



ISPE®

Midwest Chapter

Spring 2020



President's Message

Beth Brock
Smithfield

Greetings – and Happy Spring!

During this difficult time of restricted activities and everything else that is closed or limited, I hope that you and your families are healthy and can get out to enjoy some nice weather and fresh air.

I'd like to provide an update on how this situation has affected Midwest Chapter activities:

- All gatherings between now and the end of May have been cancelled or postponed. We are staying tuned to the evolving situation to determine if other events are affected, including the Springfield plant tour event planned for June 8-9.
- Tech Ed Day, originally scheduled for May 5, has been rescheduled for July 29. The planning committee has done a great job pulling together content and presenters, and we realize that this event is valuable to our membership. We are looking forward to it and seeing everyone again later this summer.
- Our golf tournament scheduled for August 21 is still on the calendar at this point.
- We are looking into opportunities to have lunch and learn presentations offered via web conference. This way we can still offer content to our members. Please send any suggestions on topics for this effort to Shelley Klein and she will pass along to the board for planning.
- As soon as we are allowed to resume activities, we will get some happy hours or other networking events scheduled in each of the areas so that we can all celebrate the return of “normal” life!

We still have volunteer opportunities. The Membership Engagement committee is looking for volunteers with great ideas on how to better reach our membership, particularly in outlying areas or folks that have a hard time getting away from work and/or family commitments to attend events. Please contact Shelley Klein if you are interested.

As members of the pharmaceutical industry, we all know how important it is to keep our businesses running to continue to offer much needed medications, tests, and vaccines to our customers. We must stay focused on the importance of what we do. The mandated restrictions on social and other activities will put a strain on all of us who thrive on these to keep balance in our lives. Know that we are thinking of all of you and hope you find ways to embrace the opportunities we have during these times to spend more time with family, enjoy the outdoors, and stay positive that we will all get through this together.

Stay safe & healthy,
Beth

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Chapter Event Updates

ISPE Midwest plans to host a Facility Tour in Springfield, Missouri on Tuesday, June 9th. Paul Mueller Company, CSI, Holloway America, and Custom Powder have graciously agreed to open their doors for our group. As of March 25, this event is still on the calendar. We will reevaluate things again in mid-April and decide if we will go ahead with the tour or reschedule for later in the year.

Tech Ed Day has been rescheduled for Wednesday, July 29. We will still be holding the event at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. We plan to host a Women In Pharma dinner the evening before as well. Vendor tables purchased for May will be honored for July. Please contact Shelley Klein if have questions or have a conflict with the new date.

Our Annual Golf Tournament is still set for August 21. This year's venue is Tiffany Greens Golf Club and will be open to all members and non-members.

We cannot wait to see all of you again and will start planning happy hours and networking events as soon as possible.

We will be spotlighting one ISPE Midwest Young Professional member in our quarterly publication. We will also be interviewing current ISPE members to get their insight on what they have learned during their career, what they see changing, and what they wish they knew when they started in this industry.



Madison Evans
IMEx Engineer, Rotational Development
Pfizer

Tell us about your background.

I recently graduated with a Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Kansas in May 2020. I was lucky enough to be a member of the ISPE student chapter during its founding year and served as chapter president during the 2018-19 school year. Currently, I am in a rotational development program at Pfizer in McPherson, Kansas. For my first of three rotations I worked with a team to deploy Pfizer's standardized production model across our plant. I am currently transitioning into the Validations Engineering department.

What was participating in ISPE as a student like? Do you believe you gained any skills or insights that have helped start your professional career?

Being a member during the inaugural year was a very positive experience! Our faculty and Midwest mentors were extremely helpful, and we learned a lot as the year progressed. Having the opportunity to hear from professionals in the industry was fun, informative, and something we looked forward to each month. I found great networking connections, especially at events like Tech Ed day and the golf fundraiser. Being a part of the ISPE student chapter helped me to develop leadership and communication skills that I continue to use in a professional environment.

What's the transition been like to a professional position? What's been the biggest shock and the coolest opportunity?

Switching from textbooks and exams to collaborative group work has been eye opening. One thing about the work environment is that your job is never "done". In college you turn in a project or an exam and that's the end of it- it's on to the next thing. Now, you can pursue the opportunities to continuously improve your work.

My coolest opportunity so far is that my first rotation allowed me the opportunity to travel to one of our German sites and learn about the Pfizer production model we are deploying at McPherson. Learning from another site gave us the opportunity to expand our thought process and improve our work!

How would you like to stay engaged in the overall industry as a young professional?

I would like to continue to support the growth of the student chapters. It can be difficult to find industry speakers for the chapter meetings, and the student chapter would benefit greatly if they felt the support of our Midwest chapter. I would also like to continue pursuing opportunities to network with ISPE professionals, both in a more professional setting (Tech Ed Day) and a more casual setting (golf tournament).

What are some ways your local Midwest ISPE chapter can support you and your career development?

I am a strong advocate for mentoring groups and individual mentors. When held on a regular basis, I believe that mentoring groups would be a great way to develop more professional and personable relationships with others in our Midwest Chapter. This could also apply to YPs mentoring student chapter members as they apply for internships and begin interviewing for full time positions.



Dave Koncak
Senior Project Executive, Life Sciences Group
GBA

Dave Koncak is a Senior Project Executive in GBA's Life Sciences Group, where he builds the firm's expertise in asset management and reliability services. Dave brings 35 years of experience to the GBA team. Prior to joining GBA, he held various roles with senior management responsibility at Zoetis, Pfizer, Marion Merrell Dow and Marion Laboratories. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in nuclear engineering and Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri Science & Technology, and later went on to receive an executive certificate in finance & accounting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is founding member of the Midwest Chapter of ISPE.

Right now, many of us are wondering how Covid-19 will affect our businesses and what may change in the industry. Can you tell us about other times of uncertainty and change you've experienced during your career? (Like 2008, 9/11, etc).

9/11 was a life-changing event for everyone. I remember watching it unfold at work on a TV in a breakroom at Pfizer. No one in that breakroom could believe what they were seeing on TV. The changes were significant and immediate with new security check points using x-rays for all baggage and metal detectors for all airline passengers. The pharmaceutical industry upped its game with concrete bollards and monuments placed in front of their office buildings. At manufacturing sites, remote visitor holding areas were built so you were checked out before you could enter their main buildings.

What are ways you have seen businesses and individuals prepare for uncertainty and capitalize on new opportunities?

Business continuity plans (BCPs) have really been embraced by most large- and medium-sized companies. BCPs are designed so a company can deal with all types of crisis scenarios. I think every company, regardless of size, should have a business continuity plan and exercise it on an annual basis. As far as new opportunities, I would say this event has showed us the need for a reliable electronic communication network for our homes and businesses across our country and around the world.

What do you think are ways the industry will respond to Covid-19?

I think the pharmaceutical and biologics industry will reassess their risk of having a single country as their sole source of API and antibiotics supply. It may prompt US and European manufacturers to reenter the sourcing business for these APIs and antibiotics. I think the industry and government are showing that they can work together to bring life-saving solutions to this pandemic event faster than ever before. This cooperative and accelerated approach should carryover to fight other diseases in the world.

Pharmaceutical Industry Come Together To Develop New Treatments

Featured Article

All of us in the Pharmaceutical community are watching the Covid-19 virus carefully and evaluating how we can safeguard our families, coworkers, and ourselves. In these times, we have a duty to make sure our patients all over the world receive life saving medication. Thankfully, companies throughout our industry have stepped up to develop a vaccine for the Covid-19 virus and our working hard to provide treatments that could save millions of lives. This is a great time to remember the reason we go to work and how our efforts make so many lives better.



[Click this link to read the full article](#)

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**Want to stay up to date on
ISPE Midwest news and events?
Do you know someone who isn't
getting our emails?**

Over the last few years, many members have had email updates, job changes, or may simply have unsubscribed from ISPE Midwest communication emails.

If you haven't updated your membership profile in the last year, please log on to ispe.org so that we can get your correct contact information. Or, if you have a friend or colleague who is not an ISPE member but would like to stay informed on the chapter, please contact our Chapter Manager Shelley Klein at shelleyklein07@gmail.com with their email address and other contact information.

The Midwest Chapter Wants You!

We are always looking for new ideas and for help with running and growing our Chapter. Duties are divided between teams, which are comprised of both Board Member(s) and member volunteers. Involvement on a team consists of as little or as much as you wish to contribute. If you want to help with a single event that would be great! If you want to join a team that would be awesome. Any level of help is welcome and appreciated, so please consider joining in. As individual members, the more we put into the Chapter the more we will get out of it.

Here is a list of the teams we currently have:

YP & Student Development – This team is focused on assisting and working with our Student chapters and Young Professionals. *Team Captain: Spencer Chestnut, swchestnut@burnsmcd.com*

Content & Communication – This team develops and secures content providers for our events, Midwest Chapter webpage, and the newsletter. *Team Captain: Shannon Goodson, shannon.goodson@meridianmt.com*

Events – This team presents ideas for chapter events and helps plan major chapter events. It also provides guidance and direction to the local micro-chapter committees. *Co-Captains: Gary Kaplan, gary.kaplan@crbusa.com and Jeremy Wynn, jwynn@paulmueller.com*

Membership – The Membership Team is responsible for reaching out to potential new members and renewal members to maintain and increase chapter membership. *Captain: Tim Jost, tim.jost@propharmagroup.com*

KC Local Team – This team plans the local Kansas City area events. *Captain: Kyle Nordstrom, kyle.nordstrom@propharmagroup.com*

MSP Local Team – This team plans the local Minneapolis area events. *Captain: Lindsey Daniel, lindsey.daniel@takeda.com*

STL Local Team – This team plans the local St. Louis area events. *Captain: Lindsey Conner, lconner@mccarthy.com*

OMA Local Team – This team plans the local Omaha / Lincoln area events. *Captain: Looking for a new Captain!*

Teams are a great way to become more involved with our local chapter and the international organization. Members working on a committee generally see an expansion of their local network and will be considered first for open Board of Director positions. Please contact Shelley or a Board member if you would like to be more involved with any of the committees listed above.