

Meet the 2025 Pharmacology Conference Speakers

Speaker

BIO

COURSE DESCRIPTION



CURT SWENSON,
CEO FUTURESYNC
INTERNATIONAL

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**EMBRACING PERSONAL
ACCOUNTABILITY: THE KEY TO
MENTALLY MANAGING SELF
DURING CHALLENGING TIMES**

Curt Swenson is the CEO, Master Facilitator and Executive Coach at FutureSYNC, International. During his diverse 25-year professional career, Curt has repeatedly demonstrated his abilities to get results, lead teams, and grow employees. He has successfully implemented leadership and succession programs in many organizations and is a highly-regarded speaker, executive coach & strategic planner. He has spent the last 20 years in the field of organizational development, leading and cultivating his passion for exposing and developing the potential in people and organizations. Curt is a certified Master Trainer & Facilitator, Master Coach, and Instructional Development expert.

In today's healthcare climate, embracing personal accountability has become increasingly vital. This session aims to equip participants with practical tools and techniques to enhance their personal accountability practices. By fostering a strong sense of personal accountability, participants will improve their ability to manage difficult workplace relationships, navigate stress, and maintain mental clarity.



DAVID
VAUGHAN, APRN,
DNP, FNP-C

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**CKD- DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT**

David has been a nurse for 24 years after earning his BSN from California State University-Fresno. He earned his Master's Degree in 2007 and his Doctorate in 2021 from Montana State University-Bozeman. He has been working as a primary care nurse practitioner in rural Montana clinics for the past 17 years providing full-spectrum family healthcare. His clinical interests include neurobiology and incorporating trauma-informed care practices.

This session will give the learner an overview of current guidelines for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease. Content will include guideline updates from 2024. This session aims to give the primary care provider the tools to effectively recognize and treat CKD in the outpatient setting.



AMY LAKTASH,
MSN, APRN, NP-C

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**PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO
PRESCRIBING FOR OBESITY: A
GUIDE FOR PRIMARY CARE
PROVIDERS**

With 7 years of experience in bariatric surgery and 3 years in obesity medicine, I have developed expertise in managing obesity and its related conditions. I have actively contributed to the field through national webinars hosted by Cleveland Clinic, as well as speaking at ASMB state chapter meetings. Additionally, I have engaged in various professional development opportunities, educating fellow healthcare providers in obesity management

Obesity is a chronic, relapsing, and treatable condition affecting millions and is a significant risk factor for chronic diseases. As primary care providers, understanding the nuances of obesity management is crucial. This session will provide practical, evidence-based strategies for prescribing medications in obesity treatment, tailored specifically for the primary care setting.

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JACPQUELINE
TOWARNICKI,
MSN, RN, WHNP,
ANP, SANE-A

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**THE MANY USES OF
BUPRENORPHINE: PAIN &
ADDICTION**

Jacqueline's early professional career concentrated on the forensic sciences. She transitioned to health sciences in 2013, earning a master's degree in nursing from Massachusetts General Hospital's Institute for Health Professions. Early work in healthcare was in service to the homeless and underserved in Portland, Maine. Since moving to Missoula in 2016, she has continued to provide healthcare for the homeless via a clinic inside the local shelter. From these beginnings, she learned of the association of experienced trauma, mental health outcomes and substance use disorders. On nights and weekends, as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, she provides holistic care to those surviving assault and domestic violence. She is passionate about life-saving opportunities in caring for those with both addiction and mental health disorders and understands the positive effect healing has on individuals as well as for our community.

This presentation is aimed at providing an option when the combination of non-opioid medication and non-pharmacological therapies are not effective and an opioid is indicated OR when you inherit or have a patient on high doses of full agonist narcotics. There are many benefits of buprenorphine over full agonist narcotics for pain management. There are also many formulations of buprenorphine for pain management including patch, film, and tablet. We will review how to transform and improve your patients quality of while reducing their risks when/if chronic pain medication is indicated.



MOLLY QUINN,
PA-C

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**INCRETIN THERAPY FOR TYPE
2 DIABETES**

I graduated from PA school from Pacific University in 2013. I have practiced in diabetes and endocrinology for the vast majority of my career- all of this in Western Montana. I truly enjoy chronic disease management and getting to know and work with my patients over many years/decades. When not practicing, I can be found in the outdoors, running, mountain biking or skiing with my husband and two young children.

Learn how to utilize incretin therapy (including GLP1 receptor agonist and dual incretin receptor agonists) in your practice for type 2 diabetes. This will cover: pathophysiology, mechanism of action, indications for use, dose titration and side effect management. We will also discuss safety and efficacy data as well as secondary indications/benefits beyond improving glycemic control.



JASON
GLEASON,
DNP, FNP-C,
FAANP

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**METABOLISM MAYHEM:
ADVENTURES IN THYROID
DISEASE FOR PRIMARY
PROVIDERS**

Dr. Jason Gleason is a board-certified nurse practitioner and fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners with over two decades of experience in emergency medicine, primary care, diabetes, and stroke care. A retired Lieutenant Colonel with 20 years of military service, he now provides care to Veterans at the VA and serves as faculty at Fitzgerald Health Education Associates by Colibri. He is a respected national speaker, consultant, author, podcaster, and award-nominated documentary producer. He actively contributes to local and national councils, including serving on the board of directors for the AANP, National VA APRN Council, Carelinx by Sharecare Advisory Board, Purdue University Advisory Board and the VA/DoD Stroke Rehabilitation Guidelines Workgroup.

Metabolism Mayhem: Taming the Thyroid Trouble-Makers: Calling all thyroid heroes! The metabolic villains are on the loose. Hypothyroidism, the slow and sneaky energy thief; Hyperthyroidism, the relentless overdrive instigator; and the ever-elusive Thyroid Nodules, hiding in plain sight. In this action-packed session, we'll equip you with the diagnostic tools and treatment strategies you need to restore order to the body's metabolism. Together, we'll uncover the clues, outsmart the culprits, and save the day for our patients. Suit up, sharpen your clinical superpowers, and join the fight against thyroid disease!

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CINDY SWAN,
DNP, APRN,
FNP-BC

Cindy is a family nurse practitioner. She started her path in clinical practice as a second career. She started first as a paramedic, then an emergency room nurse, eventually obtaining her MSN in family practice. She completed her Doctorate of Nursing practice in December 2023. She currently works in a rural hospital in Wheatland County, Montana where she sees a variety of chronic conditions across all ages in both the emergency and family practice setting. She is actively pursuing certification in functional medicine and is passionate about women and treating the root cause of disease, while promoting maximum wellness.

Hot flashes, insomnia, and mood disruptions... is it menopause, perimenopause, or something else? Should it be treated, and if so, is it safe? This is a dive into the symptoms commonly affecting women often as early as their late 30s to as late as their early 60s as they near or enter menopause. Debunk the myths that often prevent providers from treating women suffering from perimenopause and menopause symptoms. Explore safe and affective ways to compassionately treat women and improve their quality of life.

THE "HOT" TOPIC OF HRT



AMY LAKTASH,
MSN, APRN,
NP-C

This session will explore the impact of common medications prescribed in primary care that can lead to weight gain, a significant concern for patients with chronic conditions. We will discuss strategies for identifying and managing these side effects, including the use of weight-neutral medications and those associated with weight loss. Attendees will gain practical insights into optimizing treatment plans to minimize weight gain while effectively managing chronic conditions, improving patient outcomes, and enhancing overall well-being

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WHEN MEDICATIONS ADD POUNDS: A KEY FACTOR IN CHRONIC DISEASE TREATMENT



DAVID
VAUGHAN, APRN,
DNP, FNP-C

This session will aim to provide the primary care provider with knowledge of current, evidence-based, guideline-directed care for managing post-myocardial infarction patients. The discussion will also include related elements of care strategies for the prevention and treatment of congestive heart failure in the post-MI setting.

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I'VE HAD A HEART ATTACK- WHAT COMES NEXT?

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PETER BULGER,
MD

Peter Bulger was born and raised in Montana. He did all of his training from medical school through fellowship at the University of Washington and is a proud graduate of Montana's WWAMI program. He works in Bozeman as an infectious disease doctor and medical director of the county health department. He is always happy to help with the care of patients with infectious diseases anywhere in the state.

Syphilis rates are rising nationwide and in Montana with devastating consequences. This session will provide an overview of the scale of the problem as well as everything a provider needs to diagnose and treat syphilis and help combat the ongoing epidemic.

HEATHER
DEMAREST,
MPH

Communicable Disease Specialist for Gallatin City-County Health Department

SYPHILIS: A PROVIDER'S GUIDE



MARGARET
HAMMERSLA,
PHD, ANP-BC

Dr. Hammersla is an Assistant Professor at the Mark & Robyn Jones College of Nursing and an Adult Nurse Practitioner with a clinical background in internal medicine and geriatric care. She is an implementation science expert focusing on using system-based practice change to improve patient outcomes, specifically in access to specialty care for rural and frontier communities. She is working collaboratively with the American Society for Clinical Oncology to implement a hub-and-spoke model for oncology and infusion care in a rural southwest Montana community. Using qualitative research methods, Dr. Hammersla engages stakeholders to develop systems of care to improve survivorship care that are specifically designed for rural and frontier communities.

Accessing survivorship care for late and long-term effects of treatment, as well as ongoing surveillance for new and recurrent cancers, can be a challenge for those living in rural and frontier communities. An estimated 2.8 million survivors live in rural areas across the United States. Clear differences in survivorship outcomes have been noted in rural areas compared to their urban counterparts. Survival rates are lower in rural areas, partially attributed to a lack of surveillance for new and reoccurring cancer during survivorship, and have worse outcomes than their urban counterparts. Additional challenges for rural cancer survivors include travel and access, care coordination, and a lack of advocacy. This presentation will review strategies and resources available to support the delivery of care for cancer survivors living in rural areas.

CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CARE IN RURAL PRIMARY CARE