

2024 Pharmacy to Dose Tag Team Tandem of the Year Nominees

1. Caitlin Brown, PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM & Alicia Mattson, PharmD, BCCCP

- a. When I see Alicia and Caitlin at work, my day is brighter. I know that I can trust their expertise when I have a question, they participate in educating our learners and are vital to our critical care. We are fortunate to have their expertise when caring for patients with toxicologic emergencies. Both Caitlin and Alicia have been engaged in research, partnering with physicians and other pharmacists to establish better care for patients in emergency departments. They are clearly lifelong learners, curious and knowledgeable. I trust that if I make a mistake in an order (or someone on my team does) they will find it and they will educate me. Our ED is incredibly lucky to have dedicated pharmacists, and we are particularly fortunate that Caitlin and Alicia are among them.
- b. These two are like the peanut butter and jelly of emergency medicine—perfectly paired and working in harmony to provide exceptional patient care. Their seamless collaboration as clinical pharmacists in the emergency department has not only improved patient outcomes but also fostered a supportive, multidisciplinary environment. Both are highly skilled and their shared commitment to teamwork and mutual respect makes them stand out. Like milk and cookies, their combined strengths make everything better, from optimizing medication therapies to ensuring the best outcomes for every patient. Together, they exemplify the best in collaborative care, showing that the greatest results come from working as a team with shared goals and a strong sense of friendship.
- c. Alicia and Caitlin have been work and life best friends after meeting each other during residency. I have experienced their teamwork firsthand in the education, research and clinical practice. They have excelled as preceptors for our residency programs on clinical rotation, quality improvement projects and research projects. The way they are able to build and complement each others' questions showed a very like-minded process that gets the most out of our trainees. In research, they have excelled in the conduct and output of clinical research, both independently or in collaboration. They are also both members of EMPHARM-Net. Clinically, there are so many instances where they have asked each other for their opinion on tough cases, or even worked in tandem in a resus, procuring and preparing medications for adult or pediatric patients. In fact, I have core memories during peak COVID, with one in full garb inside the patient's room and the other relaying medications from the Pyxis machine during emergency activations. Alicia and Caitlin are best friends inside and outside of the hospital; they are the epitome of the perfect tag team tandem and their bonds will only become stronger with each passing year.

2. Christian Kressin, PharmD, BCCCP & Katherine Spezzano, PharmD, MBA, BCCCP

- a. Nothing I say will be enough to describe the impact this dynamic duo of Kat and Christian have had on our entire MICU services (and family). We've always been fortunate to have some amazing critical care pharmacists who have elevated our patient care as well as education. Since Kat and Christian joined the team, they have taken it to the next level. From an educator standpoint, not only have they precepted a multitude of pharmacy students and residents but also our Medicine, Med peds, EM residents as well as our PCCM and CCM fellows. Christian has given multiple talks for our fellows while Kat's Airway Pharmacology is an annual staple of our fellowship curriculum at this point. A bane of our existence (and I'm sure many other institutions) is the incidence and prevention of ICU delirium. This dynamic duo leads our institutional committee to address this (the A2F bundle committee) and currently also supervising one of our residents and fellows to come up with a delirium prevention QI project. Since Kat and Christian joined the team, the research collaboration between our Division and the College of Pharmacy has flourished. Of course, we aren't just a bunch of serious people and have some fun moments as well which involves our "team lunches" that involves trying out Lexington cuisine and Kat and Christian are true connoisseurs.
- b. The APPs LOVE working with both of them and these two have become an integral part of our team. Their work and contributions to the MICU group (attendings, APPs, fellows and residents, nursing) is not only vital but represents how much we rely on our phenomenal pharmacy team. I personally and reliably have worked with both of them on patient care but also on other MICU and enterprise level quality improvement projects, such as the A2F workgroup/committee. In addition, I am currently working with Kat on several research projects and am very appreciative of her knowledge and collegial attitude.
- c. They may not have the longevity together as some of the other more veteran duos, but they are definitely important for our future in the ICU at UK. They bring a healthy balance to their office with enthusiasm for their practice & fun things like recipes & puppy stories. They have essentially taken over the tandem hole left by Drs. Flannery & Bastin moving on. Big shoes to fill but they are doing it clinically, in research, and in teaching.