

Welcoming New Staff: Joanna Santana PharmD

RoundtableRx is pleased to welcome our newest team member, Joanna Santana PharmD! Dr. Santana was selected from a group of exceptional applicants to be our part-time pharmacist.

Since late April of 2023, Dr. Santana has been managing RoundtableRx's day-to-day operations. "I anticipate being able to use my creative skills to improve the workflow on site at our Central Repository as we expand," she said.

When asked what the most impactful part of her job has been, she said: "Our individual donors have a great energy & impact whenever they show up because they are proud of both themselves & RoundtableRx for getting medications to those who struggle to afford the cost."



Joanna Santana PharmD selects items in inventory to fill an order at RoundtableRx's Central Repository.

State Funding Secured: \$450,000 for Fiscal Years 2024 & 2025

Thanks in part to bipartisan support at the legislature, RoundtableRx was awarded funding from the state's general fund this past session. This marks the first time RoundtableRx will receive state funding.

For context, the move by the legislature to appropriate funding is in line with a national trend of states funding their respective medication repository programs. The award will diversify program funding & provide a sustainable source of revenue for RoundtableRx.

State funding will launch RoundtableRx towards the next phase of the strategic plan, which will include dispensing pharmacy operations. This is a massive win for RoundtableRx, but an even greater win for the Minnesotans that rely on RoundtableRx for their medication needs.

This is what the legislators involved had to share:

"I was excited to be the chief author in the senate bill because this program & the work that RoundtableRx is doing is a critical step in closing health disparity gaps & improving the health of all communities."

- Senator Alice Mann -

"The RoundtableRx program is a stellar example of when citizens & legislators can put aside any politics to simply solve a problem. Helping those in need of cancer medications by using the leftovers from those who no longer need them is a simple, commonsense idea that is working to help hundreds of patients."

- Senator Jim Abeler -

Impact Report

In the second quarter of 2023, RoundtableRx distributed 8,970 days of medicine to Minnesotans in need, bringing our lifetime impact to 36,510 days of medicine valued at over \$180,000 (AWP).

This quarter, RoundtableRx welcomed two new Local Repository partners: Native American Community Clinic (NACC) & Essentia Health Pharmacy, International Falls. Our Local Repository partners now represent 23 sites in 12 unique Minnesota counties, with 50% of counties being rural.

RoundtableRx invites clinics & pharmacies state-wide to join as Local Repository partners to access our no-cost medicines for under-resourced Minnesota residents. Learn how on our [website](#) or by [contacting](#) our team.



Testimony from a RoundtableRx Patient

When asked why they chose RoundtableRx for their medication needs, one Cass County resident said: "I could not afford one of my meds & was going with out (sic) until my pay-day came around to try & order this med. I am paid (once) a month & no insurance." The patient's doctor referred them to RoundtableRx where they were able to obtain their medicine for diabetes. "I would just like to thank you for caring to help people in need," they told RoundtableRx.



Pharmacy students Zach Brunko & Aly Pernsteiner (class of 2024) pose with RoundtableRx inventory in the Central Repository.

Pharmacy Students Drive Progress

Students have long been a crucial part of RoundtableRx. After all, RoundtableRx was founded by University of Minnesota (UMN) students. Students continue to volunteer at RoundtableRx, assisting with day-to-day operations & other projects.

This year, RoundtableRx became an official rotation site for UMN pharmacy students. Students on the rotation gain advanced knowledge of the program & participate in operations. Current rotation students are researching potential changes to Minnesota legislation to enhance operations & creating educational material on the topic of medication safety. Student Aly Pernsteiner had this to say: "As a student at RoundtableRx, I've had the opportunity to learn about the operations of a non-profit & develop projects to enhance RoundtableRx's impact." Student Zach Brunko says, "This rotation has given me the opportunity to learn about MN pharmaceutical law & the impact this program has had on those in need."

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Thank You Funders!

RoundtableRx is grateful for the generous support we receive from our funders. This support comes in the form of grants, gifts & donations. Without this support, RoundtableRx would be unable to complete our mission-driven work. The entities providing this support this fiscal year are highlighted here. Please join us in thanking them for their support!



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