

2024 Pharmacy to Dose Conference Speaker of the Year Nominees

1. Anthony Hawkins, PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM

- a. Whenever I see Anthony Hawkins' name as a speaker, I am excited for the engaging presentation that I have come to anticipate. Dr. Hawkins routinely captivates that audience with his creative visual displays, memorable examples, and ability to simplify complex concepts. What's more, he does this using a highly researched and evidence-based approach. Dr. Hawkins has immersed himself in learning about educational pedagogy and applies these principles of teaching and learning to his presentations at regional and national conferences. This intentionality is not commonly seen in conference speakers and helps to make his talks both interesting and effective. Dr. Hawkins is an exceptional speaker who truly never disappoints.
Anthony's commitment to learning how we learn and applying that to his daily practice are commendable, as so many take 'teaching skills' for granted. He's a lovely speaker.

2. Neal Lyons, PharmD, BCPS

- a. Dr. Lyons's presentation was emblematic of his character and practice style: high-yield and hilarious. His ability to make a crowd of hundreds undergo a simultaneous paradigm shift is less surprising and more expected at this point in his career. He was able to successfully weave humor, physiology, and literature analysis succinctly. No small feat. I plan to forever utilize his "Bundle of HERs" quip for all future topic discussions. Attending SAEM/AEMP, Chicagoland Critical Care Conference, and the ASHP MCM I cannot think of a better critical care pharmacist speaker. Despite his questionable wardrobe decisions, I would be remiss not to nominate him for Conference Speaker of the Year Award.
- b. I am honored to recommend Dr. Neal Lyons for Conference Speaker of the Year as it is an amazing feat to get him to even attend a conference – let alone speak at one. He is a brilliant educator and one of the smartest people I know, and I am so grateful he gave a presentation at the 2024 Academic Emergency Medicine Pharmacists (AEMP) meeting at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Conference. He and Dr Laura Celmins – who also gave a fantastic talk – delivered a very exciting, hilarious and engaging debate regarding adenosine or diltiazem for supraventricular tachycardia, complete with boxing gear! I've known Neal for the last several years and worked with him at Loyola as partners in the ED for nearly four years. In his first year at Loyola, Neal was honored as Educator of the Year by the emergency medicine residency class, a testament to his educational prowess. He makes me feel smarter being around him and I hope to see many more conference presentations to come.

3. Gretchen Sacha, PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM

- a. I have heard Gretchen deliver a number of presentations at national conferences in recent years, including the SCCM Annual Congress and the CHEST Annual Meeting. During each presentation I am impressed by Gretchen's ability to articulate difficult concepts, particularly for audiences of different understanding levels. She has a unique ability to appear to be speaking "off the cuff" when I know she has thoroughly and painstakingly prepared for the presentation. This is a testament to her dedication to delivering a useful presentation. Further, she consistently connects with the audience in a meaningful way such that all attendees take away meaningful information for their practice in order to improve patient care.