation period. An item that you might forget about is cleaning products. We all complete our medication monthly outdates, but don’t forget to check the expiration dates on your cleaning products that you use in your pharmacies and patient care areas.

Last, but not least, make sure that your staff can speak to fire protocols, inclement weather situations, hand hygiene protocols and patient codes.

For more information, webinar slides can be found on OPTA’s basecamp.

We’re at the Forefront Of Oncology Pharmacy Technician Development. Join us and let your voice be heard to help improve patient care!



OPTA strives to strengthen and empower dispensing staff’s vital role by providing leadership and sharing knowledge to ensure better patient outcomes.

OPTA connects members from around the world.

OPTA helps set the standards for oncology pharmacy technicians.

OPTA’s success is dependent on the contribution of each individual member.



Scan QR Code
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