

Opiates & Outcomes

Presented by the Mississippi Association of Recovering Pharmacists

December 04, 2026

Lion Hills

2331 Military Road, Columbus, MS. 39705

Rooms available for Thursday night at a special rate of \$119 per night single & \$119 per night double at the Columbus Fairfield, 2011 6th Street North, Columbus, MS 39701. The Fairfield is located next to the Hampton Inn and The Courtyard Columbus and behind Sol and Luna Mexican restaurant. Book room by November 3, 2026 for the special rate. There is ample parking at Lion Hills where the conference is located (extra is available across Military Road in an empty lot). Use this QR code to register online:



Friday, December 04, 2026

07:45-08:15am	Registration and breakfast	10:40am-10:50am	Break
08:15-08:17am	Explanation of the Facilities and Scheduled Activities of the Day Jerry Fortenberry, MARP Executive Director	10:50am-11:50am	How the Brain Heals in Recovery: The Neuroscience of the Twelve Steps & Recovery Merrill Norton, PharmD, D.Ph, CMAC, CCS
08:17-08:30am	Welcome and Intro to First Speaker Jerry Fortenberry, MARP Executive Director	11:50pm-01:00pm	Lunch
08:30-09:30am	How the Brain Heals in Recovery: The Neuroscience of the Twelve Steps & Recovery Merrill Norton, PharmD, D.Ph, CMAC, CCS	01:00pm-02:30pm	Current Drug Trends in America and Mississippi: Advancing Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery for Opioid And Stimulant Use Disorders Jan Dawson, BS Mississippi Public Health Institute
09:30-09:40am	Break	02:30pm-02:45pm	Break
09:40am-10:40am	How the Brain Heals in Recovery: The Neuroscience of the Twelve Steps & Recovery Merrill Norton, PharmD, D.Ph, CMAC, CCS	02:45pm-04:15pm	Current Drug Trends in America and Mississippi: Advancing Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery for Opioid And Stimulant Use Disorders Jan Dawson, BS Mississippi Public Health Institute
		Total CE hours for Friday- up to 6 contact hours (0.60 ceu)	

HOW THE BRAIN HEALS IN RECOVERY: THE NEUROSCIENCE OF THE TWELVE STEPS OF RECOVERY

ACPE UAN: 0032-9999-26-047-L08-P/T 3 contact hours (0.30 ceu)

Target audience---Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians

A knowledge-based continuing education activity

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the neurobiological basis of the 12-step model and its relationship to addiction recovery.
2. Explain the concept of Reward Deficiency Syndrome (RDS) and the role of addiction risk gene polymorphisms in substance use disorders.
3. Discuss the contributions of Kenneth Blum to the understanding of dopamine regulation and addiction recovery.
4. Identify the potential role of epigenetic changes and neuroplasticity associated with regular participation in mutual-help fellowships such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Family Groups.
5. Compare the neurological principles underlying the 12-step recovery with other treatment modalities used in addiction treatment and long-term recovery support.
6. Discuss the relationship between dopamine D2 receptor activity and sustained recovery in individuals participating in 12-step programs.
7. Explain improvement of the brain's memory and pleasure systems of 12 step attendees.

CURRENT DRUG TRENDS IN AMERICA AND MISSISSIPPI: ADVANCING PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY FOR OPIOID AND STIMULANT USE DISORDERS

ACPE UAN: 0032-9999-26-048-L08-P/T 3 contact hour (0.30 ceu)

Target audience---Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians

A knowledge-based continuing education activity

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify current national drug trends involving opioids, fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, counterfeit pills, and polysubstance use.
2. Describe emerging overdose patterns and epidemiological data related to opioid and stimulant use disorders nationally and within Mississippi.
3. Discuss the impact of fentanyl and stimulant co-use on overdose risk, treatment engagement, and recovery outcomes.
4. Recognize social determinants and disparities that contribute to substance use disorders and barriers to care in rural and underserved populations.
5. Discuss evidence-based approaches for opioid use disorder treatment, including medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), recovery support services, and overdose prevention strategies.
6. Review Mississippi-specific programs and initiatives addressing prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose response, and community engagement.
7. Identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration among healthcare providers, behavioral health professionals, law enforcement, educators, public health agencies, and community organizations.
8. Develop actionable strategies to strengthen prevention, treatment access, and recovery supports within participants' organizations and communities.

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The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as providers of continuing pharmacy education. This program has been accredited for up to 7 contact hours (0.7 CEU) of continuing pharmacy education credit by the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, Division of Professional Development. Upon completion of these knowledge-based continuing education activities, and completion of the program evaluations, registrants will have continuing pharmacy education credits posted the MyCPE Monitor website (www.mycpemonitor.net) within 60 days of this program.



Opioid
Response
Network

Opiates & Outcomes

Friday, December 04, 2026

Presented by

*The Mississippi Association
of
Recovering Pharmacists*

*Lion Hills Center
Golf Course & Country Club
2331 Military Road
Columbus, MS 39705
662-328-4837*

*Accommodations available at the
special rate of \$119 (single or double)
per night at the Fairfield and there are
other local hotels and bb's.*

*For more information contact
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E-Mail address: marprdd@aol.com*

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MARP
211 Chapman Road
Columbus, MS 39705

Fee for the seminar is \$99.00 (THIS IS A SPECIAL EARLY PRICE OFFER!) if paid by November 15, 2026
or \$199.00 after November 15, 2026 (Breakfast and Lunch served Sat.) NO REFUNDS

Remember: Call Angie Earnest at 662-436-8575 and tell her you are with MARP for the special hotel rate if you need a room or rooms.

Name _____ Phone _____ (Daytime, please)

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Make check payable to: MARP, 211 Chapman Road, Columbus, MS 39705

If paying by credit card: Card Number _____ Expiration _____ CVC code _____ Billing Zip Code _____

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Thank you, Jerry Fortenberry, 601-937-1672. You may also register online at mymarp.com where you can print out a copy of the brochure if you wish. We accept Paypal only if paying online.