Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

- Thought leader and commentator on digital health and pharmacy

- Founder, Editor in Chief, The Digital Apothecary; Strategic Advisor for American Pharmacists Assoc.; Advisor, American Assoc. of Colleges of Pharmacy

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Timothy Aungst is a pharmacy practice expert and a thought leader in the digital health space, focused on digital therapeutics, remote patient monitoring, medication adherence, and digital biomarkers. He is currently an Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and is a clinical pharmacist in home health care. He also serves as a Strategic Advisor for the American Pharmacists Association and as an Advisor for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Dr. Aungst is also the founder and editor-in-chief of The Digital Apothecary, an online resource focused on how digital health is transforming pharmacy (DigitalApothecary.com).

What inspired you to professionally focus on digital health?

I have always loved sci-fi since I was a child, and would think up ways of how the world may change as I got older. The rise of widespread wireless Internet access around the time of graduation and my residency training really led me to look into the role of mobile health products in patient care. This inevitably led to digital health overall as more devices and technologies came to market, and I have been striving to see how we can use technology to improve patient care processes and expand the roles of health professionals.

What do you find most interesting/promising about Smart Medicine tools and technologies?

I think one thing that stands out is the evolution of how we think about medicines. We've gone through the evolution of designing medical products and how patients take them, through many different routes, and now the integration of technologies with them is the next logical step. The question becomes then what is worth investigating and creating, and that to me is the excitement of medicine design this century.

Why will the healthcare ecosystem embrace Smart Medicines as a digital solution?

Inevitably, in an increasingly data driven and connected society, it's expected that healthcare and the items that fall into it have to adopt to the same societal expectation. Designing around that expectation will be key to success.