



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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JB PPRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

CAMILE LINDSAY
Director

The Illinois State Board of Pharmacy conducted a regular business meeting at 10:32am on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. The meeting was held in the IDFPR offices located at 555 W. Monroe Street in Chicago, Illinois and 320 W. Washington Street in Springfield, Illinois. The locations were connected by videoconferencing also available to the public.

Board members attended and participated as follows:

Tomson George, RPh, Chair (Chicago)
Carrie Wiggins, RPh, Vice-Chair (Springfield)
Brandon Barringer, RPh, Member (Springfield)
Glen Gard, CPhT, Member (Chicago)
Ayanna Gardner, RPh, Member (Chicago)
Atenea Gazdziak, RPh, Member (Chicago)
Richard Mazzotti, RPh, Member (Springfield)
Edwin Muldrow, RPh, Member (Chicago)
Glen Pietrandoni, RPh, Member (Unavailable)

Department staff attended and participated as follows:

Steven Smith, Director of Drug Compliance (Virtual)
Janel Haretoun, Office of General Counsel (Chicago)
Robert Gerton, Liaison, Health Services Section (Springfield)

Many guests called into the meeting, however due to the virtual format of the meeting, guest roll was not taken.

MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION

Call To Order – Chair Tomson George called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Tomson welcomed guests to the meeting, reminded everyone of teleconference meeting etiquette, and reminded everyone of the Board's advisory role.

Minutes Acceptance – Board members reviewed the minutes of open session from the January 13, 2026 meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

May Meeting Date – Due to a conflict with the NABP 2026 Annual Meeting, the May Meeting of the IL Board of Pharmacy was rescheduled to the first Tuesday in May (May 5, 2026) rather than the second.

Department Time –

Updated Fees Implementation – Mr. Gerton reminded everyone of the fee increases in the Rules adopted late December 2025. The 2026 renewals included the updated fees. The fee for pharmacy applications has already been implemented. The fee increases for applications for new Pharmacist licenses or new Pharmacy Technician license are delayed until the end of March 2026.

Uniform MPJE – Mr Gerton asked the Board and pharmacy school representatives about the transition period into Uniform MPJE. Option 1: Immediate transition (stop MPJE and start UMPJE the following day). Option 2: Short-term transition (90 days where an applicant can choose either exam. Option 3: Long-term transition (up to a year where an applicant can choose either exam.) Some in attendance were in favor of immediate transition, while others suggested a long-term transition.

CORE Platform – Mr. Gerton reminded everyone that the Department would be moving into the new CORE platform later this year and that at that time there would be changes to pharmacy technician licenses as they are split into separate profession codes. Following the split, there will be changes to renewal cycles and some of the licenses will receive an updated expiration date.

Certified Pharmacy Technicians will migrate into profession code 039 and switch to a 2 year renewal cycle that coincides with the current pharmacy and pharmacist license cycle (expiring March 31, even numbered years). **Grandfathered Pharmacy Technicians** will migrate into profession code 069 and switch to a 2 year renewal cycle that coincides with the current pharmacy and pharmacist license cycle (expiring March 31, even numbered years). **Student Pharmacist Pharmacy Technicians** will migrate into profession code 079 and stay on a 1 year renewal cycle. **Registered Pharmacy Technicians** will keep profession code 049 but will change to a 2 year not-renewable license. Mr. Gerton was not able to provide an exact date for this change to occur. Information will be forthcoming as it becomes available. The new CORE platform process involves setting up an IL Login account and then submitting the application.

NABP Updates –

NABP Annual Meeting – Tomson George informed everyone that the NABP 2026 Annual Meeting will be held May 12-15 in Boston, Massachusetts. As Chair, Tomson will be the Illinois delegate.

MPJE Item Development Workshop – Because IDFPR has communicated its plans to adopt the Uniform MPJE in June 2026, there is no need to write new questions for the IL MPJE.

Legislation Update – Chris Crank of ICHP provided the Board with a look ahead at the 2026 session of the General Assembly.

Public Comments – The Board heard comments from the general public about various topics. The bulk of comments centered around the IL MPJE. Representatives from the various Colleges of Pharmacy expressed apprehension about preparing students for the Uniform MPJE because it is a new exam and its content is largely unknown. Counsel Haretoun thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments and indicated that she would be sharing additional information from IPhA

and the various colleges of pharmacy about 2025 pass rates with the Director during an internal IDFPR meeting later in the week.

Closed Session – at 11:55 a.m., motion was made and seconded to enter into closed session for the purposes set forth in Sections 2(c)(15) and 2(c)(21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken: George – YES, Wiggins – YES, Barringer – YES, Gard – YES, Gardner – YES, Gazdziak – YES, Mazzotti – YES, Muldrow – YES. Motion carried.

Return To Open Session – At 12:27 p.m. Motion was made and seconded to return to open session. Motion carried.

Recommendations – Motion was made and seconded to affirm the following recommendations made in closed session:

Acceptance of Minutes of Closed Session for November 4, 2025 Illinois Board of Pharmacy Meeting.

Deliberation - Case 2019-09820 Express Specialty Pharmacy and Hiba Al Haiabi.

The Board rejected the recommendation contained in the ALJ Report and recommended that Respondent Hiba Al Halabi's license 051.297878 and Respondent Express Specialty Pharmacy LLC license 054.019416 remain suspended for a definite period of one (1) year from the date of the August 15, 2025 Director's Order, immediately followed by 18 months indefinite probation whereby the respondents shall abide by the terms of the original consent order and, in addition, shall work with a consultant to ensure compliance with non-sterile compounding requirements. Said consultant shall be approved by the Department and the consultant's final report shall be provided to the Department prior to petitioning for Restoration.

Tanaya BARNES, approved to begin 3x MPJE remediation experience as outlined *pending* confirmation from the preceptor that the remediation training will also include the Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act (225 ILCS 85/) and Rules 68 IAC Section 1330.

Fatma Selen AGAR, approved to begin 1200-hour course of clinical instruction as outlined.

Jafar ALBAAJ, approved to begin 1200-hour course of clinical instruction as outlined.

Momen Alsheikh DURAH, approved to begin 1200-hour course of clinical instruction as outlined.

Karima ZANOUNE, approved to begin 1200-hour course of clinical instruction as outlined.

A roll call vote was taken: George – YES, Wiggins – YES, Barringer – YES, Gard – YES, Gardner – YES, Gazdziak – YES, Mazzotti – YES, Muldrow – YES. Motion carried.

Adjournment – At 12:30 p.m. the meeting adjourned.