



# Kevin Fearon

2020-2021

ASCP PRESIDENT

**Pharmacy runs in Kevin Fearon's family.** As a teen, Fearon worked as a stock boy, cashier, and all-around errand boy for his father's drug store in Akron, Ohio. While he initially thought he would go into the dentistry field, Fearon made the decision to focus on pharmacy instead, and that lucky choice steered him into a career he has pursued with passion and dedication. Now, with more than 30 years of institutional pharmacy under his belt, the president and chief operating officer of Absolute Pharmacy Inc. will be stepping in to serve as the 2020-2021 ASCP President.

As an institutional pharmacist, Fearon uses his knowledge of both pharmacy and business needs as well as his emotional intelligence to help people collaborate toward a goal and common cause. It's that sense of collaboration that Fearon hopes to bring to the table as ASCP president.

"We are all senior care pharmacist with consultant roles in the progression of caring for aging seniors," Fearon said. "The interventions made by dispensing pharmacist are just as important as recommendations made by the consultant pharmacist or the protocols and best practices created by clinicians and academics. Our drug companies and vendors provide education and critical service products that advance our practice. We need to work in unison."

Fearon's own background reflects a wide range of experiences, giving him a diverse perspective on all aspects of senior care pharmacy. While pursuing

Kevin Fearon, RPh, MBA, has more than 3 decades of experience in the institutional pharmacy field. Fearon currently serves as president and chief operating officer for Absolute Pharmacy Inc. "I understand pharmacy and business needs and use my sense of emotional intelligence to gain traction and facilitate moving people collaboratively towards a goal and common cause," Fearon said. He will become ASCP's 2020-2021 president at the Society's 2020 Annual Meeting in November.





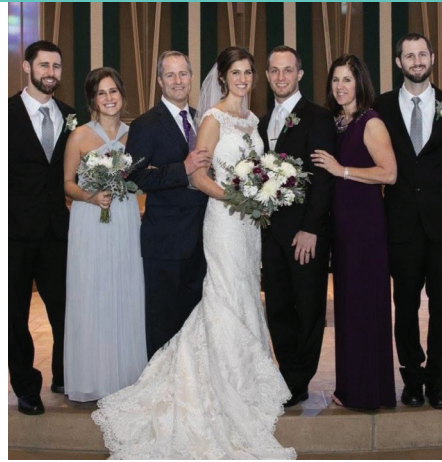
Kevin, his wife Vicki, and his sister Connie visiting Yellowstone National Park. His family is devoted to enjoying outdoors experiences.

a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from Ohio State University, he began his career as an intern at Akron General Medical Center (now Cleveland Clinic), a 500-bed teaching hospital. As an intern, his job involved learning hospital pharmacy, and additionally, he was required to complete a rotation to every department of the hospital, including the surgical rooms.

“This experience opened my eyes to the various medical conditions in departments and the best practices of treatments for each condition,” Fearon said. He recalls how important it was back then for the pharmacist to receive the information from the doctor and determine the accuracy or appropriateness of everything being relayed. Pharmacists couldn’t be afraid to ask questions.

“It required good relations and communication with the other healthcare professionals, and that can be challenging in many environments. As a professional, we need to build those relationships to effectively solve drug problems and become part of the medical system. This still holds true 30 years later,” Fearon said.

Fearon’s next career move took him to a retail pharmacy position serving long-term care facilities in what became a very busy pharmacy with no automation. In that role, he juggled numerous positions such as cashier, retail pharmacist, consultant pharmacist, medical records reviewer, and institutional pharmacist.



Kevin’s family at his daughter’s wedding, from left to right: son Ryan, daughter Colleen, Kevin, daughter Kaitlyn, son-in-law David, wife Vicki, and son Daniel.



Kevin proudly holds his first grandchild, Evy.





Kevin's children and son-in-law, from left to right: son Ryan, daughter Kaitlyn, son-in-law David, daughter Colleen, and son Daniel.

Fearon's career evolved into a national role with large public companies., Fearon views that time as an incredible learning opportunity, gaining hands-on experience with state-specific practices, regulatory barriers, unique market places, and the creativity that entrepreneurial pharmacist created to solve problems and meet both regulatory and marketplace needs. He was also fortunate to meet many influential pharmacists from across the country, which also helped increase his understanding of the many aspects of pharmacy.

That experience led Fearon to focus his passions on the business side of pharmacy, and he obtained a Master of Business Administration from Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio. As an institutional pharmacist, Fearon states he enjoys the ability to work with each aspect of the business and enact positive culture results in an ever-changing field.

Today, Fearon serves as president and chief operating officer of Absolute Pharmacy Inc, a large long-term care pharmacy in North Canton, Ohio. In that role, he finds he can apply his extensive background and experience to help navigate all aspects of operations - dispensing, marketing, and consulting.

It's that extensive background that has allowed Fearon to be successful, according to Jerry N. Liliestedt, the vice president of operations for Absolute Pharmacy. "Kevin has spent the majority of his career working in the long-term care pharmacy sector. He knows the business as thoroughly as anyone I've ever met. His network of colleagues in this business is nothing short of amazing - which allows us the opportunity to reach out and gain perspective when we encounter the continuous challenges that face our business every day," Liliestedt said.

Fearon has an ability to look at a situation in a new light, noted Mary Jo McElyea the Absolute Pharmacy Inc. vice president of sales and retention. "Kevin is involved and truly cares. He brings ideas to the table and is open to hearing mine. He never settles on 'this is the way it has always been done.' What others might look at as an impossible idea, he finds a way to do it," she said.



Kevin and his wife, Vicki, are huge Buckeyes fans!



In addition to demonstrating his passion for pharmacy, Fearon is also a fierce family man, growing up as the 4th of 9 children in a very close family with a passion for outdoors activities. Despite living in different parts of the country, they routinely meet up for activities such as fishing, hiking, skiing, watersports, and wildlife attractions. Their love of nature has driven them to visit and explore most of the national parks in the United States. In addition, Fearon and his wife have been married 36 years, and have 4 grown children, with his first grandchild recently joining the family as well. Family is a huge passion for Fearon.

Fearon looks forward to bringing his passion and knowledge of institutional pharmacy to the ASCP. "I enjoy the dynamics of a rapidly changing pharmacy industry that has a surge of seniors on the horizon, amazing technology being deployed that creates an environment of constant change, and striving for improvement that is endless learning," Fearon said.

He encourages other pharmacists to have an active role in ASCP and in building relationships. "If you want your profession to thrive and gain provider status and prescribing authorization you must have a stake in working on barriers and developing a strategy," Fearon said.

**Carol Scheina**  
Contributing Editor

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## Kevin Fearon, 2020-2021 ASCP President

President and chief operating officer of Absolute Pharmacy Inc with more than three decades of experience in the institutional pharmacy field

Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from Ohio State University

Master of Business Administration from Baldwin Wallace College, Ohio

### Omnicare Inc

- Engaged in regulatory discussions
- Launched legislative activities and statute changes in multiple states
- Patent holder of an automation machine
- Architect of best practice process

### Vice President of Ops Excellence/ Best Practice for Omnicare Inc

- Oversaw process management changes
- Confirmed software enhancement and selection for automation equipment
- Ensured compliance to regulatory, clinical and procedural policies

### Vice President of Best Practices and Government Relations for Millennium Pharmacy Systems

- Planned and enabled strategy
- Interfaced with sales, operations and executive management.
- Ensured regulatory compliance
- Developed best practices

### Absolute Pharmacy - President and COO

- Responsible for all business operations
- Oversees strategic planning, growth, capital expenditures, operations, and customer relations for the distribution of medication and services to long-term care facilities

