**Liz Cohen, 2020 President**

First, I’d like to thank Colleen Teevan and Abigail Zeiner and the educational committee for planning Catch the Wave this year. This has been quite an interesting year as CSHP president, but it is a year in which I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished.

We have completed a total overhaul of our bylaws making them up-to-date and more reflective of our commitment to our members. We created a 3-year strategic plan, which is available on our website, to commit to the important issues we want to ensure we are working on. We pivoted from in-person programming and added educational events focused on the needs of our members when COVID-19 became all-encompassing.

The first annual CT residency conference was held to ensure our residents had an opportunity present their research. We held a COVID-19 update and a well-being program in conjunction with other state and regional organizations, and our first ever technician program on compounding. We have doubled down on our social media efforts and other communications to make sure that you know what we’re working on and things that might interest you, and we’ve expanded our hospital ambassador program, hoping to get more involved even in small ways.

Our legislative efforts, although not what we originally planned for this year, have been important and crucial to pharmacy practice in Connecticut. I want to recognize Tom Buckley, who has served as our legislative chair for 26 years as he steps into “retirement” and down from chair of our legislative committee.

Even these initiatives are just a few things that we’ve worked on this year and these would never have been accomplished without our Board members and committee chairs who worked so hard to do their best for you as our members. I’m looking forward to helping continue all the amazing things we’ve started and to watch the new ideas this Board and committee chairs will think of next!

**Teresa Papstein, 2021 President**

I am excited to lead with our incredible CSHP Board and innovative, enthusiastic task force teams and committees.

It has been the most challenging year of our lives in every aspect, but our CSHP community has provided much needed support and guidance through Liz Cohen’s leadership as well as Molly Leber’s continued support as Immediate Past President. I know I have big shoes to fill. Despite the year’s challenges, Liz created a schedule of committee and task force meetings for each of our teams, to keep us on track and focused throughout the year. This was helpful to all of us. I want to maintain this momentum along with our strategic plan moving forward.

There were many successes of each of the groups. I credit the leads and members to their successes and would like to highlight a few:

**Professional Development & Education** – (Colleen Teevan and Abby Zeiner) continuing education for pharmacists and technicians throughout the year with excellent programs planned in 2021

**Pharmacy Technician Committee** – (Kent Owusu and Sara Fern) bringing forth specific plans for increasing involvement. With our new CSHP Technician leadership, Phil Rosselli, Tiffany Gray and Mounia Belica, we will implement those plans to expand technician support in 2021

**Membership** – (Jason Lew and Charlie Jones) establishing a hospital ambassador program to highlight benefits with our colleagues. The Membership committee will join the Professional Development and Communications Committees to create a statewide collaboration between our health systems as a clinical and operational resource.

As set forth in our CSHP Strategic Plan over the next few years, I would like to align with ASHP to increase membership to include our Community Ambulatory Pharmacy Practitioners who practice in ambulatory community pharmacy-based settings and who are involved in direct patient care, management, and implementation of advanced practice models and education. As we all know, there is a shift from acute care to comprehensive care. With nearly half of health systems having a business relationship with community pharmacies, health systems employ a large number of outpatient, specialty and ambulatory clinic pharmacists. Integration of community pharmacy practice helps us follow implementation of patient-centered care across the entire medication-use continuum. This is a great opportunity that I would like to promote with CSHP to further advance care at the ambulatory community level, and to help improve continuity of care for patients in and across all patient care settings, particularly during transitions of care.

**Legislative Committee** – CSHP has had the honor of working with Dr. Tom Buckley for the past 26 years who supported our pharmacy profession by his vast and incredible knowledge of Connecticut’s legislative process. Over the past year he has shared his expertise with our new legislative chair, Steph Luon and Vice Chair, Cory Heck

Like ASHP, CSHP is engaged in a number of advocacy effort. I would like to highlight what our committee has been preparing for the coming legislative sessions under the leadership of Tom Buckley, Steph Luon and Corey Heck: The COVID pandemic has positioned us well to move forward with promoting pharmacy practice.

1. Modifying language within the Collaborative Practice law to adapt to our current practice
2. Reimbursement for pharmacy from commercial and Medicaid payers at the same rate as an APP, including digital health services
3. Expand pharmacist scope of practice in CT to align with other progressive state laws
4. Most recently, we are assessing how we can support pharmacists for psychological & neurological disorders as well as substance abuse through alternative programs where we currently only have disciplinary programs in CT

I would like to end with:

***Our Value Statement*** CSHP provides you with a community of pharmacy professionals who share their time, resources, and expertise to work together toward a common goal of professional growth and enhanced patient outcomes.

I am energized by our Society’s enthusiasm and look forward to working together in the coming year to expand our value to our members. Thank you for being a member of CSHP and for everything you do for your patients and our profession particularly during these very challenging times. I look forward to working with you all.